

Ruch School

Ruch 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

Ruch was one of the school districts listed in county appropriation records as recorded in the Trinity Journal on January 17, 1876.

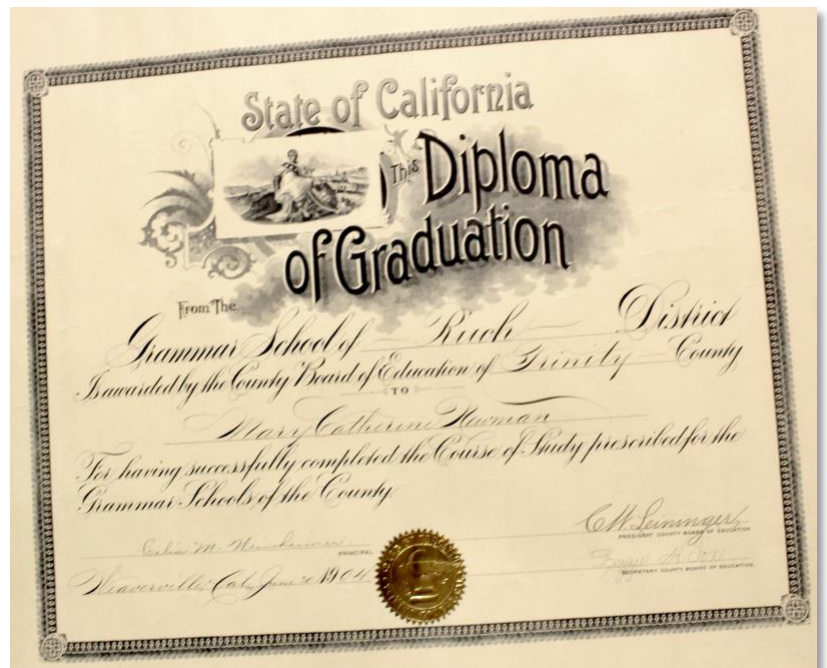
In an article in the local paper in November 1895, we know that teacher Celia M. Weinheimer, “closed another successful term of school in the Ruch’s district”. The “term” lasted only one month.² She was paid \$65 and taught 12 students.³ She was also listed as the teacher in October of 1896.⁴ Celia was a local who had attended Weaverville Grammar School as a child.⁵

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”.⁶ We know that Miss Celia M. Weinheimer closed the school for the summer after a four-month term on June 25, 1896.⁷ In August of 1896, Miss Weinheimer was still the teacher beginning the fall term of the 1896-97 school year,⁸ and she was also noted as teaching there in the 1904-05 school year for \$65 per month.⁹ In 1903 the same teacher was noted as having 13 students enrolled with excellent attendance and highly satisfactory progress in their studies¹⁰. For all we know, she could have taught there throughout the entire time period of 1896-1905.

From that time on until the Ruch School merged with Hayfork Valley Union School District in 1918, the school was in full and stable operation.¹¹

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 below.¹²

See also [Hayfork Valley Union School District](#).



¹ *School District Disbursements & Receipts, Ruch District information*, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

² *The Trinity Journal*, November 30, 1895.

³ *School Superintendents Record of Official Visits, 1905-1918*, Historic Records Collection, Trinity County Office of Education, 16.

⁴ *Districts, Clerks and Teachers*, *The Trinity Journal*, October 24, 1896.

⁵ Information from the reverse of a photo of Ruch School and students, 1893, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

⁶ “Hay Fork Locals”, *The Trinity Journal*, April 4, 1896.

⁷ “Hay Fork Locals”, *The Trinity Journal*, July 4, 1896.

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

⁹ “Districts, Clerks, Teachers, Trinity County, 1904-1905”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 5, 1904.

¹⁰ “School Notes”, *The Trinity Journal*, November 7, 1903.

¹¹ *School District Disbursements & Receipts, Ruch District information*, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.

¹² Information from the reverse of a photo of Ruch School and students, 1893, Historical Documents Collection, Trinity County Office of Education.



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 from the Trinity
County Historical Society
Yearbook, 1982, 54.*



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

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