

In 1890, the Academy was incorporated; \$2,000 was subscribed in stock with which a building was erected on land donated by Mrs. Zephia A. Carly in the north end of Lakeport on Hartley Street immediately west of the present Shop and Save Market. After the Academy left Forbes Street, the original Academy was destroyed. The Clear Lake Union High School District was formed May 1, 1901. It rented the Academy from Prof. Overholser and kept him as a science instructor. In a few years, new High School buildings were built on the north end of Main Street. The old Academy building was made into a hospital by Dr. Spillars but it burned in 1928.

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#### LAKEPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Just when this school started is not known for the school records were lost in the Court House fire of February 15, 1867. The Board Of Supervisors recorded the boundary lines of all schools March 14, 1867, and it showed the District lines starting at the shore of Clear Lake, west to the county line, south along that line, then east to Clear Lake. At that time there were 70 pupils.

The first schoolhouse was of rough boards and had two stories. It was located up on a hill on the northeast corner of Third and High Streets in Lakeport.

The little schoolhouse got too small for the number of pupils so the building was moved to a new site at the southwest corner of Forbes and Fourth Streets. There, the lower story was used as a harness shop and the upper story was used by Prof. Overholser in starting his Academy.

At the same site on the hill at Third and High Streets, a new school house was built. It had two stories, four large classrooms, two stairways, a wide hall, and two small classrooms. At about this period of time, a bond issue of \$6,000 was passed for a new school house. In December, 1880, the building was completed. In 1881, there were 219 pupils.

This took care of the Lakeport Grammar School District until around 1921 when several of the bordering smaller School Districts consolidated with Lakeport, with children bussed to the latter. This increase in number of students called for newer and larger headquarters so what we know as the Main Street School was built in 1923. It was opposite the present Catholic Church.

This school took care of grammar school pupils until more room was needed. North of Lakeport proper another Grammar School system was started at what we call the Terrace School. This was built in parts from 1955 to 1967.

Much of the building of Main Street Grammar School was removed. The remaining buildings now house Natural High School, the continuation high for the Lakeport Unified School District.

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#### LAKEPORT HIGH SCHOOL

On November 9, 1896, an election was held to form a new High School District as Lake County's first high school. It was turned down by a vote of 657 - no to 521 - yes votes.

A try was made again to form a high school district which was to include both Upper Lake and Lakeport. May 4, 1901, an election was held with Upper Lake voting against it, and Lake-

port voting mostly for it. The District was formed by a majority of five votes. The new high school district covered an area which included nineteen grammar school districts.

April 30, 1901, another election was held as to where the high school should be held. There were 300 votes for Lakeport and 244 votes for Upper Lake.

High School started October 1, 1901, in Lakeport and classes were held in Prof. Overholser's Academy, which was immediately west of the present Shop-and-Save store in north Lakeport. Forty pupils started that year, but it soon gained in number.

In 1916, Upper Lake withdrew from the Lakeport High School District (now officially known as the Clear Lake High School, part of Lakeport Unified School District) and Upper Lake formed their own high school district.

The first bond issue in Lakeport to build a new high school for \$30,000 failed to pass May 23, 1913. Later, the public changed its mind and a site was chosen on the northwest end of Main Street. It had first been the home of Indians, and later the home of Captain Rumsey.

In building the new high school, the buildings of the Rumsey family were torn down. The first use of the new high school was in 1916.

After the new high school was occupied, the old Academy was turned into a hospital by Dr. Spillars but burned down in 1928.

On High Street, a short distance south of the Nylander shopping center, is the Timm home which several years ago moved from the new high school set up as it was no longer needed.

Time required a change, so the first part of a new high school site was chosen in the Terraces where the first and final high school was erected in 1965. Additions were made later.

The old high school buildings on Main Street were torn down in 1972, and the Del Lago townhouses now occupy the site.

