



BICENTENNIAL YEAR

1776 - 1976



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## Calaveras County High School

**Editorial Note:** All through our lifetimes we remember with appreciation and affection those teachers we feel have most influenced our development from children into adults. Calaveras County was very fortunate in having an unusually outstanding teacher who is so remembered by all those who came within his sphere of influence. This was James Keith, a Scottish emigrant who made his final home here in Calaveras, and who was truly the "Father of Calaveras High." Walter Huberty, one of Keith's students, and one of the early Calaveras graduates, has very kindly compiled a biography of this well-known teacher for our pages.

As we look back some three generations or so, when our county had no facilities for a high school education, it is not difficult to see why the establishment of this school was such a great advance for the county. Prior to this, those wishing to continue their education had to go to the Valley cities or farther, and board there or live with relatives, in order to attend high school.

Disappointment was so keen in the Angels area when the county decided to start the first high school at San Andreas, that a separate high school was started in Altaville. This school, Bret Harte High, has had a growth parallel with Calaveras High, although with a smaller enrollment. We hope soon to have an issue devoted to Bret Harte High School.

For many if not most of us, our high school days were the most important part of our education. We suddenly became adults and were ready to assume our responsibilities as such. Associations made then have never been forgotten. Is it strange that we should so treasure our memories of those days?

Eva Genochio Soracco has reread her splendid collection of "Skulls" and has called upon her excellent memory of the early years of Calaveras High School when it was quartered in the

"New" Lodge Building, to draw this fine picture of the first two decades of the school's history.

Relentless time and progress have now, after a half century of service, rendered even the "new and beautiful high school" near the old Joss House obsolete. Now a third school is being constructed on the same site to replace that second one, to accommodate present and future students. The Lodge Building, however, survives and will continue in use for many more years. Currently, in addition to Lodge activities, it provides offices for the Unified School District.



**JAMES KEITH**  
By Walter Huberty

The first acquaintance that many of us of yesteryear had with James Keith was in 1913 when he returned to Calaveras High School to assume the principalship of the school for the second time. Most of us were unaware then and until recent years of his part in establishing the school. It, perhaps, is fitting to first give a brief account of events that led up to the school's formation.

The reports of Mr. Keith's death by both local papers in April, 1922, made practically the same statement.



**THE FIRST CALAVERAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**  
 The new Lodge Building in San Andreas provided quarters for the high school from September, 1905, to January, 1928.

“Mr. Keith can truly be said to have been the father of the Calaveras County High School, for it was he who saw the necessity for a high school and labored hard to bring this to a successful conclusion.”

The establishment of a high school just after the turn of the century was a major undertaking for the county. With a total assessed valuation for the county of only \$6,177,275, the idea of the necessity of a high school had not been accepted by many of the taxpayers. The county was paying \$880 yearly to the State as a high school charge, yet any young man or woman who wished to prepare for higher education had to leave the county to attend high school elsewhere.

In the first week of October, 1904, a petition for the formation of a high school was presented to the Board of Supervisors, who, on October 3rd of that year, voted to place the issue on the ballot. To the surprise of many, the measure carried, 1269 “yes” votes to 342 “no”. On December 6, 1904, the Supervisors, after nine ballots, chose San Andreas as the site of the school.\*

In those days it became the duty of the County Board of Education to administer the school. They chose Mr. Keith as its

\*This is an understatement, to say the least. One of the supervisors was hung in effigy because of his vote. The strong feeling engendered by the decision to put the high school at San Andreas has still not completely subsided after almost three-quarters of a century, we regret to state, and has influenced nearly every major decision in county school matters ever since that historic vote.

first principal, and the school opened the first week in September, 1905, with one additional teacher and with 32 pupils enrolled. Two fields of study were offered: one in the academic and the other in the commercial field. Mr. R. W. Decker of the San Francisco Business College was secured to teach the latter.

What was the background of the man who had the vision to see the need of the school and the tenacity and courage to work long and hard to bring the project to fruition? Details of the early part of James Keith’s life have been difficult to obtain, after these many years, and little or nothing is known of his boyhood or early youth except that he was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1861. He was educated at Marischal College and Kensington School of Arts and Science in Aberdeen.

At the age of twenty he came to America, arriving in Boston in 1881. There he clerked in a grocery store for a short time. From Boston he went to Chicago. Clarence Warrington, who was a teacher as a young man in Calaveras County and a close friend of the Keith family, maintains that James Keith was a graduate of an American college. It is possible that during this period he accomplished this, but we have no records to substantiate it.

His next move was to Colorado in 1884. He spent several years there prospecting and in 1887 came to Shasta County, California. From here he did a little backtracking and spent another six months prospecting in Oregon and Idaho. He finally reached Calaveras County in 1888, arriving in Angels Camp.

He worked in the Utica Mine for two years. During this period he met a local girl, Sara E. McLaughlin. They were married in San Andreas on December 31, 1890. Sara was the daughter of pioneers and the sister of Dr. J.H. McLaughlin, a local doctor. The McLaughlin home or ranch was on the Old Gulch Road about one and one-half miles south of where the Ponderosa Road crosses this road in the area known as Washington Ranch.

