

## HAMMOND SCHOOL

The Hammond Elementary School District was formed from the Upper Lake Union District October 8, 1912. Mr. Charles M. Hammond was instrumental in having this done, and the school was named for him as the school was near his home, which is now known as the Manila Ranch, and on the old Johnson place.

School was held in one room of a private residence half way between Upper Lake and Nice. During its life, the Lucerne School District was formed from the Hammond District. In 1920, the Hammond School District consolidated with the Upper Lake Union School District.

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## HELEN SCHOOL

Andrew Rocca was superintendent of the Great Western mine, which was three miles southwest of Middletown. There was a school at the mine and one of the teachers was a young lady, Helen. Rocca married her.

Later, near the turn of the century, Rocca purchased the American Quicksilver Mine and promptly renamed it the Helen Mine which name holds sway today. The Helen Mine is five miles west of Middletown and near the Sonoma County line.

The Rocca family and others moved to the Helen Mine and Helen Rocca taught school on a voluntary basis to the children of the miners and her own until a public School District was formed April 4, 1905. A regular school house was built in School House Flat about one-fourth mile southwest of the Helen Mine.

Prosperity of the Helen Mine was up and down, and families came and went. Records tell us that August 5, 1913, the Helen School District was temporarily suspended. In time, with fifteen other surrounding school districts, it is now part of the Middletown Unified School District.

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#### HELLS BEND SCHOOL

An old Kelseyville druggist, Mr. Maxwell, is credited with giving an area within a big bend of Kelsey Creek, two miles north of Kelseyville, the name Hells Bend. This for the reason that when several of the men living within that location went to town and got liquored up, there would be hell to pay between the neighbors when they returned home.

Kelsey Creek School moved several times, and at one time was located within the above territory; many old timers referred to it as Hells Bend School. The school was finally moved to a location one mile east from Finley, but the nickname Hells Bend School had been branded.

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#### HERB RODGERS SCHOOL

The first school in Lake County was about one mile east of Finley. There were finally too many children, so the district was split. One of the new school districts was named Kelsey Creek School and over the years was moved from one site to another to fit the center of children attending.

One of the locations was on the present Herb Rodgers Ranch one mile north of Kelseyville and on the west side of the road and Kelseyville Creek. School at that site only lasted a few years and then moved to new ground.

## HIGHLANDS SCHOOL

Five miles southwest from Kelseyville was one of Lake County's famous mineral spring resorts named Highlands Springs, on the banks of Highland Creek. Today it has disappeared and the site is under the waters of Highland Creek Reservoir.

One and one-fourth miles east from Highlands Springs Resort was the location of the Highlands School House, named after its nearness to Highlands Springs Resort. The school site was 350 feet south of the junction of Wright Road and Adobe Creek Drive, on a small rise of ground on the west side of the road, four miles southwest from Kelseyville.

Highland School District was formed from the Rincon School District August 4, 1874, and at that time had 23 pupils; by 1881 there were 46 pupils.

October 8, 1885, the district voted \$800 bonds at 8% interest for a new school building. In 1893, the district only had a tax rate of six cents. January 10, 1901, the district again voted bonds for \$300 to build a school and furnish it (we wonder if they meant an addition).

Children decreased in number and we find that the Highland School District consolidated with the Kelseyville School District February 9, 1920. The school house was torn down and nothing remains to show where the school site was.

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## HIGHLANDS SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH SCHOOL

This school is located in Clearlake Highlands, and the only record we have is that there were 30 pupils in 1970 and two teachers.

## HIGH VALLEY SCHOOL

Over the hills two miles north of Clearlake Oaks is beautiful High Valley. It is though that before the 1870's, a school was established in an old miners cabin near the center of the valley. There were only a few pupils in that school.

The second school was not far from the first and was on the south side of the main east and west road in the valley. This school contained around 20 pupils and continued into the 1880's.

High Valley then had its third school, on the Schindler place with the school building not far from the county road in the southeast part of the valley. While at that location, the name was changed from High Valley School to East Lake School. It lapsed in 1902, with what few children left going by horse and cart to the Sulphur Bank School.

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## HORSE MOUNTAIN EMERGENCY SCHOOL

This school was a part of the Upper Lake Union School. It was established in 1943 at Howard Mill on Horse Mountain, which is ten miles north and a little west from Upper Lake and almost alongside the west side of the road to Lake Pillsbury. The school was abandoned in 1955 as the mill was not operating at full capacity.

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## HOUGH SPRINGS SCHOOL

In 1894, a school in Indian Valley was closed. Children then went to a cabin for several years at Hough Springs Resort which is on the Barlett Springs. At this location,

it was set up as a branch of the Twin Valley School. In the 1920's, the Hough Springs School closed and school from there on for a period of years was held at Barkerville School which was nearer Barlett Springs.

