

## CACHE CREEK SCHOOL

Cache Creek School District was formed from the Fairview School District on February 2, 1880. As one travels Highway 20, a large concrete bridge is crossed over the North Fork of Cache Creek. At various places in that territory, school was held.

The first school was held in a vacant building on the east side of the stream. There was no bridge and in unfavorable weather classes were held in the Hanson place on the west side of the stream. School was then held on the west side of Cache Creek and in the valley part. The school was moved twice in the next 15 to 18 years, and then the building burned about 1916. For a period of time school was held in private homes.

Then followed a period of a few years when there was no school. The last school house was built about 1937 and was located immediately south of the Highway and one half mile northwest of the concrete bridge. School was held there for about five years and then abandoned for lack of children. The school building has now been torn down and moved.

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## CALLAYOMI SCHOOL

The Callayomi School District was formed from the Middletown School District March 29, 1875. A school was built on the south side of Putah Creek where one turns off to Anderson Springs at the foot of the grade to Cobb Valley northwest of Middletown.

Callayomi was a Mexican land grant which is the valley around Middletown. It is thought it was named after the Indian tribe and the school was named after the land grant.

Although there were 34 pupils listed in 1881, there was an average of from 15 to 20 pupils in attendance. Families left and in 1921-22, there were only 4 pupils. That was the last year they operated.

In 1925, the citizens of the Callayomi, Middletown, and the St. Helena (near Mirabel) School Districts voted to unite so the Middletown Union District was formed.

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#### CINNABAR SCHOOL

The Cinnabar School District was formed March 14, 1867. It took a lot of territory east of Lower Lake and included Morgan Valley. No information is available as to the location of the school house. Pupils and territory were soon lost as the Morgan Valley School District was formed from the Cinnabar School District May 25, 1870. The Cinnabar District was credited with 26 pupils in 1881, but suffered from lack of pupils and soon closed. The area within the Cinnabar School District is now a part of the Middletown Unified School District.

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#### CLEAR LAKE COLLEGE

In early September, 1876, Professor John A. Kelly started the Clear Lake College, a private school, on the northwest corner of Main Street and Clear Lake Avenue in Lakeport. There were 54 students that year. It was officially known as Clear Lake Colligate Institute.

Charges were from \$24 to \$48 per year. If room, board, laundry and books were included, the charges ran from \$180 to \$230 per year.

That college ran through the fifth year and then a corporation called the Clear Lake Collegiate Association took over; Kelly remained as president.

Kelly started to drink heavily. His wife and friends tried to talk him out of it, but they were not successful. Sometimes he came to college drunk. The college dwindled down to near zero. Kelly left and was never heard of again by either his wife or friends.

As the college started going down in attendance and the end was in sight, Professor John Overholser set up his own academy.

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#### CLEARLAKE OAKS OR EAST LAKE SCHOOL

East Lake School District was formed February 6, 1877, and it included part of Burns Valley, the Fairview School District, Welden Valley, all of the Sulphur Bank Mine property and where Clearlake Oaks now is.

On the old road between Sulphur Mine and present Highway 20, the East Lake School was built. It was a fraction of a mile west of the Catholic Church. In 1881, it contained 14 pupils.

After a few years, the school house burned and was never rebuilt. An adjustment was made in the lines between the East Lake and Sulphur Bank School District May 5, 1896.

East Lake School District lapsed July 3, 1904, and had to go back to the Sulphur Bank School District. As it had lapsed, the furniture, etc., of the school was divided between the Lower Lake and the Sulphur Bank School Districts.

There is some confusion in the records. A school house was built at the site of the present Grammar School in Clearlake Oaks and many referred to it as the Clearlake Oaks School. This little school house was only used for a period of some ten years and then abandoned for a new, larger school erected at the west side of the junction of present Highway 20 and the road to High Valley.

The little abandoned school house was moved and is the office of Stubbs Real Estate of Clearlake Oaks.

The new school, at the junction of Highway 20 and the High Valley Road, was used with increasing enrollment until 1959 when the building was sold to the Grange and school moved across the High Valley Road where a newer and larger building was created.

