

## Minersville School District

*Author's note: Tremendous thanks to Lynn Prest, Weaverville, California for all of the information she generously shared for this history of Minersville School District. Lynn was raised in Minersville (see the location of her former home on the map enclosed) and attended one of the Minersville Schools with her brother; her mother and aunt attended school there before them. In fact, the poem at the end of this history was written by one of Lynn's mother's good friends. Lynn has a fascinating family history and vast knowledge of the history of this area which was instrumental in forming this detailed school history.*

- Sarah Supahan, February 26, 2024

"Old Minersville" town was founded by Jesse H. Tourtellotte, great, great grandfather to Lynn (Grant) Prest who provided much of the following Minersville school information. Jesse Tourtellotte's cousin, Newton Tourtellotte, became a teacher at one of the schools in Minersville. Isabele (Lizzie) Fox also taught at the same Minersville School before becoming the County Superintendent of Schools in 1895. Lizzie eventually married Jesse's son, Jesse F. Tourtellotte.

The town of Minersville is on land known to Wintu Indians as "lut puytochi" or "sweathouse water running". It is now under the waters of Trinity Lake which was originally named Clair Engle Lake after a United States senator.<sup>1</sup> The town was once a thriving community from 1850 to 1930 or so.<sup>2</sup>

The earliest schools in the Minersville area were taught by teachers who were hired by parents to provide instruction to their children. The teachers were paid \$15 to \$20 per month and were given room and board with one of the families. Eventually, a schoolhouse was built so instruction did not have to occur in a private home.

There were at least five schools in the Minersville area. One was located in a small area called Sebastopol (just south of the actual town of Minersville) in 1859. It is believed that it was the first private school in the area. The school was more specifically located on the East Fork of Stuart's Fork Creek, a short distance from the Van Matre Ranch. Miss Julia Lockhart was the teacher at that time with the older Van Matre children among her pupils.<sup>3</sup> This school site will be referred to as School Site Number One. Sebastopol was abandoned by 1900.<sup>4</sup>

In about 1887, Newton Tourtellotte, originally a lawyer and judge from Connecticut, taught at what will be called School Site Number Two, located in what is now considered to be "Old" Minersville townsite on the confluence of Digger Creek and East Fork, and down the hill from the Ridgeville Mine on the main wagon road from Lewiston to the north.<sup>5</sup> He was followed by Miss Fanny Van Matre, the oldest daughter of Pete and Almira (née Heath) Van Matre. Miss Van Matre walked to and from school each day, a distance of a mile and a half. On Monday mornings she always took homemade candy to her students.

Miss Jennie Dean of Trinity Center was the next private school teacher north of Old Minersville in the Bowerman's Ranch barn. This will be referred to as School Site Number Three. In about 1890, Miss Ida Perry, also of Trinity Center, taught at the Bowerman's.<sup>6</sup> Miss Tasie Lawrence was the last known private teacher. She was employed by Mrs. Anna Bowerman, also at the Bowerman Ranch, as a tutor to Mrs. Bowerman's two

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<sup>1</sup> "Clair Engle: A Featured Biography", United States Senate, [www.senate.gov/senators/FeaturedBios/Featured\\_Bio\\_EngleClair.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/FeaturedBios/Featured_Bio_EngleClair.htm), accessed February 9, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> "Shasta-Trinity National Forests Trinity Heritage National Scenic Byway. A Self-Guided Auto Tour" map, US Department of Agriculture. Undated.

<sup>3</sup> Wickhom, Flora Heath, "Minersville School", undated information provided by Lynn Grant Prest, originally of Minersville, now living in Weaverville, July 25, 2022 & Feb 7, 2024

<sup>4</sup> Jones, Alice, *Trinity County Historic Sites*, 45.

<sup>5</sup> "Minersville, A Tale of Five Cities", Official Yearbook of the Trinity County Historical Society, 1955, 10.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

granddaughters, Elsie and Amie.<sup>7</sup> Today, in 2024, the Bowerman Barn is still standing and cared for by the United States Forest Service.

