"E" Before "O"

A History of 2269 Waldon Street Block I, lot 8 of Wildwood Park

2 ш 5 2.4 # 60 St M 0 5 N 0 4 MAP S of LOTS in 5 WILD WOOD PARK 38 REDDING e. α Shasta Co Cal ď Ho 5 Scale 100ft = 1 in I hereby certify that on the 10 day of March 1988 I Surveyed Wild Wood Park at the request of C.H.Dwinelle as per plat hereto attached en. CR 3 E A Zoellin Surveyor Redding March 31 1883 1885 I was the owner of the land on the 10th day of March as Wild Wood Park from the same conveyed to the by J. Bland Una No Walden in Oct 1887. The decompanyong blat if said land as made by said Poillon is hereby approved and flaced on file in the office of the county Relorin of Shasta County at my request C. J. Dermelle. Filed at Request April 20 1858 A. A. Ross

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"E" Before "O"

A History of 2269 Waldon Street Block I, lot 8 of Wildwood Park





The land that would become Wildwood Park first passed into the hands of Anglo-American settlers in 1844 when **Pierson Barton Reading** (1816–1868) received his Rancho Buena Ventura land grant of 26,632 acres from Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltorena.

P. B. Reading's exploits and achievements are generally well-known and need not be recapped here, except to note that a dispute arose following his death over an alleged mortgage on his ranch taken out two years prior for \$34,125.¹ Following the death of his old partner Samuel Hensley, founder of the California Steam Navigation Company.² Hensley's estate claimed this mortgage was never repaid and Reading's widow Fannie was unable to produce documentation to the contrary. A lengthy court battle ensued, but Hensley's heirs prevailed.

PIERSON B. READING

As a result, Reading's holdings were sold at sheriff's auction on July 8th 1871,³ and were purchased by **James Ben Ali Haggin** (1822–

1914) for the sum of \$34,438.32.

J. B. Haggin was born in Kentucky to a a pioneer family that had been settlers there since 1775. Haggin graduated from Centre College in Kentucky and began a law practice there before

arriving in California via the Isthmus in 1850. He made his way to Sacramento, where he formed a law practice with a new acquaintance and fellow Kentuckian by the name of Lloyd Tevis.

The partners began to invest in real estate and capital, acquiring the famous Ranch Del Paso land grant and relocating to San Francisco in 1853. Haggins and Tevis partnered with George Hearst to form one of the largest mining companies in the United States: the Hearst, Haggin, Tevis, and Co., whose holdings included the Comstock Lode in Nevada and the Anaconda Copper Mine in Monana, among many others. Interestingly, Haggins helped organize Hensley's California Steam Navigation Company and his partner Lloyd Tevis was a principal share-owner and director.



JAMES B. HAGGIN

Haggin quickly became a man of immense wealth and power, by some accounts lagging only behind Rockefeller and Carnegie in

1907. The Rancho Buenaventura was just one of Haggin's many holdings, and he made little effort to develop or capitalize on his purchase—the majority of the land was simply pastured and rented.⁴ It should, however, be noted that the town of Redding was founded by the California & Oregon Railroad during Haggin's ownership of the grant in 1872.

² Ibid.

- ³ Daily Alta California, June 29, 1871.
- ⁴ Pacific Rural Press, July 13, 1878.

¹ Mark J. Denger: Defense Environmental Restoration Program Formerly Used Defense Sites, Site No. J09CA0915 Historical Information



EDWARD FRISBIE

In the summer of 1877, **Edward Frisbie** (1826–1908) purchased 20,000 acres of the Reading land grant from Haggin for \$87,000.

Edward Frisbie was born in Albany, New York and attended school until the age of fourteen when his step-father suffered some financial setbacks. Forced to venture out on his own, Frisbie's eldest brothers wanted him to attend college, but Edward wanted to be a farmer. He began working for a local farmer, learning the trade before he set out farming for himself a few years later. In 1846, he married Phoebe Anna Klink, and they had eleven children..

Frisbie arrived in California via the isthmus on January 1, 1856 and settled in Vallejo. He began ranching and quickly amassed a sizable fortune. He relocated near Anderson in Shasta County at the time he purchased the Reading grant, and began to subdivide and sell-off the

property. Frisbie had a logging operation on the Sacramento River one year that put 4 million feet of lumber on the market.⁵ In 1885, he gave up farming and moved into Redding. The following year, his wife Phoebe died in San Francisco while being treated for an undisclosed illness.