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#### HURLBUTT SCHOOL

The Hurlbutt family, man and wife, were Seventh Day Adventists and around 1900 bought a large ranch on the Soda Bay Road, one mile northeast of Finley. There they started a private school and orphanage for children. It did not turn out too well and closed in 1906.

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#### INDIAN VALLEY SCHOOL

About 1884, the first Indian Valley School was located on a bench of land along the north side of the Bartlett Springs road at the northwestern part of Indian Valley. Just how it was financed is not known, for it was not until April 2, 1888, that the Indian Valley School District was formed.

That year, school was moved near the center of the valley on the Parsage place. At that site, school was held until 1894 and was officially abandoned in 1899. After 1894, no school was held for a while; then classes were held for a few years at Hough Springs Resort and around 1920 moved to Barkersville School which was at the extreme northwest corner of Indian Valley.

The building at the first Indian Valley School has long since been gone. The school at the second site lasted until 1912 and was then torn down. Indian Valley in those days was known as Little Indian Valley.

## JIM COMBS SCHOOL

This school site was near the Jim Combs home and ranch and was a full mile northwest of Finley. By many old timers, it has been referred to as the Jim Combs School. It was officially one of the locations of the many times moved Big Valley School. This "Jim Combs" school burned after a few years use and classes were held then in a building on the Argonaut Ranch two miles northwest of Kelseyville.

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## KELSEY CREEK SCHOOL

The first school in Lake County was one mile east from Finley. It was not long until there were too many children for the little school so it was divided into two districts: the one to the west was called Big Valley School District and the one to the east was named Kelsey Creek School District. This change is thought to have occurred about 1860.

All our records burned in the court house fire of 1867. For their records, the Board of Supervisors then re-established the lines of Kelsey Creek School District. It started at Clear Lake, took in most of Big Valley and included Buckingham property. This was as of March 14, 1867.

In 1869, there were 41 pupils in Kelsey Creek School. It was reduced to 33 in 1881 for the reason that February 3, 1868, Uncle Sam (Kelseyville) School District was formed from it. Kelsey Creek house was first built on land donated by the Boyd Brothers, one mile north of Kelseyville.

About 1871, the above building was torn down and the better material moved to the present Quercus Ranch 2½ miles north of Kelseyville where land was donated by Seth Rickabaugh, the then owner. As it was on the north side of the creek, it was sometimes difficult for children living on the other side to cross the storm waters, so in emergencies some pupils were taught in a temporary building in Kelseyville.

A nickname given to this school when on the Quercus Ranch Site was "Hells Bend" School as the location was at a large bend in Kelsey Creek which was named thusly for the quarrel-someness of some of the liquored-up neighbors of that area.

In 1882, school was then moved to a location 2 miles northwest of Kelseyville on Finley Road east. The building is in fine shape today at that location. Neighbors donated the bell in the belfry at the time of construction.

School was taught at this last location with good attendance until consolidated with Kelseyville Grammar School July 1, 1920. After classes were no longer taught there, it became a social center. An attempt was made in 1958 to move the building to the Fair Grounds, but that action never materialized.

While operating as a school, the pupils having to walk the furthest to it were the George Forbes children, living on the north side of Mt. Konocti--a walk of five miles.

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## KELSEYVILLE ACADEMY

In the year 1886, Mr. Caldwell, a Presbyterian minister, came to Kelseyville and built an Academy on the present grounds of the Kelseyville High School.

The Academy contained one large room and a couple of smaller ones. It was called the Clear Lake Academy.

Caldwell built himself a dwelling and lived there on the grounds. Later, that building was used as a music room by the Kelseyville High School. Caldwell was the only teacher and taught subjects of higher learning that were preparatory for college.

South of his dwelling, he erected a two story Academy with the upper story being used for a skating rink. Some distance south of the Academy, a two story dormitory was built for the use of the students.

Each student paid a certain amount each year when he entered school. The money collected financed the school, buying everything that was needed.

After Caldwell came Prof. Coplin. He ran the Academy the same as Mr. Caldwell had. In 1890, the Academy was closed as students became fewer and fewer and there was not enough tuition money to keep the school going.

For many years, the Academy buildings were used as boarding homes, eventually burning to the ground.

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## KELSEYVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

February 3, 1868, the Kelseyville Grammar School District, then known as the Uncle Sam School District, was formed from the Kelsey Creek School District. A small school house was



built on the southwest corner of Second and Gard streets in Kelseyville, one full block north of Main Street.

More pupils were added over the years, and when the little school house could not handle all the children, part were sent to what had been a paint shop. This later building became Christian Church and later the Woodmen of the World building. It burned 1946-47.