On January 21, 1891, James Keith became an American citizen. It seems that he went from Angels Camp to Sheep Ranch where he was Justice of the Peace for the Township. This had to be after his naturalization. Our records are not clear about his movements at this time.

About fifty years ago, Leonard Redding, an early day teacher, stated that it was Mrs. Keith who persuaded her husband to give up the rigors of deep mining and become a teacher. It was a happy turn of events for the youth of the day and for future generations when he did. An account of his early life states that he taught at an elementary school in San Joaquin County for one year and then returned to Calaveras. He must have taught for nearly fourteen years in the grade schools of our county.

With the help of Mr. Milton Goodridge, County Superintendent of Schools, we found that warrants on the Sheep Ranch school were drawn to Mr. Keith for the years 1892-93. He received eighty dollars per month and his assistant received fifty-five. From 1894 to 1898 he was at Murphys as principal. In 1898, we found him at San Andreas as principal of the elementary school. His salary had now climbed to one hundred dollars per month. He remained at that post until 1905 when he was chosen first principal of the newly-formed high school. During that same year he passed the bar examinations and was admitted to the practice of law.

In 1906 he campaigned for the office of district attorney and was elected. He left the school to assume his duties in this office on January 1st, 1907. He served one term but did not find politics to his liking and he did not seek re-election. For the next two years practiced law at home. He was then called back to become principal of the school again, where he remained until his sudden death on April 26, 1922.

Mrs. Keith was truly a homebody and was always an inspiration to her family and to those who knew her. She loved the outdoors and really ran the Keith farm (formerly her parents'). She broke her own horses by kindness and persuasion. She was a familiar figure seen riding or driving to and from San Andreas. My memory says that she spent most of her late years with Mrs. Johanna Nuland of San Andreas. It was there that I knew her best. I always found her a delight to visit with.

The Keiths had one son, Gordon. He attended the Washington Ranch school, which was almost opposite his home, and graduated from the 9th grade in 1910. He graduated from Calaveras High with the class of 1913. He taught school at West Point for two years and then entered the University of California.

World War I interrupted Gordon's studies when he joined the U.S. Navy and became an ensign. In a letter from him in 1958, he stated that he joined the Otis Elevator Company in 1922 and had served that company in New York, Seattle, Spokane, Anchorage and San Francisco; and that he had three years to go to retirement. I lost contact with him after this letter. I learned through the Masonic Order that he is no longer living.

Returning to Mr. Keith, when he became high school principal again, they moved from the ranch to San Andreas. They occupied the Hertzig house just to the north of where the Mountain Ranch road joins Highway 49. He was a familiar figure walking from his home to the school on Main Street. On rainy days he always carried an umbrella, and wore overshoes and a long overcoat. When reaching the entrance to the school, the umbrella was punctiliously closed and off came the overcoat and overshoes.

Often during his summer vacations he and his son would pack their equipment in a small wagon, hitch a span of blue roan mares to it, and head for Yosemite Valley where they would spend much of the summer. One year the team was stolen and they had to find other means of getting home. However, several years later, Henry Guttinger, while working on the pole line near Groveland for Charlie Joy, recognized the mares as the lead span on a stage coach and saw to it that the Keiths recovered their horses.

Mr. Keith served many years on the County Board of Education and was its president at the time of his death. He was recognized by his contemporaries as the local dean of education.

Another accomplishment that James Keith was very proud of was a correspondence course that he instituted when he returned to teaching. Those who desired could continue their education while in the work-a-day world. A number were able to graduate from high school by this means while they were employed. Among them, I recall three especially: Joe Serra who became manager of the local bank and after retirement was County Probation officer; Charles Schwoerer who served as County

Superintendent of Schools for thirty-two years; and Louise Oneto who served in the elementary schools of the county for many years.

Few if any have exerted a more profound influence on local education or upon the youth that studied under him than did James Keith. It would be remiss not to give a specific example of his generous attitude toward and his complete confidence in young people.

At the time of his return as principal of the school, the class of 1915 was sorely in need of help. Most of them had practically failed in the previous two years. The first day of school, one of the class approached him and stated his problem. It took a little while for Mr. Keith to answer, but when he did, he said, "I'm going to let you go on and if you do all right, I will forget the past."

This opened the door for the whole class. Four of the group became teachers. Two were graduates of the University of California and one a graduate of what is now San Francisco State University. One of the boys (Lester Nuland) after graduating from U. C., went to the Orient and became a worldwide authority on oil. Another, (Robert P. McConnell), who was attending U. C., enlisted in the Navy during World War I. He was one of the first in the history of the Navy to advance from enlisted status to admiral without attending the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Each and every one of that class gave a worthy account of him or herself in after life and fully justified the confidence placed in them by their new principal.

It seems fitting to close this biography by quoting in part from the report of the death of James Keith by one of the local newspapers.