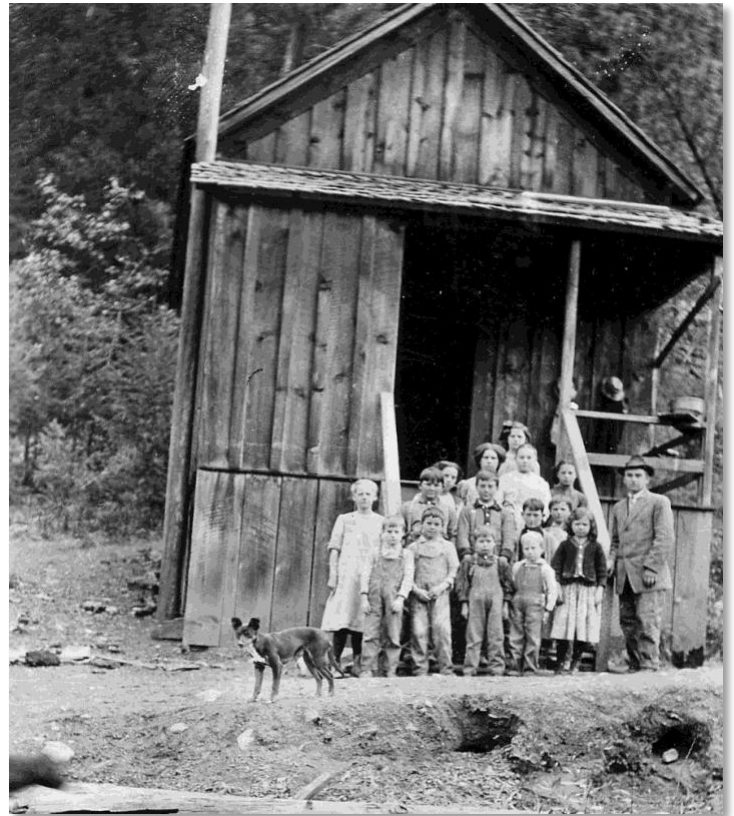
From 1893 to 1896, Miss Isabel “Lizzie” Fox of Weaverville taught at the Old Minersville School (Site #2) before becoming County Superintendent of Schools. She regularly had four pupils and sometimes two others joined the school. The children were Flora and Charlie Heath, John and Toots Owen, and Lew and Etta Dennison.<sup>8</sup> It seems that Miss Fox may have met her future husband in Minersville.

The Old Minersville School (Site # 2) is now under the lake. The Sebastopol School (Site #1) is also under the lake after it was said to have moved south and east from the original school site to accommodate the Fairview Mine children (School Site #4).<sup>9</sup>

The Minersville School District was first officially established as a public school district by the Board of Supervisors in January 1903. The new district was carved out of the original Weaverville Elementary School District territory.<sup>10</sup> In February of 1903, County Superintendent Fox appointed J. C. Van Matre, Joseph H. Porter, and William Crandall as the first Minersville school trustees,<sup>11</sup> and the Minersville District is among those school districts that received state funding as recorded in the July 1904 list of school apportionments.<sup>12</sup> In 1905 the school did not receive enough funding, even after fund-raisers were held, to make up the eight-month school year (the typical duration of schooling at the time). But it should be noted that Trustees Porter and Van Matre personally donated to keep the school open along with Mr. Robert Wright and Mrs. A. Belli.<sup>13</sup>

A report on the school in the local paper on December 26, 1903 states that:

...the Minersville school, Miss Clare B. Garoutte, teacher, number of pupils enrolled 12; number of pupils present 12. [The] School building [is] neat and comfortable and prettily situated. The Minersville district is maintaining its first term of public school and the high character of the schoolroom work is a local pride as the school ranks among the most progressive. The pupils are bright and enthusiastic and are encouraged in their efforts to reach a standard of excellence.<sup>14</sup>



*Minersville School 1913, possibly School Site #4. Edward Stephen Esser, Teacher, Back: Georgia Martin; next row: Hazel Matin, Alice Kapusta (?), Loda (?) Van Matre; Nellie Martin, Elmer Coton, Bert Van Matre, Howard Coton, ? Waldo; front row: Ernest Van Matre, Clifford Kapusta, Raymond Kapusta, Walter Van Matre, Ruth Waldo. Wallis Martin not pictured. 16 enrolled.*

<sup>7</sup> Noonan, Flora Health, unpublished written information; and Prest, Lynn, her great niece, June 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Supahan, Sarah, conversation with Jim French, retired Superintendent of Schools, March 20, 2019.