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#### LAKESHORE SCHOOL

Just when this school was started is not known, for the school records were destroyed when the Court House burned on February 15, 1867. By memory of old timers, it is believed that the school started in the early 1860's.

The history of the school tells of many starts and stops. The first public school was apparently set up in the eastern part of Lucerne next to Lucerne/Riviera No. 1. This was to accomodate children of families hired by the Spring Valley Water Company to cut logs on Bartlett Mountain. These logs were rafted or barged to the company's dam on Cache Creek, not far from Lower Lake.

In 1869, after the dam was removed by irate citizens, there was no more work so the families soon moved away. As there were not enough children to hold school, it closed.

On September 11, 1877, a Lakeshore School District was formed, taking in an area from Clear Lake to the summit of Pine Mountain, southeasterly on the ridge, and back to Clear Lake, taking in what is now Lucerne. School again lapsed for lack of pupils.

Later, around 1880, Lakeshore School District again took over. In 1881, there were eleven pupils. This time the school was located at Bartlett Landing. It was held in two or three houses before a school was located in the flat above the old Bartlett Landing, where the Bartlett Springs to Clear Lake Toll Road took off up the mountain.

Lakeshore School again lapsed for the lack of children but soon opened as other children arrived. It continued until July 6, 1898, when it again had to close. April 3, 1901, school was again re-established. In 1904, school term only lasted 4½ months, from August to December.

During this period of time, school was established at the east side of Warm Hollow (the valley between Nice and Lucerne). There it lived for another few years and then closed for a final time. July 5, 1906, the Lakeshore School District lapsed and was added to the Upper Lake School District.

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#### LIBERTY SCHOOL

About one full mile north from where the main Scotts Valley road joins with the west Scotts Valley road at the north end of the main part of Scotts Valley, a school was located on the edge of the hills up and on the east side of the main road. It was called the Liberty School.

This school was built about 1870. Apparently, the school had been a going concern but the district was not formed until August 3, 1874.

It looks as if there had been a legal mixup, for at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors April 4, 1876, the Liberty School District was changed to the Blue Lake School District,

effective August 4, 1890. At one time the Liberty School District had only five pupils. In 1881, there had been 26 pupils.

About 1895, the Rev. Winters held church on Sunday afternoons in the Liberty School; it continued for some time.

The Liberty School ceased to operate July 1, 1920, when it consolidated with the Lakeport Grammar School.

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#### LOCONOMI SCHOOL

Nearly four miles northeast from Middletown and about 1/4 mile northwest from the bridge over Putah Creek in Coyote Valley was the Loconomi School. It was given that name as copied from Loconomi, an Indian name meaning "Wild Goose Place."

It is not sure when the Loconomi School started, for all school records were lost in the Court House fire of February 15, 1867. We know it was in operation before that, for to re-establish the school district lines, the Board of Supervisors March 14, 1867, passed the issue.

The Loconomi School census for 1869 was 76 pupils; in 1881 it was 55. No doubt the drop in attendance was because the Middletown School District was formed February 7, 1871, from the Loconomi School District which took away some of the pupils.

In 1910, the original Loconomi School house was replaced with a more modern structure on the banks of Putah Creek. For lack of pupils, the school closed in 1937; it then became part of the Middletown School District.

The abandoned school building was sold in 1940 to Marty West and moved across the fields to a location alongside the Butts Canyon Road in Long Valley. There it was used to store articles, including dynamite. In April, 1954, the building burned with a loud bang, and was totally destroyed.

In February, 1960, Frank Hahn admitted he set fire to the building, apparently in revenge over wages. He was arrested, but due to the law of limitations nothing resulted from his arrest.

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#### LONG VALLEY SCHOOL

As there are two Long Valleys in Lake County, we now tell of the Long Valley some six airline miles north of Clearlake Oaks.

The first Long Valley School was a private school and was kept up by the ranchers in that locality. This school was established about 1878 and stopped about 1880. The building was moved and in 1949 became the Kennedy Blacksmith Shop.

