

History of a Place Called Rescue

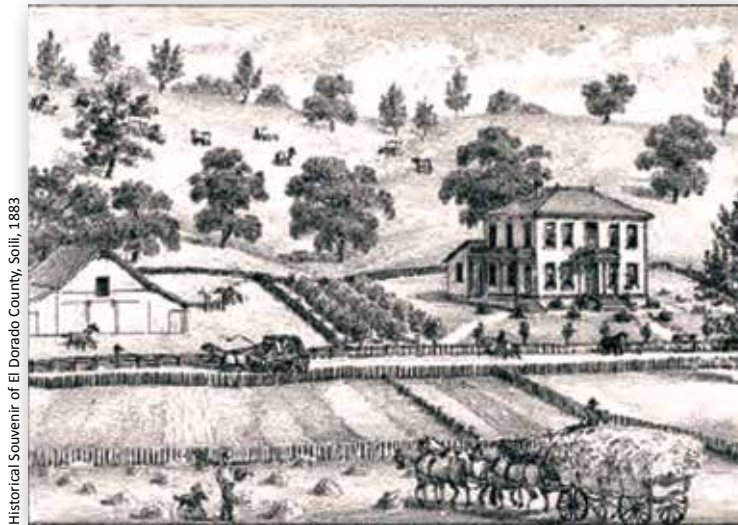
Dormody

William Dormody was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland in about 1813. He was a merchant by trade. He spent some time in Illinois and Wisconsin before traveling to El Dorado County. He eventually established general stores in Kelsey, Georgetown, and Coloma.

In December, 1853, William Dormody purchased Green Springs Ranch from the Nancy Hitchcock estate for \$6,400.

A family named Hill ran the store and hotel in Coloma for Dormody. Mrs. Hill's sister was Sarah Francis Norton. Sarah was born in Ireland and came to the United States at the age of three. The family first settled in New Orleans. They then moved to California in 1855.

William Dormody married Sarah at Green Springs House on January 1, 1856; he was 43 and she was 20 years old. The marriage ceremony was performed by Justice of the Peace Thomas Conger.



Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County, So. Cal., 1883

The Green Springs House was one of the more regal roadhouses along the old Coloma Road. It sat on the north side of the road, just east of Deer Valley Road.

The 1860 U.S. census lists nine people living at Green Springs House: William Dormody, 48, England, farmer; Sarah, 24, Ireland; Mary, 4; Thomas, 3; and Dora; Bridget Hannon, 19, Ireland, domestic; and three laborers: John Munson 34, New York; Robert Riddon, 26; and Samuel Long, 27, both from Missouri.

On October 9, 1860, the Hitchcock Post Office was established, and William Dormody was appointed the postmaster. *(For more information on the post office, go to page 127.)*

The Green Springs House and Ranch was a premier property. It was said that only the finest materials were used to construct the house and stables. The horses were often decked out in custom silver-mounted harnesses and tack. It was said the "place was a Mecca for the influential and elite." The Dormody family was known for its formal dances and parties.



This is a ticket to an early Dormody's Grand Ball. This one was held on Tuesday, March 17, 1874.

William Dormody died on September 4, 1876, when he lost control of his team of horses and the wagon crashed. Sarah took over managing 1,000-acre ranch and the hotel-tavern-post office.

Sarah F. Dormody died at her home on September 5, 1902. She was mourned by her daughters, Mrs. Rose Barker, Mrs. Celelia Cresswell, Mrs. Mary Roberts, and sons Thomas, William, and Leonard.

The Dormody family owned the ranch until 1956.

Dormody Family Tree