"Mr. James Keith, Principal of the Calaveras Union High School, died very suddenly at his home in San Andreas last Sunday, April 16, about 9 o'clock in the evening... "Mr. Keith was for many years an honored member of the Masonic Order. He was a Past Master of Calaveras Lodge No. 78 of San Andreas; a Past High Priest of the Calaveras Chapter No. 83 Royal Arch Masons of San Andreas; a member of the Pacific Commandery of No. 3 Knights Templar of Sonora; Inspector of Calaveras Masonic District F. and A.M.; a member of the Order of High Priests R. A. M. of San Francisco.

"Mr. Keith was also a Life Member of the American Red Cross Society, and was the President of the Board of Education of Calaveras County at the time of his death.

"The long procession formed on Main Street; many school teachers of the county who closed schools were in the procession. Also the students and Alumni of the High School marched in a body, and friends and acquaintances followed on foot and in automobiles.

"Bret Harte High School of Angels Camp closed for the day and many from there were at the funeral, also many from Sonora, Stockton and other places, while every place in the county was represented, making it one of the largest funerals ever held here."

It is most fitting that the administration building for our new Calaveras Union High School will be named for James Keith, the first administrator.



**THE FIRST YEAR STUDENT BODY - 1905-06**

**Mr. Keith**

**Mr. Decker**

**Back Row: Laura Treat, Elsie Salcido, Edith Oneto, Nell Treat, Eda Segale, Lottie Hall,  
Laura Dasso, Hattie Dietz, Kate Bund, Amy Schwoerer.**

**Middle Row: Agnes Holland, Eva Hoye, Alma Haupt, Belle Ames, Violet Tyler, Fisk, Eunice  
Fischer, Fisk, Tessie Genochio, Eva Donovan.**

**Front Row: Willie Nelson (?), Clarence Leonard, Chester McCarty, John McFall, Frank La  
Riviere, Hertel Fugitt, Harry Terwilliger, Albert Dasso, Carlos Shinn, and Leland Leonard  
Edyth Zwinge, Edwin Steel and Nellie Muller are not present.**

## EARLY YEARS OF CALAVERAS HIGH

By Eva Genochio Soracco

After the turn of the century there were a growing number of young men and women in the county who had finished grammar school and were anxious to go on with their education.

The county school course had a ninth grade, and in some of the larger schools with two or more teachers, a few high school courses were taught. The burden of this extra expense was regarded as a strain on the public schools. Led by the influence of James Keith, it was clearly seen that a high school was needed. At an election in 1904, the proposition for secondary education was submitted to the people, and carried by a large majority of votes.

Later there was a question of the location of the school. Valley Springs, Murphys, Angels, and San Andreas wanted it. The matter was left up to the Board of Supervisors to decide. At a meeting on December 6, 1904, the board decided that the school should be situated in San Andreas.

The County did not want to undertake the construction of a school at that time, so the Masonic and Odd Fellows Building located on Main Street of San Andreas was rented for the school.

Meanwhile, Angels Camp, Carson Hill, Melones, and a few other small districts, withdrew from the County high school district, formed the Bret Harte High School District, and built a high school of their own in Angels Camp. Both schools opened the same year (1905).

The Calaveras High School opened with 32 in attendance, with eight more applications filed, and a large number by letter and word declared their intentions of attending. The opening day was on the first Tuesday of September, 1905. The enrollment of students was larger by 100 percent than was expected for the opening day.

The high school was under the direction and control of the County Board of Education. The Board fixed the course of study at two years, and provided that the students who completed the course should receive a certificate as to their credits in the work.

The general culture and scientific courses occupied the room on the second floor of the Lodge Building that was formerly used as the banquet room. The Commercial Department was on the ground floor located in the office of the Calaveras Citizen, a weekly newspaper published by Sam Lewis.

Both floors upstairs and downstairs were large and well suited to the purposes of the school. On account of the large attendance, the original desks were all occupied and tables had to be placed in the rooms to temporarily provide for the students. Another order was sent in for desks and, in a short time, all were provided for.

The people of the County were particularly fortunate in securing the services of such able instructors as Mr. James Keith, and Mr. R.W. Decker. Mr. Keith was well known to all in the County. Mr. Decker rated as one of the best in the state in commercial training, a position he had held in first class institutions of learning, giving him the recommendations to secure this important position pioneering a new high school in the little mining town of San Andreas.

The ambitious students not only conquered their classes and subjects, but soon organized to publish the first school journal. It was introduced as "The Skull", published and edited by the students of the Calaveras County High School.

In selecting the name of the school journal, and the design of the school pin, the students had in view the county's name, Calaveras, the Spanish word for skull. For the school colors, they chose red and gold, not only for the beautiful colors, but because red represented the bravery of our early pioneers, and gold the product of our county.

By the end of the year all had gone well. The students were pleased and had great confidence in their two instructors, and they were a credit to the county. Prospects for the coming year were favorable with several new students planning to attend. In the field of athletics the boys were thinking of organizing a baseball team, and then would issue and receive challenges.

The material in the school journal was very good, and every one was pleased and proud. The cover was solid red, with "The Skull" printed across the top with "C.C.H.S., 1906", in the center in gold lettering.

With the new journal they composed their school opening song, to the tune of Clementine.

### I

We've a High School  
County High School  
We always try to do the right  
We are handy  
Fine and dandy  
And we work with all our might.