In 1888, Frisbie helped found the Bank of Northern California with Fred Dakin and William McCormick, both of whom he would later buy out.⁶ By 1898, the Frisbie family was spending his summers in Oakland to escape the oppressive Redding heat, and in July of 1905, the Frisbies were living in Oakland permanently.

On March 15, 1881, Frisbie transferred shares of interest in the land that would become Wildwood Park to a number of parties. One of these was **Jerome Bonaparte Walden** (1826–1905) and his wife, Mira.

J. B. Walden was an early pioneer of California, having come across the plains in 1850. Over the years in Napa, he served as a deputy sheriff,⁷ a constable,⁸ and was later a shopkeeper. He also farmed.⁹ Perhaps most notably, he was the first Chief of Police of Napa, having been appointed by the Board of Trustees in 1875.¹⁰



JEROME B. WALDEN

⁵ A History of the New California: Its Resources and People, edited by Leigh Hadley Irvine

6 Ibid.

⁷ Municipal Reports for the Fiscal Year 1865–6, Ending June 30, 1866. Board of Supervisors. Towne & Bacon, San Francisco. 1866.

⁸ A History of Napa and Lake Counties, 1881, Slocum, Bowen, & Co., Publishers, San Francisco.

9 1870 U.S. Federal Census

¹⁰ Napa County Police, By Todd L. Shulman, Napa Police Historical Society

Jerome and Mira had four children: two girls and two boys. The eldest daughter, Laura Amelia Walden, would end up marrying Edward Frisbie on June 14, 1887. It was a true May-December wedding—the groom was 60 years old and the bride a mere 27. The Frisbie mansion, which still stands on Redding's East Street today, was reportedly a wedding gift for the young bride.

Jerome and Mira Walden retired on account of ill-health¹¹ to Shasta County, where Jerome appears on Shasta County voters' register as early as 1884. Mira died in 1890, and the 1900 Census shows Jerome was living the Butte Township of Siskiyou County. He died five years later in Alameda County, presumably at the home of his daughter.¹²

Before their deaths, Jerome and Mira Walden were able to acquire the other shares of interest in the Wildwood Park property and on October 17, 1887, they sold it "for the sum of \$5000 lawful money of the United States" to **Charles Hascall Dwinelle** (1847–1936).

C. H. Dwinelle was born in Rochester, New York¹³ to John Whipple Dwinelle¹⁴, a lawyer, and his wife, Cordelia.¹⁵ The Dwinelle family appears to have settled in California permanently in 1863. Young Charles was very well-schooled, and graduated from Yale. He was prominent in agricultural affairs and tried his hand at many ventures, including raising hay in Berkeley, investing in Sacramento Delta real estate, and raising sheep.¹⁶ One of his more notable accomplishments was the introduction of the Macadamia nut to California in 1877.¹⁷ He also lectured at Berkeley from 1878 to 1885, introducing the study of entomology to the college, and was president of the first State Board of Horticulture of California.¹⁸ Charles married Marie L. Woolsey in 1885, and they had no children.

At the request of Dwinelle, the survey for the subdivision was performed by Ernest August Zoellin on March 10, 1888, and lots were quickly put up for sale. Over the next two decades or so, the Dwinelles sold considerable property in Redding, including property in the Triangle Tract,

- 12 Shasta Historical Society Pioneer Files
- ¹³ Healdsburg Tribune, 2 April 1936

¹⁴ John W. Whipple was a California pioneer of considerable significance, first arriving in 1849 when he served as counsel to the City of San Francisco. He returned east after four years, but was soon back in California, where he went on to become a mayor of Oakland, a California assemblyman (who introduced the legislation that founded the University of California), and a regent of the University of California. UC Berkeley's Dwinelle Hall is named in his honor.

¹⁵ New York State Census, 1855.

¹⁶ Biographical record, classes from eighteen hundred and sixty-eight to eighteen hundred and seventy-two of the Sheffield scientific school by Yale University. Sheffield Scientific School

¹⁷ The California Department of Transportation, A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Agricultural Properties in California, 2007.

¹⁸ Biographical record, classes from eighteen hundred and sixty-eight to eighteen hundred and seventy-two of the Sheffield scientific school by Yale University. Sheffield Scientific School

¹¹ History of the State of California and Biographical Record of the Sacramento Valley, California, by James Miller Guinn. 1906.



DISPLAY AD FROM THE (REDDING) REPUBLICAN-FREE PRESS, JANUARY 5, 1889. Dakyn's Addition, and the Shastaview tract; it no doubt served them well in retirement.

The Wildwood Park subdivision shares its name from a park of the same name that once stood on the land. Over the years, the park hosted a myriad activities from dances to rollerskating,¹⁹ as well as May Day²⁰ and Independence Day²¹ celebrations.