<sup>10</sup> “Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 1, 1903 and Minersville School District warrants, Trinity County Historical Society, 587.

<sup>11</sup> “Local Brevities”, *The Trinity Journal*, February 2, 1903.

<sup>12</sup> “Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 24, 1903, and “Apportionments of School Money”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 27, 1904.

<sup>13</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 16, 1905.

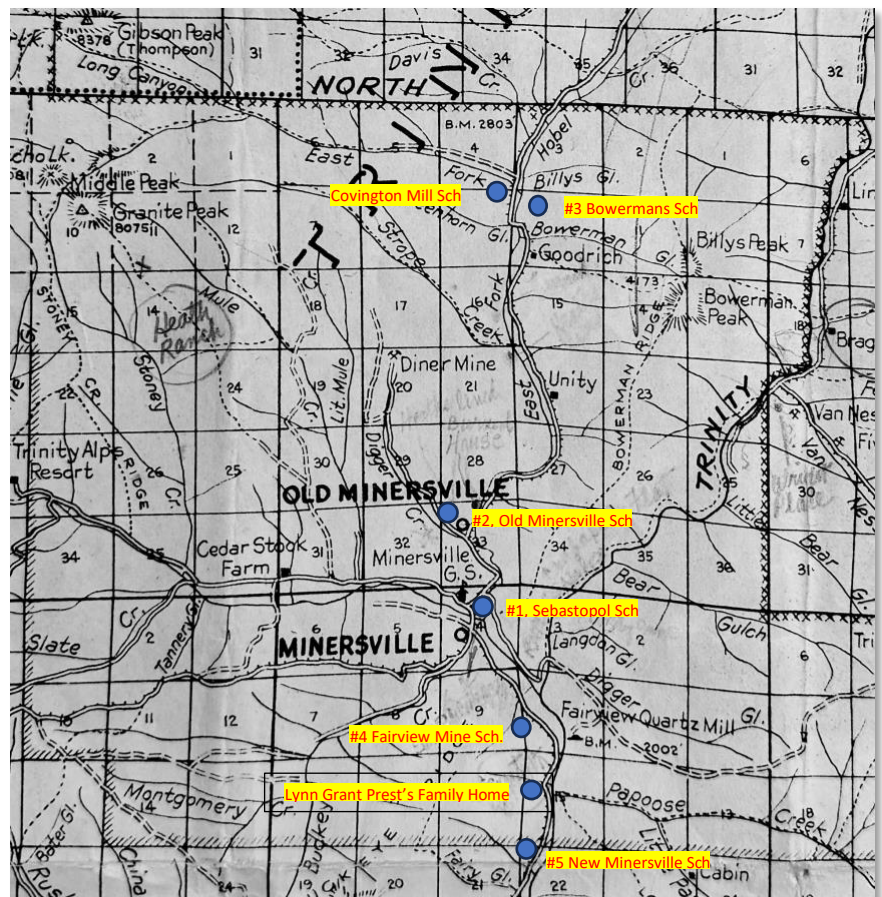
<sup>14</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 26, 1903.

After graduating from Chico State College in 1903, Miss Sierra A. Shields was hired for a teaching position at Minersville for \$65 per month. On her way to her new teaching assignment (School Site Number 4), Miss Shields was picked up in Redding by Joseph Howe Porter, the Fairview Quartz Mine superintendent who was also the “Head School Trustee”. His transportation was a buggy with a team of horses. The trip back to the mine was said to have taken “only a matter of hours” as they traveled through Shasta, Tower House, French Gulch, and then over the mountain to the Trinity River near Minersville. The Superintendent’s house was on a hill above the river and was where Miss Shields boarded with the Porter family. She ate well at the Porters as they brought in food by freight wagons from Redding; had a Jersey cow for milk, cream, and butter; and raised vegetables in their garden.<sup>15</sup> All three Porter children (Ethel, Morell, and Allen) attended the school.<sup>16</sup>