Later than the above mentioned move, surplus children were sent to classes in the upper story of the present Brick Tavern. At that time, the upstairs was one large room, three small cloak rooms and entrance from the east by way of an outside stairway. School was held there for a few years. The playgrounds were across Main Street where Norton Motors is located. Kelseyville Justice Court was also used for a year.

This piecemeal arrangement ended in 1884 when a new and larger school was built about 200 yards south from the north end of Third Street and on the east side of the street. It contained two large rooms, and the playground was in front of the building to the west.

January 7, 1907, the names Uncle Sam School and District were changed to the Kelseyville School District.

Consolidation of nearby school districts began to take place and larger school buildings and grounds were necessary. Grounds were acquired and a setup of new buildings were erected with first classes in 1920. This was on the north side of Gard Street and on the west side of Second Street. Funds for this new school setup were raised by selling bonds of \$20,000. The older 1884 school building was sold for

\$900 and that went toward a heating system.

The older Kelseyville School District was formed into a new Kelseyville District so consolidation could take place September 26, 1919.

Those school districts joining or becoming a part of the new Kelseyville School District were as follows:

Olive School District: lapsed - pupils to Kelseyville	2/08/1898
Hurlburtt private school absorbed	1906
Uncle Sam - renamed Kelseyville	1/07/1907
Rincon School - Consolidation	9/26/1919
Alcove - Consolidation	10/17/1919
Highland - Consolidation	2/09/1920
Kelsey Creek - Consolidation	3/09/1920
Big Valley - Consolidation	7/01/1920
Seigler - Suspended	9/13/1920
Konocti - Suspended	9/13/1920
Mission Indian - Absorbed	1930
Mountain - Consolidation	1/02/1948

More buildings were added. One of the highlights of that period was when the town held a circus and raised \$1,400 for school improvements.

A point of special interest relative to the grammar school playgrounds at the 1920 school occurred well back in the last century. Dr. Chislom Lewis Henderson and Joe Laughlin purchased what is now the park and playground of the 1920 school for the purpose of creating a bicycle race track. It was purchased as a community project and not for profit. It was made into a fairly good quarter-mile race track for bicycles and was well banked, being used mostly for practice. There were many races held there and at other locations within the county. Kelsey-

ville team ranked high. There were five racers with five alternates.

In time, the bicycle fad ran out. The grounds were leveled, a grandstand erected, and baseball became not only a rage, but nearly a religion with some.

When the first of the 1920 school buildings were erected, the use of the playgrounds by pupils was by consent only, and continued so for many years.

As numbers of pupils increased and enlargement was necessary, new buildings were erected near the foot of Mt. Konocti on Konocti Road. In 1971, Kelseyville Grammar School started there, where Kindergarten through sixth grades are taught, and the seventh and eighth grades are taken care of by the older Gard Street School.

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#### KELSEYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The Kelseyville High School District was formed in 1921. First high school pupils were taught in the Christian Church and the Sunday School room of the Presbyterian Church. Later the west rooms of the grammar school were used.

Mrs. Irving was the first teacher, at \$1,800 per year. Soon, Edward D. Gallagher followed and in 1923 received \$2,500 as principal. There were then three members of the faculty. In 1922, there were 26 pupils; in 1923, 48 pupils; in 1957-58, 126; in 1969, 220 pupils. The first pupil to graduate was Jessie Reed, 1923.

Considerable discussion arose--should a high school be built on Piner Hill west of Kelseyville or on the old Academy grounds? By majority vote, the Academy grounds won out.

June 22, 1923, a bond issue of \$50,000 was voted in to buy

grounds and build a new school. In 1923, the school purchased its first bus. The first of the high school buildings were erected and classes started there in the fall of 1924.

November 27, 1929, the new high school building burned and the classes moved to the former two churches. A new high school building was promptly built and was occupied in the fall of 1930. Since then, there has been a steady growth in attendance, new buildings and grounds have been added, and more teachers.

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#### KONOCTI SCHOOL

On the southeast side of Mt. Konocti and almost on the shores of Clear Lake, a school was set up October 3, 1910, and given the title Konocti School District. During its lifetime, classes were always held in a private dwelling known as the Brownrig place. About eight children attended but lack of pupils was always a problem. The teacher lived in the school and sometimes had to have younger members of her family attend from another area in order to have the legal number of children. September 13, 1920, the school was suspended with children then going to Kelseyville.

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#### LAKEPORT ACADEMY

Prof. Overholser was a well-educated and loved individual. He came to Lakeport and soon started an Academy. It was in an old abandoned school building and was located on the southwest corner of Fourth and Forbes Streets in Lakeport. This was in 1884, and started with four pupils. By the end of the school-year, there were sixteen. He taught alone for two years in subjects higher than grammar school.