Sulphur Bank School District changed over to East Lake School District in 1931-32. Steady growth took place in the number of pupils and is still growing. In 1957-58, there were 87 pupils; in 1958-60, there were 101 in attendance.

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#### CLEAR LAKE UNION HIGH SCHOOL

May 4, 1901, by a majority vote of five, the people of Upper Lake, Kelseyville and Lakeport voted to form a High School District.

They rented the Academy of Professor Overholser for a High School and retained him as Science teacher. The building, erected in 1890, was just west of the present Shop-and-Save store in Lakeport.

The new school started with 40 pupils, but the number increased rapidly. Cost per pupil in 1905 was \$53.90, with a total school budget of \$4,043.17.

May 23, 1913, a bond election for a new High School building failed. Soon another election was held and that time it carried. Property was purchased which had been the old Rumsey house on the northwest end of Main Street in Lakeport. The High School was built on that land in 1916. It originally had been an old Indian village site.

When the new High School was built, the old Academy building was made into a hospital by H.S. Spillar; the building burned in 1928.

In time, Upper Lake and Kelseyville built their own High Schools. In 1957-58, there were 216 pupils in the Clear Lake High School. As attendance increased and the building needed overhauling, the District purchased land in Lakeport known as the Terraces and there they built a new High School in 1965. The older building was removed in 1972, and condominiums have taken its place.

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#### CLOVER CREEK AND CLOVER VALLEY SCHOOL

These were apparently the same school and located some one and three-fourths miles northeast of the town of Upper Lake.

It was established mostly through the efforts of Samuel Jones, father of our late Judge Benjamin Jones. It was on

the north side of Clover Creek, on the Jones family side.

The Clover Creek School District was formed May 7, 1878. The little school house was only 12 x 16 feet and had only a few children. In 1881, it had 23 pupils.

The Clover Creek School lapsed and the land included in the District became a part of the Upper Lake School. The school property went back to the original owner, and the school house was moved to the former Samuel Jones property, where in 1955 it was being used as a garage. Two dates are given as to when the Clover Creek School lapsed, 1911 and 1920.

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#### COBB VALLEY SCHOOL

Cobb Valley School was named for Cobb Valley which in turn had been named for John Cobb, who in 1853, had moved into the valley with his wife and children as the first settlers.

All is not in agreement, but as copied from the Supervisor minutes, the Cobb Valley School District was formed from the Rincon School District February 7, 1871 (the Rincon School house was two miles south of Kelseyville). The next year, the Mountain School District was formed from the Cobb Valley School District.

The first school for Cobb Valley was held in a little one room building two miles northwest from the town of Cobb, and on the north bank of a little stream west of Jordan Park.

In 1878, as Cobb Valley School District did not have 25 pupils nor an assessed value of \$75,000, there was no school tax, only having a value of \$35,124. In 1881, the school is credited with 13 pupils, in 1857-58 with 9 pupils, in 1858-59 with 17 pupils.

At an unrecorded time, school was changed with classes going to a location on the north side of Bottle Rock Road, south of Kelsey Creek and on a rise of ground one mile north-west from the town of Cobb. That building is in excellent shape today and has had additions made in the 1930's, 1948, and 1967.

Cobb joined Middletown Unified in 1950. As the number of children increased, the older pupils in 1960 were bussed to Middletown. In 1967, it is reported to have 16 pupils from kindergarten through the third grade.

Cobb School still operated as a part grammar school in the 1970's. Cobb high school students went to Middletown and Kelseyville, with a tuition tax levied to pay expenses. The last classes were held in the little Cobb School house in 1973. Then all pupils were bussed to Middletown. The Middletown School District now has charge of the Cobb District.

In an agreement, it was decided that if school lapsed, the building could still be used as a community center. Today the school is being used by service groups.

An odd circumstance surrounds the Cobb Valley School. It never had a bond issue and is supposed to be the only District in the State with that record.