At that time, the Minersville school itself was a small wooden building located across the river from the mine on Minersville Road. To get to school each morning, Sierra and the children crossed through the stamp mill on planks and walked around the hill for about a quarter mile on the rails of a narrow-gauge track used for hauling ore. Then they rode another three-quarters of a mile down the side of the mountain in a “gravity tram” before crossing the river on a rickety suspension bridge high above the river. The school sat on the opposite (west) bank of the river.<sup>17</sup>

There were about 30 students at the school, up to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Sierra had to teach them all, not unlike some Trinity County teachers do today. A pot-bellied wood stove heated the building. Wood for the stove was cut by the miners employed by Mr. Porter. Miss Shields and one of the students – Allen Porter – had to use a sled pulled by horses to get the wood to the school where they stored it under the building. Students then would split it each morning and keep the wood box filled.<sup>18</sup>

At some point, school funds were again so reduced that Miss Shields and the children staged a play to raise money. The school was too small for the performance, so it was held in the mine’s mess hall which usually accommodated 100 miners. However, it was reported that so many people attended the play that the place “bulged with the audience”. Not only was the mess hall filled for the performance, but without other accommodations in the area, the Porter home was filled with people who came to see the play from a



Old historical map contributed by Lynn (Grant) Prest

<sup>15</sup> “Shields, Sierra, “A Teacher Remembers” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook* 1963-65, 18.

<sup>16</sup> Shields, Sierra, “A Teacher Remembers” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook* 1963-65, 19.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 18.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

distance and had to stay the night. Three or four people had to share one bed and some people slept in chairs. The play was such a financial success that it funded another month of school.<sup>19</sup>

On one occasion one of the older boys was mischievous, broke into the school, and “pretty well mused it up”. Miss Shields was ordered by Mr. Porter to spank the boy. Miss Shields says she was loath to do it as she had never spanked a child before, but felt she had to since she was ordered to, so she whacked the boy a few times with a ruler and called it good.<sup>20</sup>



Mary Porter at the Fairview Mine with Mrs. Eligh, Maud Hill, and daughters c.1900, from <https://Calisphere.org>

Miss Shields and Mrs. Porter also took on the job of the school census and spent two Saturdays riding horseback around the area to finish the job. They were each paid \$10 for the effort. The number of children counted in each household was reported to the State. This information was required from all counties.

In 1913, the school was led by 23-year-old Edward Stephen Esser. This was his first teaching job. His salary was \$75 per month for nine months and he paid \$25 for room and board. Sixteen students were enrolled, including several children from the Almira and Peter Van Matre family<sup>21</sup> A few years later, in 1917, the school year began in August with Miss Caroline Brown as the teacher.<sup>22</sup>

The school opened for a new school year on August 23, 1920, with Mrs. Loda Ethel Foster teaching at Minersville.<sup>23</sup> The school was temporarily suspended before the 1923 school year due to a lack of attendance<sup>24</sup> but was reestablished two months later (in September) because the required number of school children was somehow rounded up.<sup>25</sup> By October 1924, a “dwelling house” was being used for the school. An interesting notation was made after an official visit that said, “Propose to build [a] new school

when *boundaries are changed*”.<sup>26</sup> An article in the local paper was found to explain the boundary issue: In November 1924, a proposal was made to the Board of Supervisors to change the boundary between the Minersville and the Lewiston School Districts. The proposal was approved.<sup>27</sup> The boundary change included within the Minersville boundary the Lewiston Dredge School since Minersville children were already attending

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 18-19.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 19.

<sup>21</sup> Notes that were separated from a picture, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, no date, and Information provided by Lynn Grant Prest,

<sup>22</sup> “Schools are opening”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 27, 1917.

<sup>23</sup> The News Back Then”, *The Trinity Journal*, October 7, 2020, 15.

<sup>24</sup> “Minutes of Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 14, 1923.

<sup>25</sup> “Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 29, 1923.

<sup>26</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 174.

