

BETHEL/CRUSO SCHOOLS TIMELINE

1800 – 1824

- **Dame Schools**
Schools taught by women, usually widows, in their homes
- **Apprentice Schools**
Usually reserved for poor, orphaned, or indentured servants' children who would learn the three R's as well as one of forty trades (precursor to modern vocational training)
- **Travelling Pedagogues**
Traveling teachers who came to the student's home catered to wealthier families.

1812 – 1818

- **Public Education**
Senator Archibald D. Murphy of Caswell County attempted to establish a system for organizing public schools in North Carolina.

1825 - 1986

- **Subscription Schools (also known as “Pay Schools” or “Old Field Schools”)**
Required payment from the family or donor to the teacher or educational institution for services/salaries
Subscription schools were frequently housed in church/school combination log buildings, with the minister serving as both preacher to the congregation and teacher to the students. Some subscription schools existed in structures specifically designed to be a school only.
*Boarding schools that came into existence in Bethel the 1930s and ceased in 1986 and that required private payment are included under subscription schools.

1825

- **First Subscription School in Bethel**
Name unknown - was established in a log structure on property off Highway #276 that is currently owned by Zac and Haley Guy.

1834

- **Second Subscription School in Bethel**
Name unknown - shared a log facility with Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (Bethel Presbyterian Church after 1837) on the east side of today's Bethel Middle School gymnasium.
There is no information as to how long this school endured or whether it merged to become a part of the nearby free public-school program or else with Bethel Academy, which was a subscription school until 1888.

1835

- **Bethel Community**
Formed in the area surrounding the junction of the East and West Forks of the Pigeon River

1835-1941

- **Free Schools**

Funded by charitable or church groups

They were available for those families who could not afford subscription schools.

Free schools typically existed in alternating periods at the same locations as subscription schools.

Some free schools existed in structures specifically designed to be a school only or a church only.

Inman Chapel and its Friendly House programs provided free school programs at various age levels to all groups.

1838 (Some sources list this date as 1835)

- **The first free public school in Bethel**

Name unknown - was built as a frame building on the approximate site of the current Bethel Middle School on land donated by Elijah Deaver to Commissioners Joseph Cathey, Elijah Deaver, Jr., and Ninian Edmonston.

The building replaced two log combination church and school structures (possibly the nearby Ebenezer Presbyterian Church log building located near today's Bethel Middle School gymnasium).

Jonathan Plott was the first teacher.

The Federal Calculator, a book of theoretical and practical mathematics, was the first book used at a free public school in Bethel.

Information is lacking as to the longevity and merge status of this school.

1839

- **Haywood County**

Voted to endorse public financed "free schools" of two four-month terms.

1840

- **Literary Fund**

Archibald Murphey was a state senator who is listed as the "Father of Education" in North Carolina. The state legislature implemented the Literary Fund, Murphey's plan for public schools, which was to be established and supported by federal tax funds filtered to the state and then to the counties so that each community would have a primary school, and a group of communities together would have a high school.

The Literary Fund was the primary thrust for initiating the comprehensive concept of public schools in North Carolina.

PRE-CIVIL WAR ERA

- **Bethel Academy (Subscription School)**

A non-church related sectarian school known as "Bethel Academy" existed, though dates and location are unknown.

CIVIL WAR ERA

- **Free Public Education**

Free public schools in the county were lacking, and most schools closed.

POST CIVIL WAR ERA

- **Free Public Education**

Little progress occurred in rural free public education in Haywood County or NC, though both free and free alternating with subscription schools continued to exist.

1866

- **Bethel Academy (Subscription School)**

According to W. Clark Medford's *Haywood's Heritage and Finest Hour*, Bethel Academy was established officially. While historical documentation refers to a previous "Bethel Academy," the references do not indicate when the previous Bethel Academy began or where it was located.

- **Henson Cove (Subscription School)**

Name and location unknown

See the 1888 date in this timeline; these could be the same school with documentation listing different dates.

If so, this school may be the school that eventually became Spring Hill School.

Existed under the tutelage of J.M. Mease

- **Cruso (Subscription School) (1 – another later unrelated school is named "Cruso 2")**

Name and location unknown; dates of operation unknown

Existed under the tutelage of Sallie Anderson.

1867

- **Chinquapin Grove School (Subscription/Alternating Free School)**

Established on Sherrill Lane near today's Norman Long property

The first teacher was William H. Hargrove.

The school served at various times as a school, a church, a post office, and a home.

Chinquapin Grove School existed until an unknown date.

A photo dated "1902" in *Haywood County Schoolin'* includes a picture of Chinquapin Grove students, though it incorrectly implies that Mountain Grove and Chinquapin Grove are the same school.

The school structure continues to exist in a restored state in a nearby location to the site of the original building.

Norman Long received the Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation from Bethel Rural Community Organization in 2015 for his role in restoring the school.

- **Panther Branch School (Subscription School)**

Opened in the Little East Fork area of Cecil and shared its facility with a church (Friendship Baptist Church).

Some historical references list the construction date as 1870s rather than 1867.

Panther Branch School existed until the 1880s, though documentation of its date of closure is uncertain.

No documentation exists to confirm which school these students attended after the school closed.

1868

- **North Carolina Constitution**

Guaranteed the right to the privilege of education for all children and confirmed that it was the state's duty to guard and maintain that right.

NC created a State Board to supervise and administer the state's free public school system.

1870s

- **Mountain Grove School (Subscription/Free School - Unknown)**

Existed in a two-story log structure on Love Joy Road. The school moved from another site on Love Joy Road and has been restored as the home of John and Phyllis Gaddis.

The teacher lived on the second floor.

The log structure served as a school until approximately 1893 when Bethel Academy began accepting Mountain Grove students.

A photo dated "1902" in *Haywood County Schoolin'* includes a picture of Mountain Grove students, though it incorrectly implies that Chinquapin Grove and Mountain Grove are the same school.

1874

- **Shut-In-Ridge School (Subscription School)**

The school began as a log structure and later shared premises with East Fork Baptist Church until 1895.

Pigeon Valley book has a drawing of Shut-In-Ridge log structure that is dated 1874-1900.

