

YHHS NEWSLETTER

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We have had contact with several people about the history of this area recently.

Robert Colby, a well known local historian and author was kind enough to give us his research material on the Wilenor Ditch. When Thermalito built the cement dam on the lake in 1923/24 they renamed the lake, Lake Wilenor. They also rebuilt the ditches that carried water from the lake to the Lime Saddle power house. Robert who has authored several articles about the high lakes above Concow was researching the ditch some time back and has not had time to finish the work, so he graciously gave us all his research materials. These will be used for a future article about the lake, ditches and the dam. THANK YOU Robert!

Drew Gonrowski contacted us looking for information on Hawaiians in the area during the gold rush. Drew was referred to us by the Butte County Historical Society. He is a PhD Candidate studying Hawaiian History at the University of Hawaii and wanted to use the information in his dissertation. We provided information on several Hawaiians who were brought to the Sacramento area by General Sutter. When Sutter released them from his employment in 1848 several joined Indian tribes in the area. We also shared our information on the Indian history in Butte County. Drew has offered to share his work when it is finished; we look forward to seeing it.

LeeAnn Shanyer of Red Bluff recently attended the dedication by the Daughters of the American Revolution of the site in Messilla Valley where our old schoolhouse was located. After the dedication about 30 members of the DAR visited the school in Concow. LeeAnn has relatives that lived in Pentz around 1900, the Lee and Mortensen families. LeeAnn returned to the school for another visit and shared her family photos with us allowing us to make copies for our files. It is an ongoing process and another visit may happen soon. LeeAnn is also related to Lois Hansen who taught at the Messilla Valley school in 1905 and 1906. The photos in the following article are from a scrap book created by Lois. In a future article we will share information about Christian Mortensen who purchased the Pentz hotel in the 1890's. A big THANK YOU to LeeAnn!

Lois Hansen – Messilla Valley School Teacher

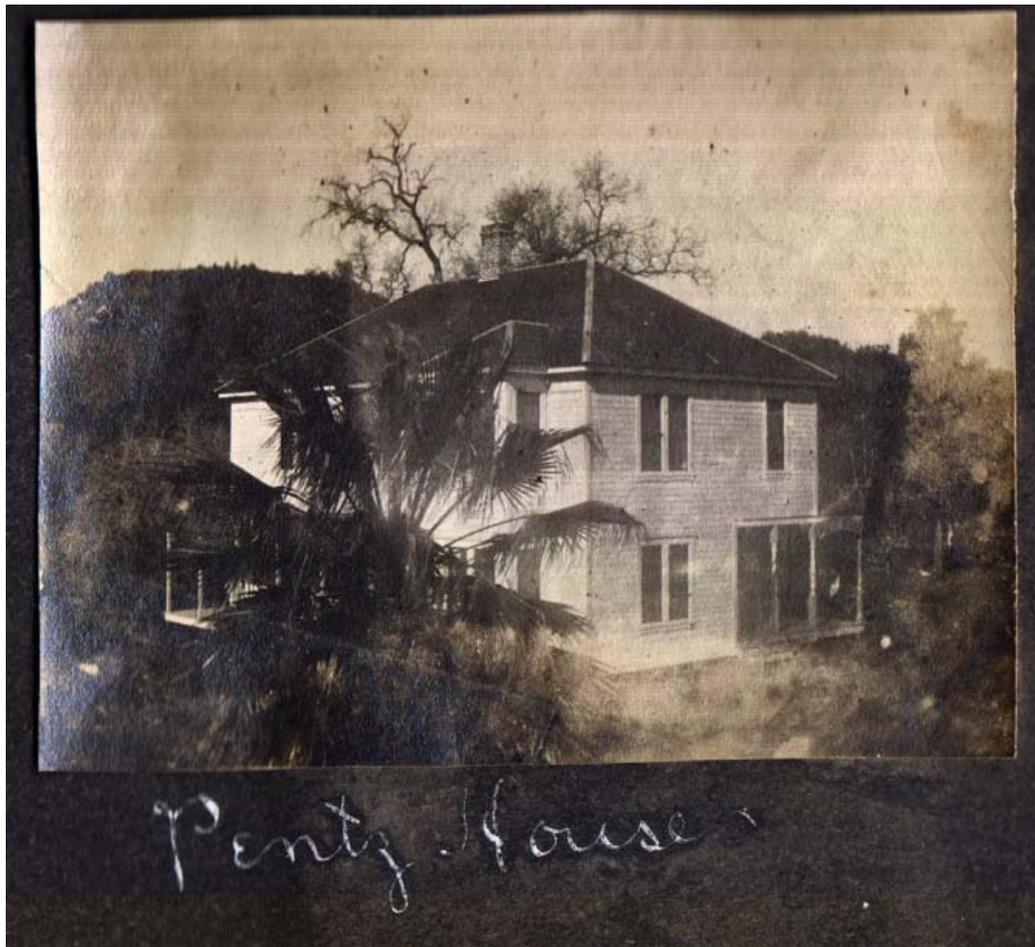
Lois Hansen was born in March 1885. Her parents were Joseph and Annie Hansen of Dayton, Butte County. Lois was the oldest of 4 children, a brother Harold died when he was 7 years old in 1895 and a sister Cora died when she was 19 years old in 1910. Her youngest brother Earl Hansen reached adulthood. Lois became a teacher in 1905 and her first assignment was the Messilla Valley School, her salary was \$70 per month. It was common to assign new teachers to remote schools. While at Messilla Valley she met Charles Lee Koford who was living at the Pence Hotel. His father had drowned when he was a boy and his mother Jenny (Lund) Koford had married Christian Mortensen who owned the Pence Hotel. Lois Hansen only taught at Messilla Valley School for one year when she was assigned to another school. She and Charles Lee Koford (he was called Lee by the family) dated for several years before they finally married. Lee and Lois Koford moved to Goldboro, Nova Scotia in the 1920's where they

