

## Douglas City School District

Douglas City was originally called Kanaka Bar and was established in the 1850s as a small mining town built in the ancestral territory of the Wintu Tribe. Kanaka means “human being” in the Hawaiian language and, at least in the past, was used to describe the Native Hawaiian workers who had been brought from Hawaii to work for John Sutter in the Sacramento area. Later, many of them moved north soon after gold was discovered.<sup>1</sup>

In 1859, when a post office was established there, the “brisk little town” became known as Douglas City and was said to be named after Stephen A. Douglas, who ran against Abraham Lincoln in the Illinois senatorial campaign in 1858.<sup>2</sup> As the story goes, the residents voted to determine if it should be called Douglas City or Lincoln City.<sup>3</sup> It’s clear which name won that vote.



*Douglas City School District 1899*

Douglas City School District is one of the earliest schools established in the county. It was officially established on August 8, 1860,<sup>4</sup> with teacher Robert Long. His salary was \$150 *per year*.<sup>5</sup> The first Douglas City School District Board of Trustees members were L. J. Thayer, clerk, H.G. Jordan, and A. H. Marshall. When Mr. Long left the school to be the principal of the Shasta High School in Redding, he was followed by Miss Ella Gage of Shasta to teach at Douglas City School in 1862.<sup>6</sup>

Early on, the school was said to have had an attendance of fifty students, all with the one teacher who taught all grades up to and including ninth grade.<sup>7</sup> While this number is entirely possible,

it’s also likely that the number of students at the school could be mistaken for the number of children in a census of the whole community taken in 1864. That census counted 50 children between the ages of four and 18 living in the entire school district, and it’s unlikely that all of those children attended school, especially the older ones. This kind of census was undertaken each year (at that time in history) for school district purposes and was often used to see how many children of school age were not attending school.

One portrait of an early Douglas City School teacher is that of Sarah I. Elonia (later to take the married name of Thayer) who arrived at Junction City from Maine in December of 1864. By 1865, she was teaching at the Douglas City School District. She was 24 years old. She was married the next year, so that was likely why she taught for only one year since, in those days, married women were discouraged from continuing to work outside of the home. When Sarah died in 1904 of “general debility,” she was described this way: she was a “lady of many

<sup>1</sup> Jenner, Gail L. “A Little History About the Northern Mines and California Gold Rush”, *Prairie Rose Publications*, <https://prairierosepublications>, accessed March 12, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Moore, Pam, *History of Douglas City School*, date unknown.

<sup>3</sup> “Douglas City”, *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1955. 14; and Ludden, Tom, and the 1970 summer school classes 5 through 8, “TRINITY COUNTY HISTORY CHRONOLOGY”, Weaverville Elementary School, <http://www.trinitymuseum.org/TRINITY%20CHRONOLOGY.htm>. Accessed June 26, 2021; and “Named Changed”, *The Trinity Journal*, October 1, 1859.

<sup>4</sup> “School District Disbursements & Receipts”, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

<sup>5</sup> Moore, Pam, *History of Douglas City School*, date unknown.

<sup>6</sup> “Teachers Moving”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 10, 1862.

<sup>7</sup> “Douglas City”, *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1955. 14.

accomplishments.” She took an active interest in church and “educational matters” and “possessed many social qualities”. “She won and held the affection and esteem of all with whom she came in contact.”<sup>8</sup>

In 1866, the school district was reported as having 43 students enrolled.<sup>9</sup> Also, in 1866, the Trustees of the district announced a “School Party” on a Friday evening where children’s exhibitions would be on display and a ball would be held. The local paper endeavored to bring in a large audience to support the school with their \$3 ticket sales by reporting: “A general invitation is extended, and the worthy object in view must secure a large attendance.”<sup>10</sup>

Mrs. Greenleaf, “an excellent teacher,” taught at the school in April 1867, and Miss Lizzie E. Lockhart, of Douglas City herself, taught in April 1869. There were 58 students that school year.<sup>11</sup> Wilma Smith, Ken Jones, Connie Sanders, and Sara Clark were other early teachers at the school.<sup>12</sup>