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#### DELMONT SCHOOL

Another private school, well into the last century, was in or near Lower Lake and called Delmont School. It was started by Miss Sophie Shaffer, who later became Mrs. Delmont. Several attended this school but it was finally forced to close.

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"DOBE" BOYD SCHOOL

The first school for Lake County was established near the home of "Dobe" Boyd, east of present Finley in Big Valley. "Dobe" received his nickname because he had used some of the adobe brick from the houses of Stone and Kelsey, who had been killed by Indians in December, 1849; the bricks were used by "Dobe" in building his own home. This first school carried on the nickname "Dobe" as it was near this individual's home. It was a one room school house of rough pine boards and was also used as a church for a while.

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EAST LAKE SCHOOL

The first East Lake School was a short distance west of the Catholic Church on the old road between Sulphur Bank Mine and Welden Valley to the east. It burned during the school term after the turn of the century and was never replaced in the same area.

The above East Lake School District was formed on February 6, 1879, and took part of Burns Valley, Fairview School District, Welden Valley, Sulphur Bank Mine property, and where Clearlake Oaks is now located.

In 1879, the Sulphur Bank School District was formed from the East Lake School District. May 5, 1896, lines were adjusted between the Sulphur Bank and East Lake Districts.

The last school in High Valley, the valley north of Clearlake Oaks, was on the Schindler place, and was called East Lake School---it ceased about 1902.



East Lake School District lapsed and had to go back to Sulphur Bank School July 3, 1904, with the furniture, etc., divided between Lower Lake and Sulphur Bank School Districts on December 10, 1908.

In 1931-32, the name was changed from Sulphur Bank School to East Lake School. There were two teachers. In this grand mix-up of names and locations, a school building was moved about 50 yards north of the present school buildings in Clearlake Oaks. As population increased, other buildings were added. In 1958-59, it was credited with 101 pupils. The Clearlake Oaks Grammar School still officially goes by the name of East Lake School.

If you think the lower end of Clear Lake had the only East Lake School then look at the following:

The original East Lake School was a three story private dwelling, called the Johnson house. It was about 1/8th mile north of present Highway 20 on the old road between Nice and Upper Lake.

In the 1860's and early 1870's, a school house was built on the side hill between Lucerne Valley and Lucerne Riviera One and Two. It was known as East Lake School and did not last for many years at that location. The next move of this East Lake School was near the Utopia Mine at the southeast corner of the valley, between Lucerne and Nice. There it lasted for about ten years around 1900; school was then moved to the foot of the Bartlett Springs road alongside Clear Lake. Although it was an East Lake School, it was known by some as Bartlett Landing School.

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## EUREKA SCHOOL

The Eureka School District was formed February 9, 1876, with the school house three miles southeast from Middletown and one half mile south of the Long Valley Road in Long Valley. It was on the old Musfield ranch. It had an attendance of up to 35 pupils. Mines closed and many people left, but it did operate for many years before it went out of business. The field is now cultivated and there is nothing to show where the building was. Eureka School District is now a part of the Middletown Unified District.

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## EXCELSIOR SCHOOL

As courthouse records were destroyed by fire in the 1860's, it is not known for sure when the Excelsior School District was formed. In setting up lines for all school districts March 14, 1867, the Board of Supervisors said the Excelsior School District included Seigler Valley, Jericho and Jerusalem Valleys, and up to the Lower Lake District.

The large Copsey train came into the Lower Lake area, especially south of the town in 1856. Members of the Copsey family took up most of the valley south of the town and for several years it was known as Copsey Valley or Settlement.

When a school was needed and the district was being formed, it was decided to call it Excelsior School and District. The valley has since been known as Excelsior Valley. Allan Copsey gave the ground for a school house.

May 3, 1875, the Excelsior school house was built of wood, one room and well furnished with desks, seats and tables.

Cost of the building and furnishing was \$500. The school house was 2 1/4 miles south of Lower Lake.

In 1869, the Excelsior School had 49 pupils; this was cut down somewhat when Spruce Grove School was formed May 2, 1871, from the Excelsior School District. In 1881 Excelsior School had only 38 pupils.