The first Long Valley public school was started up at the same time the private school was abandoned, and the building was about 1/4 mile down from where Dow Road takes off, on the south side of the road. It was near the center of the valley and was called the Long Valley Hall. School was held there for about 20 years. The building was finally moved to the Dow residence.

When school stopped at the above mentioned building, the children went to a new one which was between the road and the creek near the Garner residence. John R. Garner built the last schoolhouse in Long Valley. School was held there until about 1934. After it ceased being used for school purposes, Garner changed it over to a church by adding a steeple and bell. It is still there and used a granary. This was on the western end of Long Valley.

Long Valley is many miles long and many of the children had to travel a long way to attend school. April 5, 1886, the Spring Branch School District was formed, with school being taught in a building almost alongside Spring Branch Creek, about 3/4 mile west from the North Fork of Cache Creek, and on the old road from present Highway 20 to Long Valley. There, many of the children could attend without traveling so far.

Another school was reported further down the valley than the one at Garner site but information on it is nearly missing and it closed in 1935.

An oddity is that November 6, 1913, the Board of Supervisors formed the Long Valley School District. Just why this was done is unclear.

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#### LOWER LAKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

All the school records were burned in the Court House fire of 1867. There may have been a small school started quite some time prior to this, but the first report we have is that the Lower Lake School District built a 24' x 36' wooden school building for \$800. It was on the south side of Main Street in Lower Lake, and west of the two story brick building built later.

The Lower Lake area was booming with many mine activities. The little wooden building erected in 1864-65 became too small. The Lower Lake School District voted \$8,000 bonds at 10% interest in 1877 and built a two-story brick building which still stands on the south side of Main Street on the east end of town on a small rise of ground.



When the building was nearly completed, a drunk got in the structure and in lighting his pipe, set fire to a pile of shaving which burned out the interior of the building, leaving only the brick walls--\$3,000 damage. Brick had been made by two local brick yards. An interesting item was that at that period of time, the average school term in the county was only three months long.

The burned structure was immediately rebuilt and had the honor at that time of being the finest school building in Lake County. Ralph Nichols built the school house.

In 1869, there were 89 pupils and by 1881, there were 129 attending. Many children came for many miles to attend, many on horseback.

When the Lower Lake School District built their new, still-functioning, grammar school in 1934, located 1/2 mile north of Lower Lake, the older two-story brick school building was taken over and used by several different organizations. The structure is in fine shape today.

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#### LOWER LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Records tell us that an election was held and Lower Lake High School District formed 1921-22. The first classes were held in the school year of 1922-23 in the upstairs of the old two-story grammar school of that time on the south side of Main Street in Lower Lake at the east end of town.

In 1934, the more modern school building was erected at the north end of town and high school is held there today. School attendance for the High School was on the low side when the

first high school started, with many pupils coming from a great distance. The number of pupils slowly increased and we find there were 65 pupils and ten teachers in 1957-58. That part of Lake County began a fast rate of increase and in 1978 there were 523 pupils and 27 teachers.

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#### LUCERNE SCHOOL

The Lucerne area has been served by a variety of grammar schools. Lack of pupils before subdivisions and Highway 20 caused school to be held at several locations, starting and stopping on several occasions and under different names.

At one time, Fred Morrision said his older sisters or brothers hauled him to school in a child's wagon. He was only 3½ years old, but they needed him to count as attendance in order to hold the school open.

In the 1920's, the town of Lucerne started and Highway 20 was built. The town sprang to life--families moved in and we find that the first school started September 18, 1929, with classes held in a non-school building with only one teacher and Elliot paying for the teacher himself.

Madison Elliot worked hard to get a modern schoolhouse built for Lucerne. Lucerne School District was formed. What is now the old Lucerne Grammar School on Foothill Blvd., was built at a cost of \$30,000. In 1930, school was held in the new building with two teachers.