In September of 1873, the student population of Douglas City School was at a high of 79 students. Unfortunately, a whooping cough outbreak was reported at the school that fall. Said to be the first time the disease was ever known in the county, it had “attacked nearly all the children in Douglas City.” It was so bad that the school had to close down for several weeks to give everyone time to heal. The teacher at the time, Mr. T. H. Carr, returned to his home in Nevada County until the school could reopen. Some of the children were reported to have died. The school opened again by October 11, 1873, as the illness abated somewhat, although the local paper mentioned more than a month later that whooping cough “still rages.”<sup>13</sup> Even with the terrible disease and the tragic deaths of children, several Douglas City scholars made it onto the “Roll of Honor” list, which was published in the local newspaper. Those scholars were Maud and Sadie Thayer, Lizzie and Nellie Marshall, Jefferson Ingram, Johnnie Wallace, Carrie and Alice Brannon, Emma and Ella Estes, and Flora Hughes.<sup>14</sup>

Douglas City reported a somewhat decreased enrollment of 71 students just days after opening for the year in July of 1874.<sup>15</sup> At that time, schools were appropriated \$3.20 per child, so Douglas City received a total of \$227.20 twice a year in which to fund the school.<sup>16</sup> T. H. Carr continued as the teacher that fall. When Mr. Carr left the school, he later went on to become a Democratic candidate for the position of Secretary of State.<sup>17</sup> By spring 1875, the teacher had changed to Mrs. Fannie Warren, but the school had to be closed at the end of March due to her illness. While it wasn’t unheard of, it was unusual for a married woman to teach at that time. In some areas of the county, it was understood that a woman had to stop teaching after getting married. As hard as it was sometimes to find teachers, perhaps this early convention was overlooked.

The school trustees advertised A school ball to be held at Douglas City to help fund a new schoolhouse in July of 1876. The advertisement declared, “Good music has been engaged for the occasion, and a good supper will be furnished.”<sup>18</sup> This was the first of many early fundraisers held for the school. That school year had been taught by Miss Fanny Warren, who closed the spring term in mid-May. In December of 1876, an exhibition by Miss Warren’s students included singing, acting, and “declamation, etc.”. A community member wrote a letter to the Trinity Journal describing the teacher and the performance with high praise:

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<sup>8</sup> “Death of Mrs. S. I. Thayer”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 2, 1904.

<sup>9</sup> “School Fund”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 6, 1866.

<sup>10</sup> “School Party at Douglas”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 13, 1866.

<sup>11</sup> “Douglas City School”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 24, 1869.

<sup>12</sup> Moore, Pam, *History of Douglas City School*, date unknown.

<sup>13</sup> *The Trinity Journal*, September 20, 1873, November 8, 1873, November 29, 1873, and December 27, 1873.

<sup>14</sup> “Roll of Honor”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 1, 1873.

<sup>15</sup> “Apportionment”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 18, 1874.

<sup>16</sup> “Apportionment”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 17, 1874.

<sup>17</sup> “A Democratic Candidate”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 3, 1882.

<sup>18</sup> “School Ball at Douglas City”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 15, 1876.

...The greater part of the children were young, ranging from six to ten years, some a few years older, and when the small chance they had to acquire knowledge and practice is considered, it is a wonder that they all acted their parts as well as they did. It is seldom that we see it done better in much older schools, with much more practice and I was led to the conclusion that in Mrs. Warren they had secured the services of a teacher of remarkable ability, and rare qualifications, and I think that greater results in so short a time cannot be found in any District. I think the Trustees would do well to secure her services again. A good teacher is hard to find and when found should be retained. I found that she had given general satisfaction and is a general favorite with old as well as young... the music was excellent. Upon the whole it was one of the most pleasant evenings I have ever enjoyed.”<sup>19</sup>



Douglas City School, 1896, courtesy of the Trinity County Historical Society.

<sup>19</sup> Max, "Correspondence", *The Trinity Journal*, January 1, 1876.