Location of the church/school was on today's Highway #276 on the right approximately a mile south of today's East Fork Baptist Church and Cruso Community Center; it was situated just before rounding the deep curve known locally as "dead man's curve." The curve is just prior to the Living Church of Jesus Christ. The hill behind the Living Church of Jesus Christ is known as Shut-In-Ridge – hence the name for the school.

In 1895, the church built a larger nearby white clapboard building.

There is no notation as to whether or how long the school continued in the log structure (though the affixed date on the *Pigeon Valley* drawing indicates that the structure was there until 1900).

No documentation exists to confirm which school these students attended after the school closed, though it is likely they entered the nearby Crabapple School that was later known as "Cruso School."

1876-1880

- **Bethel Academy (Subscription School)**

Attendance dwindled.

1879

- **Piney Grove School (Public School)**

Operated from 1879 until 1915 in the same building as Piney Grove United Methodist Church and was located where a newer church is situated today in Samey Cove. Captain William H. Hargrove was overseer of the construction of the church/school log structure.

William H. Hargrove was the school's first teacher.

Piney Grove eventually merged with students from the northern portion of **Spring Hill School** district in Henson Cove to form **Garden Creek School** in 1916.

When Garden Creek School opened, students from Piney Grove had to cross the Pigeon River via a wooden boat or, later, a swinging bridge.

1880s (Cruso Community Club lists the date as 1890)

- **Crabapple School (later called Cruso School 2) (Subscription/Free School - Unknown)**

Built between today's Cruso Fire Department and Cruso Community Center

The "crabapple" name came from the fact that a crabapple tree grew nearby.

The building was a wooden frame structure.

The school, according to some historical texts, served first through seventh graders.

After seventh grade, students attend **Bethel Academy** until the early 1920s; they attended **Bethel School** after the academy ceased.

Crabapple/Cruso School, according to a photo in *Haywood County Schoolin'* ceased in October 1928 when students attended the new Cruso rock school.

Mountain Gables, by Duane Oliver, indicates, however, that the rock Cruso building did not exist until 1935.

- **Henson Cove School (precursor to Spring Hill School) – Name Unknown) (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**

Began in a log building that was built for a school and was later the founding location of Spring Hill Baptist Church.

Haywood County Schoolin' lists the date of construction of the first log building as perhaps prior to 1888. (this could be the school documented as opening in 1866 in an earlier part of this timeline).

A second log building replaced the first log structure and continued as a school.

Location was perhaps the same location as the 1904 log structure that came to be called "**Spring Hill School**" that is near today's Spring Hill Baptist Church fellowship hall.

The school was a one room building.

The school was an ungraded school, with students accelerating at their own pace.

The official founding date of Spring Hill School was 1904 (some sources list 1908).

- **Old Center School (Public School)**

The first public school in Cruso

The school was located approximately one mile downriver from the current East Fork Baptist Church in the High Valley Camp area of Springdale where Springdale Country Club is today.

The school was a one teacher school.

By the early 1900s, the school moved a mile and a half downriver to become **Walnut Grove School** (located near today's Maple Grove Baptist Church).

- **Dix Creek School (Subscription/Free School - Unknown)**

Constructed on the site of today's Mount Zion Baptist Church in the late 1880s
Some sources indicate that the school was a one room, one teacher school in the beginning.

Pansy Blalock in her "Notebook" recalls the school as a two-room building with grades 1-3 in the small room and grades 4-7 in the larger room.

Dix Creek School was in the center of the baseball field, but there were no windows to break.

Students at Dix Creek attended through seventh grade.

By 1921, students beyond seventh grade attended Bethel High School.

After 1934, Dix Creek School consolidated with Bethel School.

- **Panther Branch School (Subscription School)**

Closed

1881

- **Haywood County's First Superintendent of Public Schools**

R.A. Sentelle of Bethel served as Superintendent from 1881-1891 and from 1901-1921.

The Superintendent's job included visiting each school in the county, conducting teacher examinations, and initiating a Teacher's Institute (training program for teachers).

- **Ivy Hill School (Subscription/Free School - Unknown)**

Opened on the site of today's Riverside Baptist Church Cemetery on Inman Branch Road in Cecil Community on land donated by Thomas Edmundston

The school was not a graded school, with students accelerating at their own pace.

During the summer, Ivy Hill conducted a writing school and a singing school.

Ivy Hill closed in 1928, after which students briefly attend **Bethel School** until **Cecil School** included Ivy Hill students, beginning with the January 1930 school term.

1886

- **Hickory Grove Academy (Subscription School)**

Opened near a site known as "the Cathey Place," which was adjacent to Gwynn Farm and Sherrill Farm off today's Sherrill Lane, overlooking today's Lenoir's Creek Farm.

Dates and location for this school differ according to the history book consulted.

Various dates of opening according to various historical sources include 1850, 1866, or 1886.

The term "academy" meant that the school met outlined requirements and was chartered by the N.C. General Assembly.

The Reverend R.A. Sentelle, first Superintendent of Haywood County Public Schools, first attended school under teacher D.B. Nelson; Sentelle said that the experience was the turning point in his life (*Haywood County Schoolin'*).

Other documentation by Kathy Ross in "The Mountaineer" indicates that Sentelle attended school at the Henson Cove school rather than at Hickory Grove Academy. (September 15, 2022).

No documentation exists to confirm the date this school closed.

No documentation exists to confirm which school these students attended after the school closed.

1888

- **Bethel Academy (Becomes a Free School)**

Stumbled as a result of a conflict between the school and the community

Bethel Methodist Conference accepted a gift of two acres from the W.J. Moore family to build a new building to house Bethel Academy.

The new school would be a free school rather than the subscription school it had been previously.

A three-story building was designed to house Bethel Academy on the site of today's recent Masonic Lodge property on Birdsong Trail.

There is lack of clarity in documentation as to whether the school was opened in 1888.

1889

- **Bethel Academy (Free School)**

Control and ownership of the school was in the hands of Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches.

There is lack of clarity as to whether the school was open to students in 1888-1889 since new ownership appears to have required a state of planning for a new building.

The new board of Bethel Academy built a new building.

The first floor was for classrooms; the second floor housed the auditorium that was used primarily by the debate society; the Masonic Lodge occupied the third floor.