### Chorus

C.C.H.S. C.C.H.S.  
We will get there if we try  
We are willing  
We are bold  
For our colors red and gold.

### II

We have gathered  
Now my classmates  
To join in our opening song  
About our High School  
Precious High School  
And we hope it will last long.

### Chorus

### III

We've two teachers  
Dandy teachers  
And they are so very kind  
We will work  
And never shirk  
Leave all others for behind  
Chorus

## THE NEXT FEW YEARS

1906-1907

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith (Principal); Mr. R.W. Decker.  
The second year of the school, with 39 students, saw steady progress. The students printed the second issue of "The Skull." This year they had an advertising department, as the businessmen of the County were beginning to take an active interest in the school and wanted to help its progress by placing advertisements in "The Skull."

The students also made their first attempt at debating. Chester Nuland, Hazel Rigney, and Maud Nuland were chosen. The team settled earnestly to work, but only participated in one debate, with their neighbor, Bret Harte High. The hope was expressed that the school would continue on in years ahead for series of annual debates.

Due to the small size of the school, the students had not taken a prominent part in athletics. They realized it would take some years before they could hope to do anything on the track, or in football, but an effort was made for baseball. At the beginning of the spring term, a baseball team was organized with Ed Leonard as



THE SECOND YEAR - 1906-07

Back Row: Leland Leonard, Unident., Kate Bund, Elsie Salcido, Sadie Bund, Unident.,  
Louis Genochio.

Second Row: Adelita Agostini, Fisk, Unident., Tessie Genochio, Edith Oneto, Eva Donovan,  
Norma Cassinelli, Amy Schwoerer, Belle Ames.

Third Row: Mr. Perrier, Maud Nuland, Laura (?) Treat, Hazel Rigney, Eunice Fischer,  
Laura Dasso (?), Elvira Zimmerman, Mr. Decker

Front Row: Unident., Chester Nuland, Harry Terwilliger, Ed Leonard, Unident., Wallace  
Armstrong

captain. At the time, it was the object of the team to play several match games. This hope had to be abandoned as the ball diamond was a mile and a half from the school. (This diamond was the old race track, located at the edge of town on the Calaveritas road. In later years some games were also played on Dasso Hill, which is now the Hillmont subdivision), and so it was difficult to get the boys together to practice. Through the efforts of the captain, the team was held together, and some practice was accomplished. They played one game with Ione High School on April 27th. Calaveras lost, but they were far from discouraged by the results of the game, for it awakened a new interest in the team, and a determined desire to gain back their losses next year.

The girls had taken considerable interest in basketball. Through the aid of Mr. Decker, they obtained the use of Coulter's Flat adjoining the Popular Grove Hotel.\*

A court was laid out and backstops were erected. Most of the girls came out to practice, and under Mr. Decker's coaching, some very promising players were discovered. The girls had hopes for a game on April 27, but heavy March rains prevented all practice. Under such circumstances it was decided to postpone any challenges until the following year. The team would be better organized and have more practice by that time. Also, a board fence had to be built on the edge of Coulter's Flat to prevent the ball from constantly rolling down into San Andreas Creek.

#### 1907 - 1908

The Faculty: Mr. C. R. Perrier, Principal; Mr. Decker, Assistant; Mr. Enos Higginbotham, Mr. Coxe.

The third year of the school the enrollment dropped. The gold mines were hiring men, and some of the young men who would have gone to school, went instead to work in the mines, as their families needed their help at home. Other students who wanted to go to school had no means of transportation, and some that did attend had to walk several miles.

Mr. Enos Higginbotham, principal of the grammar school taught one high school class from 3:30 to 4:10 every afternoon.

It was during this time that the course of study was changed to four years, and the real academic character of the school was established. The diploma of graduation entitled the holder to enter the University of California.

April 25th was a red-letter day for Calaveras High, as Tuolumne High School's basketball and baseball teams had agreed to come to San Andreas and play a match game with their school. There was so much enthusiasm over the game that it spread throughout town, and all wanted to help to make the event a great success. Main Street was alive with banners, and brilliant colors, the Red and Gold of Calaveras, mingled with the Green and Gold of Tuolumne.

The affair began the night before the games, when the Calaveras boys, in stage coaches, surreys, and rigs were sent to Angels to meet the Tuolumne visitors at the Sierra Railway Station. All went well except when driver Harry Terwilliger in all

\*D & A Auto Repair and the San Andreas Welding Shop are now on this location.

the excitement collided with the Angels Stage Coach and lost a wheel. But he managed to be the first to arrive back in San Andreas.

The Tuolumne players, twenty-five in number, were headed by Professor Inch and wife. They were greeted at the High School by the students, and were given a reception at the school.

The next day the town showed signs of increasing life, and by noon the quiet little town was alive with strangers waving gay banners of the schools. The strong school spirit had reached the borders of the County, and all wanted to participate.

At 1:30, a large crowd assembled on Coulter's Flat for the first event of the day. Every foot of space was occupied. The San Andreas Band played some excellent music. There was plenty of color among the crowd as most everyone wore those of the respective high schools.

