

Yankee Hill Historical Society

www.YankeeHillHistory.com

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P.O. Box 4031, Yankee Hill, Ca 95965

Yankee Hill Dispatch

2020 was a strange year for us all, the lock downs have been a challenge for everyone. The Yankee Hill Historical Society hopes to open our doors in June. We will keep you advised, check our Facebook Page and webpage for updates. There was no YHHS Dispatch in 2020. We hope you enjoy our first issue for 2021. We want to take you back in time with a look at a historic picture of Concow School in 1901. Enjoy the family history and the color pictures.

If Pictures Could Talk



Concow School 1901

THIS IS WHO WE ARE



My name is Mary Frances Moak. I am the teacher at Concow School. I teach in a one room school built in 1875 by the local families. My friends call me May, the children call me Miss Moak. We all want to share some of our family histories with you. I will start with my own. This is my second year teaching at Concow school. I am twenty-six years old and I am the daughter of John and Wilhelmina Moak. My father came to Butte County in 1853 with his brother Levi Moak. In early 1854 they were mining in Oregon Gulch. Levi left in 1856 to go back home. He returned in 1862 with his two brothers Jacob and Simeon. My Father and his brothers had a dairy business near Chico. My father passed away in 1886 when he was kicked by a horse. My Mother still lives in Chico. I love teaching these children. They are all very special. OK who is next?

The John and Alice Evans Family



My name is Aurora Evans and these are my brothers, Grover and my little brother Johnnie. Our parents are John and Alice Evans. Our parents came to Concow about 1888. I am thirteen and my brother Grover is twelve, my youngest brother Johnnie is ten years old. Our father started out as a laborer and now is a gold miner. Our parents purchased the Deadwood Hospital site this year. There used to be a Chinese Doctor, Ah Sang, who ran the hospital. Several other doctors tried to run the place before my parents bought it. My dad is turning it into a resort called Deadwood Summer Resort. The hospital is still there, and it is full but there is no Doctor. Our older brother Frank Evans is farming on some of the property. My older sisters Maude and Josie are out of school and living at home. Our parents and all three of us girls just had the mumps. The boys were trying to set up a dance at our house while we were sick, they got in trouble. Do you two want to say something? Noyou shouldn't have told on us!



The Edwin and Nancy Lunt Family

My name is Oliver Wendell Holmes Lunt. Everyone just calls me Oliver. I am thirteen years old. My parents are Edwin and Nancy Lunt. My mom's parents, my grandparents, James and Mary Smith came to this area in 1852 and lived on Nelson Bar Road in a cabin when the area was called



Frenchtown. In 1856 they owned a bowling alley/saloon at the corner of Lunt Road and Nelson Bar road in Frenchtown. The family lived on the other side of Nelson Bar Road. They had seven children. My mother, their daughter Nancy Smith, married Theodore Busch in 1871. They lived on the hill above Frenchtown known as Spanishtown. It is between Concow School and Frenchtown. Busch left one day in 1875 for a walk, my mom has not heard from him since. My mother stayed in Spanishtown with their son Albert Busch, my oldest half-brother. In 1875 my dad, Edwin Lunt, walked from San Francisco to Concow to be the first teacher at Concow School. He married my mom in 1877. In 1878 my sister Edwina Lunt was born in Spanishtown. She still lives with my parents and me. In 1881 the Smith girls and their mother Mary talked James into building a sanitarium to compete with Deadwood Sanitarium that Aurora Evans talked about. They even hired a Chinese Doctor. But after one year the sanitarium was closed. The family decided my mom Nancy Frances and my father Edwin Ruthven Lunt along with my older brother Albert and my older sister Edwina should move into the Frenchtown house. I had another older sister Mary who was born in 1884, but she only lived to be ten years old. I was born in 1887. It has been known as the Lunt house ever since. There is a family cemetery behind the house.

The Robert and Susan Hendricks Family



My name is Mary Evelyn Hendricks. I am fourteen years old. My parents are Robert Elbert and Susan Hendricks. They came to Concow in 1886. My father was first a farmer, and now a gold miner. I have no brothers or sisters. My cousin is Ralph Miller. His father is my mom's brother.