The caption of the photo on the next page indicates that C. S. Otis taught the students at Douglas City School District in 1882. In December 1883, the Superintendent of Schools made an official visit to the school, which was taught then by M. N. Wadleigh (likely this was *Mary N. Wadleigh* from another school's information). The length of the school term that year was eight months. M. N. Wadleigh was paid a larger salary than most at the time at \$85 per month, perhaps because she was a more experienced teacher since she had been teaching for a total of 21 months. There were 34 students enrolled, but only 39 were present at the time of the visit. The students' "Order and Attention" were reported as being "Good," as was their progress in all subject areas. The "Zeal of the Teacher," the teacher's methods, and even the condition of the school grounds and library were also rated as being "Good."<sup>20</sup> M. N. Wadleigh was still teaching there at the end of the school year in June. By May of 1885, Mrs. Weston was teaching at the school. The school term was six and one-quarter months. The total time Mrs. Weston had ever taught school was only six weeks. She was paid \$75 per month. At this time, 44 students were enrolled, but twenty were missing the day of the visit. They may not have attended at all, although they had been enrolled at some point. Her lack of experience may have been why the student's "Order and Attention" was only rated as "Fair," but they were all doing well in their studies.<sup>21</sup>

A partial list of other early teachers from various sources is as follows:

1885 (January) Mrs. H. L. Nickels of San Francisco<sup>22</sup>

1887 (spring, summer, and fall) Mrs. Mertie Jordan.<sup>23</sup> She closed "a successful and profitable term" on December 2, 1887<sup>24</sup>

1888 (fall term) "Mrs. Mertie Jordan opened the school on September 3 with 31 students enrolled<sup>25</sup>

1889 (November) Mary L. Tinsley<sup>26</sup>

In August of 1895, right when school should be starting back for the fall term, no teacher had yet been hired to teach at Douglas City. There were 35 students enrolled and waiting to start school.<sup>27</sup> This was not the only school at the time missing a teacher. Then (as now), teachers were sometimes hard to find to teach in Trinity County. Finally, at least by the end of October, Edward Williamson, who received his diploma from the Chico State Normal School (a "normal school" was a teacher's college at the time), was hired at \$70 per month.<sup>28</sup> This began several years of teachers from Chico working at Douglas City.

By the spring of 1896, the schoolhouse had undergone extensive repairs. A new library had been built on the back, and the inside of the school room was "ceiled" and painted, and an additional lamp had been purchased.<sup>29</sup> Teacher Mr. Williamson was still teaching there and taught the entire 1896-97 school year.<sup>30</sup> However, in the spring, Mr. Williamson had met with "quite an accident." He was returning from a walk and slipped, severely spraining his ankle. The local paper reported that he had a friend visiting him, Mr. L. Picott of Chico, who took charge of the class until Mr. Williamson recovered.<sup>31</sup> It's unknown if Mr. Picott had a teaching certificate or not,

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<sup>20</sup> "Superintendent's Record", The History Center, Trinity County Historical Society, 1883.

<sup>21</sup> "Superintendent's Record", The History Center, Trinity County Historical Society, 1885.

<sup>22</sup> "Town and Country News", *The Trinity Journal*, January, 1, 1885.

<sup>23</sup> "Teachers 1887-1888", The History Center, Trinity County Historical Society, 58.

<sup>24</sup> "Town and Country News", *The Trinity Journal*, December 10, 1887.

<sup>25</sup> "Town and Country News", *The Trinity Journal*, September 9, 1888.

<sup>26</sup> "Districts, Clerks and Teachers", *The Trinity Journal*, November 16, 1889.

<sup>27</sup> "Teachers, Clerks and other Matters of Interest", *The Trinity Journal*, August 17, 1895.

<sup>28</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 25.

<sup>29</sup> "Douglas City Items", *The Trinity Journal*, April 18, 1896.

<sup>30</sup> "Douglas City Items", *The Trinity Journal*, September, 5, 1896 and "Schools Closed", *The Trinity Journal*, December 12, 1896.

<sup>31</sup> "Douglas City Items", *The Trinity Journal*, May 23, 1896.

but likely he didn't and was simply pressed into service out of need. Eventually, Mr. Williamson turned the reigns over to a teacher named Miss Hannah Idelia Moak of Chico for the fall of 1897, and she received the same salary as Mr. Williamson.<sup>32</sup> Miss Moak closed the school for the long winter break on December 15<sup>th</sup>.<sup>33</sup>



In the school year of 1898-99, the teacher was Clarence W. Leininger whose name can be seen in the photo information below.<sup>34</sup> He was still teaching there in the spring of 1900 with 38 students enrolled.<sup>35</sup> There is evidence that the spring term of 1902 and the spring term of 1903 were taught by Miss Lottie B. Hallet, also of Chico. She was very likely there for the entire school year of 1902-03. In the fall of 1903, the teacher, Miss Emma ("Emmy") A. Harvey, of Chico, began at the school on September 7, and she closed the school on December 18 for the long winter break. She also continued teaching that spring when school restarted in April.<sup>36</sup> Consequently, she also taught there for a full school year, 1903-04. These were unusual occurrences at the time in Trinity County when teachers would more often teach for just one term of the school year. Sometimes, they didn't even remain for one full term.