After much applause and cheering, the two teams came forward; first, the Tuolumne girls lined up their team. They were: forwards - Iva Perry and Mabel Gerer; Center - Louise Stanley and Nell Shine; and guards - Idella Bach and Irene Kahl. Members of the Calaveras team were: forwards - Hazel Rigney and Ruby Cain; center - Gertrude Bund and Ruby Ames; guards - Elva Luddy and Iva Fischer.

When the whistle blew the team lined up for the battle. It was a fast and exciting game. They presented a livelier scene on Coulter's Flat than the people of San Andreas had ever seen.

At the end of the game the score was 19 to 9 in favor of Tuolumne, but none the less the Calaveras coach, Mr. Coxe, was very proud of his team. There was evidence that with a little more practice, they would enjoy some victories, and all were looking forward to a return game with Tuolumne.

As soon as the basketball game was over, there was a rush to the baseball diamond. Carriages were provided to take the visitors to the Race Track where the game was to take place. Louis Genochio handled the reins on the four-horse stage coach very well, and made several trips carrying spectators to the game. (Some of the Tuolumne girls flattered him by saying he was an expert driver.) the field was as closely packed with interested fans as had been the basketball game on Coulter's Flat.

The lineup of players for the game were, Tuolumne: Conde, Miller, Morse, Shine, Sandoval, Tibbits, Doyle, Cassel, Gibbens and Calaveras: F. La Riviere, Shinn, Steel, Z. La Riviere, O. Zwinge, Terwilliger, A. Leonard, H. Zwinge, C. Leonard.

The Tuolumne team was a veteran high school team, with a lot of practice, while the local team was made up of boys that could be gathered around town in short notice with very few players actually from the high school. And some of these had played very little before. It was Shinn's second game as a catcher, the same with Leonard as a pitcher, and H. Zwinge as right field had never played in a regular game, and none had played together as a team before.

It was an exciting game, one of the best ever seen on the local diamond. At the close of the game the score was 13 to 4 in favor of Calaveras. Calaveras High School did not take credit for the victory, but were proud that they had helped with the excitement and amusement of the day.



**GIRLS PLAYING BASKETBALL AT COULTER'S FLAT - 1908**

The event was climaxed with a home town talent vaudeville show at the Metropolitan Hall, followed by a dance that reached into the early hours of the morning, enjoyed and appreciated by all.

On May 30th, the girls' basketball team went to Tuolumne to play a return game. The game was played in the pavilion of the school, and the Calaveras girls expected to be at a disadvantage, as it was their first time to play on a floor and under lights, but were surprised to find that they could play a much faster game indoors, and that the lights did not bother them.

Tuolumne was the first to score, but at the end of the first half, the score was 8 to 7 in favor of Calaveras. This gave the girls all the confidence they needed, and they played a fast second half, ending with a score of 15 to 8 in favor of Calaveras.

Although nothing had been done in boys athletics owing to the small attendance of boys, the girls were very proud, for they had made it a big year for the school. This was the first athletic victory for Calaveras High.

**1908 - 1909**

The Faculty: Mr. Curtis Locklin, principal; Mrs. McKinley; Mr. Enos Higginbotham.

The fourth year the school opened on August 24th with an attendance of 9 boys and 13 girls, but before midterm, it had increased to 29.

With so much change in the faculty, there was at first some criticism of the lack of experience on the part of the teachers. The students and parents, however, were pleasantly surprised to find

that the commercial teacher could handle any high school subject besides either system of stenography, while the principal could not only do likewise, but was a competent engineer, both mining and civil. Both teachers worked in great harmony with the students.

This year the upstairs was no longer used, as the main floor was divided into two parts, one room being the academic and the other the commercial.

The Freshman class outnumbered the rest of the school, therefore, very little was done in social affairs or athletics. However, they had an excellent journal, with very interesting material including the history of local industries, and resources of Calaveras County.

**OUR FIRST GRADUATE**

**1909 - 1910**

The Faculty: Mr. Barth, principal; Miss Burk.

The fifth year of the school's existence had an enrollment of only 18 students, but it was a year of hard work, filled with pleasure, unity and harmony among students and teachers.

During the term there were a number of debates by the literary society, building a team to be able to challenge other schools in the future. Athletic affairs did not receive much attention due to the small attendance.

The close of the school year was marked by a most important





**THE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM - 1908**

event, the first commencement exercises. The school was very proud of their first academic graduate. Her record as a student for four years was excellent, and "The Skull" was dedicated to her, "Maud Elizabeth Nuland, the first graduate of the Calaveras County High School."

The graduating exercises were held Friday, June 25th, in the Superior Courtroom of the old Courthouse. Professor R. S. Halway of the University at Berkeley delivered the address, and an interesting program of exercises was given by the school. A great many townspeople attended to show their appreciation of the high school, and to greet the first graduate.

1910 - 1911

The Faculty: Mr. Barth, principal; Miss Keeler; Miss Coman; Mrs. J. Porter (music).