<sup>27</sup> “County Supervisors hold regular session”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 15, 1929.

there.<sup>28</sup> Consequently, during the 1924-25 school year, a “Trinity Dredge” private school was noted as operating in the town of Minersville, presumably for the Trinity Dredge Company at the Blakemore Ranch for the children of the workers.<sup>29</sup>

During the 1928-29 school year, there were notations in the school records that there was both an “Upper Minersville” school and a “Lower Minersville” school with no specific locations noted. There was an official visit by the County Office of Education to the “Upper” Minersville School in September of 1928. A teacher by the name of Gentry was teaching only five students by then for \$120 per month. It was also noted that the first school graduation occurred the previous spring.<sup>30</sup> However, the local paper had reported that Albert Van Matre had graduated in 1909 from Minersville, many years before.<sup>31</sup> Perhaps the graduations occurred in two different Minersville Schools.

Another official visit to Upper Minersville School occurred on October 28, 1930. A report from the visit indicated that a new schoolhouse was badly needed at that site. Mrs. Margaretta H. Blakemore was the teacher.<sup>32</sup> A day earlier, on October 27, 1930, a visit occurred at a school simply noted as “Minersville” taught by a different teacher, Helen M. Desmond, who was paid \$150 per month. This must have been the “Lower” Minersville School which will be referred to as School Site Number Five. That area is known as “New” Minersville and was the last school to exist in the area. Sixteen students were enrolled at that school.<sup>33</sup> Helen Desmond taught at the time that Lynn Prest’s mother was attending school.

Mrs. Blakemore left a detailed record of her time teaching at Upper Minersville during the school years of 1929-30 and 1930-31. She had taken over the teaching position because the regular teacher, Mrs. Adrian, had left her position, at least temporarily, to have a baby. Mrs. Blakemore’s report was a 20-page hand-written account of the troubles she encountered during the two school years she taught there. Some of the complaints may sound familiar today, although the consequences she employed are no longer acceptable for obvious reasons.



*Minersville School, October 27, 1948. Back row: Aundrey Spence, Mrs. DeCordy Teacher, Darrel Hensley, Harry Grant, Jr., Ronnie Landers and Raymond Spence. Middle row: unknown, unknown, Shirley Spence, Diane Hensley (to the right of the pole). Front row: Lora Mae Carroll, Evelyn (Lynn) Grant, unknown, Gary Sawyer and Johnny Carroll. Information from Lynn Prest aka Evelyn Grant.*

<sup>28</sup> “County Supervisors in regular meeting”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 20, 1924.

<sup>29</sup> “Statistics of Elementary Schools”, *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 1924-25, 38, and “As it was: Trinity Dredge Hauls in Over 42 million in Gold”, [www.ijpr.org/show/as-it-was/2019-07-24/as-it-was-trinity-dredge-hauls-in-over-2-million-in-gold](http://www.ijpr.org/show/as-it-was/2019-07-24/as-it-was-trinity-dredge-hauls-in-over-2-million-in-gold), accessed January 15, 2024.

<sup>30</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 284.

<sup>31</sup> “Board of Education”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 3, 1909.

<sup>32</sup> “Statistics of Elementary Schools”, *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 1924-25, 38.

<sup>33</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 333.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, 326.

Mrs. Blakemore reported that a couple of the students neglected their work and fought against authority. They would also “disregard the property rights of others”.<sup>34</sup> One student particularly was “self willed [sic] and defiant of authority as she has never been made to do what she did not want to”. The parents of that child complained that Mrs. Blakemore expected too much of the children, especially when Mrs. Blakemore refused to promote their daughter to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Blakemore had told the parents that the girl hadn’t done any of the work necessary to move up a grade. Mrs. Blakemore declared that the child “proceeded to develop a good case of hysterics”.<sup>35</sup>

That child’s brother was reported to have teased and threatened other students (especially the teacher’s son), and “[gave] the girls a horse laugh”,<sup>36</sup> a description of which was not provided. But he also once twisted her “crippled arm as hard as he could” which, as it happened, was during the time she was actively whipping him for not doing his school work.<sup>37</sup>

Mrs. Blakemore also said she was accused of not being interested in the community especially since she didn’t attend the local dances. She explained, in her report, the several reasons she did not attend. The list included not wanting to keep her own children up late at night, she didn’t like the “trends of thoughts these dances leave with the children. They both see and hear too much”, and the “lighting system on [her] car has been out of order so we have not gone anywhere at night”<sup>38</sup>. She also listed, perhaps the most relevant reason, “I do not care for dances.”<sup>39</sup>