The new school opened and burned to the ground that evening.

1890

- **Bethel Academy (Free School)**

The school was rebuilt in the same location as the 1889 demolished structure and opened in 1890.

The school operated as a non-graded school, with students accelerating at their own pace.

Bethel Academy was ranked the best school in Haywood County and excelled in academics.

Bethel Academy was known for its music instruction and housed a "singing school."

Bethel Academy's "Crawford Literary Society" oversaw outstanding debate teams.

1893

- **Bethel Academy Association (BAA)**

Formed and included representatives from the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches

BAA paid off all indebtedness of the school.

- **Mountain Grove School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**

Closed

A photo in Haywood County Schoolin,' however, has a photo of the school dated 1902, but it appears to have incorrectly assumed that Mountain Grove and Chinquapin Grove were the same school, so it may have been Chinquapin Grove students in the 1902 photo. Students attended Bethel Academy after Mountain Grove School closed.

1900s

- **Walnut Grove School (Free School) - Formerly Called “Old Center School”**
Was located in Cruso as Old Center School but moved one and a half miles downstream from Springdale and changed its name
The new location was near today’s Maple Grove Baptist Church.
The school was a graded school that included six grades.
Though unable to be confirmed, the assumption is that after sixth grade, students attended the **Crabapple/Cruso School** through seventh grade.
Walnut Grove School existed until the 1920s.
Haywood County Schoolin’ includes details about the school in 1923.

1900

- **Shut-In-Ridge School (Subscription School)**
Closed
There is no documentation to indicate where students attended after closure, though likely at the nearby **Crabapple School**.
- **North Carolina Schools**
Rated near the bottom of all states in educational rankings
Governor Aycock, known as the “Education Governor,” wanted to change NC’s low ranking by emphasizing the importance of excellence in public-school education.
- **Bethel Academy (Free School)**
Professor S.J. Guyer assumed administrative control of Bethel Academy.
Guyer changed the school operation to a graded school.

1904

- **Spring Hill School (Free School – later Public School)**
Some references indicate that it was, more than likely, the school that was formed in the 1860s or 1880s in Henson Cove; other texts list its official founding in 1904 or even 1908. The school became the first public school in Henson Cove.
It existed in Henson Cove as a log cabin structure that it shared with the church, though the school building preceded church usage.
Location of the original log school was where today’s Spring Hill Baptist Church fellowship hall is located.
Spring Hill School became overcrowded, so a decision was made to ease the overcrowding. Spring Hill School students on the northern end of Henson Cove merged with students from **Piney Grove School** in Stamey Cove to form **Garden Creek School** in Center Pigeon in 1916.
In 1925, remaining students at Spring Hill moved from the log building to a frame structure downhill.

Grades 1-3 were on one side of the two-room structure; grades 4-5 were on the other.
After grade 5, students attended Bethel School.
Spring Hill School closed in 1954 to consolidate with **Bethel Elementary School**.

1904 (circa) – Some sources list 1908

- **Spruce School (Subscription/Free School Unknown)**
Situated near today's Sunburst Campground in the area traditionally referred to as "Three Forks"
Students of local families as well as new logging families who moved to the area formed the student population.
Spruce School included grades 1 – 6.
The school was housed in a two-story framed, cream-colored, structure trimmed in red that stood on the right of the Right Hand Prong of the Pigeon River.
The school closed after the 1926-1927 school year after the devastating fire that enveloped surrounding forest land diminished the number of people living in the area.
After the closure of Spruce School, grades 1 – 7 attended **Burnett Siding School** until **Cecil School** opened in 1930. Students beyond seventh grade attended **Bethel High School**.
- **Sunburst African American School (Subscription/Free School Unknown)**
Location unknown, though probably in Spruce
Students had to pay for their own textbooks and borrow their library books from the white school.
Students at the Black school attended through seventh grade.
The Reverend Hannah Powell with Inman Chapel conducted an outreach program for Black children at Sunburst; unknown is whether Miss Powell's program existed separately or cooperatively with the Sunburst program.
Because of segregation, these students had to pay to attend later grades where they boarded either in Asheville or in Tennessee.
Only "A" students from the Black school could attend high school after seventh grade.
This school closed after the devastating fires in the logging village in the late 1920s.

1909

- **Bethel Academy (Public School)**
Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian overseers, because of monetary problems, turned over operational control of the school to the state of North Carolina.
- **Sunburst School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
The three-room structure sat on a hill above the logging mill near Sunburst Cemetery.
Sunburst School included grades 1 – 6.
Older boys dug a depression in the bank to make a basketball court.
The school grew to such an extent that it had to be transferred to a location under the town jail beside the railroad tracks.
After the closure of Sunburst, first – seventh grade students attended **Burnett Siding School** until **Cecil School** opened in 1930. Students beyond seventh grade attended **Bethel High School**.

- **Sunburst Kindergarten (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**

Though the 1909 date cannot be verified, the assumption is that the kindergarten opened in time proximity to Sunburst School.

Little mention is made of the Kindergarten in historical sources, but it did exist in the logging village, for a period of time, where the jail was located.

The Reverend Hannah Powell at Inman Chapel began the kindergarten program at the church in 1924; with the help of volunteers, she conducted educational outreach programs for preschool children at Sunburst as well.

Unknown is whether the Sunburst Kindergarten and Miss Powell's programs existed separately or together.

1910

- **Biltmore Forest School (College Level Boarding School)**

Opened at Sunburst Logging Village in 1910 under the direction of Dr. Carl Schenck. The school, the first school of forestry in North America, was founded on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, in 1896.

The program focused on scientific management and practical forestry techniques.

The school's purpose was to provide foresters for lumber companies.

The program was a one-year course, with curriculum focusing on classroom lectures in silvicultural theory with hands-on field training.

Unlike most forestry schools that emphasized lecture-style learning, Schenck stressed a working-in-the-woods practical learning.

By 1909, after a series of disagreements over management style, Schenck left the Biltmore Estate. He later moved his students to Sunburst.

Students rotated to other forestry camps simultaneous to their training at Sunburst.

1913

- **Biltmore Forest School (College Level Boarding School)**

Closed because it could not compete with other schools of forestry that had been established.