The sixth year, the commercial room was divided, thus making three rooms in the school. The library was increased, and a music department was added which was greatly appreciated by the students. Mrs. Porter, from Angels, came every Friday, and the students looked forward to their music lessons. No students were graduated in 1911.

Through the efforts of Principal Barth, the Metropolitan Hotel, the Poplar Grove Hotel, and some private residences agreed to



**MAUD ELIZABETH NULAND**  
First Graduate of Calaveras High School - 1910

board high school students. Those living in outlying towns were placed in proper boarding quarters through his help. This increased the enrollment to 52, far better than the previous year of only 18 students. With this increase the students showed more school spirit, and more interest was taken in baseball, girls' basketball, and "Captain Ball"

#### OUR SECOND GRADUATING CLASS

1911 - 1912

The Faculty: Mr. Barth, principal; Mr. Keep; Miss Grubb; Miss Keeler; Miss Coman; Mrs. Porter (music).

Graduating Class:

John Biasch	Lucie Joses
Joseph Huberty	Reginald Nanscawen
Martin Huberty	

1912 marked the seventh year of the school, now larger and much better equipped, with the faculty increased to five teachers, including the music teacher. The commercial class was moved to the lower room, which now made four rooms for the school. The students continued on with good work in studies, in athletics, debating, social and literary work.

The commencement exercises took place on June 22nd in the old town hall, next to the Metropolitan Hotel.\* All subsequent classes graduated there until 1925, and the last two classes, 1926 and 1927 graduated in the present Town Hall.

This was the second graduating class, and Calaveras High School has had a graduating class ever since.

1912 - 1913

The Faculty: Mr. Barth, principal; Mrs. Olive Grubb; Miss Margaret MacCormac; Mr. Fred Pribble; Mrs. Porter.

Graduating Class:

Edna Dickhaut	Gordon Keith
George Dietz	John Squellatti
Annie Grenitta	Earl Wesson

This year on account of the lack of material, the boys could not organize a good baseball team, so their first basketball team was introduced. The team lineup was:

Wesson - left guard	Warrington - left guard
Squellati - right guard	Nuner - right guard
Cuslidge - center	Dietz - left guard

Every year the athletic spirit of the Calaveras girls increased, especially toward basketball, and during the latter part of last year, a girls' tennis club was organized.

#### MR. KEITH RETURNS

1913 - 1914

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Leta Potter; Miss Mary Hamilton; Mr. Fred Pribble.

\*Now just west of the location of the San Andreas theater. The old Town Hall was burned in 1926.

#### Graduating Class:

Elba Ames	Glover Nuner
Mae Danielson	Rita Stewart
Violet Folsom	Myrtle Walters

This year the students were very happy to welcome back the first principal of Calaveras County High School, Mr. James Keith.

Since the University of California had adopted correspondence courses, the Board of Education of Calaveras, at Mr. Keith's suggestion, saw fit to enroll in the high school a system of correspondence work similar to that of the University. This was a great advantage for students who lived too far away to attend school. These students, through the correspondence courses, were brought in close contact with the work of the school. Twenty-four students were enrolled, and good results were accomplished.

#### THE YEARS OF WORLD WAR I

1914 - 1915

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Marion Jones; Miss Ethel Durst; Mr. Fred Pribble.

Graduating Class:

John Huberty	Bernice Pfortner
Walter Huberty	Ruth Poe
Esther Joses	Rowena Snyder
Robert McConnell	Leslie Stewart
Lester Nuland	Carrie (Lewis) Trimble
Alzoe Pfortner	

1915 - 1916

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Marion Jones; Miss Ethel Durst; Mr. Fred Pribble.

Graduating Class:

Evelyn Coulter	Doris Treat
George Graves	Hattie Turner
Earl Halley	

This year there were 54 students in the school, 37 girls, and 17 boys, a larger attendance than in any preceding year.

By an act of the California Legislature in August, 1915, all county high schools were designated as Union High Schools, thus Calaveras County High School became Calaveras Union High School.

1916 - 1917

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Marion Jones; Miss Ethel Durst; Mr. Fred Pribble.

Graduating Class:

Millard Dean	Flora McDonald
Madeline Donnallan	Harold McCombie
Rachel Genochio	Marjorie Stephens
Irene Lowry	

During World War I, and a few years after, times were difficult, therefore "The Skull" was not published in the years 1917, 1918, 1919, and 1920.

1917 - 1918

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Marion Jones; Miss Ethel Durst; Mr. Fred Pribble.



