

## Carrville School District

The Trinity Journal announced in November of 1896 that Miss Alice Power had been teaching “at a private school at Carrville”, but returned to her home in San Jose.<sup>1</sup> After an extensive search for newspaper articles about the school throughout the 1870s, 1880s, and beyond, this appears to be the very first article to mention a Carrville School.

Two years later, Carrville, in Wintu Ancestral territory, was reported to be “one of the prettiest summer resorts in Northern California, and many people from San Francisco and adjoining counties are taking advantage of its many attractions.”<sup>2</sup> In fact, Carrville appears to have been well-established and filled with many visitors:

Times in and about Carrville are very lively at present— prospectors in plenty, new mines being discovered and older ones being developed. Carrville is the center of Northeastern Trinity society. There are a large number of the San Francisco Four Hundred rustivating at this place. There are also a number from the adjoining counties as well as from different portions of old Trinity. Shasta County, however, has the largest representation.

Sports and amusements keep the guests busy from early morning till late in the evening. Sunday last a large number visited.<sup>3</sup>

However, no matter how many visitors came to Carrville, there didn’t seem to be many permanent families living there whose children were of school age. Therefore, it must be assumed that there were not enough students at the time to support a public school, funded by the state.

According to the paper, Miss Helen M. Sprague of Gilroy opened the Carrville School on the 15th of April, 1899.<sup>4</sup> While the local paper indicated the school was public, in the paper’s reporting of state funding apportionments to schools that year, Carrville is not recorded on the lists of school districts receiving funding and therefore could not be a public school district, although it’s possible that Carrville was a single school that fell under another district such as Coffee Creek, but at this time no records back up this possibility.

We do know that Carrville School was to open for a spring term on April 4, 1904, with Miss Christine Jessen of Alameda as teacher.<sup>5</sup> James Matlock, Jr. was scheduled to teach the summer term of 1904 at the same school.<sup>6</sup> Interestingly, a note in the Trinity Journal describes Mr. Matlock as principal of the Redding Grammar School but also reported that he opened the Carrville school on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 1904.<sup>7</sup> And then on September 10th of the same year, it was reported that James T. Matlock Jr., who had been teaching at the Carrville School, returned to his home in Red Bluff.<sup>8</sup> We still must assume that Carrville continued to be a private school.

The actual *public* school district at Carrville was said to have been established on January 11, 1898, by the County Board of Supervisors.<sup>9</sup> However, this reported information cannot, at this time, be supported with documentation. No county school funds were issued to Carrville School until 1907 at which time it was listed as “new”.<sup>10</sup> That was the only year that the Carrville School District is on record in any official documents at the Trinity County Office of Education. It may be that the school reverted to a private school, paid for by the parents

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<sup>1</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 28, 1896.

<sup>2</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 20, 1898.

<sup>3</sup> “Society at Carrville”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 20, 1898

<sup>4</sup> *The Trinity Journal*, May 6, 1899

<sup>5</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 2, 1904.

<sup>6</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 14, 1904.

<sup>7</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 11, 1904.

<sup>8</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 10, 1904.

<sup>9</sup> Untitled, undated information found at Coffee Creek School in the school’s historical files, 2021.

<sup>10</sup> “School District Disbursements & Receipts”, Carrville District information, Trinity County Office of Education.

whose children attended. Often this would occur when too few students were enrolled in a school to receive state funding.

We do know that Mr. Matlock, Jr. was engaged to teach a summer term at Carville, and that the Carrville School closed the fall term in December of 1907 with Miss Nellie Jordan, County Superintendent as teacher.<sup>11</sup> During the fall of 1907, Nellie Jordan was called to substitute for the Carrville teacher, Miss Emily House, due to illness. Nellie Jordan put the Deputy Superintendent, Cina Leonard, in charge of the office while she substituted in Carrville.<sup>12</sup>

In May of 1909, the Carrville schoolhouse burned down. The school was held at Carr Hall until a new school could be built. Miraculously, the teacher and students saved all the books and the school furniture. A dance was planned to help raise funds to build a new school.<sup>13</sup>

No photo of the school has yet been located.

See also **Coffee Creek School District**.

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<sup>11</sup> "Schools Close", *The Trinity Journal*, December 14, 1907.

<sup>12</sup> "Local Brevities", *The Trinity Journal*, November 16, 1907.

<sup>13</sup> Untitled, undated information found at Coffee Creek School in the school's historical files, 2021.