Schenck hypothesized that the Biltmore Forest School lacked support from lumbermen.

Despite its brief existence at Sunburst, Biltmore Forest School laid the groundwork for the study of forestry in America.

The school's graduates were among the first professional foresters in America.

Through the years of existence, the school graduated approximately 350 students.

Schenck's concept of sustainable forestry continues to this day.

1916

- **Piney Grove School (Public School)**

Closed and consolidated with students from **Spring Hill School** in the northern section of Henson Cove to form **Garden Creek School**.

- **Garden Creek School (Public School)**

Opened on a knoll on today's Lindsey Drive off NC Highway #110 in Center Pigeon.

The school consolidated students from **Piney Grove School** in Stamey Cove and students in northern Henson Cove who previously attended **Spring Hill School**. Students from Piney Grove in Stamey Cove used either a wooden boat or a swinging bridge to cross the Pigeon River before climbing the hill to Garden Creek. Initially, the two-room frame structure accommodated all students. Eventually, only grades one - seven attended the school, with high school students going to Bethel High School. Garden Creek closed in 1933 and consolidated with **Bethel School**.

1918

- **Bethel Academy (Public School)**
Closed
World War I, severe weather conditions, and a worldwide pandemic played havoc with Bethel Academy's ability to function.

1919

- **Bethel Academy (Public School)**
Reopened under the direction of A.R. Cook

1920s

- **Walnut Grove School (Free School)**
Closed and consolidated with **Crabapple/Cruso School** through seventh grade
Haywood County Schoolin' includes details about the school in 1923.
- **Little East Fork (also known as Schoolhouse Branch or Laurel Grove School) (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Opened at the mouth of Schoolhouse Branch on Little East Fork Road in the location of today's Laurel Grove Baptist Church, which is built around the original school
Little East Fork merged with **Burnett Siding** and **Ivy Hill** to form **Cecil School** in 1930.
- **Burnett Siding School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Though the date of the establishment of the school is unknown, the church that was founded at the same location was established in 1914.
Though we are lacking documentation to indicate that the original church and school were housed in the same building, today's Burnett Siding Missionary Baptist Church at 7321 Lake Logan Road that replaced the school, according to *Haywood County Schoolin'*, is in the exact location as the former school.
The church structure prior to today's Burnett Siding Missionary Baptist Church building was simple, with open rafters.
A Haywood County Schoolin' photo of the school's students has an affixed date of 1923.
Burnett Siding, located mid-way between the Spruce and Sunburst Schools, grew after the closing of the Sunburst logging mill in the late 1920s when it assumed students from **Spruce** and **Sunburst Schools**.
Burnett Siding consolidated with **Cecil School** in 1930.
- **Faith Cottage (Free School)**
Outreach adult education program for men and women at Sunburst

Precise date is unknown, though it existed during the era of the Reverend Hannah Powell prior to the closure of Sunburst logging village.

1920

- **Bethel Elementary and Bethel High School (Public Schools)**

Formed as a concept

Professor Fred L. Stafford would assume the reins as principal of both Bethel Schools.

Professor Stafford's goal was to consolidate all the elementary schools in Bethel.

Stafford's intention was to secure Bethel High School among the ranks of state high schools, a goal that required a specific attendance rate.

- **Woodrow High School** is listed in a newspaper source in 1920.

We are unable to document the location of the school during that year prior to the 1921 Bethel School three-story structure. Assumption is that rather than being a separate school, "Woodrow" was the transition name prior to "Bethel High School."

1921

- **Bethel Academy (Public School)**

The school on today's Birdsong Trail appears to have overlapped its function as a school with Bethel School on Sonoma Road during 1921-1922.

- **Bethel School (Public School)**

Built on the campus of today's Bethel Middle School on Sonoma Road, though it was set further back on the campus

Three-story brick structure housed classrooms on the first and second floors and the Masonic Lodge on the third floor

By the 1930s, a cafeteria was located on the lower basement level.

Grades 1 – 11

Upon opening, enrollment at Bethel Elementary School was 154 students.

Upon opening, enrollment at Bethel High School was eighty-three students.

Bethel Elementary and Bethel High School served Bethel, Pigeon, East Fork, and Cecil townships, accommodating students from Bethel, Cecil, Cruso, and Spring Hill school districts.

Students at various elementary schools throughout Bethel continued to attend community schools and merged with Bethel Elementary at various grade levels.

Elementary students continued at elementary schools scattered through the Bethel district until the following dates: **Cecil** (1954), **Cruso** (1966), **Dix Creek** (1934), **Garden Creek** (1933), **Spring Hill** (1954), **Walnut Grove** (1920s).

- **Reverend R.A. Sentelle**

The first Superintendent of Haywood County Public Schools retired.

1922

- **Bethel Academy (Public School)**

The school appears to have closed, though records are hazy as to the precise date.

Photographs show students attending Bethel Academy in 1922.

1923

- **Bethel Reading Circle**

Offered training for teachers from Bethel, Dix Creek, Garden Creek, Ivy Hill, Spring Hill, and Sunburst

Program was divided into two groups: Primary and Elementary

Discussed new and interesting methods for successful teaching

Subjects included reading (flashcards, pictures, dramatization), writing, arithmetic, and music

Featured month-long training programs

No information on how long the program endured

1924

- **Inman Chapel Kindergarten (Free School)**

Opened as the first Universalist operated kindergarten in North Carolina.

Kindergarten enrollment was seventeen, ranging from age 4 to 7 years old.

The Reverend Hannah Jewett Powell started the program that also included outreach education classes at the Sunburst logging community.

- **Inman Chapel Library (Free Program)**

Opened under the direction of the Reverend Powell

- **Inman Chapel Day Nursery (Free School)**

- Opened under the direction of the Reverend Powell

For small children of working mothers

- **Adult Education Classes at Sunburst (Free School)**

Taught by the Reverend Powell

1925

- **Spring Hill School (Public School)**

Moved from its overcrowded log facility on the Spring Hill church campus to a two-room frame structure that accommodated seven grades that was located downhill from the log building

By 1945, two teachers taught only five grades at the school; older students attended Bethel School.

