

getting the school formed. School was held near the old road between present Nice and Upper Lake and in a private dwelling of Mr. Hammond. In 1920, the school was consolidated with the Upper Lake Union School District.

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#### OAT HILL SCHOOL

This is believed to be the only school district that covered a part of two counties. It was the Napa-Lake Consolidated School District. Just inside Napa County was the Oat Hill Quicksilver Mine. School was held in a building at the mine and was attended by several children from just within Lake County, mostly from families whose father worked in the mine. This Oat Hill School District was formed April 3, 1889, but is now part of the Middletown Unified School District.

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#### OLIVE SCHOOL

The Olive School District was formed from the Rincon School District April 4, 1877. School was first held in a lean-to shack north of the present Highway 29. This was one-half mile northwest from the present junction of Highway 29 and Highway 175.

October 3, 1887, the District voted \$300 to build a school house. After the first year in the lean-to shack, pupils were then moved about 80 feet south of the present Highway 29 and opposite the shack into their new school house. The school was named the Olive School at the suggestion of Bud Sherwood who lived nearby and who was very fond of olives and olive trees.

An interesting story has to do with a site near where the school house was. This started before the days of white civili-

zation. A chief died and was buried at this site. He was a bad chief and very disliked. After he was buried, to show their contempt for him as an Indian, folks would go by the grave site and throw a fist-sized stone on the grave. The pile of stones finally reached a height of three feet. It was finally destroyed when the road was widened.

Although Olive School lapsed officially February 8, 1898, it is possible that it actually ceased operating in 1896. Pupils then went to either the Rincon or Mountain Schools and the Olive School District was divided between the Rincon and Mountain School Districts.

December 9, 1897, property other than the school building was sold at public auction for \$21.90. March 10, 1905, the Sheriff authorized the sale of the Olive School building, but that order was quickly rescinded. Records do not show what eventually became of the school building; it is no longer there.

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#### PEACH PRIVATE SCHOOL

After the closing of the Kelseyville Academy, the teaching of grades higher than elementary again started around 1907-08 when a Mr. Peach set up a private school in a part of the Presbyterian Church in Kelseyville; that part has since been removed. There was only a handful of pupils, and it ceased to function after only a year or two.

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#### PEPPERWOOD SCHOOL

In 1864, the Pepperwood School was started on the bank of Clover Creek on or near the former Mat Johnson place. It was the first school in that area north of Upper Lake. In the

1960's it was moved to a location near the present Federal Forest Ranger Station in Upper Lake.

When first started, it was in a grove of trees and so was named Pepperwood School. It was taught by subscription for \$1.50 a month per child. This had to be paid whether the child attended or not. The terms were short, being held in the summer months only as there were no bridges and the creeks ran high during the winter season.

During 1884-85, the Pepperwood School was split up into the Upper Lake School and the Middle Creek School. This was the end of the Pepperwood School.

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#### PINE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

The old Pine Mountain School was located between Peterson's Resort and the McKinley Mill about a mile from the former place in the mountains west of Middletown. First classes were held in an old shake barn on the Linkletter place. It was going at least in the 1880's. One of the popular teachers was a Miss Minnie Ozenberger (later Cannon).

The classes were good-sized and a school house was finally built. This school continued in operation for some 15 years before it finally lapsed. The building was later destroyed by a summer fire that swept over that area.

A question is raised: Is this school the same as the Mountain View School?

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#### PLEASANT GROVE SCHOOL

In 1869, the Pleasant Grove School District was formed

which ran from Clear Lake, west to Scotts Creek, then back to Clear Lake and up the lakeshore to the beginning. At one time, it served all Scotts Valley and had the largest attendance of any school in Lake County, nearly 10% of the county's total school population.

As more children kept coming, the building proved too small so sheds were added on each side. The building was on Hill Road, across to the east from the later Jim McNeil home about 2 1/2 miles north and a little west from Lakeport. As the school had been built at a nice grove of oak trees, it was called the Pleasant Grove School.

In 1869, there were 72 pupils. As time went on, other school districts were formed from it so the number declined and by 1881 there were only 45 pupils. In 1882, John Burger deeded an acre of ground to the School District. In 1884, the District was bonded for \$450 to build a new school, and a new school house was built a little south and across the road from the first building. The last school house was smaller but better than the first. This was an active school until consolidated with the larger school at Lakeport in 1921. Later, the last Pleasant Grove School house was torn down.