The situation escalated with the one family. Mrs. Blakemore blamed those parents for not disciplining their children and the parents reported her to the Trustees. The Trustees eventually interviewed the two other families whose children attended the school and it was reported that they had no complaints. Mrs. Blakemore concluded her report with this statement (the emphasis provided by Mrs. Blakemore):

When I think of the children who *would* appreciate the special advantages and privileges these children have had and see how they and their parents have abused them I wonder – do they *deserve* to have a school of their own?<sup>40</sup>

Despite Mrs. Blakemore’s sentiment, the Minersville schools continued on. Both schools were visited again in 1931. The visit to the “Upper Minersville” school took place in October. Elva M. Carter was new the teacher and there were only five students enrolled. The other Minersville school had 16 students in attendance under the tutelage of Harriet Cleaves.<sup>41</sup> By the next school year, the number of students had grown by three. With 19 students it was noted that the building was too small and did not have sufficient equipment.<sup>42</sup> Looking through other school records of the time, an “Emergency School” was said to be functioning under the Minersville School District in both the 1930-31 school year and 1931-32 school year which was likely the “Upper Minersville” school. It seems apparent that with only five students left there after Mrs. Blakemore departed with her two or three children, the emergency school could not continue indefinitely.

Another school visit occurred at School Site Number Five, on November 16, 1932, when Alice Ross was the teacher. This school is the one that informant Lynn (Grant) Prest and her brother Harry Grant attended. Their

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<sup>34</sup> Blakemore, Margaretta H., “Record of Upper Minersville School, 1929-31” Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 2.

<sup>35</sup> Blakemore, Margaretta H., “Record of Upper Minersville School, 1929-31” Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 7, 9-10.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, 10-11, 14-15.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, 14.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, 13.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, 19.

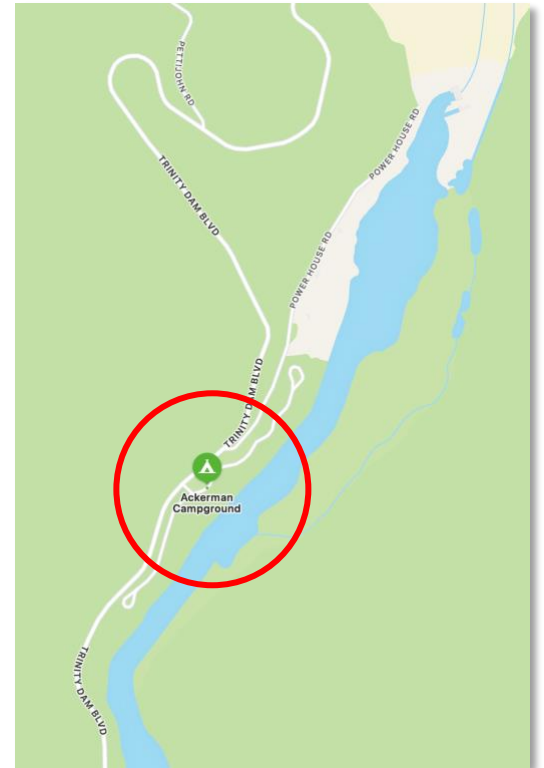
<sup>41</sup> *School Superintendent’s Record of Official Visits, 1918-1933*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 360.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 378.

mother and aunt attended the same school before them. (Lynn and her brother are pictured above.) Miss Ross was paid \$150 per month and had 19 students enrolled. The student's "Order and Attention" was reported as only "Fair".<sup>43</sup> This school was never inundated by the lake and was located across from the Ackerman Campground. A cement pad and a Catalpa tree are all that remains of the school today.<sup>44</sup> This area was considered "New" Minersville. During the 1940s the teachers in this school were Madge DeCordy and Doris Mullins. Doris was the last teacher at School Site #5 before it closed for good.<sup>45</sup>

Electricity came to the school in 1939 brought in by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PGE). The students were excited that they could now perform plays at night and have light during dark days.<sup>46</sup>