The school closed in 1954 when all students moved to the new facility at **Bethel School**.

1926

- **Camp Hope**

Established on twenty-five acres that eventually grew to one hundred acres of land on the East Fork of the Pigeon River.

Ruben B. Robertson had purchased the land and donated it to the mill with the express purpose of creating a camp for boys and girls.

The camp was named for Hope Robertson, Ruben B. Robertson's wife.

A club formed to finance amenities at the camp: club house, cabins, athletic field, baseball diamond, basketball court, tennis court, shuffleboard surface, swimming pool, and an

open-air pavilion. Campers also hiked, swam in the nearby Pigeon River, learned about nature, scouting, building campfires, and woodcraft.

The Canton YMCA was overseer of the camp.

Boys camped from July 19 – August 1; girls camped from August 2 – August 14.

The fee was \$5 per week.

1927

- **Inman Chapel Friendly House (Free School)**
Location for classes that helped individuals needing training assistance after closure of Sunburst logging village.
- **Library at Inman Chapel Friendly House (Free Program)**
Began prior to the Sunburst logging village closure
Newark , New Jersey, sent over one thousand books to Inman Chapel for the library.
- **Inman Chapel Outreach Program to Black Children (Free School)**
The Reverend Powell from Inman Chapel worked especially with the Black children in the abandoned sawmill village of Sunburst from circa 1927-1929.

1928

- **Cruso School (2) (Previously Crabapple School) (Public School)**
The wooden structure that was built in the 1880s or 1890 was replaced with a river rock school building, called “Cruso School,” that exists today on Highway #276 as Cruso Community Center.
Haywood County Schoolin’ lists the date as 1928 with a photo submitted by a former schoolteacher.
Duane Oliver in *Mountain Gables* lists the date as 1935 and built by WPA.
Classrooms were erected in 1928, with auditorium, stage, kitchen, and restrooms added in the 1950s.
A walking track was created in 2007 by Haywood County’s Department of Parks and Rec. Students attended Cruso School through seventh grade through 1966 when the school consolidated with **Bethel Elementary** and **Bethel Junior High School**.
The structure contained enough classrooms to accommodate seven grades, two indoor restrooms, a library, a large kitchen, an office, and a cafeteria that doubled as an auditorium/recreation area with a stage.
- **Ivy Hill School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed and merged with **Bethel School**
- **Spruce School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed and merged with **Burnett Siding School**
- **Sunburst School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed and merged with **Burnett Siding School**
- **Sunburst Kindergarten (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed
- **Sunburst’s African American School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed and students attended school in Asheville or Tennessee

1929

- **Pioneer Night School at Inman Chapel Friendly House (Free School)**
Began training adults at night classes
Twenty-five to thirty adults attended.
- **Burnett Siding School (Subscription/Free School- Unknown)**
Existed where today's Burnett Siding Baptist Church is situated above Lake Logan in the Cecil Community
Consolidation of the school with **Spruce** and **Sunburst** Schools occurred until the Cecil School opened in 1930.

1930s

- **Bethel School Gymnasium/Classrooms**
Built by President Franklin Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA)
Typical design of WPA projects was classrooms surrounding a gymnasium.
- **Bethel School Lunchroom Program**
Began with the cafeteria located in the basement area of the three-story structure (four stories if you count the basement)
Students would go down two flights of stairs, pick up their lunch trays, eat in their classroom, and return their trays after lunch.
Sometimes, the Home Economics department would make soup for school lunches.
Some students opted out of the school lunchroom program in the late 1930s – early 1950s to purchase sandwiches and snacks at the J.B. Rigdon General Store that sat across from the school. This arrangement was permitted until the 1950s when a new cafeteria accommodated all students and stricter regulations restricted off-campus movement.

1930

- **Burnett Siding School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed, with students attending Cecil School
The school had accommodated students from former schools at **Sunburst** and **Spruce**; all students moved to attend **Cecil School** in January of 1930.
- **Little East Fork (Laurel Grove or Schoolhouse Branch) (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed, with students attending **Cecil School**
- **Cecil School (Public School)**
Opened in the Retreat/Lake Logan area of Bethel in January of 1930
Cecil School resulted in the closing of **Burnett Siding School** which itself had resulted from the consolidation of **Sunburst** and **Spruce** Schools.
Former **Ivy Hill** students that had briefly attended Bethel School also attended **Cecil School**.
Former **Little East Fork** (Laurel Branch) School students moved to **Cecil School**.
The river rock structure on the banks of the Pigeon River housed first through seventh grades.
The school included four rooms, restrooms, and an auditorium, with a separate cafeteria.

A baseball/softball field on the campus as well as the nearby Pigeon River provided recreational opportunities.

Cecil consolidated with **Bethel Elementary School** in 1954.

- **Inman Chapel Friendly House Summer School (Free School)**

The Reverend Powell offered academic subjects as well as weaving, sewing, woodworking, health, and home care.

The summer program expanded from a series of her adult education classes.

Enrollment was more than sixty students.

- **Inman Chapel Pioneer Night School**

Began as a summer training program in crafts and academic subjects and expanded to two evenings a week.

1931

- **School Machinery Act**

The General Assembly instituted a program that provided a minimum level of funding to every county in the state to cover the cost of operating schools.

Counties would fund construction and maintenance, but all other costs fell to the state.

1932

- **New College Community Experience of New College Branch of Columbia University's Teachers College (College/University Level Training Program)**

The program at Springdale in Cruso was a significant social and educational experiment for training future teachers enrolled at Columbia University in New York City.

Dr. Thomas Alexander, Columbia University professor, instituted a program in which Columbia teachers in training would be involved in five areas of preparation: (1) study academics and write a thesis (2) spend at least one summer working on a farm in NC (3) study abroad and learn a foreign language (4) incorporate workplace training (5) participate in a year's internship that involved teaching under supervision.

Teachers in training would not only receive excellent instruction tools at their college, work, and international experience, but their training included encountering the difficulties of real-life rural experiences on a working farm.

The New College program was in operation for seven years, closing in 1939.

- **New College Nursery (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**

Run by college staff and students, the program enabled New College outsiders to bond with local people.

Trainees benefitted by gaining work experience with younger children, which was not covered in their textbooks.