Another teacher "in the early 1900s" was Nellie Jordan. Miss Jordan rode to the school and rode back again on a horse from Weaverville each day to teach at Douglas City.<sup>37</sup> Given the other teachers listed teaching at Douglas City in 1902-1904, and the fact that Nellie herself was teaching at another district in 1903 and 1904 (and then became County Superintendent of Schools in 1907-1910), she was likely at Douglas City in 1901.

In 1906, a petition was made to the Board of Supervisors to establish a new school district. In the minutes of the meeting - which could win a competition in how to use the most words ever to describe a simple resolution:

"...the said petition and all matters pertaining thereto is in due form and that all the requirements of law have been fully complied with and that the said petition should be granted and the said new school district established, it was therefore, upon motion duly made and carried, ordered that a new school district be created, the same to be known as the Grass Valley School District of Trinity county [sic], California, from territory within the Douglas City and Lewiston School Districts, in said county and particularly described..."<sup>38</sup>

In any event, Douglas City lost some district territory to the Grass Valley School District, which could have meant that Douglas City lost students to the new district as well. However, in September 1920, when Blanchard Flat School District lapsed, Douglas City inherited territory from that school.<sup>39</sup> Perhaps that made up for the early loss.

<sup>32</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 64.

<sup>33</sup> "School Notes", *The Trinity Journal*, December 18, 1897.

<sup>34</sup> Fox, L. H., "School Notes", *The Trinity Journal*, September 3, 1898; and Fox, Lizzie H., "Public School Notes", March 4, 1899.

<sup>35</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 118.

<sup>36</sup> "School Notes", *The Trinity Journal*, December 19, 1903; and "School Notes", *The Trinity Journal*, April 2, 1904.

<sup>37</sup> Moore, Pam, *History of Douglas City School*, date unknown.

<sup>38</sup> "Board of Supervisors", *The Trinity Journal*, November 17, 1906.

<sup>39</sup> "Supervisors Meeting", *The Trinity Journal*, September 25, 1920.

The pattern of most teachers working at Douglas City School for a greater length of time than teachers in the other schools in the county continued into the next century:

- 1901-02 Miss Charlotte “Lottie” Bain Hallet of Chico<sup>40</sup>
- 1902-03 Miss Charlotte Hallet<sup>41</sup>
- 1903- (spring term) Miss Charlotte Hallet<sup>42</sup>
- 1903- (fall term) Miss Emma A. Harvey of Chico<sup>43</sup>
- 1904-05 Miss Daisy Garoutte of Chico<sup>44</sup>
- 1905-06 Miss Daisy Garoutte<sup>45</sup>
- 1906-07 Miss Daisy Garoutte<sup>46</sup>
- 1907-08 Miss Celia Weinheimer<sup>47</sup> (a popular teacher who taught in many districts in the county)
- 1909-10 Miss Celia Weinheimer.<sup>48</sup>
- 1910-11 Miss Celia Weinheimer<sup>49</sup>
- 1911-12 Miss Celia Weinheimer
- 1912-13 Miss Celia Weinheimer<sup>50</sup>
- 1913-14 Alice E. Taylor.<sup>51</sup>
- 1914- (spring and fall term) Miss Mary “Robbie” Mahoney<sup>52</sup>

The regular subjects taught at the school were reading analysis and orthography, composition by dictation, writing, vocal music, practical arithmetic, mental arithmetic, and Physiology.<sup>53</sup> Many of those subjects were employed in a program put on by the students in December of 1914. At that time, the children of Douglas City, under the direction of teacher Miss Mary Robb Mahoney, gave “an entertainment” at the schoolhouse. The program consisted of songs, recitations, and “dialogues”. The children were said to be trained by their teacher and “gave a very credible entertainment which was much enjoyed by all.”<sup>54</sup>