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#### PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL

County records were burned in the Court House fire of 1867 so exact dates cannot be given. Schools were needed and classes were held at various places. Immediately south of the present Hartley Cemetery at Lakeport is a pretty little valley, well-watered and attractive. It was called Pleasant Valley.

About 1864, a school was started in a little one-room shack in this valley and it went by the name of Pleasant Valley School. It served Scotts Valley, along the lakeshore and possibly parts of the present city of Lakeport. It served its pupose well, but when the Pleasant Grove School started in 1869, west and up on the hills, that spelled the end of Pleasant Valley School.

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#### RINCON SCHOOL

Some two miles south of Kelseyville, and on both sides of Kelsey Creek is irregularly-shaped Rincon Valley. Alongside this stream, and two miles south of the town was one-room Rincon School. This school district was within one-half mile south of Kelseyville, went west to Adobe Creek, south to the County line, up to the top of Mt. St. Helena, took in Cobb Valley, going north to Mt. Konocti and then to the place of start--one of the largest districts by area among our early schools.

That part of the county was first a part of Napa County, and did not become Lake County until 1861. There is no mention in Napa County records of the formation of the Rincon School district. Our own school records were burned in the Court House fire of 1867. It is believed the Rincon School was started between 1861 and 1867. At this later date, it was a well-attended school, and had been formed from the Kelsey Creek School District.

The first Rincon School house was in a field between the present Kelsey Creek Drive and Kelsey Creek, some one-half mile north of the site of the old Kelsey Creek Flour Mill.

At that location in 1869, there were 61 pupils. Gradually other school districts were formed from it, such as Cobb, Mountain, Alcove, Highland and Olive, and by 1881, there were only 28 students left for Rincon.

August 3, 1883, Thomas Allison sold an acre or so of land to the Rincon School District for \$31 on Kelsey Creek for school purposes. Attendance at the first Rincon School was rather irregular. Term ran from August to the latter part of November, no school in December through February, started again in March and ended in late June, with July as a vacation month.

April 7, 1886, Rincon School District voted \$1,000 bonds for a school house, seats, furnishings, and fencing for the property.

Rincon School District consolidated with Kelseyville Grammar School September 26, 1919. Neither of the two Rincon School buildings are presently in existence. The site of the first of the two schools is now a walnut orchard and the site of the last is now a private summer residence.

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#### SAN HEDRIN SCHOOL

San Hedrin School District was formed April 4, 1896, with the school house some six miles southwest from Lake Pillsbury near the Lake-Mendocino County line. It served children of a few stock ranchers and timber workers.

It was named for Mt. San Hedrin which was alongside. One version for the name being given to the mountain says that it was given by Pierce, Frank Asbill, Sam Kelsey and others when traveling over that moutin in April of 1854. It was the name

of the ancient Jewish National Council or tribunal of 71 members about 135-105 B.C. The same group of travelers named other places while on their journeys after Bible names.

School had been first held in a cabin or private home. January 6, 1898, the district voted \$200 bonds to build a school house. Pupils were few, and the San Hedrin School was forced to close July 12, 1902. The district became a part of the Gravelly Valley School District which also took over the few school belongings.

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#### S BAR S RANCH SCHOOL

On Highway 29, halfway between Kelseyville and Lower Lake is the S Bar S Ranch. Much of our early lumbering was nearby. As travel was slow in the early days, it was used as a stop over by many people. Commercial corrals were built. A Post Office was established in 1887, called Ely, after the then-owner of the S Bar S Ranch. A hotel was built to take care of the public, and a school was nearby--it looked like the beginning of a town. Little is mentioned of the S Bar S Ranch school, so we can only assume that it was short-lived around the 1880's.

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#### SCOTTS VALLEY SCHOOL

Scotts Valley, immediately north of Scotts Valley Road West, was the location of Scotts Valley School. The pupils of that area had attended other schools with other names.

March 12, 1872, Scotts Valley School District was formed from the southern part of the Blue Lakes School District. That

year there were less than 25 pupils, but by 1881 Scotts Valley School had 67 attending. The year the District was formed, the assessed value of property within the District was less than \$75,000 so there was no special school tax.

About 1890, Lafayette Sailor deeded land for the school. School was held until 1921 when it consolidated with the Lakeport School and all children were bussed to the town.