Local families benefitted by having care for their children, giving them more work freedom.

Local children benefitted by having exceptional individuals to enhance their early childhood educational training.

The program was in operation for seven years, closing in 1939.

1933

- **Garden Creek School (Public School)**
Closed and consolidated with **Bethel School**

1934

- **Dix Creek School (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Closed and consolidated with **Bethel School**
- **High Valley Camp**
Opened as a part of the New College program in the Springdale/Cruso area
Months of operation: June – August
The camp was staffed by New College faculty and students.
Campers boarded in cabins with eight bunks per cabin.
Primary activities included participating on a working farm by tending animals, keeping a garden, hiking, soccer, and baseball.
The camp sometimes involved local children with sports activities on the weekends.
A July 4th fireworks festival became a community event for campers and local people.
Campers and local children participated in musical shows at Cruso School.
The camp bonded mostly out-of-state students with the local population.
The program was in operation for twenty-seven years, closing in 1961.

1937

- **Springdale School (Private Year-Round Boarding School)**
A secondary program developed by the New College program opened in the Springdale/Cruso area.
Springdale School included both elementary and high school students.
Faculty included New College professors as well as New College graduate interns.
Subjects taught included science, music, drama, English, German, Latin, math, algebra, trigonometry, physics, chemistry, and biology.
Athletic programs included basketball.
Tuition was \$1,200 - \$1,500 annually.
Students were recruited from around the nation, and thirty students attended each year.
Dr. Thomas Alexander characterized the school as “a boarding school for students with special needs.”
The program was in operation for sixteen years, closing in 1953.

1939

- **New College Teachers Training Program (College/University Level Training Program)**
Ceased because of financial problems and a decline in attendance
There has not been a comparable project that included college teacher’s training, a camp, a nursery, and a school to have existed in the United States before or since the unique New College program.
- **New College Nursery (Subscription/Free School – Unknown)**
Stopped along with the teacher’s training program

1940

- **Springdale School (Private Year-Round Boarding School)**

After the closure of the New College program, the school continued to operate with the purchase of the 1,040-acre Gwyn family farm.

The program continued its operation under the leadership of a group of individuals connected with the original New College program.

The school operated for sixteen years until 1953.

1941

- **Camp Daniel Boone**

Established by the Boy Scout Council of America, Daniel Boone Council, the camp utilized a 700-acre tract of land on Little East Fork in Bethel to create one of the most highly attended Scouts BSA camps in the Eastern United States.

Camp Daniel Boone is situated on the Robert Lee Ellis Boy Scout Reservation.

Robert Lee Ellis was a Coca-Cola Bottling Company president who donated the land for the camp.

The camp includes the following facilities:

the Dining Lodge, Vance Lodge (training facility), Osborne Lodge (ranger's house), Damtoft Lodge (health lodge), Reuben Robertson Lodge (camp program lodge), Boonesboro Village (living history museum), Chip's Chapel, and Lake Allen.

Summer camps operate for nine weeks each summer.

Unit campouts may use the facility throughout the year.

Camp Daniel Boone hosts 5,000 Scouts each summer for different councils around the U.S.

High Adventure Camp includes whitewater rafting and kayaking, a fifty-four-mile backpacking adventure to Shining Rock, mile-high camping, and other activities.

The most up-to-date estimate available is that over 50,000 Scouts and 19,000 adults have been a part of Scouting in NC since 1920, including 4,200 Eagle Scouts.

Camp Daniel Boone continues today and includes Girl Scout troop programs.

- **Bethel School Auditorium**

Built by Works Progress Administration (WPA)

The auditorium was a classic designed white façade structure that included Future Homemakers of America (FHA) on one end and Future Farmers of America (FFA) on the other.

- **Inman Chapel's School Programs (Free School Programs)**

Ceased with the retirement of the Reverend Hannah Jewett Powell.

1942

- **Literary Fund**

A Constitutional Amendment allowed the State Board of Education to oversee the Literary Fund.

1953

- **Springdale School (Private Year-Round Boarding School)**

Closed

Financial difficulties with attempting to maintain a facility for both sexes resulted in the school catering only to boys.

Ongoing recruitment eventually failed to attract enough participants to make the school financially viable.

Faculty became weary of running a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week facility.

1954

- **Cecil School (Public School)**
Closed and consolidated with **Bethel School**
- **Spring Hill School (Public School)**
Closed and consolidated with **Bethel School**
- **Bethel Elementary School (Public School)**
Built as a brick three-tiered series of buildings that included grades 1-3 on the upper level and grades 4-6 on the middle level
- **Bethel Junior High School (Public School)**
Existed as grades 7-8 on the lower level of the three-tiered buildings
- **Bethel High School (Public School)**
Continued to exist in the three buildings that were in place since 1921 (three-story middle brick building), 1930s (gymnasium surrounded by classrooms), and 1941 (auditorium/FHA/FFA building).
The Bethel campus included a football field, a baseball/softball field, and a greenhouse. The three buildings continued to exist and became Bethel Junior High School after the transfer of students to Pisgah High School in 1966-1967.
By 1970 – 1971- the three structures that had comprised Bethel High School (and later, Bethel Junior High School) were dismantled.
- **Bethel Gymnasium and Lunchroom**
Built as a part of the new brick structure in 1954, the gymnasium and lunchroom accommodated Bethel Elementary, Bethel Junior High, and Bethel High Schools and continues today as the gymnasium and cafeteria for Bethel Middle School.

1958

- **The National Defense Education Act (NDEA)**
Passed to ensure that federal funding would be provided for public education at all levels, including postsecondary
The NDEA marked the beginning of large-scale involvement of the U.S. federal government in education.

1960s

- **Camp Hope**
Continued as a summer camp and also provided a training setting for Pisgah sports camps.

1961

- **High Valley Camp**
Closed after twenty-seven years in operation

1966-1967

- **Haywood County Schools**
Through a series of consolidation procedures, the county formed two high schools.
Pisgah High School (Public School)
Built in Canton to serve students in the east end of the county by merging students from **Bethel High School, Canton High School, Clyde High School, and Reynolds High School**
Tuscola High School (Public School)
Built on the outskirts of Waynesville near Clyde to serve students in the west end of the county by merging students from **Crabtree High school, Fines Creek High School, and Waynesville Township High School**

1968

- **Cruso School (2) (Former Public School)**
Philanthropist A.I. Freedlander purchased the school and turned it over to the community to be used as a community center; Cruso Community Development Corp. was established.