In the 1946-47 school year, the "Covingtons, Minersville" school is listed by that name under the Minersville School District.<sup>47</sup> According to the local paper, a teacher by the name of Miss Amort was expected to teach at "Minnersville" [sic] during the winter or spring term of 1947. This was likely at the Covington Mill site. Minersville District did indeed have an additional school up north again at Covington Mill. It's interesting, however, that the notation is written as "Covingtons" as though it was exclusively for the children of that family. It could be that the children of the Covington family were being taught at home and the Minersville School District was providing support to them in some way. However, by 1956, the Covington Mill School was listed as a public school and had 21 students. A new school building had been constructed at Covington Mill just the year before.<sup>48</sup>



Doris Mullens was the last to teach at Minersville School Site #5.<sup>49</sup> Lynn Prest describes Doris Mullins as a very nice, sweet person and a good, helpful teacher. Lynn credits Doris Mullens with helping to encourage her inquisitiveness, and her "wanting to know things". Doris also encouraged Lynn's creative pursuits such as her drawing talent.<sup>50</sup>

In 1955, Congress passed the Trinity River Division (TRD) Act that provided for the United States Government to build the Trinity Dam in the Minersville area. It's probably not a coincidence that In June of 1955, a joint graduation ceremony was held by the Weaverville, Burnt Ranch, Minersville, and Covington Mill Schools,<sup>51</sup> and that in November of 1956, the State Department of Education proposed that Lewiston, Weaverville, Douglas City, and Minersville merge to become one district. While the proposal was supported by the Trinity County Superintendent of Schools, there was strong opposition to the idea which was voiced at a special meeting held at the Lewiston School. The meeting lasted until nearly midnight. There was such strong opposition to the idea that the Lewiston Trustees finally made a motion to drop the idea "for a year".<sup>52</sup> In 1858, another effort that would

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 378.

<sup>44</sup> Information provided by Lynn Grant Prest.

<sup>45</sup> Information from a copy of a photograph stored at TCOE

<sup>46</sup> "Around the County Schools", *The Trinity Journal*, February 9, 1939.

<sup>47</sup> "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 1946-47, 2.

<sup>48</sup> "Trinity County Schools Growing With California", *The Trinity Journal*, January 28, 1956, Centennial Edition.

<sup>49</sup> *Blue Lake Advocate*, October 26, 1946 and informant Lynn Prest.

<sup>50</sup> Supahan, Sarah, conversation with Prest, Lynn, March 3, 2024.

<sup>51</sup> "Trinity County Notes", *Blue Lake Advocate*, June 2, 1955.

<sup>52</sup> "From our Neighboring Towns", *Blue Lake Advocate*, November 1, 1956.

impact Minersville School District was proposed. That time it was a boundary change between the Lewiston and Minersville School Districts. After another public hearing, that proposition was also denied.<sup>53</sup>

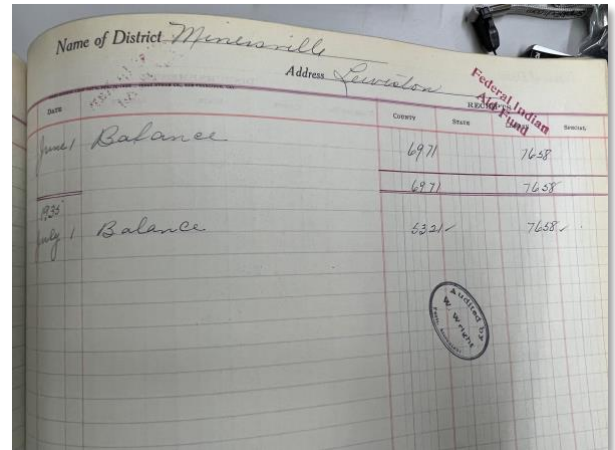
Despite bold attempts by the community to keep the school as well as many of their homes and the town in general, the Trinity Dam became operational in 1962, flooding much of the area. Not surprisingly Minersville School District was no longer listed in the school district directory that same year.

Reprinted in the local paper, a poem called "Friends" written by student Ongie Anderson on her last day at Minersville School (site #5)<sup>54</sup> seems a fitting end to this historical school information:

We are friends strong and true  
 Underneath this sky so blue  
 But the time has come when we must part  
 With a nod of the head, and a sigh from the heart.  
 I'll miss the games and studies too  
 A teacher who is kind and true  
 So with sad heart and moistened eye  
 I wish you well, and so, goodbye.