The Grant and Almeda Croghan Family



My Name is Cecil Lavern Croghan. I am eleven years old. This is my brother Charley Croghan, my sister Bertha Croghan and my brother Orley Croghan. Charley is nine years old, Bertha is seven years old and Orley is six years old. We have a sister Bessie that is not old enough for school. Our Grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Croghan, mined at Flea Valley for



gold in 1884. Our dad, Ulysses S Grant Croghan and mom Almeda Croghan came to Concow in 1891. Our house is on Deadwood Road. Our dad is a farmer. Our mom was going to have a baby. They both died recently while my mom was having her. They are buried in Yankee Hill Cemetery. We miss our mom.

The Charles and Ellen Thomas Family



My name is Louis Woody Thomas. I am thirteen years old. My parents are Charles and Ellen Thomas. My dad in 1880 was a mill worker at the Pentz sawmill. In 1885 he had a ranch in Flea Valley. My parents are separated. I live with my mom who is pregnant and her father, my grandfather, Charles Durett. My Grandfather has a ranch in Concow. He came to Butte County in 1851.

The Stephen and Laura Miller Family



My name is Ralph Eakle Miller. I was born at the Deadwood Hospital in 1895. My parents are Stephen and Laura Miller who have lived in Concow since about 1888. They came here from Tehama County. I am cousins with Evelyn Hendricks. I am the youngest. I have a sister Amanda, a brother John and another brother David. They are all older than me and finished with school.

The Marshall and Mary Miller Family



My name is Susie Miller, and this is my little brother Johnnie. I am six years old, and my brother is four years old. Our parents are Marshall and Mary Miller. They came to Concow in 1896 and my dad does odd jobs for people. I have a new baby brother Andrew.



Thank you for listening to our stories. The children always help me around the schoolhouse. The older ones help build the fire in the stove to get the schoolhouse warm. The younger ones sweep and clean up. They each have their own story and I know they will grow up and make their parents proud. Life in Concow at times can be hard, but the children are strong and resilient. At the same time life here can be a great adventure. The trees, the streams and the hills make the area a great place for children to explore. The lake, built in 1870 to supply water to Cherokee and Yankee Hill, is one of the largest lakes in Butte County.

There is a second one room school in Concow called the Reservoir School. It is located about five miles farther down Concow Road near the lake. Our friends over at Yankee Hill have their own one room schoolhouse. I am sure they could tell some interesting stories as well. All these schools were built by the local families. The Butte County School District supplies the teacher and a budget to operate. They require at least five students before they will supply a teacher. Most of the teachers in the outer areas are newer teachers. It is more difficult to get jobs in Oroville and Chico. I have here a copy of a daily school schedule to share as well. It follows the guidelines by the school district. Also, I brought some pictures to share. Again, Thank you. *Miss May Moak*



Concow School 1901: Back row (left to right) Aurora (Rhoda) Evans, Oliver Lunt, Evelyn Hendricks, Grover Evans, Teacher Miss May Moak, Lavern Croghan, Lewis Thomas.
Front row: Johnnie Evans, Ralph Miller, Johnnie Miller, Orley Croghan, Bertha Croghan, Susie Miller, Charlie (Chub) Croghan

Oct 1900 to May 1901

PROGRAM.

For Term beginning October 1, 1901, and ending May 14, 1901.