1970-1971

- **Bethel High School (Public School); later Bethel Junior High School buildings**
The three buildings that existed from 1921, 1930s, and 1941 were demolished.

1971

- **State Board of Education**
The State Constitution stated that the State Board of Education shall supervise and administer the free public school system as well as the educational funds provided for its support.

1972

- **Bethel Middle School (Public School)**
Two brick structures were built in the same location on Sonoma Road as the former high school (and the original 1838 structure), though they were set on the front of the property rather than on the back of the property where previous school buildings had been situated. Seventh and eighth graders attend the main campus buildings.
One building houses classrooms and the library.
The other building serves as a band room as well as a facility for the Future Farmers of America and agricultural classes.
A greenhouse sits adjacent to the agricultural building.
Bethel Rural Community Organization donated a barn for use by FFA in 2023.
Today's Bethel Middle School sixth graders attend classes in the previous kindergarten building that was constructed around 1980.

Middle School students utilize the 1954 cafeteria and gymnasium, and an additional smaller gymnasium was added in the 1980s.

The Middle School campus continues to include the other 1954 buildings that housed the former elementary school; some rooms are used for specialty classes for the middle school. Upper-level original structures now accommodate storage rooms for Bethel and other schools in Haywood County.

1978

- **Sonoma – Valley of the Moon – Sunburst**

Hugh K. Terrell, Jr.'s eighth grade class at Bethel Junior High School compiled and produced a book about the historic Sunburst Village on the West Fork of the Pigeon River.

Students interviewed former residents of Sunburst.

Bethel Rural Community Organization's Historic Preservation Committee republished the book in 2022.

BRCO's Historic Preservation Committee granted Hugh K. Terrell, Jr. the Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation in 2023.

1980s

- In addition to the 1954 gymnasium, the county added a smaller gymnasium for younger students to use while middle school students utilized the larger gymnasium.

1980

- **Bethel Kindergarten (Public School)**

Building was built on the Bethel Elementary School campus on Sonoma Road adjacent to the red brick, tri-level Bethel Elementary School building

The kindergarten program moved to the new Bethel Elementary School on Highway #215 when the newer structure was completed in 2006.

When the new Bethel Elementary School opened in 2006, the former kindergarten building on Sonoma Road became home to the sixth-grade students at Bethel Middle School, with the 1972 buildings housing seventh and eighth graders.

1985 (Oral information from the Jones family lists 1984 as the date of origin in Bethel; deed to the property and newspaper articles, however, list April 1985 as the opening date).

- **Lake Logan Academy (Summit Academy) (Private Boarding School)**

Opened in the Lake Logan area of Bethel under the direction of Dr. Don Lymon of Florida

The school was limited to students who experienced learning disabilities such as Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, and other learning disorders.

The primary instruction manual was *Making the Words Stand Still* by Dr. Lymon.

Dr. Lymon believed that developmental delays could be remedied by a fifteen-step learning process.

Pupils came from all over the United States.

Headmaster James Jones operated the facility for seven years.

Jones's mother, Betty Jones, assumed a leading role with sister, Joy Jones, as assistant.

Betty Jones developed a “top to bottom, left to right, MAZ” concept that proved successful with Dyslexia.

Betty Jones wrote *Spellbound* (later called *Learn It*), a book that outlined seventeen steps for comprehending how to spell and read words.

Specific body movements while simultaneously sounding out the alphabet also helped students to learn to read and spell.

The level of success of this teaching program proved to be phenomenal for learning disabled students.

The academy closed in Bethel by 1987, though it continued in Waynesville as Summit Academy until 1996.

Success Oriented Achievement Realized (SOAR)

This adventure training affiliated program of Summit Academy was in operation in other locations in Haywood County as an accompanying program to Summit Academy.

SOAR’s hands-on, real life, social, communication, study skills, problem solving, goal-oriented training techniques instilled confidence in learning disabled children.

SOAR started as an adventure camp that connected with Summit Academy and continues today in Hazelwood as a boarding school training facility for children with learning disabilities.

Students from around the world attend SOAR.

The program incorporates some of the learning techniques of the original Lake Logan Academy (Summit Academy) as well as alternating adventure programs involving travel to other countries.

Project Pursuit

A scaled-down version of SOAR that was also an extension of the Summit Academy concept operated as a weekend training program for local students who needed encouragement.

Project Pursuit ceased operation years ago.

1987 (Oral information from the Jones family lists 1986 as the date of closure in Bethel; deed to the property, however, lists February 1987 as the date of closure).

- **Lake Logan Academy (Summit Academy) (Private Boarding School)**

Closed at Lake Logan

SOAR, a cooperative program with the academy, continues today in Hazelwood as one of the most successful programs in the nation for training students with disabilities.

SOAR is the only school of its kind in the world.

1991

- **Camp Hope**

Ownership was assumed by Champion International after the YMCA’s finances deteriorated.

1992

- **Pigeon Valley**

Cheryl Haney's eighth grade history class compiled and published the *Pigeon Valley* book about historical sites and stories of Bethel.

Students interviewed older residents to obtain their insight into Bethel Community's history. Bethel Rural Community Organization's Historic Preservation Committee republished the book in 2008.

Cheryl Haney received BRCO's Historic Preservation Committee's Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation in 2019.

- **Camp Hope**

Ownership was transferred to the town of Canton, which allowed public use of the property in addition to the camp.

Weddings, reunions, fairs, and other events occurred at Camp Hope.

Boy Scouts leased the property for some of that organization's activities.

1997

- **The Leandro Case**

Continues to come before the North Carolina court system today, as it has been for over two decades since 1997. This case defines the state constitutional right for students to a sound, basic education and outlines the state's obligations to remedy constitutional violations – particularly in reference to unequal spending on schools and inadequate school funding by the legislature.