In 1958-59, Lucerne had 77 pupils with 4 teachers. In the same year, classes for retarded children were also held in the building. In 1969, there were a total of 134 pupils.

In 1975-76, a new school was built on the east side of

Lucerne Valley. The school grounds contain 6 acres. The land, the new buildings, water, sewage, etc., cost 1.5 Million dollars. There are now 200 pupils with nine teachers.

The forerunner of all schools for the Lucerne area was when school was held at a location where Lucerne Riviera #1 now is. It was held in the 1860's to take care of the children of the logging families that cut timber up on Bartlett Mountain.

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#### MIDDLE CREEK SCHOOL

Some confusion exists as to just when the first school started which served the Upper Lake area. Accounts do not agree. Just north of the present town of Upper Lake, a school was set up and children of the early settlers went to a Pepperwood School. It was the original school.

The Middle Creek School District was formed April 3, 1882. The Mountain Mill School District lapsed April 3, 1888, with part going to the Gravelly Valley District and part to the Middle Creek District.

Around the turn of the century, the little school house became too small, so the building was divided with part going to the Upper Lake Grammar School and the other part erected north of Upper Lake as the Middle Creek Grammar School.

The Middle Creek School was used until joining with the Upper Lake School in 1926. The abandoned Middle Creek School house was changed over and used mostly as a residence for renters. In February, 1959, the building caught fire and was torn down. So the end came to one of our early day schools.

## MIDDLE CREEK RANCHERIA SCHOOL

Until the early part of this century, no Indian child went to a white school in Lake County. An Indian School was maintained at the Middle Creek Indian Rancheria which is one and one-half miles north of Upper Lake and on the west side of Middle Creek. The school house was on the banks of Middle Creek. The teacher was white and was paid by the federal government.

The U.S. Government abandoned the Indian School in 1921. The Indian children then attended the Middle Creek School (white). The voters of the Middle Creek District voted a tax to divide the use of the school house and the playgrounds and hire a teacher for the Indian children. This arrangement lasted until the Middle Creek School District consolidated with the Upper Lake Union Elementary School in 1926.

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## MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL

Middletown did not exist until the toll road was built from Kelseyville through Cobb Valley and junctioned with the Calistoga-Lower Lake Road. The town then started.

February 7, 1871, the Middletown School District was formed from the Loconoma School District. August 6, 1872, the Middletown Election Precinct was formed and elections held in the school.

The first school was held in a church which had been built in 1870. That building acted as a church and school for twenty years. In 1881 there were 135 pupils.

At one time, there were 10 school districts in the Middletown area--Big Canyon, Callayomi, Eureka, Great Western, Helen, Loconomi, Middletown, Mountain View, St. Helena, and Spruce Grove. One by one these districts lapsed until only Callayomi, Loconomi, Middletown, and St. Helena remained.

In 1925, the citizens of Callayomi, Middletown, and St. Helena voted to unite and the Middletown Union District was formed. Loconomi continued as a separate district for several years but finally lapsed.

School was once held in the Odd Fellows Hall while a new school house was being built. The new school building had two rooms with two teachers. Middletown was growing fast, especially due to the activities at the mines. There were 136 pupils and they needed a third teacher. Mines started closing; families began moving away and school attendance began to drop.

The new school building was erected on the present school grounds in the 1890's. In 1925, a newer and larger building was built just in front of the other and the older building torn down.

Minnie Cannon was a teacher within the Middletown School for many years and was well liked. September 28, 1958, a well-attended meeting was held and the school was dedicated as the Minnie Cannon Elementary School in her honor. As of April 30, 1961, she was 93 years old.

Records show that starting in January, 1888, the Middletown Grammar School charged a tuition of \$1.50 per month per pupil.

In 1957-58, the Middletown Unified School has 148 pupils.

## MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

A high school district was formed in Middletown in 1916 with the first year's classes held in the upper story of the grammar school building which contained two rooms above and two below. Next year, classes moved into a newly erected high school.

