

Ruch's School District

Ruch's School (pronounced in German with "Ru" as in "Roost" with a gargled "ch" at the end) was located on Summit Creek in the Hayfork Valley, on the upper end of the Michael Ruch Ranch. Presumably, this was the property of the Trinity County Superintendent of Schools, M. Ruch, who held that elected position from 1857 to 1860. The post office address given for the school at the time was Wildwood.¹ 1898

While the school may have started as a private school, the first record found demonstrating that Ruch's School District was a public school is on a list of district apportionments in March of 1886.² Likewise, the school was recorded in the County Superintendent's visiting records the same year. In May of 1886, the school was visited when Mertie Jordan was the teacher. The teachers' salary was only \$50, much less than other schools at the time. The number of students enrolled was eleven. Just three months later, another visit occurred in August 1886. Mertie Jordan was still the teacher and the length of the school term was six months. Only seven students were enrolled and they were all in the second grade. Their order and attention were rated as "good", but their academic skills were reported as only "fair".³ Surprisingly, the enrollment jumped to 30 students in 1888⁴ and was only slightly reduced by 1894 to 24 students when the school was under the direction of G. M. Irving.⁵

Due to an article in the local paper in November 1895, we know that teacher Celia M. Weinheimer, "closed another successful term of school in the Ruch's district". The "term" lasted only one month.⁶ She was paid \$65 and taught 12 students.⁷ She was also listed as the teacher in October of 1896.⁸ Celia was a local who had attended Weaverville Grammar School as a child and had taught at many different schools in the county.⁹

In April of 1896, it was reported that the school had a larger attendance during that school year than the year before, although the number of students was not noted. However, the school was making "very favorable progress".¹⁰ We know that Miss Celia Weinheimer closed the school for the summer after a four-month term on June 25, 1896.¹¹ In August of 1896, Miss Weinheimer was still employed as the teacher beginning the fall term of the



Ruch School, Hayfork, 1915-16. The school was located on the James E. Dockery, Sr.'s Ranch close to the turn-off to Summit Creek from main Highway 3. Margaret Rodgers Trimble was the teacher and she took this picture. The Ruch School children in the photo are, sitting left to right: Wesley Trimble, Wynn Moser, Norman Trimble and Blanch Moser Eslick. Standing, left to right: Lola McKenzie Lung, Marion Morris, Reggie Morris, Newton Shock, Marie Dockery Stedman, Roger Williams, Maggie Britton Donnelly, Marjorie Trimble and Pansy Morris Zachary. (Marie Dockery Stedman Collection)

— This photo is from the Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook, 1982, 54.

¹ *School District Disbursements & Receipts, Ruch District information*, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

² "Apportionment of State School Money", *The Trinity Journal*, March 3, 1886.

³ "Superintendent's Record", The History Center, Trinity County Historical Society.

⁴ "School Census", *The Trinity Journal*, June 30, 1888.

⁵ "Superintendent's Record", The History Center, Trinity County Historical Society.

⁶ *The Trinity Journal*, November 30, 1895.

⁷ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 16.

⁸ "Districts, Clerks and Teachers", *The Trinity Journal*, October 24, 1896.

⁹ Information from the reverse of a photo of Ruch School and students, 1893, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

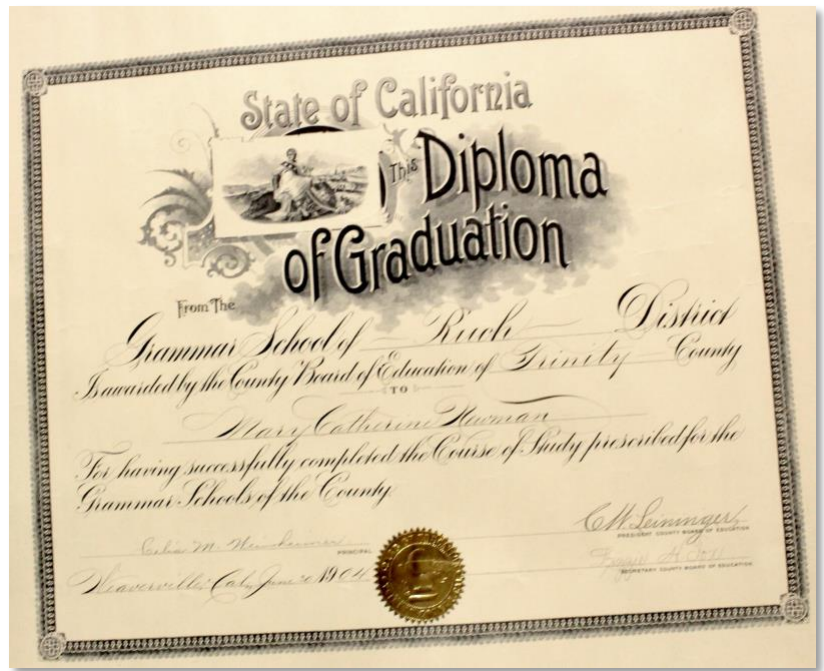
¹⁰ "Hay Fork Locals", *The Trinity Journal*, April 4, 1896.