When one reviews the original subdivision map for Wildwood Park (still on file at the Shasta County Administration Building and reproduced on the cover of this document), one can see that street now known as "Waldon" was originally named "Walden," no doubt after Jerome Bonaparte and his family.

Walden Street originally received its sobriquet in the fall of 1887, when Edward Frisbie, J.B. Walden, and D.N. Honn had some of their holdings surveyed and subdivided for sale. Frisbie's Addition was the land immediately south of South Street down to Lincoln Steet. Walden's Addition was south of Frisbie's from the railroad to Market Street, and Honn's Addition was the land east Walden's Addition up to East Street.

The explanation for the spelling discrepancy may be evident on the map for Wildwood Park: The labelling for Walden Street and Sonoma Street somewhat overlaps at their intersection, and a careless and/or dyslexic reader might see the name "Walden" as "Waloden." It's not clear when the "Waldon" spelling became the standard and accepted spelling, but perhaps a motivated grassroots campaign could (and should) restore the correct spelling.

¹⁹ "Skating every Sunday afternoon on the large platform at Wildwood Park. Bring your friends. Use of skates 25 cents." –Searchlight, 17 June 1899

²⁰ San Francisco Call, 27 April 1899

²¹ Red Bluff Daily News, 2 July 1899



FRANKLIN PIERCE PRIMM

Once subdivided, the first sale of lot 8 in Block 1 of Wildwood Park —the property that would eventually come be to known as 2269 Waldon Street—occurred on April 9, 1888 when **Franklin Pierce Primm** (1852–1918) purchased lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 from Charles H. Dwinelle for "the sum of six hundred dollars, gold coin of the United States of America."

Primm was born in Franklin County, Missouri to a farmer and blacksmith. He attended public schools and graduated from the State Normal School in Kirkland, Missouri in 1875.²² He taught for eight years in Missouri and California, emigrating to the latter in 1876,²³ eventually settling in Redding in 1882 and opening a law practice.²⁴

Primm married Mary Ellen Chambers in Shasta County in April of 1880, and they had two daughters (Ada & Margaret) together before Mary's untimely death in 1894 at the age of 32. Franklin never remarried.

County records show Primm bought and sold considerable property in Redding and the nearby area, but he held on to his Wildwood Park purchase until January 20, 1908 when he sold the land to the Bank of Shasta County.

It is unclear when the house that would become 2269 Waldon Street was built, but it is this author's belief that it was likely built by F.P. Primm no later than 1906 and possibly much earlier. In 1906, Sonoma Street was being grubbed and graded as part of a regrading of California Street, and it was discovered that "a residence in the row belonging to F. P. Primm" was found to be in the street right of way.²⁵ "The house in question is the one at the south end of the row," the newspaper reported, "and Mr. Primm will now be compelled to move it back a few pegs or else have the street-grades cut right through it, and that would be inconvenient for the occupants."²⁶

Primm was a man of complicated morals by any standard—he was bigoted enough to be an active member of the Redding anti-Chinese movement in the 1880s, and yet in 1911 and 1912 he was embroiled in a scandalous court case when he was robbed while in the company of an African-American woman in a Sacramento house of ill-repute.²⁷

- ²⁴ Sacramento Union, 1 Mar 1918
- 25 Sacramento Union, 30 Dec 1906
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Sacramento Union, 15 Feb 1912

²² Fifty Years of Masonry in California, Volume 2 by Edwin Allen Sherman

²³ Ibid.

In 1916, at his own request, Primm was committed to the Napa State Hospital for inebriety (drunkenness)²⁸ and died at home two years late of an undisclosed and brief illness.



THE BANK OF SHASTA COUNTY CIRCA 1900–1911.

As far as can be determined, the lot and house at 2269 Waldon Street were still owned by the **Bank of Shasta County** when the bank failed on March 25, 1911.

The Bank of Shasta County's failure was a result of an overdraft of \$205,000 obtained by Joseph E. Terry (of the Terry Lumber Company). Not long after the failure, suspicions and veiled accusations began to swirl around a man named **Alden A. Anderson** (1867–1944) of Sacramento.

Anderson was a prominent banker and Republican politician, serving first in the

legislature and later as lieutenant governor. He also served as California's first Superintendent of Banks from 1906-1910. In fact, Anderson was bank superintendent at the time of the loan and had "long years of friendship"²⁹ with Joseph E. Terry. These circumstances no doubt factored into his indictment by a grand jury in July of 1911.