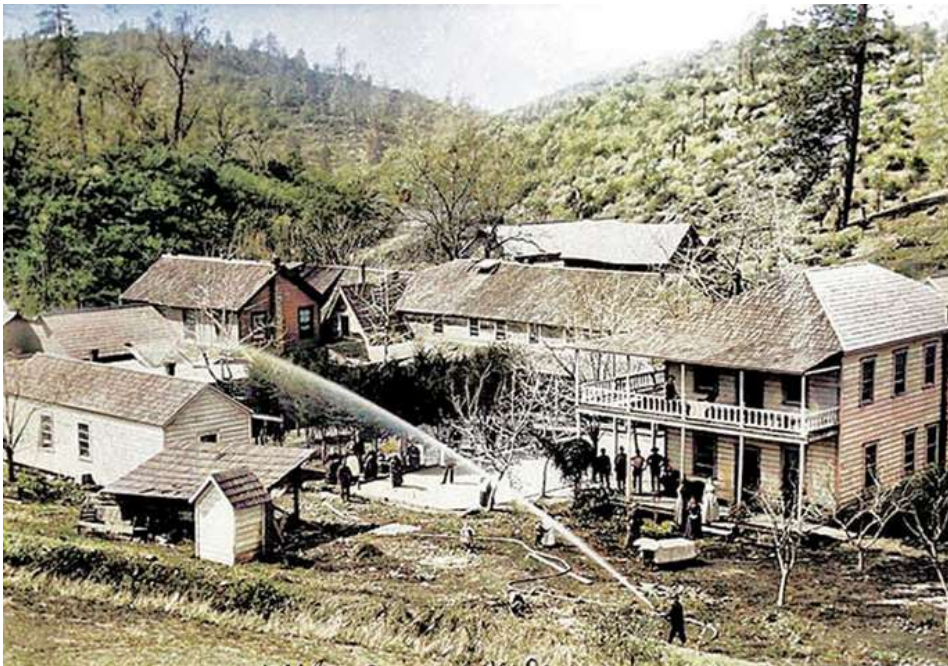
9 to 9.15 Opening Exercises
9.15 " 9.30 Primary Number
9.30 " 9.45 Second
9.45 " 10.05 Fourth Arithmetic
10.05 " 10.20 Sixth "
10.20 " 10.30 Seventh "
10.30 " 10.40 Eighth & Ninth Arith. all Algebra.
10.40 to 11
11 " 11.10 Word-Dictation (Primary and Beginners)
11.10 " 11.20 Reading and Literature (Third Grade)
11.20 " 11.35 Reading and Spelling, Fourth "
11.35 " 11.45 Sixth and Seventh Lit. or Gram.
11.45 " 12 Ninth Lit. or Gram.
12 to 1 Noon
1 to 1.15 Writing or Drawings B.K. 8
1 " 1.30 Reading and Spelling, Primary
1.30 " 1.45 Third Language
1.45 " 2 Fifth "
2 " 2.15 Seventh Geography
2.15 " 2.30 Civil Govt. or History
2.30 " 2.45 Primary Literature
2.45 to 3
Recess
3 to 3.25 Advanced Bookkeeping or Science
3.25 " 3.40 Geog. or Phys. Fifth
3.40 " 4. 7th Hist. or Physics
9. Word Analysis or Spelling.

Typical One Room School Program Circa 1900 - 1901

After 1901

The Teacher Miss May Moak – Miss Moak went on to teach in the Chico elementary school system until 1911 when she married William Wakefield, a farmer living near Chico. A terminal illness resulted in his death in 1923. Mrs. Wakefield raised their two children and continued to run the Wakefield family farm until her death in 1961.

The Evans family – The Evans family moved away from Concow shortly after 1901. The Deadwood Sanitarium property was sold to John G Odneal. He resold the property several years later to Charles Heyer. Mr. Odneal purchased property near Lake Concow.



Deadwood Hotel and Hospital circa 1882

Oliver Wendell Holmes Lunt – Oliver continued to live in the Lunt home all his life. In 1903 his father passed away. In 1917 he married Leola Abshire and helped run the family farm. Later in life Oliver Lunt acquired other property in the area which he later sold. The Lunt family continues to own the family property to this day. Oliver Lunt passed away in 1982. He is buried in the Lunt family cemetery along with many other relatives. Unfortunately, the 1881 family home burned in the Camp Fire in 2018.



The Lunt Home on Nelson Bar Road
Circa 1880's. Alfred Busch in wagon, Oliver
Lunt's half brother.



Mary Evelyn Hendricks – She used the first name Evelyn, lived in Concow most of her life. She never married and took over the family farm in Concow after her father Robert Elbert Hendricks died in 1932. Evelyn Hendricks, her father Robert and her mother Susan are buried in the Yankee Hill Cemetery. She wrote several interesting articles about the area's history including one in 1931 about the Deadwood Sanitarium. It is included below.