lived out their lives. In 1940 she wrote a letter home saying the town would be getting electricity soon. Lee was going to get a job to pay the \$50 to wire their house. The following photos are from Lois Hanson Koford's scrap book that LeeAnn Shanyer was given by a descendent when visiting in Nova Scotia.



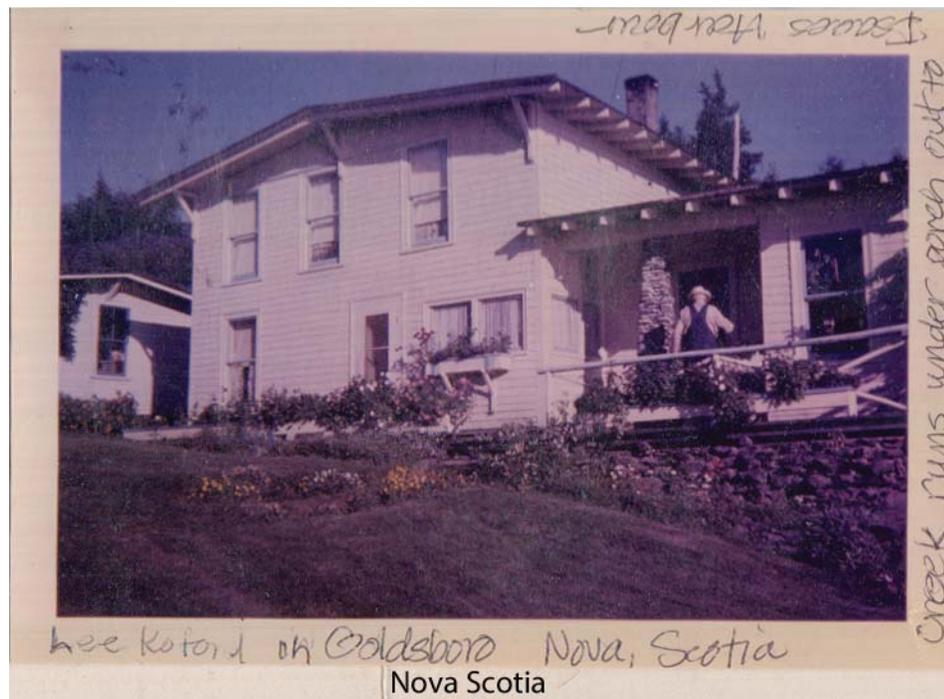
Messilla Valley School Circa 1905





Lois Hansen Koford and Husband Lee Koford
Photo taken in Nova Scotia in 1927

The Pentz hotel
burned in 1901. The
photo above was tak-
en only a few years
after it was rebuilt



The Koford Home In Nova Scotia

Yankee Hill Historical Society Happenings

June 22nd, Saturday, the Yankee Hill Historical Society is making a trip to Rag Dump and Ramsey Bar. The trip will take about 6 hours. If you are interested in going contact Don Saul. Drivers must have a 4 wheel drive vehicle so if you can drive let us know, otherwise you will be assigned to another vehicle. The number of vehicles available will dictate how many people can go. Hope you can participate on this adventure, our guide will be Howard Goodman who lives at Rag Dump, Howard will let us tour his home. We meet at the old school at 9:00 am BUT YOU MUST RESERVE A SEAT so we can make arrangements. Bring a bag lunch, water and a camera. If interested call ASAP.

**Don Saul (530) 533-4523
email: saulranbyjr@aol.com**

Yankee Hill Historical Society Happenings

First Saturday Every Other Month, Bunko Party!!

The first Saturday of every other month (the next bunko is in Aug) at 1:00pm we have a bunko party at the old school. Prizes and a raffle are held to raise funds for the school restoration. The money raised from the Bunko Party is a primary source of revinew for the restoration and preservation fund for the old school. It is fun and supports a great cause. SEE YOU THERE!

Officers and Contact Information

President: *Bob Huffman (530) 533-4132*

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