Records of the Scotts Valley Social and Improvement Club tell us that on October 29, 1923, they bought the school house for \$200. That Club made many improvements. January 29, 1940, the property was deeded to the Scotts Valley Farm Center. In 1941, the Farm Center tore down the old school building and later erected a new building at the same site, called the Community Club House.

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#### SEIGLER SCHOOL

April 2, 1888, the Seigler School District formed with the school house uphill a short distance from Seigler Springs Resort. It was named after a man named Seigler who first took up Seigler Springs and Seigler Valley. For lack of pupils, the District lapsed on July 19, 1900, but was re-established March 8, 1904. Then or possibly a little later, the Seigler School operated at Loch Lomond in a small building south of the settlement. It was finally suspended September 13, 1920, with pupils going to Kelseyville. Both school buildings are now gone.

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#### SPRING RANCH SCHOOL

North of Clearlake Oaks by several miles is Long Valley.



It is a long valley and when school was moved to the western end it was too far for some children to attend. In consequence, the Spring Branch School District was formed from the Cache Creek School District, April 5, 1886. School was taught in a building near to and on the east side of the old Long Valley Road on the late Ernie Ford property, almost alongside Spring Branch Creek. It is not known if the school received its name from the stream, or vice versa.

Many of the children had to come from a long distance, with some boarding near the school.

An interesting story concerns Frank Kowolski who lived some seven miles east of the school over mountainous territory. Frank was sweet on the teacher of Spring Branch School and decided one Christmas to go courting and take her a present. He rode his horse and his dog went along. It was necessary to cross the North Fork of Cache Creek and when he came to the crossing the water was high and cold. The water was just high enough for the horse to keep its footing. Unfortunately, the dog started across the creek above the horse and the current carried it downstream into the horse. The dog was pulled under the horse and either scared or clawed the horse. Kowolski was bucked off into the water. The story told is that when Frank got out to the bank, he was on one side of the creek and his horse on the other, and that he lost the present and his anticipated dinner.

The Fairview School District lapsed July 9, 1896, and was added to the Spring Branch District. Children became fewer and on July 9, 1896, the Spring Branch School District closed and became a part of the Cache Creek School District with property going to Burns Valley and Twin Valley School Districts.

## SPRUCE GROVE SCHOOL

One of the early-time roads was between Middletown and Lower Lake. In the mountains between the two towns was a grove of spruce or firs. As this early road went alongside these trees, it took on the name Spruce Grove Road and is so known by that title today.

May 2, 1871, the Spruce Grove School District was formed from the Excelsior School District. It received its name from the fact it was alongside the Spruce Grove Road. The first school house for the Spruce Grove District was in the hills where classes were taught for a few years and then was moved to a location just south of the Arthur Copsey home, but still served by the same road.

In 1872, the Spruce Grove School District had less than 25 pupils and an assessed valuation of less than \$75,000, so there was no special school tax. In 1881, attendance had climbed to 38 pupils.

July 12, 1902, the Sunset School District lapsed and became a part of the Spruce Grove District, consolidated with the larger Lower Lake School.

The last report of the school house was that the building had been moved a very short distance and was still in good shape.

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## ST. HELENA SCHOOL

The St. Helena School District was formed from the Middletown School District April 4, 1891. The present Mirabel Mine was formally known as the Bradford Mine. The first St. Helena School was held in an old bunkhouse at the Bradford Mine and

was furnished by the mine owners. It was spoken of by many as the Bradford School because of its location. Gradually the public accepted the name St. Helena School and the site is so spoken of today.

The St. Helena School was moved more than once. The last and most important site was west of the present Highway 29, one-fourth mile south of Shady Grove and two miles south of Middletown.

August 5, 1913, the St. Helena School District voted \$500 to buy land, erect buildings, and buy supplies. More children were coming, for the adjoining Great Western School had lapsed and become a part of the St. Helena School District, with Great Western School property going to the St. Helena and Middletown School Districts.

In time, few children attended, and in 1925 the St. Helena School District consolidated with the Middletown Union School. Mrs. Charles Poston taught in the last of St. Helena School's life for 23 years.

After being used for a school, the building became a private residence, partially burning some years ago.

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#### SULPHUR BANK SCHOOL

The mixing of the East Lake School and the Sulphur Bank School is confusing. The Sulphur Bank School District was formed from the East Lake School District February 5, 1879. Classes were taught at different sites but never very far from the Sulphur Bank Mine.