See below for a list of the teachers during the early days of the school as well as a list of the school sites.

See also **Covington Mill School**.



During the years 1934 to 1937 Minersville School received Federal Indian Aid Funding, indicating that a significant number of students enrolled were Native American.



Harry A. Grant, Jr.  
 left back, holding railing X

Evelyn E. Grant (Lynn)  
 2nd row back, on right X

Photo contributed by Lynn Prest (formerly Evelyn E. Grant)

<sup>53</sup> "Weaverville", *Blue Lake Advocate*, Aug 18, 1958.

<sup>54</sup> "Andersons move to town", *The Trinity Journal*, October 29, 1934.



Below lists some of the known teachers in the early days of Minersville School District, and the approximate dates they were engaged to teach at one of the Minersville School sites (from multiple sources) as well as a list of the different Minersville Schools:

\_\_\_\_ Miss Julia Lockhart

1887 (approximately) Newton Tourtellotte

\_\_\_\_ Miss Fanny Van Matre

\_\_\_\_ Miss Jennie Dean of Trinity Center

1890 (approximately) Miss Ida Perry of Trinity Center

\_\_\_\_ Miss Tasie Lawrence

1893 to 1895 or 96 Miss Isabel "Lizzie" Fox of Weaverville

1903-04 Miss Clara B Garroutte and (spring term) Daisy Garroutte

1904-05 Miss Sierra F Shields

1905-06 Miss Nellie M Jordan

1906-07 Miss Emma B Martin

1907-08 Jessie L Yarbrough

1908 Spring Term, Mrs. C. C. Halderman

1908-09 Gertrude Martin

1909-10 Miss Eleta Hill

1910-11 Miss Erla Hector

1911-12 Miss Rachel Dedrick, and (spring term) Miss I. Campbell

1912-13 Stephen Esser

1913-14 Miss Merle B. Muse aka Mues

1914-16 Lelia or Leila M. Bigelow of Blanchard Flat

1916-17 Miss Mary Rob Mahoney

1917-18 Miss Caroline Brown of Sebastopol

1919 Spring Term, Ellen Mary Down

1920 Fall Term, Mrs. Loda Ethel Foster

1923 Fall Term, temporarily suspended until September

1928 Fall Term, Mrs. Edna T. Lerch and a teacher by the name of Gentry (presumably spring term)

1929 Mrs. Adrian

1929-30 and 1930-31 Margaretta H. Blakemore (at Upper Minersville School)

1930 October 27 and 28, Margaretta H. Blakemore (Upper Minersville school) and Mrs. Helen M. Desmond (at Lower Minersville school)

1931 Fall Term, Upper Minersville School, Elva M. Carter and Harriet Cleaves at Lower Minersville school

1932 - 1933 Alice Ross of Hayfork taught at the school site #5 across from the Akerman Campground

1937 Miss Davitt

1938 Fall Term, Harold Jenkins, former superintendent of schools for Del Norte County

1939 Mrs. Helen Bassham

1948+ Madge DeCordy

1940s – 1946 Doris Mullins

1946-47 Miss Amort at (likely) Covington Mill Site

#### **List of School Sites for the Minersville School District.**

#1 - Located in a small area called Sebastopol (just south of the actual town of Minersville) in 1859. That school was specifically located on the East Fork of Stuart's Fork Creek, a short distance from the Van Matre Ranch.

#2 - Located in what is now referred to as the "Old" Minersville townsite on the confluence of Digger Creek and East Fork, and down the hill from the Ridgeville Mine on the main wagon road from Lewiston to the north.<sup>55</sup>

#3 - North of Old Minersville in the Bowerman barn close to the Covington Mill site

#4 - Fairview Mine School

#5 - Across from the Akerman Camp Ground, likely referred to as "Lower Minersville"

--- "Covingtons School" has not been assigned a number as it has its own history document. See **Covington Mill**.

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<sup>55</sup> "Minersville, A Tale of Five Cities", Official Yearbook of the Trinity County Historical Society, 1955, 10.