Anderson, along with others, founded the Redding National Bank a few weeks later³⁰ and Anderson personally purchased the assets of the failed Bank of Shasta County for \$460,460.64. Anderson's incredible largesse presumably contributed to his indictments being quietly dropped by the end of the year.



ALDEN A. ANDERSON

Anderson retained ownership of the Walden Street property, presumably renting it out, until March 11, 1926, when it was sold to **Leslie Jones** (1883–1968), the owner and operator of a dry goods store in Redding.

Felix Leslie Jones was born to Ed and Maria Jones, a farming family in Igo. In the 1910 census, he was listed as rooming at 222 Market Street (since renumbered to 1259 Market and currently the site of Boardmart) and listed his occupation as the proprietor of a dry goods store. A few months after the census, he married Amy³¹ and they began a family. On Leslie's World War I draft card, he gave their address simply as "So[uth]. California [Street.]" The 1920 Census is frustratingly imprecise as to his address, with a note of "no number" for the street address, and an unclear street name. Further investigation will hopefully clear this up.

²⁸ Sacramento Union, 23 Nov 1916

²⁹ Red Bluff News, 14 April 1911

³⁰ San Francisco Call, 13 Aug 1911

³¹ Sacramento Union, 15 August 1910



THE LESLIE JONES DEPARTMENT STORE

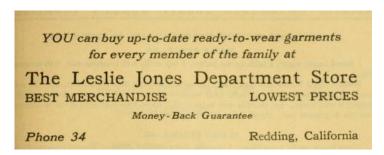
Apparently Jones was able to successfully compete against the monolithic McCormick-Saeltzer Company, because the Leslie Jones Department Store eventually took up the entire ground floor of the Jaegel Building (also known as the Elks Building), which was located on the east side of Market Street between Yuba and Butte Streets.

When the Redding Chamber of Commerce was reorganized in 1921,³² Jones was listed on the incorporating documents and served the organization in numerous capacities, including on the board of directors.

The house at 2269 Waldon may have been part of an infamous incident in local history. In January of 1921, neighbors telephoned the police to report a robbery of the Leslie Jones family home. A Redding marshal was shot while trying to apprehend the suspects and died from his wounds.

Frustratingly, contemporary write-ups of the incident are vague as to where the Jones family was living at the time.

It's not yet clear what happened to Leslie's department store, perhaps competition with national companies like J.C. Penney's took its toll or it was a victim of the stock market crash, but on the 1930 census, he and his family were living on the "Redding–Knob County Road"³³ and listed his occupation as rancher.



Leslie Jones and his wife, Amy, sold the property to **Alexander Ludwig** (1862–1943) on January 3, 1931.

Alexander Ludwig was born in California, the eldest of three born to immigrant parents. His father (Henry) hailed from Prussia and his mother (Maria) from Scotland. Henry arrived in Shasta County in the 1850s, mined successfully, married, and purchased a ranch near Igo. In 1877, despondent over his divorce from Maria, Henry committed suicide, leaving Alexander as the man of the house.³⁴ In 1880, Alexander was still living at home and farming what was presumably his father's ranch.³⁵

³² The Redding had a Chamber of Commerce at least ten years prior, but it was reorganized in 1921 for unknown reasons. -Sacramento Union, 14 March 1921

³³ Knob was a small community near Platina, so this is likely today's Placer Road.

³⁴ Shasta Courier, 24 March 1877

³⁵ 1880 U.S. Federal Census

Eventually, Alexander was able to choose his own path, and in 1888, Alexander married Matilda Ritchie, and together they would have three children: Nellie, Cora, and Elton. Alexander appears to have been a public servant most of his life, working as county assessor,³⁶ then deputy sheriff,³⁷ and eventually postmaster.³⁸ In 1930, he was living in a house he owned at 1226 Pine Street (roughly where the Stardust Motel is today) and listed his job as as a collector for a credit association.³⁹ By 1940, Matilda had passed away, and Alexander was living next door at 1228 Pine Street. Given this information, it is not clear if the Ludwigs ever resided at 2269 Waldon Street or merely used it as an rental property.

On June 10, 1942, **Frank Adolph Carlson** (1893–1979) purchased the property from Alexander Ludwig and his children. Carlson was born in Shasta County to Swedish immigrant Hilma Carlson. It is currently unknown exactly what happened to his father.⁴⁰ In 1900, Frank, his mother, and his younger sister were listed on the 1900 census as living in the Mendocino County town of Cuffey's Cove, where Hilma worked as a cook for John Anderson, a local hotelkeeper. By 1910, the Carlsons were living in Berkeley, where Hilma worked a washerwoman, Frank as a shipping clerk for a wholesaler, and little sister Svea as a house girl for a family. Traditional Scandinavian frugality must have paid off, for Hilma is recorded as owning their home at this time.