In the 1890's, school was taught in a building built for that purpose; it was sometimes used as a church also. In

1881, there were 33 pupils and in 1890 the Sulphur Bank School District passed a bond issue to build a school.

July 3, 1904, the last school held in High Valley (north of Clearlake Oaks and then known as East Lake School), lapsed with pupils going to the Sulphur Bank School; property of the East Lake School going to the Sulphur Bank School and Lower Lake School District. The few children left in High Valley went to the Sulphur Bank School by horse and cart.

The Sulphur Bank School classes, around 1900, were held in an old abandoned store building at the mine, near the beach at the mine. It also served as a church for awhile.

The East Lake School started up again with school at Clearlake Oaks. Around 1920, the Sulphur Bank School house was torn down and the best lumber went into a new school house at Clearlake Oaks. The Sulphur Bank School District changed over to the East Lake School District in 1931-32.

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#### SULPHUR BANK INDIAN SCHOOL

Father James Nolte, O.F.M., in 1893, with the assistance of the U.S. Government, established a school for the Indians at Sulphur Bank, but this school was continued after only a few years.

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#### SULPHUR SPRING SCHOOL

When Lake County was formed in 1861, a large portion had been Napa County. Some years later there was a small portion given back from Lake County to Napa County which included mines near Knoxville.

May 25, 1870, the Sulphur Springs School District was

formed from the Cinnabar School District in Lake County and the Oak Grove School District in Napa County, mostly out of Napa County. Apparently it centered around the Knoxville Mine, in the area not now in Lake County. Nothing more is known of the Sulphur Springs School District nor its school house.

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#### SUNSET SCHOOL

We can find no record of just when the Sunset School District was formed, but it was a going concern in 1896. The location of the little school house was some one-fourth to one-half mile southwest from the junction of Spruce Grove Road and Jerusalem Valley Road, and in rolling territory on Spruce Grove Road. The location was six miles northeast from Middletown.

The school house was small and the number of pupils were few. July 12, 1902, the school was forced to close and became a part of the Spruce Grove School District. April 3, 1906, the Board of Supervisors ordered the little school house to be sold. All that remains today is a depression in the soil which shows where the Sunset School once stood.

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#### TWIN VALLEY SCHOOL

Twin Valleys are some four and one-half miles northwest from Bartlett Springs. Several families were scattered in and around that area. April 4, 1900, the Twin Valley School District was established with the school house being some two miles northwest from Twin Valleys in what was known as Wild Bill Valley. The name Wild Bill Valley was given for the rea-

son that William Templeton, a very loud-mouthed Irishman, lived there alone. His voice was so loud it was said that you could hear him whisper for ten miles.

In 1906, the little school house was in bad shape so a newer school was built a mile nearer Twin Valleys. The same year, the Bartlett Springs School District lapsed and valuables were transferred to Twin Valley School. Prior to this and for a short time one half term was taught at the Bartlett Springs School and the other half term at Twin Valley School.

During the term 1917-18, there were only four students at the Twin Valley School, and it was permanently closed.

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#### UNCLE SAM SCHOOL

In 1854, the Hammack train came and settled mostly in Big Valley. Two of these settlers went to the top of the mountain and because it was the biggest thing around, they named it "Uncle Sam" in honor of the United States Government. The name stuck. Later, some peace-time soldiers came and stayed at the foot of the mountain. As they represented the United States it cinched the name.

The first Post Office was called Uncle Sam, starting on November 5, 1864. It went by that name until it was changed to Kelseyville Post Office October 4, 1882.

The town was first called Kelsey Creek but soon changed to the town of Uncle Sam. This name held sway until it was gradually changed to Kelseyville. We assume this change took place at the same time the Post Office name changed to Kelseyville on October 4, 1882.

A school house was built, and the Uncle Sam School District formed from the Kelsey Creek School District February 3, 1868. The first school was located on Gard Street one block north of Main Street. There were 36 pupils in 1869, and 88 in 1881.

The little school became overcrowded so some of the children were sent to what had been a paint shop; it later became the Christian Church and after that, the Woodmen of the World Hall. It was torn down in 1946-47.

Later, some of the students went to the upper story of the present Brick Tavern on Main Street. Entrance was by an outside stairway on the east side. Playgrounds were across the street. This school lasted only a few years.