We find that July 8, 1900, the Excelsior District lapsed and April 1, 1901, the Lower Lake District absorbed the lapsed Excelsior District. Things must have changed for we find that February 6, 1906, the Excelsior School District was formed from the Lower Lake District. Then, as a final windup, the Excelsior District merged to the Lower Lake District February 2, 1920.

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#### FAIRVIEW SCHOOL

The Fairview School District was formed November 2, 1875, and took in territory starting near the top of Bartlett Mountain, down to Clear Lake, and included Welden Valley to the Colusa County Line.

Cache Creek School District was formed from the Fairview District February 2, 1880, which took in some of the eastern areas of the latter, but did leave 21 pupils for the Fairview School in 1881.

The Spring Branch School was a part of Long Valley and that school boundary line was adjusted with the Fairview District January 9, 1896. This must have taken away some of the pupils, for on July 11, 1907, the Fairview School District lapsed and was added to the Spring Branch School District. Equipment and library of the Fairview was divided between Spring Branch and Spruce Grove School Districts. An oddity of

Fairview was that although its life extended over some 31 or 32 years, no one has come forward with the location of the school house. Can you help?

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#### FORT THOMPSON SCHOOL

About two miles north from the summit of Elk Mountain road was a cabin used by a Mr. Thompson. He always referred to his home as the Fort for no particular reason. In time he moved out.

In the 1880's, there were several children in that area. A school house was built near the older Thompson cabin and it unofficially became known as the Fort Thompson School.

The children attending were mostly the children of sawmill workers. As the families began leaving, the number of children decreased. Where the school had accomodated some 12 children, it had to close after about five years. There is no official record of a Fort Thompson School; there is a possibility the right name was Mountain Mill School.

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#### FRANKLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

It is not known when the Franklin School District was formed, for all such records were destroyed in the court house fire in 1867. The Board of Supervisors met March 14, 1867, and re-established the school district lines.

Roughly, the lines of Franklin School District started at Clear Lake and went west to the ridge east of Scotts Valley, then to the outlet of Blue Lakes, then down that stream's flow to Clear Lake and along the lakeshore to the point of beginning.

May 5, 1868, The Franklin School District was dissolved into

the Pleasant Grove School District and the Upper Lake School District. This all occurred so long ago that no record of where the Franklin School house was located has been found. Can you help?

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#### GLEN EDEN SCHOOL

The Glen Eden School District was formed April 8, 1890, from the Liberty and Blue Lakes Districts. It lies in a narrow part of Scotts Valley with steep mountains on both sides and 2 1/4 miles south of the lower tip of Lower Blue Lakes.

The first year of its existence, school was held in the private home of the Coates family (which in 1954 was the Watenberger place). July 10, 1891, the District voted \$200 in bonds to buy land and erect a school house. The remains of this school house may still be seen, but are in bad shape.

For many years, the Glen Eden School was used as a community center, for activities such as Literary Society, Farmers Alliance, Sunday School and Church. During World War II, it was used as a lookout station.

For lack of pupils, the school had its ups and downs. It was suspended August 9, 1916; reopened August 5, 1917; suspended July 26, 1948; reopened July 5, 1949--then voted to consolidate with Lakeport. The last school actually taught was by Clarita Bannister, with the final closing down May 1, 1935. Apparently, the later closing and opening was a political move.

November 27, 1972, a brass historical marker was set in concrete near the front entrance to the Glen Eden School. It was later stolen.

## GRAVELLY VALLEY SCHOOL

In northern Lake County was Gravelly Valley, which contained a town called Jullville. Lake Pillsbury now covers the deepest part of the valley and the town.

The Gravelly Valley School District was formed August 7, 1871. The first school was in an old house a full mile north of the present Scott Dam which forms Lake Pillsbury. In 1879, the first school house-one room-was built of logs.

In 1872, as Gravelly Valley School District had less than 25 pupils and an assessed value of less than \$75,000, it paid no tax; the assessed value was only \$11,673. The attendance was from 15 to 20 children at the most, just enough to maintain school.