Croghan Family - Ulysses S Grant Croghan, along with his kids and their grandfather, Benjamin Croghan, remained in Concow. In 1911 Grant Croghan married Hazel (Emerson) Nichols, his second wife, who had a girl Gladys from a previous marriage. Together they had a son named Fred Croghan. In 1931 Grant Croghan sold the family home and moved with his wife Hazel and daughter to Gridley. He passed away in 1933. The following members of the Croghan family are buried in the Yankee Hill Cemetery: Benjamin Franklin Croghan, his son Ulysses S Grant Croghan who went by Grant, his 1st wife Almeda Ellen (Witwer) Croghan, his 2nd wife Hazel Eva (Emerson) Croghan. The following children of Grant and Almeda Croghan are buried there as well; Charles Cumber Croghan and his son Fred Croghan, Orley Benjamin Croghan, Bertha Verl (Croghan) Robblee, and her husband Walter Thomas Robblee. In 1915 Bessie Croghan, the younger sister mentioned before but not pictured, married Butte Williams. The Williams family has a long history with Nelson Bar Rd. A number of the Williams family are also buried in the Yankee Hill Cemetery. (See the Williams family history newsletter from June 2012 at yankeehillhistory.com)



The Croghan Family Home Circa 1915. Grant, His second wife Hazel and her daughter Gladys.

Louis Woody Thomas – Louis became a lumberman. In 1917 he worked in Oroville, later working in Humboldt County and Plumas County. He married and had three children. He died in 1952. He and his mother Ellen (Durett) Thomas are buried in the Cherokee Cemetery.

Ralph Miller – Ralph Miller's family would leave Concow for a number of years moving to Igo in Shasta County. Ralph Miller returned about 1927 to Concow. In 1928 he married Frieda Heyer, whose father Charles Heyer owned the Deadwood Sanitarium. Frieda was operating a store out of a log cabin on the Sanitarium property that was located at the corner of Deadwood Rd and Concow Rd. Later they opened the Pines Store at the junction of Concow Road and Pinkston Canyon Rd. The Miller family has been in the area ever since. Ralph Eakle Miller along with his wife Frieda (Heyer) Miller and their son Gene Ralph Miller are buried in the Yankee Hill Cemetery. Freida Heyer's father Charles Heyer and her sister Margaret (Heyer) Odneal are buried in the Yankee Hill Cemetery. Gene Ralph Miller's wife's parents, Merl Banta and Nona Banta, are buried there as well.



The Pines Store in Concow. The store burned in 1966

Susie Miller and her brother Johnnie – Four more children were born in Concow after 1901, Lydia, Theodore, Blanch and Viola Miller. There was a total of seven children. Their Uncle John C Miller moved to Concow around 1900 with his wife Sarah, they had 10 children. He was a farmer near Cirby Creek. Susan and Johnnie's dad, Marshall Miller passed away in 1914 in Concow. He is buried in the Yankee Hill Cemetery. By 1925 both families moved away. Some of the children remained in Chico.



Thank You Miss Moak!



Brothers Oliver Lunt and Alfred Busch rebuilding the Concow school after the first school burned in 1907. Pictured is the backside of the new school. This second school burned in 1939

Photo courtesy of Jane Lunt Homen and the Lunt Family

Note: There was also a Miller family on Nelson Bar road that goes back to the 1850's. Ignatz and his brothers Joseph and Wendelin Miller are not related to these Miller families. See the flash Card # 6 on the Miller family in 2018 for more information at yankeehillhistory.com

The Yankee Hill Cemetery: The Yankee Hill Cemetery goes back to 1880. There are over 200 local family members buried there. See flashcard #14 at yankeehillhistory.com on the Yankee Hill Cemetery for more information.

Concow Indians - Want to read some of the history about the local Indians in this area, see the Concow Indians part one and two as well as the history of Big Bend in the newsletter section of our webpage.

Site Of Historic Old Sanitarium At Deadwood Improved; One of Show Places Of District Built There

By EVELYN HENDRICKS

YANKEE HILL—(Special)—Near a spring in the cow pasture on the old Deadwood property stands a few scarred and gnarled old fruit trees and near these a shapeless pile of stones which mark the place where once stood the cabin of Mr. and Mrs. Neddy, who in the late forties or early fifties took up their abode on the bank of a mountain stream now known as Deadwood Creek.

They were what is known as squatters. Mrs. Neddy, a young woman possessing true pioneer spirit and courage, helped her husband build their cabin and worked with him mining gold in creeks and ravines and it was she who planted the fruit trees. She was one of, if not, the first white women to make their home in this part of the country.