There is evidence that in September 1915,<sup>55</sup> May 1916<sup>56</sup>, and October 1916, Miss Idelle McDonald of Burnt Ranch was teaching at the Douglas City School.<sup>57</sup> She closed the fall term of the school in December of 1916 for the scheduled long winter break. At that time, she left Douglas City for her home downriver, accompanied by her brother Hilton.<sup>58</sup> Given that evidence, Miss McDonald must have taught at Douglas City for at least one and a half school years, if not longer. Under Miss McDonald’s leadership, two of her students had their writing published in The Humboldt Times newspaper as submissions for a “Child’s Experience Story.” The reporter for the Times was W. A. Beer of the Humboldt State Normal School (which had become a college to train teachers in 1913), who declared them “very interesting stories.” One Douglas City student entered “A Story About Hunting” (he missed) by Kenneth Jordan, age 14, grade eight; another was “A Story of a Days Ride,” about finding – and keeping – a bobcat at home (not very successfully), by Tony Rais, age 15, grade eight.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 167.

<sup>41</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 27, 1902.

<sup>42</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 27, 1903.

<sup>43</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 215.

<sup>44</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 3, 1904.

<sup>45</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, March 11, 1905; and *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, 256.

<sup>46</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 1, 1906; and “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, March 2, 1907.

<sup>47</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 13, 1908.

<sup>48</sup> “School Close”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 29, 1909.

<sup>49</sup> “School Close”, *The Trinity Journal*, June 25, 1910; and *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, 373; and “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 26, 1911.

<sup>50</sup> “Teachers and Clerks of School Districts”, *The Trinity Journal*, October 19, 1912; and “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, February 5, 1913.

<sup>51</sup> *School Directory*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

<sup>52</sup> “In the Local Field”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 15, 1914.

<sup>53</sup> Moore, Pam, *History of Douglas City School*, date unknown.

<sup>54</sup> “School Children Render Program”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 12, 1914.

<sup>55</sup> “Local Briefs”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 4, 1915.

<sup>56</sup> “In the Local Field”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 13, 1916.

<sup>57</sup> “In the Local Field”, *The Trinity Journal*, October 28, 1916.

<sup>58</sup> *The Trinity Journal*, December 9, 1916.

<sup>59</sup> Beer, W. A., Editor, “Child’s Experience Story, Extension Service of the Humboldt Normal School”, *The Humboldt Times*, August 27, 1916.

In the fall of 1917, Miss Genevieve Murphy, a woman originally from Weaverville, left her home in Nevada to teach at Douglas City. Her Weaverville friends were said to be glad she was back, but she only taught the one (fall) term.<sup>60</sup> By March of 1918, the school was reported as having only 12 students with Miss Ada Spratt in charge.<sup>61</sup> This was quite a decrease in enrollment.

On September 11, 1920, Blanchard Flat School District lapsed, and Douglas City received 13 of their students along with a portion of their funding (with other students and their pro rata funding going to Hayfork Valley Union).<sup>62</sup> Mrs. Vera Noble was teaching at the time for a salary of \$100 per month.<sup>63</sup> Apparently, the extra funding was not enough to maintain the school, so another school fundraiser was held on October 27, 1923, while Mrs. Chapman was the school's teacher. The music was performed by the "Highway Orchestra". The \$2.00 tickets to attend also included a "midnight lunch."<sup>64</sup>

Mary McDonnell, all the way from Oakland, taught 12 students at Douglas City School for the school year of 1929-30. She closed the school on May 16. Despite it being reported in the local newspaper that she enjoyed her year in Trinity County, she left the evening she closed the school and headed straight home to Oakland.<sup>65</sup>



*Douglas City School 1899, courtesy of the Trinity County Historical Society*

Thanks to historical school directories saved at the Trinity County Office of Education, we have a fairly good list of teachers from 1918 through 1942, although some years in between are missing. The multiple teachers during the 1918-20 and 1920-21 school years likely mean that teachers changed multiple times, not that there were multiple teachers at one time due to a larger student enrollment:

1918-19 Genevieve Murphy, Ada Spratt, and Gladys R. Meyer  
1920-21 Mrs. Vera H. Noble, and Verna E. Marshall  
1921-22 Verna E. Marshall (with a Trinity County Teaching Certificate)  
1922-23 Bess M. Mau  
1923-24 May Elaine Fetzer (with a Trinity County Teaching Certificate)  
1924-25 May Elaine Fetzer  
1929-30 Mary McDonnell (Oakland)  
1933-34 Alice Poage  
1935-36 Mr. Herbert Roberts  
1936-37 Mr. Herbert Roberts  
1938-39 Mr. Herbert Roberts and Mrs. Irene Griffith

<sup>60</sup> "In the Local Field", *The Trinity Journal*, August 18, 1917.