¹¹ "Hay Fork Locals", *The Trinity Journal*, July 4, 1896.

1896-97 school year,¹² and she was also noted as teaching there in the 1904-05 school year for \$65 per month.¹³ In 1903 the same teacher was noted as having 13 students enrolled with excellent attendance and highly satisfactory progress in their studies¹⁴. For all we know, Miss Weinheimer could have been teaching there throughout the entire period of 1896-1905, even though this was an unusual occurrence at the time in other areas of the county where a much greater turnover in teaching staff often occurred.

By 1898, the “apostrophe s” was dropped from the school name (“Ruch’s”), and the school was known simply as “Ruch.”

From that time on until the Ruch School merged with Hayfork Valley Union School District in 1918, the school was in stable operation.¹⁵ Once the school merged, its progress was lost as only school *districts* were reported in the educational records.



Some of the other Ruch teachers from the past include Isabell (Lizzie) Fox, Ethel McDonald (who grew up in Burnt Ranch), Agnes R. Dedrick, Maud M. Crews, Mr. Earl Leach, Margaret Rogers Trimble, and Mabel Goering as seen in the photos on this page.¹⁶

See also **Hayfork Valley Union School District.**



Ruch School District, 1893, pictured are Laura (Pet) Halley, Finnis (or Tinnis) Jordan, Flora Barker, Mabel Goering (teacher, seated), Mary (Matie) Newman (Jenkins) (seated in front of the teacher), Florence Grigsby (Walker), Margaret “Maggie” Hughes (Harris), Mary Barker, and Maud Halley

¹² “Hay Fork Locals”, *The Trinity Journal*, August 8, 1896.

¹³ “Districts, Clerks, Teachers, Trinity County, 1904-1905”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 5, 1904.

¹⁴ “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 7, 1903.

¹⁵ *School District Disbursements & Receipts, Ruch District information*, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

¹⁶ Information from the reverse of a photo of Ruch School and students, 1893, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

RUCH DISTRICT (Of Hayfork Valley Union)

Beginning at the corner common to Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10,
T32N, R11W, M.D.M.; and running thence,

Southeasterly to the SE corner of Section 10, T32N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

East and along the section line to the NE corner of Section 13, T32N,
R11W, M.D.M., thence,

Southeasterly to the 1/4 section corner between Sections 28 and 29,
T32N, R10W, M.D.M.; thence

South and along the section line to the SE corner of Section 32,
T32N, R10W, M.D.M., thence

East and along the section line to the NE corner of Section 3,
T31N, R10W, M.D.M.; thence

South and along the section line to the SE corner of Section 15,
T31N, R10W, M.D.M.; thence

East and along the section line to the NE corner of Section 22,
T31N, R9W, M.D.M.; thence

South and along the section line to the SE corner of Section 34, T31N,
R9W, M.D.M.; thence

East and along the section line to the NE corner of Section 3,
T30N, R9W, M.D.M.; thence

South and along the section line to the East boundary line of Trinity
County on the East line of Section 3, T30N, R9W, M.D.M.; thence

Southwesterly and following along the boundary line between Trinity
and Shasta Counties to a point on the East line of Section 28, T30N,
R10W, M.D.M.; thence

North and along the section line to the NE corner of Section 21,
T30N, R10W, M.D.M.; thence

West and along the section line to the SW corner of Section 15,
T30N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

North and along the section line to the NW corner of Section 10,
T30N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

Northwesterly to the NW corner of Section 4, T30N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

West and along the section line to the SW corner of Section 33, T31N,
R11W, M.D.M.; thence

North and along the section line to the NW corner of Section 21,
T31N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

West and along the section line to the SW corner of Section 18,
T31N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

North and along the section line to the NW corner of Section 30,
T32N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

East and along the section line to the SE corner of Section 19
T32N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

North and along the section line to the NW corner of Section 17,
T32N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

Northeasterly to the 1/4 section corner between Sections 3 and
4, T32N, R11W, M.D.M.; thence

South and along the section line to the place of beginning