**STUDENT BODY OF 1911-12**

**Boys, lower left, l to r: John Biasch, Norman Haupt, Lester Nuland, Leslie Stewart (front), Walter Huberty, and Clyde Getchell**

**Girls, lower row: Carrie Lewis, Myrtle Walters, Violet Huberty, Bessie Winkler, Mae Danielson, Rita Stewart**

**Girls, half row above: Bernice Pfortner, Florence Agostini, Zela Cademartori, Ruth Poe, Esther Joses, Alzoe Pfortner**

**Girls next half row above: Annie Grenitta, Rowena Snyder, Eva Rathgeb, Ethel Harris, Essie Donnallan, Marian Dickhaut, Tessie Rathgeb.**

**Girls next to top row: Lucie Joses, Elba Ames, Edna Dickhaut, Ora Schwoerer, Miss Grubb, Miss Coman, Miss Keeler**

**Boys, back row: Bob McConnell, Mr. Barth, John Squellati, Carl Weber, Glover Nuner, Gordon Keith, Martin Huberty, George Dietz, Erle Wesson, Robert Fischer, Reginald Nanscawen, Clarence Warrington, Joseph Huberty.**

**Graduating Class:**

Ralph Danielson  
Norma De Martini  
Bernice Messenger  
Marion Messenger  
Claire Oneto

Dante Oneto  
Katherine Oneto  
Edna Schall  
Louise Terry

**Graduating Class:**

Flora Bund  
Margaret Evans  
Josephine Genochio  
Ethel McCombie

Dorinda Serra  
Joseph Serra  
Ralph Treat  
William Turner

1919 - 1920

**POST-WAR YEARS**

1918 - 1919

**The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Marion Jones; Miss Ethel Crum; Mr. F. Hargrove.**

**The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Gladys Lemon; Miss Amber Vestel; Mr. Irvin B. Davies**

**Graduating Class:**

Wayne King                      William Wells                      Minnie McSorley



**JUNIORS AND SENIORS - 1921-22**

**Back row:** Mr. Keith, Mr. Goff, James Waters, L. H. Getchell (P.G.), Paul Loeffler, Carl Ward, Gerlad Turner, Karl Loeffler, Harold Messenger, Emmett Joy, Howard Joses, Lorin Wells, Louis DeMartini, Owen Barton, James Ward, Mrs. Airola, Mrs. McFall  
**Front Row:** Marvin Waters, Eva Genochio, Ethelda Filippini, Loretta Winkler, Marjorie Waters, Evelyn Cosgrave, Florence McFall, Frances Sowden, Lois Joses, Rose Roberts, Blanche Gouzenne, Leona Vogelsang, Percy McCombie

During these years, basketball was played first in the old Carriage House, opposite the livery stable on Main Street just below the Metropolitan Hotel, then in the old Town Hall. Outside sports were still played on Coulter's Flat.

1920 - 1921

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal; Miss Lela Lenfest; Mrs. J. Crofts; Mr. Roy B. Jacka.

Graduating Class:

Cornelia Cavagnaro  
 Charles Filippini

Harold Getchell  
 Ramona Raggio

Funds in the student body were still small, and cost of material and printing amounted to more than the students could acquire. Therefore, "The Skull" could not be published. But after consulting the faculty, the students decided that the commercial department should typewrite "The Skull", thus saving all expenses of printing, and make possible its publication. It was hard work and difficult, but showed the determination of the students.

**WE LOSE MR. KEITH**

1921 - 1922

The Faculty: Mr. James Keith, principal (September to April); Mr. F. Goff, principal (April to June); Mrs. G. Airola; Miss Marguerite Carver; Mr. M. Brickley.

Graduating Class:

Louis De Martini  
 Blanche Gouzenne  
 Howard Joses  
 Emmett Joy  
 Paul Loeffler

Percy McCombie  
 Florence McFall  
 Rose Roberts  
 Leona Vogelsang  
 Lorin Wells

This year the students of Calaveras High School were deeply saddened by the sudden loss of their beloved friend and teacher, Mr. James Keith.

1922 - 1923

The Faculty: Mr. F. Goff, principal; Mrs. G. Airola; Miss Marguerite Carver; Mr. M. Brickley.

Graduating Class:

Owen Barton  
 Ethelda Filippini  
 Eva Genochio  
 Lois Joses  
 Karl Loeffler  
 Harold Messenger  
 Frances Sowden

Gerald Turner  
 Carl Ward  
 James Ward  
 Marjorie Waters  
 Marvin Waters  
 Loretta Winkler

As the automobile traffic increased each year, the noise interfered more and more with both students and teachers. In the early years of the school, the horse-drawn carriages and slow-moving freight wagon traveling up the steep rough China Street

hill, did not create such a noise problem, but the swift cars and heavy trucks with open mufflers made it so difficult that all were in hopes for a new school on a quiet location.

### THE WEST POINT BRANCH

1923 - 1924

The Faculty: Mr. F. Goff, principal; Mrs. M. McFall; Mr. M. Brinckley; Mr. Edwards; Miss Gibbs; Mrs. McKay, Miss Anderson (West Point branch).

Graduating Class:

Ernest Bacigalupi	Horace McCombie
James Casey	Elizabeth McFall
John Cavagnaro	Viola Nuner
Fred Cuneo	Joseph Silvera
Francis Dragomanovich	Agnes Snyder
Lloyd Graves	Carrie Tillman
Clara Guttinger	Irene Zwinge
Lillian Jasper	

This year there was a marked improvement in the school. Three new busses began transporting students from Mokelumne Hill, Paloma, and Comanche, carrying nearly two-thirds of the students. The largest class in the history of the school entered in the Fall of 1923, swelling the daily attendance to 75.

A branch High School was established at West Point, as the distance between there and San Andreas was too great to provide transportation. This increased the faculty to six teachers, five in San Andreas, and one in West Point.