The Mountain Mill School District was formed April 6, 1885, and ran from the East and West Forks of Middle Creek and took in part of Gravelly Valley School District. The Mountain Mill School lapsed April 3, 1888, with part of the District going to the Gravelly Valley District and part to the Middle Creek School District.

July 12, 1902, the San Hedrin School District lapsed and became a part of the Gravelley Valley School District. September 8, 1904, the school property also went to Gravelley School.

In time, the log school house of the Gravelly Valley District burned and, rather than build another school house, classes were taught in a combination building that was in front of the Hullville Hotel, where a Post Office and school were held.

Interested parties were beginning to acquire Gravelly Valley property; farmers and stockmen were moving out and Hullville was closing, so with the lack of children the Gravelly Valley School District closed in July 1919.

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#### GREAT WESTERN SCHOOL

Three miles southwest of Middletown and in the mountains 3/4ths mile from our county line is the Great Western Quick-silver Mine. For several decades, it was a well-paying mine and one of the finest in Lake County.

As more miners were used, the number of children increased and a school became necessary. The first of record was in an old building in the canyon below the boardinghouse. It became crowded, and even in 1881 there were 41 pupils.

In January 1895, the new school was opened and was located below the superintendent's office. Built at company expense, it was used as a social center as well as for school purposes. Grades were taught from first to ninth. The number of pupils was generally about 35, but attendance varied as different families came and went.

At the time the new school was built, there was a large bell installed which could be heard in Middletown.

Mine activities nearly came to a standstill and many people left, so August 6, 1912, the Great Western School District lapsed and became a part of the St. Helena School District (Lake County). All property was divided between the St. Helena and Middletown School Districts, with the library going to Middletown School. Today, the Great Western District is one of many that comprise the Middletown Unified District.

## GRIZZLY CANYON SCHOOL

May 13, 1889, the Grizzly Canyon School was formed. Its first location was up a small side canyon to the north of Grizzly Canyon about one-half mile. This side canyon enters Grizzly Canyon just below the half mile, entering Grizzly Canyon right below the rocky part of Highway 20 between the Oasis and Grizzly Springs.

It was at this location for four or five years, and then moved to a site on the south side of Cache Creek one-fourth to one-half mile up from where Stemple Canyon empties into the larger stream.

Children living on the north side of Cache Creek had to row over in a boat in wet weather or board with families who lived on the south side. School was moved from its first location to fit the center of population. The District took in all the territory from the junction of the Main and North Forks of Cache Creek to the Colusa County line.

In the 1880's-90's, William Baton and wife lived in Baton Glade which is about one mile south of Cache Creek. The Grizzly Canyon School was moved to Baton Glade or Flat, and Mrs. Baton taught there until she died, a period of several years. The school then closed.

Grizzly Canyon School District lapsed and it went back to Cache Creek School District July 3, 1904.

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## GRUELL SCHOOL

At one time the road from Upper Lake went along High Valley Ridge down to High Valley and on to Sacramento. It was an important thoroughfare. High Valley Ridge was once the dividing



line between Lake and Colusa County. On that ridge was located a school.

April 3, 1896, the Gruell School District was formed. It ran from Clear Lake to center on the High Valley Ridge Road. It was a regularly built school house above the Ford Range about a mile south of the Gruell home. This was called Gruell School for it was on his property, between the Finn and Gruell homes.

This was one of our shortest lived schools, for July 15, 1899, it lapsed with school property to be sold to the highest bidder.

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#### GUENOC INDIAN SCHOOL

The first road from Middletown to Lower Lake crossed Putah Creek in Coyote Valley. There was no bridge and sometimes the stream was high. A town developed on the south side of the creek and on both sides of the present Highway 29.

Middletown started in the early 1870's, and all business moved from Guenoc to the new village. Today, nothing remains of the ghost town of Guenoc. After Guenoc was abandoned as a town a school was set up to teach only Indians, as most whites did not want Indians to mix in our schools. Exactly when the Indian School started and when it stopped is not known, but life for the Guenoc Indian School was short.

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