

Tule Creek School District

Tule Creek School District was opened in February 1909. Nothing now remains of the old Tule Creek School which was located about 2.5 miles from Hayfork, on the right side of Tule Creek Road just east of Tule Creek.¹

At the turn of the 20th century (1900), the ranchers in the area decided they needed a school for their children not too far away from their homes, however, county school authorities couldn't confirm that the school had enough children to require public funds. Consequently, not unlike in other areas of the county at that time, the families came together and built their own small private schoolhouse, "on Erhardt Albiez's land". In addition, the families with school-aged children all contributed to the cost of hiring a teacher. The ranchers involved were said to be Erhardt Albiez, Frank Meringer, Willis Vaughn, George Trask, and Mrs. Sax. Mrs. Sax had no children of her own, but several of her nieces and nephews were living with her, newly arrived from Germany.²

The school building was one room with a door at one end and two windows in the long side walls, each with four panes of glass. A wood stove heated the room, and a kettle of water was always heating on the stove in cold weather. Neighbors supplied the school with wood. Water for drinking was obtained from an irrigation ditch down the hill. The children would take turns bringing up a full bucket. Each child had his or her own drinking cup.³

Tule Creek School continued for several years as a private school until the county determined that there was enough enrollment to justify including it in the county public school system for public funding. In April of 1910, Miss Rachel Dedrick taught at the school and continued in the Spring of 1911.⁴ "Tule" School was listed in the county office of education annual reports as of January 1, 1911 showing that it was a public school at that time.⁵ As in other areas of the county, the teachers would board with families in the area. In this case, some of the teachers boarded with the Willis Vaughn family. Miss Dedrick was one such teacher.⁶ In July of 1912, Tule Creek School District was the recipient of furniture and supplies from the closing of the Wildwood School District⁷, and in November of 1913, Miss Emma Greer was paid \$75 to teach that month, and she closed the school for the winter break on November 21.⁸

Other early teachers at Tule Creek School were Ada Hutchins (fall term, 1911 and spring term, 1912⁹); Percy Lunt of Stockton (Fall term, 1912 and spring term, 1913¹⁰); Emma Greer (fall term 1913¹¹); Mr. Johnson (fall term 1914) who was still seeking a Trinity County teaching certificate¹²; Miss Maud (aka Maude) M. Crews (spring and fall terms of 1915 and fall 1916) who opened the school in February 1915 for the spring term and closed the school in early December 1915 for the winter break. She had just returned from Chico after having attended the "Normal School" – a teaching college. She continued teaching at least until she closed the school in December of 1916 for the next winter break.¹³

A story told about Maud Crews was that she would cut across the fields on the way from where she was staying on a ranch in the area to her job at the school, carrying a lard bucket containing her lunch. The cows in a pasture

¹ "Holland, James. *A History of Education in Trinity County; A Thesis presented to the School of Education*. 1971. Chico State College, 31; and "Reminiscences of Tule Creek School" *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1935-1936.

² "Reminiscences of Tule Creek School" *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1963-1965, Weaverville, CA, 36.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Local Brevities", *The Trinity Journal*, April 23, 1910 and March 4, 1911.

⁵ "Statistics of Elementary Schools", *Annual Reports*, Historic Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁶ "Reminiscences of Tule Creek School" *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1963-1965, Weaverville, CA, 36.

⁷ "Supervisors' Proceedings", *The Trinity Journal*, July 13, 1912.

⁸ *Register of School Warrants*, February 28, 1913, Historical Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 320; and "Local and Personal", *The Trinity Journal*, December 6, 1913.

⁹ "Local Brevities", *The Trinity Journal*, August 26, 1911 and March 9, 1912.