1924 - 1925

The Faculty: Mr. F. Goff, principal; Mr. Fogg; Miss McKay; Mrs. G. Airola; Miss Anderson; Mr. Bennett (West Point branch).

Graduating Class:

Mae DeMartini	Veda Queirola
Charles Giannini	Elizabeth Thompson
Gustav Hawver	Genevieve Thompson
Doris Joy	

1925 - 1926

The Faculty: Mr. Charles Gastineau, principal; Mr. Charles Fogg; Mrs. G. Airola; Mrs. M. McFall; Mr. C. Hinchey; Mrs. A. Bunstead (West Point branch).

Graduating Class:

Catherine Brennan	William Charlton
Alex Casey	Norma Cuslidge
John Cavagnaro	Ellis Dragomanovich
Madeline Cavagnaro	Louise Giannini

Madeline Jack	Louise Robier
John Kent	Alfred Ryno
Edna Lyons	Veda Schrack
Louise Podesta	Velda Schrack
Clarence Robier	Vincent Tiscornia

This was the largest class to graduate from the old Calaveras Union High School.

### THE LAST YEAR AT THE LODGE

1926 - 1927

The Faculty: Mr. Charles Gastineau, principal; Mrs. M. McFall; Mrs. G. Airola; Mr. V. Husband; Mr. J. Smith

Graduating Class:

Will Casey	Margaret Pettengill
Louise Cuneo	Marjory Seeman
Basil Esmond	Ethel Sharp
Doris Lombardi	Norma Trabucco
Cord Moller	Helen Turner

With the increase in the enrollment of students, and the heavier traffic noise, this class of 1927 became the last to graduate from the old high school, as the Calaveras Union High School District answered the call for a new school.

Early in 1928, the students of Calaveras were welcomed into a new and beautiful high school located on a large and quiet hillside near the old Joss House.

The old school closed with success and pride. One of the original students, Hattie Dietz (Hertzig) many years before had expressed the feeling of those happy days in the Lodge Building in a poem in "The Skull" (with apologies to Elizabeth Akers Allen):

#### Blessed Old High

Backward turn backward oh time in your flight.  
 Make me a High School girl just for tonight.  
 Let me again, as in days that are past.  
 (Oh that those days might fore'er and e'er last).  
 Study the lessons we always hold dear.  
 History, Ivanhoe, and with good cheer.  
 Study the Classics, Myths without a sigh.  
 Long may you stand, dear school, Blessed Old High.

#### Back Issues

A list of our back issues is available for the asking. Out of print issues will be supplied as "xerox" copies. Price to members is 60 cents a copy, and a discount is given for orders over \$10.

## Officers Of Calaveras County Historical Society

President	Miss Bessie McGinnis, Angels Camp
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### LAS CALAVERAS

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The Calaveras County Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Grange Hall in San Andreas-except for dinner meetings which are held each quarter at different places in the county.

### IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Earnest W. Cleary

### CORRECTION

In our January issue (1976), author Bishop didn't get the reference to Mr. C. W. Thompson quite correct. We have received a letter from his grand-daughter, Naomi Dick, setting the record straight, in which she says:

"On page 15, it states that Field purchased the ranch from C. W. Thompson in 1870 . . . It was he who purchased the property from Fields about 1890 and moved there with his family from Lodi where he had been farming.

"The article further states that in 1876 the farm house burned down and was rebuilt by Field who lived there for the next 13 years. It was then that it was purchased by my grandfather who farmed there until early 1920's when he sold to a party by name of Christensen and retired to live in Lockeford."



### CAMP NINE ENGINEERING STAFF

Mr. Fred Leighton called our attention to an error in the April-July issue, 1975, on page 33, where we incorrectly identified Chief Engineer Carpenter. In the above picture he is at the extreme right.

### NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Atkins, Arnold  
 G. Bever, Stockton  
 Mrs. Faith Biggerstaff, San Andreas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Binger, Arnold  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joel Burns, Benicia  
 Mr. J. L. Coffey, San Andreas  
 Mrs. William Comer, Arnold  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Filippini, San Andreas  
 Mrs. Ruth Gardner, Mokelumne Hill  
 Mrs. Walter V. Hill, West Point  
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 Mrs. Josephine Hynes, Napa  
 Mr. John James, San Andreas  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Kirkpatrick, Murphys  
 Mr. & Mrs. John A. McAdam, San Andreas  
 Mrs. Barbara M. McKee, Oakland  
 Mr. Lane Rader, San Andreas (Junior member)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Ross, Stockton  
 Mrs. W. C. Skinner, Idaho Falls, Idaho  
 Mr. David Strange, San Rafael

### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

APRIL 22nd - Dinner Meeting at Copello's, Altaville. Architectural awards and film, "Patrick Henry"

MAY 28th - Joint meeting with Tuolumne Society at the Memorial Hall, Sonora (across from Court House).. California painters.

JUNE 24th - Grange Hall, San Andreas, Judge Smith Family

JULY 22nd - Annual meeting. Tentatively at Michelson School, in Murphys. Fifes & Drums of Calaveras.