<sup>61</sup> "Brief Items From Douglas", *The Trinity Journal*, March 2, 1918; and "Some Items of Local Interest", *The Trinity Journal*, October 19, 1918.

<sup>62</sup> *School District Disbursements & Receipts*, Minersville District information, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

<sup>63</sup> "Schools of County Commencing Work", *The Trinity Journal*, July 31, 1920; and *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, 57.

<sup>64</sup> *The Trinity Journal*, September 1, 1923; and "Dance", *The Trinity Journal*, October 20, 1923.

<sup>65</sup> "Personal Items of Interest About the Movements of Trinitarians", *The Trinity Journal*, May 24, 1930.

1930-40 Mr. Herbert Roberts and Mrs. Irene Griffith

1941-42 Mrs. Irene Griffith



DOUGLAS CITY SCHOOL  
ABOUT 1899

Back Row-Left to Right

Alice Carr  
Belle Jordan (Newton)  
Mabel Farris  
Nelle Jordan (McPheters)  
Anna Joseph (Stofer)  
Rose Carr (Grigsby)

Second Row

Tudie Bennett (Babcock)  
Deda Joseph (Paulsen)  
Masie Bigelow (Gilzean)  
Finnissee Jordan (Trolinger)  
Fred Carr  
Dave McKenzie

Third Row

Johnnie Grant  
Avis Stackpole (Shoemaker)  
Lewis Carr  
Jennie Carr (Jackson)  
Louellen Jones (Barton)  
Willie Shuford

Fourth Row

Cel Campbell  
Willie Rais  
Ralph Bigelow  
Stephen Spratt  
Harvey Bigelow  
Julius Brannan  
Freddie Shuford

Bottom Row

Morris Stackpole  
Johnnie Rais  
Ethel Jones (Hammond)  
Frank Carr

Teacher-Clarence Leininger

Interestingly, during the 1934-35 school year, “Blanchard Flat Emergency School” and “Indian Creek Emergency School” were both listed as schools under the auspices of the Douglas City School District.<sup>66</sup> It’s not clear what constituted an “emergency school” at the time, but these schools were likely opened in their original schoolhouses (both having closed in 1920) and were likely needed due to an influx of children in those areas, at least temporarily.

Unfortunately, the Douglas City Schoolhouse and all school records were destroyed by fire on February 19, 1941.<sup>67</sup> The school was rebuilt at a location behind the present (2024) school. That school building also burned down in 1945, and a new school was built in the same location. However, that building did not meet government earthquake standards, so another building was constructed in August 1975.<sup>68</sup> It was originally 3,202 square feet. A kindergarten addition (784 square feet) and a boiler room (100 square feet) were added in 1978.<sup>69</sup> Many years later, the school was further expanded.

In 1948, Douglas City School had an increase in students, along with the rest of the county. The school started the year with 25 students.<sup>70</sup> By the time a man named Rich Lorenz attended the school in the early 1950s, there were only 11 or 12 students in the first through the sixth grade. One teacher taught all the grades in what Mr. Lorenz

<sup>66</sup> “Statistics of Elementary Schools”, *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 1934-35.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, 1940-41.

<sup>68</sup> Moore, Pam, *History of Douglas City School*, date unknown.

<sup>69</sup> This was referred to in handwritten notes found in the Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

<sup>70</sup> “County Grade Schools Enrollment is Record”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 16, 1948.



described as a wooden one-room schoolhouse, except for the students in grades seven and eight who attended Weaverville Grammar School at that time, not far away.<sup>71</sup> By 1960, with an increase in student enrollment up to 34 ADA, there were two teachers in the Douglas City School District: Don Reese, teacher/principal, and Miss Betty Logan, according to the school directory that year.

The single school, Douglas City School District, continues to this day (2024) with approximately 165 students. It is the third-largest district in the county under the leadership of Shannon Ross, who first taught there for five years before becoming Superintendent/Principal in 2015.

See also **Blanchard Flat** and **Grass Valley School Districts**.

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<sup>71</sup> Supahan, Sarah, email communication with Lorenz, Rich, January 7, 2022.