There is only one school district in Middletown - the Unified School District. It is made up of these former schools and districts:

Bradford	Callayomi
Cinnabar	Eureka
Great Western	Helen
Loconomi	Middletown Grammar
Middletown High	Mirabel
Mountain Mill	St. Helena
Sunset	Mountain View
Guenoc	Oat Hill

In 1977-78, there were 314 pupils with 9 teachers in the grammar school; 145 pupils with 12 teachers in the High School.

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## MIRABEL SCHOOL

The Bradford Quicksilver Mine produced a lot of that metal and there was a thriving community with a population of from 250 to 300, both white and Chinese. This mine south of Middletown we now know as the Mirabel.

In 1890, the Bradford Mine built a school house one-fourth mile north of the mine on the old road and not too far from the White Caps Murder House. In time, the little school house burned down. A dwelling, owned by the mine superintendent, a few hundred feet south of the first school house, was used as a school until a school house was built around a mile north of the

mine on the road to Middletown. School was taught there until all the pupils went to the Middletown School.

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#### MISS EMMA THOMPSON HOME SCHOOL

Miss Emma Thompson Home School was in Lakeport and run as a Kindergarten for several years. It was on a hillside at the same time that Prof. Overholser had his Academy. Her school operated around the 1870's and little is known of it.

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#### MISSION SCHOOL

In the 1870's, the Catholic Mission east of Lakeside Park in Big Valley established an Indian School. Although there were around 100 Indians living at the Mission, quite a few of which were children, there was never a great attendance.

In 1888, the U.S. Government supported the school as a Contract Day School and withdrew that support in 1900. From then on two or three children attended, and the school was finally closed around 1905. During that period of time, an occasional white child or two used the school.

At first, the school at the Mission had been held in their little church. Later a change was made and the church and the school each had their own building.

In 1914, the Indians of Big Valley had become settled on the present Big Valley Rancheria, so the Mission Fathers moved the Mission church building to the Rancheria. Regular government school was taught in that building for several years and then the Indian school was taught in the 1920's at the then-vacant Big Valley School house in Finley, still just a school for Indians.

After a few more years and at the request of the Indian Department, the school was closed and the Indian children sent to either the Kelseyville or Lakeport Schools.

The old school building on the Mission is still intact and in fair shape. The church house used as an Indian School on the rancheria has been rebuilt and the Big Valley School house has been torn down.

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#### MONO SCHOOL

March 3, 1896, the Mono School District was formed. It bordered on Clear Lake, but excluded ten acres of an Indian Rancheria at Sulphur Banks School District and part to Burns Valley School District.

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#### MORGAN VALLEY SCHOOL

Some eleven miles east from Lower Lake is Morgan Valley, which is somewhat divided into two sections. February 3, 1868, the Morgan Valley School District was formed from the Cinnabar School District. It is reported that school was first held in a granary on the Joe Deering place, later the Fuqua place.

Then a school house was built at a location between the two sections of the valley and across the last location of the Reiffe Post Office. Joe Butege (spelling unclear) homesteaded the area, and as he did not want the school house in front of his own house, he gave the district an acre of ground. The little school house was then moved some 100 yards west and alongside the road. It was moved by Ellis Morrell and his father.



There were 25 pupils in 1869, and 40 in 1881. Within the district were several good-sized families and mining helped in attendance. In time, attendance dropped; Mrs. Julia Coleman served as teacher for the last four years of the school's life. It closed in 1942, and children today are transported to Lower Lake schools.

October 19, 1972, an historical marker was placed at the last location of the Morgan Valley School. At that time, the building had collapsed and was a pile of junk; part has been salvaged.

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#### MORRISON SCHOOL (Private)

In 1854, Samuel Morrison moved to Lucerne Valley and was the first to settle there. He raised a family of several children. In time, they should have attended school, but it was too far for the children to travel, so he set up a little school house not very far from the presently-used Lucerne Elementary School. He paid all expenses and gave the teacher \$12 per month and board. She stayed with the Morrison family. The number of pupils varied with 12 being the most. He kept this private school, which taught his own children as well as a few of the neighbors' children, for several years until a public school started up nearby. The public school closed and Morrison started his school again, but it did not last long. His first school started around 1885.

