

## Red Hill School District

There were many historic mines in and around the community of Red Hill such as the Valdor Dredge Mine, the “Lorenze Occurrence”, the “Goldfield Consolidated Occurrence”, (an “occurrence” refers to a concentration of a mineral in a place under examination), Mammoth Placer Mine, Hansen Placer Mine, and Segalia Placer Mine. All of these were said to be located in the area of Red Hill. It is no wonder, then, that a school was needed to be established for the children of the miners in that area.



*Red Hill School, Judge Bartlett's children*

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors on April 6, 1895, a school district (in some documents it is referred to as an “Attendance Center”<sup>1</sup>) was established at Red Hill in Junction City due to a petition requesting a school by the residents of Red Hill. The district boundaries were established as follows: “Commencing at the mouth of McKenna gulch on the Trinity River in said township, thence down said river to the mouth of Fobble creek, thence up Fobble creek to the ridge of Hay Fork mountain, thence along said ridge to the head of McKenna gulch, thence down McKenna gulch to place [sic] of beginning.”<sup>2</sup>

In 1895 “R.C. Wilson” was the clerk and the teacher was Carrie E. Given. She also taught there for the fall term of 1896. Her salary was \$65.<sup>3</sup> Miss Given taught successfully, winning the love of her pupils and the esteem of the district, until her marriage to William F. Flowers in December of 1896. By January 1897, she was dead at twenty-two years of age of heart failure after a brief illness.<sup>4</sup>

In April of 1897, Red Hill School District was the lucky recipient of all the money in the North Fork Library Fund, as well as the books and “apparatus” from the North Fork School District as it was transferred to Red Hill School from North Fork by order of the Board of Supervisors.<sup>5</sup>

In May of 1897, the teacher at Red Hill was Lizzie E. Taylor and she closed the school for the year on the 28<sup>th</sup>.<sup>6</sup> The same teacher opened the school for the next term in July of 1897.<sup>7</sup> In September of 1898, a school report in the local paper indicated that the following student scores were obtained in the “monthly examinations” at Red Hill: Georgie Millsap, 96; James Wilson, 94; Lawrence Millsap, 93; Nelda Wilson, 93; Sarah Wilson, 91; Henry Wilson, 92; Lucy Wilson 92. Those students perfect in “deportment” during that month were: Georgia Millsap and James Wilson. Their teacher was Agnes S. Gates.<sup>8</sup> Clearly, only two families supplied students to the school

<sup>1</sup> Holland, James. *A History of Education in Trinity County; A Thesis presented to the School of Education*. 1971. Chico State College, 28; and *Record of Official Visits 1905-1918*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 21.

<sup>2</sup> “In Re Red Hill School District”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 13, 1895.

<sup>3</sup> “School year 1895-96 Public School and Teacher Salaries”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 17, 1895 and “Schools Closed”, *The Trinity Journal*, December 12, 1896.

<sup>4</sup> “Over the River. Death of Mrs. William F. Flowers of Junction City”, *The Trinity Journal*, January 9, 1897.

<sup>5</sup> “Board of Supervisors; In Re North Fork Library”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 24, 1897.

<sup>6</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, May 29, 1897.

<sup>7</sup> Fox, Lizzie H., *The Trinity Journal*, July 21, 1897.

<sup>8</sup> “School reports”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 17, 1898.

at this time.<sup>9</sup> Miss Taylor continued teaching at Red Hill at least through the fall term of 1897, closing the term for the winter break on November 5.<sup>10</sup>

By April of 1899, there were eight students enrolled at Red Hill. The scores received that month from their examination were the following: John Vanderford, 97; James Wilson, 92; Laurence Millsap, 89; Nelda Wilson, 86; Sarah Wilson, 80; Henry Wilson, 82; Lucy Wilson, 80; Effie Gribble, 90; this time Laurence Millsap and Lucy Wilson joined James Wilson in the perfect department category. Agnes Gates remained their teacher.<sup>11</sup>



*Red Hill School at Junction City across the river from the Junction City School, c. 1910 - 1928*

Red Hill was visited by the Superintendent of Schools at least six times before it closed. For instance, Superintendent Lizzie Fox, as well as R. C. Wilson (by now a School Trustee) visited on May 28, 1900. The teacher was still Miss Agnes Gates. Her salary that year was also \$65. There were 11 pupils enrolled, with 10 present at the time of the visit. Their “order and attention”

were noted as being “Good” and so was the condition of the school buildings and grounds.<sup>12</sup> On June 2, 1902, the school of Red Hill was visited again by the County Superintendent of Schools, and in her handwritten notes (for this visit only) she indicates, “School maintained at Coleridge”.<sup>13</sup> While the location of Coleridge is unclear, a “4<sup>th</sup> class” post office was established there on July 22, 1889, said to be 15 miles from Junction City.<sup>14</sup> In addition, Coleridge was listed in the 1890 Great Register of Trinity County, California (Voter Registration List) where several people maintained a residence.<sup>15</sup> There were only five students enrolled. It's no surprise then, that by July 1902, the Red Hill School District was lapsed and its territory attached to the nearby Junction City School District.<sup>16</sup> The school year 1903-04 was the last time the Red Hill School shows up in official Trinity County Office of Education records.<sup>17</sup> Red Hill Road still exists in Junction City today and in fact, the current Junction City Elementary School District was built on the road by that name.

See also **Junction City School District.**

<sup>9</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, September 17, 1898.

<sup>10</sup> “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, November, 13, 1897.

<sup>11</sup> “School Report”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 15, 1899.

<sup>12</sup> *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 123.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 172.

<sup>14</sup> “History and Happenings, Acorns of Information About Local History and Genealogy”, <http://historyandhappenings.squarespace.com/trinity-county/?currentPage=2>, accessed April 14, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Pederson, Delores V. Ed., “1890 Great Register of Trinity County, California (Voter Registration List)”, <https://ocgs.com/projects/rescue/locations/california/TRINITY%20County-MISC.pdf>, accessed April 14, 2023.

<sup>16</sup> “Board of Supervisors”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 26, 1902.

<sup>17</sup> “Warrant Records,” *Historic Records Collection*, Trinity County Office of Education.



While the accuracy of this map is unconfirmed, the red tear shape is purported to be the location of Coleridge, 9 miles from Junction City. From "Anyplace American", <https://www.anyplaceamerica.com/directory/ca/trinity-county-06105/locales/coleridge-258588/>, accessed April 14, 2023.