The name Uncle Sam School changed to Kelseyville Grammar School on January 7, 1907. The first school house on Gard Street was sold to the late Bert Young as a residence and was torn down in 1947.

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#### UPPER LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

At one time this area was a part of the Lakeport High School District with pupils going to Lakeport. In 1916, Upper Lake withdrew from the Lakeport High School District and formed one of their own, the Upper Lake Union High School District.

First classes for the Upper Lake High School were held in the second story of the old grammar school, and continued there for some 2 1/2 years.

Property of the present high school was purchased from John Packwood, bonds were voted on and a school erected on level land, a short 1/2 mile east from the main part of Upper

Lake. In January of 1919, classes were held in the new buildings.

The territory served by the Upper Lake High School District steadily increased in population and the number of students also increased. Several additions to the high school were made over the years, especially in 1961.

An oddity was that in 1922, the Lake County Fair was held in the Upper Lake High School.

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#### UPPER LAKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The first schooling within the Upper Lake territory was in the year 1855. Classes were held in North Methodist Church in the town of Upper Lake just west of the home of Guido de Ghetaldi. At that time, we were a part of Napa County (Lake County was not formed until 1861). School was taught by the minister, a Mr. Norman. It was a subscription school with few pupils in attendance. The subscription charge was \$1.50 per pupil per month. This school was moved at least once during its short life.

Upper Lake acquired its first public school in the 1860's. The exact date is not known for all records were destroyed in the Court House fire of 1867. The first public school was north of town and moved more than once. The last school, known as Pepperwood School, was situated near the present Ranger Station. Apparently, the first public school was a 12' x 14' log house with Mrs. Parmley of Marysville the first teacher. School terms were short, only in winter time, as there were no bridges and getting to school was nearly impossible for some children on account of high water.



In 1884, the school district acquired from C.C. Rice the property where a two-story grammar school was erected on the hill on the east part of Upper Lake. When pupils moved into the new school, the name Pepperwood School was dropped and from then on it became known as Upper Lake Grammar School. This new school was built with funds from a bond issue of \$5,000 passed on September 1, 1884.

The area covered by that school district included a lot of territory as civilization took over. New school districts were formed to serve pupils nearby, and some small districts lapsed, with pupils going to Upper Lake.

School attendance always seemed to be on the increase, and that called for more rooms. When the school house was built on the hill on the east side of town, it was a two-story with one room below for grades 1 - 4, and one above for grades 5 - 8. Later, each room was divided which made for a four-room school. It also served as a community center. Another addition for extra rooms was made in 1900, and more space added in 1931, and 1937.

Pupils are bussed from Lake Pillsbury to Upper Lake, the longest bus run in the county.

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#### WEST LAKE SCHOOL

West Lake School District was formed October 2, 1882. It was at the northeast junction of present Highway 29 and the Nice/Lucerne cut-off. George Lyon, Sr., gave one acre of land on which the school house was built. May 11, 1883, the District voted \$500 to build a new school house.

There were never very many pupils. On August 2, 1909,

West Lake School had only four pupils but was not declared  
lapsed as more pupils were in sight. School continued on until  
it joined the larger Lakeport schools in 1937.

After consolidation took place, the little school house  
remained idle for quite some time. It was then purchased by  
the Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1942, and used as a  
schoolhouse until 1950-52 when it was torn down and replaced  
with a new, modern school house and auditorium. This school  
is still in active use by the church.

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#### WILLOW GROVE SCHOOL

August 3, 1868, the Willow Grove School District was form-  
ed from the Upper Lake School District, the new district taking  
in Blue Lakes, Bachelor Valley and Tule Lake.

May 4, 1869, less than a year after it was formed, the  
Willow Grove School District was dissolved into the Upper Lake  
School District. No other information about the school is  
known.

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A school district was formed and school taught on main Cache Creek below the junction of the North Fork of Cache Creek with Cache Creek. Mrs. Bayton was teacher as well as William Adamson. They taught until the school lapsed.

There was another school about one mile southeast of the cattle guard which is west of the Abbott mine on Highway 20. It was up a small canyon and the foundation stones are reported to still be there.

There was also a school near the crossing of the present highway bridge over the North Fork of Cache Creek on Highway 20, and another in Welden Valley, east of Clearlake Oaks.

Does anyone know the names of these schools, or more details about them? Your County Historian would welcome the help.