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#### MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

August 3, 1868, the Mountain School District was formed from

the Rincon School District. The original school house was built 150 feet west of the Wild Cat Road, with Akers Mill some 1/4 mile west of that. This location was some 2 1/2 miles northwest from Salamina's Resort, which is in turn located on Highway 175 some 11 miles northwest of Middletown.

About 1890, school was moved half way between the Schoenberger and Auschwitz homes on Red Hills Drive, south of the S Bar S Ranch on Highway 29 between Lower Lake and Kelseyville. There it stood for only two or three years.

June 4, 1901, the Mountain School District voted \$600 bonds for a school and furnishings. February 5, 1898, part of the Olive School District was added to the Mountain School District.

School then moved to the Schoenberger place where a school house was erected. It was a short way west of the Red Hills Drive. The building was still there in 1949, but had been added to for a private dwelling. After a few years at that location, classes were moved to the Mountain Improvement Club House to the east, near present Highway 175. This last site was in the northern corner of the junction of Red Hills Drive and Highway 175. In 1881, there were 39 pupils in the Mountain School.

Consolidation was in the air so the Mountain School District contracted with the Kelseyville Union Grammar School to educate their children for the year 1947-48. The smaller school then joined with the larger Kelseyville School July 1, 1948.

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#### MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE SCHOOL

Of the early schools in Lower Lake, the Mountain Institute was established in the 1870's as a private school. Boarders

were taken from the age of four years; terms for board and tuition were \$20 per month with \$6 extra for instruction in music, piano and organ.

Mrs. H. Lowe was in charge from 1886-87 as principal of the Mountain Institute. This school went the way of most private places of learning and ceased operations. In 1949, the building was used as a Catholic Church.

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#### MOUNTAIN MILL SCHOOL

April 6, 1885, a school district was formed up in the mountains between Upper Lake and Gravelly Valley. The latter is now Lake Pillsbury. It was in the headwaters of Middle Creek and took in a part of the Gravelly Valley School District.

There was a school set up near the above location for a short time, given the name Fort Thompson School. There is no official mention of a school by that name. Perhaps it went legally by the name Mountain Mill School.

The need for a school in that isolated area was for temporary families of the timber loggers of that territory. On April 3, 1888, the Mountain Mill School lapsed and part of that district was attached to the Gravelly Valley School District, and part to the Middle Creek School District.

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#### MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL

Mountain View School was about one mile north of Spring Hill Farm and about one mile from the Helen Mine Road, some 3 1/2 miles west of Middletown, alongside the road.

The reason for the school being in that location was to serve children of mine workers or those getting out timber for nearby mines. The Mountain View School District was formed April 2, 1888, and took in children as far as the Sonoma County line.

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#### MRS. ARNOLD SCHOOL

In 1897 or 1898, Mrs. Mary Arnold opened a primary school in her home. She was a graduate from the College of the Pacific doing special work in French and writing. Several students from around Lakeport attended. In order to take care of the very smallest children, she cut part of the legs off the chairs. For lack of attendance, Mrs. Arnold's private school was forced to close after a few years.

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#### NEAR ABBOTT MINE

During a period of time when the Abbott Quicksilver Mine was active, there was a short-lived school up a little side canyon over a mile west from the mine and only a short distance north of the present Highway 20. The only thing left to show where it was are a few foundation stones.

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#### NORTH LAKE SCHOOL

An early day school was taught at several places in the area from present day Lucerne/Nice toward Upper Lake. There were few pupils and many moves were made to be near the center of the students. In 1912, a school district was formed from the Upper Lake School District. It is more popularly known as Hammond School, as Gardner G. Hammond was instrumental in