Some years later Mrs. Neddy was deserted by her husband and later she became Mrs. Nix. About this time a young man named George Tebby, who with his parents were mining in the Northfork canyon became afflicted with a white swelling on his leg. He was advised to visit a Chinese doctor, who was living at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merrithew on Clear Creek. He did, and was cured of the disease. The doctor and the Tebby family then came into possession of the Deadwood place, and started a sanitarium.

There was very little money to put into the enterprise to start with, but they managed to build a rough two story building with two rows of small bed rooms upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room, living room and office occupying the ground floor.

The fame of this doctor soon became known far and near and many people came to be treated by Dr. Ah Sang. As his practice increased he built more houses. Many rows of cabins and cottages were built besides the several large rooming houses and the doctor's private residence. Several large stables were erected which sheltered the herds of imported milk goats, cows and horses, as well as the doctor's fleet footed saddle and driving horses.

The grounds surrounding the building were set out to flowers and shrubs, and hedge bordered cobblestone paths and driveways wound in and out through the gardens.

After a few years Doctor Ah Sang sent to China and purchased a wife. In due time her parents arrived with the frightened little fourteen year old Chinese maiden and for whom the doctor paid fourteen hundred dollars.

Oroville Mercury Register

11-20-1931

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There was a grand celebration and they were married according to the Chinese laws and also the American law. Mike Wells of Yankee Hill, who was justice of the peace, performed the American marriage rites. The nuptial ceremonies lasted three days, during which there was much feasting and drinking of gin and Chinese beverages.

Two children were born in the Ah Sang family, the first a daughter whom they named Jessie. Many people came to see the little Chinese baby. Jessie lived only a few weeks and a large, marble slab almost completely hidden with poison oak, pine and manzanita on the hill-side above the hospital marks the resting place of the wee Jessie.

Then came the second child, a son, and he was given the American name of Willie. The arrival of a son in the Ah Sang family was a great event, and the doctor refused to let curious visitors see this child, saying "they looked the first one to death."

At the age of three months Willie's que was started and another celebration was in order. Friends and relatives came from China to attend the ceremonies, bringing many beautiful and costly presents to the little boy and his parents. A favored few of the doctor's white friends were invited to this celebration, the baby's head was shaved except for a small patch of his hair on the crown of his head. Then his head was bound tightly with red silk to shape the head, according to the Chinese custom, as were both his hands and feet to make them small, for Willie was to be a real gentleman.

For several years Deadwood grew and flourished, many cures were made, and Doctor Ah Sang was well liked both as a physician and as a man.

When his little son was old enough to attend school the doctor sold his sanitarium at Deadwood and moved with his family to Indiana, where he established another sanitarium. After a good many years rumors came back here that he had become insane and his wife had eloped with the Chinese cook.

Deadwood then changed hands frequently. Several doctors both white and Chinese attempted at different times to re-establish a sanitarium at Deadwood, with but little success. It was later owned by John Evans and family who made their home there for several years, Evans sold the property to J. G. Odneal who several years later sold it to Charles Heyer of Wisconsin who sold it in separate tracts to the present owners. The upper eighty acres lying in the Blue Ridge canyon and known as the old China gardens were purchased recently by Lawrence Brotherton and William Osborne of San Francisco who are improving the property and building a modern residence.

An interesting feature of this new home is the combined living room, dining room and kitchen with its many built in cupboards and conveniences. An attractive fire place with little window seats beneath the large casement windows which occupy the south end of the living room gives an added air of charm and comfort to the room. The fire place is made of cement and washed stones with an occasional piece of quartz where small flakes of gold are visible.

The other eighty acres where remain a few trees and shrubs and a part of the Ah Sang residence, all that is left of the once famous Deadwood sanitarium, was purchased recently by Oroville people, who are remodeling the buildings, taking down the only remaining stable, and building pens and cages for the silver foxes, that are to be the chief industry of this ranch.

This work is progressing rapidly under the supervision of the present care taker who with his family have moved on to the property.

YHHS Happenings

Yankee Hill Historical Society Web Page: You can visit our web page at www.yankeehillhistory.com. The web page has something for everyone, a Theater, a Book Store, past Newsletters and extensive on-line Archives for those who choose to do their own research. The Book Store on the web page is always OPEN! You can pay by check or use PayPal.

We hope to Open soon! More information can be found on our webpage and our Facebook page in the near future

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