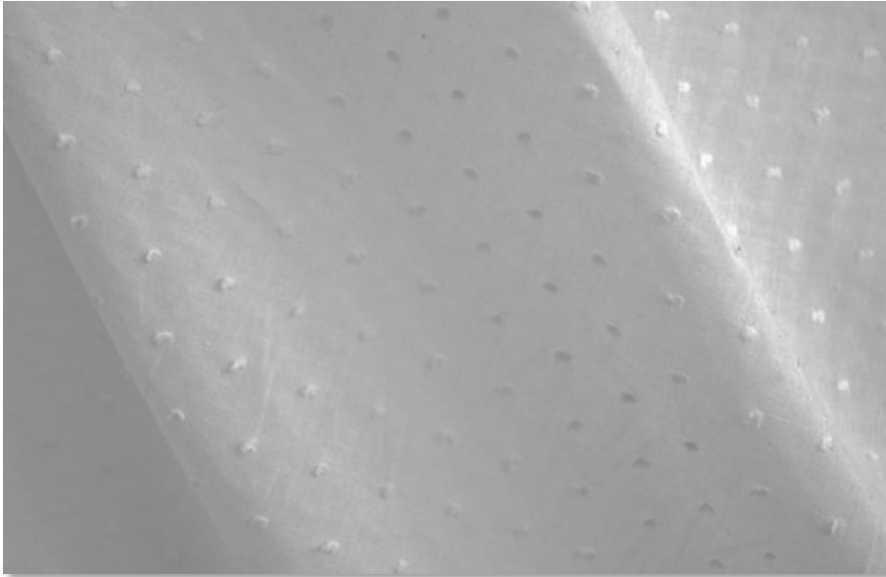
¹⁰ "Local Brevities", *The Trinity Journal*, March 8, 1913; and *Warrant Records*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

¹¹ "Local and Personal", *The Trinity Journal*, December 6, 1913.

¹² "In the Local Field", *The Trinity Journal*, November 28, 1914.

¹³ *The Trinity Journal*, February 27, 1915, December 18, 1915, and December 9, 1916.

often chased her, thinking she had something good to eat in that bucket. She was said to have always made it to the opposite fence safely, but she was often worried that one day she wouldn't be so lucky.¹⁴



An example of Dotted Swiss Curtains

Maud was also remembered for taking pride in the appearance of the school and taught the girls how to make “dotted Swiss curtains” for the windows, which you might still see in stores today. However, these curtains were handmade and decorated with rows of French knots which made up the “dots” in the sheer fabric. She also decorated the school room for each season.¹⁵

In March of 1918, Mrs. Maude Montgomery reopened the school district for the spring term after recovering from an “indisposition”.¹⁶

Miss Verna Marshall closed Tule Creek School at the end of June 1918, making nine months of steady learning at the school without a break – an unusual feat in Trinity County at the time. She was the last teacher to teach at the school.¹⁷ Discussions began as early as 1916 about closing Tule Creek School District. Sure enough, in July of 1918, the school was consolidated into the Hayfork Valley Union School District.¹⁸ This consolidation occurred by a vote of the people in three school districts: Ruch, Hayfork, and Tule Creek.¹⁹

An undated Tule Creek School photo caption (photo missing) lists the students attending the school at one time in history as Leander Anderson, Alvira Adams, Lily Trimble, La Verne Adams, Clara Meringer, Zelda Adams, Marion Adams, Vernon Crews, Floyd Crews and Austin Adams.²⁰

Below are the boundaries of the Tule Creek School District.

See also the Hayfork Valley Union School District.²¹

¹⁴ “Reminiscences of Tule Creek School” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1963-1965, Weaverville, CA, 36.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ “Brief News Noter from Hayfork and Vicinity”, *The Trinity Journal*, March 23, 1918.

¹⁷ “News from our Hayfork Neighbors”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 6, 1918.

¹⁸ “Reminiscences of Tule Creek School” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1963-1965, Weaverville, CA, 36

¹⁹ “Consolidation Carries by 22 in Hayfork Election”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 13, 1918.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 35

²¹ “Reminiscences of Tule Creek School” *Trinity County Historical Society Yearbook*, 1963-1965, Weaverville, CA, 36

TULE CREEK DISTRICT (of Hayfork Valley Union)

Beginning at the corner common to Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T31N, R12W, M. D. M.; and running thence,

! * → North and along the section line to the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner between sections 13 and 14, T31N, R12W, M.D.M.; thence

West and along the section line to the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner between Sections 14 and 15, T31N, R12Wm, M.D.M.; thence

North and along the section line to the NE corner of Section 15, T31N, R12W, M. D. M.; thence

West and along the section line to the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner between Sections 10 and 15, T31N, R12W, M. D. M.: thence

North and along the section line to the $\frac{1}{4}$ section corner between Sections 15 and 22, T32N, R12W, M. D. M.; thence

West and along the section line to the NW corner of Section 28, T3N, R8E, H. M.; thence

South and along the section line to the SW corner of Section 4, T2N, R8E, H. M.; thence

East and along the section line to the NW corner of Section 6, T31N, R12W, M. D. M.; thence

South and long the section line to the SW corner of Section 19, T31N, R12 W, M. D. M.; thence

East and along the section line to the place of beginning.