The following year, Frank was a waiter on a steamer,⁴¹ having worked his way as far as Seattle during one incident when his mother, fearing for his safety, contacted the Berkeley police after failing to hear from him for a month. As of 1920, Frank was still living with his mother and sister in Berkeley and listed his occupation as a bookkeeper for a petroleum company.⁴²

By the time of the 1930 census, Frank was married (Ellen) with two children (Eleanor and Frank). He and his family were living in Auburn, where his occupation was now listed as a salesman for a gasoline and oil company. By 1935, the Carlsons had moved to 2269 Waldon Street.⁴³ Carlson listed his occupation in the 1940 census as a salesman for a petroleum product company.

Frank and his wife owned the property until it was sold to Gary J. Barber on March 19, 1980, who in turn sold it that day to Richard R. Christoph, who owns the property to this day.

- ³⁸ 1920 U.S. Federal Census
- ³⁹ 1930 U.S. Federal Census

⁴⁰ Hilma Carlson's marital status was listed as "married" in the 1900 census, "married" in the 1910 census, "divorced" in the 1920 census, and "widowed" in the 1930 census, though no husband is listed as residing with her in any of those censuses.

⁴¹ San Francisco Call, 9 January 1911

⁴² 1920 U.S. Federal Census

⁴³ 1940 U.S. Federal Census

³⁶ 1900 U.S. Federal Census

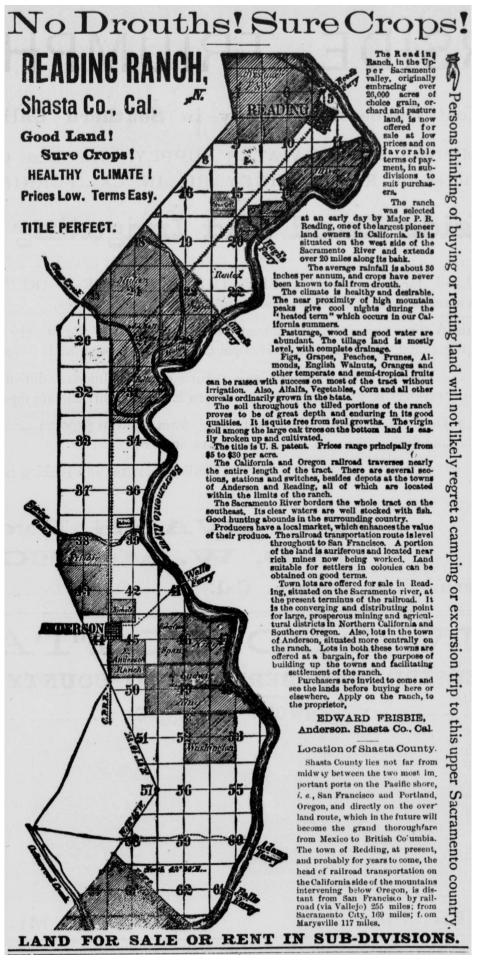
^{37 1910} U.S. Federal Census



THE DISEÑO DEL RANCHO BUENAVENTURA

VALUABLE LAND FOR SALE.—Under a decree and order of sale issued out of the Third District Court, there will be sold at public auction, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., on Saturday, July 8th, 1871, at the Court-house at Shasta, twenty thousand acres of the Rancho Buenaventura or Reading Rancho, lying in Shasta County, bordering on the Sacramento river.

ITEM ON THE AUCTION OF RANCHO BUENAVENTURA IN THE JUNE 29, 1871 ISSUE OF THE DAILY ALTA CALIFORNIA.



DISPLAY AD FROM THE PACIFIC RURAL PRESS, 5 MARCH 1881.

GRADINC THE STREETS

REDDING. Dec. 29 .- At least one residence in Redding will have to be moved because of the street improvements now going on. That residence is one of the row belonging to F. P. Primm, and located in Wildwood Park. Sonoma street, Wildwood Park, is now being "grubbed" and prepared for grading in order that the grading of California street can be finished. The California street job comprises the filling in of the street around the new Calaboose Creek bridge. It was in the preparations for this street improvement that Primm's horse was found to occupy the street.

The house in question is the one at the south end of the row, and Mr. Primm will now be compelled to move it back a few pegs or else have the street-graders cut right through it, and that would be inconvenient for the occupants.

California street will be graded to a point just south of the Primm row and will be a vast improvement and benefit to the residents of Wildwood.

SACRAMENTO UNION, 30 DEC 1906