2000 (circa)

- **Bethel Community Organization**

Precursor to Bethel Rural Community Organization, this group secured a grant to provide a track that is situated around the perimeter of the Bethel Middle School football field.

The track provides a walking area for both students during school and community members after school.

2002

- **Camp Henry**

Opened in Lake Logan in Haywood County but had been in operation as early as 1959 in Black Mountain at the "In-the-Oaks" estate of Franklin Silas Terry and his wife, Lillian Estelle Slocomb Emerson

Camp Henry was the camp program of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina which dates to 1957.

The Episcopal Center moved to Lake Logan in 2000 and developed the camp and conference center over the next two years on the three-hundred-acre property.

The camp's legacy is faith, friendship, community, and environmental stewardship.

Campers include grade two – high school.

Traditional and nontraditional sports and games, boating, fishing, sailing, swimming, hiking, arts, crafts, singing, storytelling, and worship constitute the camping experience.

Campers learn through hands-on experiences that include planning routes, food rationing, map reading, leave-no-trace ethics, and expedition management.

Family camp sessions are offered.

Camp Henry continues today as a rewarding summer venture that is accredited by the American Camp Association.

2005

- **Camp Hope**

Operations and upkeep presented financial problems for the Town of Canton.

- **Wellsprings Adventure Camp at Camp Hope**

Leased the Camp Hope facility from the Town of Canton and provided income and upkeep
Wellsprings focused on nutrition education and physical activity for the purpose of treating children who suffered from obesity.

Physical activity programs included the following: rock climbing, rappelling, whitewater rafting, backpacking, hiking, swimming, and kayaking,

2006

- **Bethel Elementary School (Public School)**

Built on the former Kinsland property on Highway #215, 4700 Pigeon River Road, Canton. Bethel Elementary has a walking track, a softball/baseball field, and a playground on its campus.

The school utilizes minimal impact (green) development techniques.

Geothermal energy heats and cools the building.

The campus includes rain gardens that collect rainwater.

Flood mitigation elements were incorporated into the design of the school.

The green campus provides a healthy environmental approach to learning.

- **Bethel Kindergarten (Public School)**

Moved to the new **Bethel Elementary School**.

- **Bethel Middle School (Public School)**

Sixth Grade classes moved to the former Bethel Kindergarten building on Sonoma Road.

Seventh and eighth grade classes continue at the two 1972 buildings as well as a portion of the 1954 brick structure that includes the lower level, the gymnasium, the cafeteria, and the 1980s gymnasium.

2009

Land of the Sky Wilderness School (also known as LOTSWILD Camp)

- Original concept from Camp Sequoyah in Boone, NC
- Began in Swannanoa, NC, in 2003
- Moved to Cruso in 2009
- Base camp is on Burnette Cove Road
- Licensed by the U.S. Forest Service
- Owner and director of the program – Spencer 2Dogs Bolejack who has received awards from Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Storefront location is at the Riverside Martial Arts Academy in Canton where students learn Tang Soo Do, Kenpo, IMA, and fifth degree black belt in Ninjutsu
- Instructors focus on traditions from many cultures passed on by one-on-one mentoring

- Martial arts instructors have hard-earned belts
- Wood counselors carry the Yonah Ugali bear claw
- Features basic five-day beginner courses
- Intermediate course is thirteen days
- Variety of camp experiences that include tracker school, hunters camp, and Elite Wilderness training
- Preserves knowledge of the Appalachian frontier through native Cherokee lore and history as well as through folk traditions
- Goal of the camp is to develop a deep appreciation of the natural world through hands-on learning
- Offers studies in folk skills, native lore, modern methods for living off the land, blacksmithing, edible plants, teambuilding, archery, shelters, primitive fires, and indigenous crafts
- Cultivates young adults of high character who persevere through hardship, learn to lead and follow, work as a team, and become providers and protectors of the world
- The program creates a sense of responsibility, respect, and love for home and family
- Includes ages 8 – 22, male and female
- Benefits at-risk student population
- Publishes the “LOTSWILD Smoke Signals Newsletter”
- Published *Best Practices for Middle School Teachers*
- Bolejack co-hosted fifty-nine episodes of Discovery’s “Hillbilly Blood.”

2013

- **Wellsprings Adventure Camp at Camp Hope**
Severed ties with the town of Canton and Camp Hope after a legal battle involving neighbors and the Town of Canton; neighbors claimed the camp was not being used for its intended purpose.

2015

- **Bethel Rural Community Organization’s Historic Preservation Committee’s Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation**
Presented to Norman Long for his dedicated years of teaching at Pisgah and Bethel and for his restoration of the historic 1867 Chinquapin Grove School.

2019

- **Bethel Rural Community Organization’s Historic Preservation Committee’s Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation**
Presented to Cheryl Inman Haney for her dedicated years of teaching at Bethel Junior High School and for her historic preservation school-related activities that include the following: *Pigeon Valley* book about Bethel history that was created by her eighth-grade students at Bethel Junior High School, historic marker at Inman Chapel honoring the church and its educational programs, including Hannah Jewett Powell’s opening of the first Universalist

kindergarten in North Carolina. Haney also contributed articles about Inman Chapel's school programs in *Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain*, Book 5.

2021

- **Camp Hope**
Suffered devastating damage during the deluge of Tropical Storm Fred

2023

- **Bethel Middle School Future Farmers of America Barn**
Bethel Rural Community Organization donated to the FFA program a small barn that is situated by the greenhouse.
The FFA program includes instruction about horticulture, with plants sold in late spring to the community.
Bethel Rural Community Organization has financially supported numerous FFA programs.
- **Bethel Rural Community Organization's Historic Preservation Committee's Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation**
Presented to Hugh K. Terrell, Jr. for his years of dedicated teaching at Bethel Junior High School and for his 1978 oversight of the *Sonoma – Valley of the Mono Sunburst* history project by his eighth-grade students that captured first-hand accounts of Sunburst Logging Village history, including its schools.

2023-2024

- **Haywood County Schools (Public Schools)**
Ranked for two years in a row as top schools in North Carolina according to statewide testing in the 2022-2023 school year.
Haywood County Schools ranked seventh in the state out of 115 school districts.
- **Bethel Elementary and Bethel Middle Schools (Public Schools)**
Bethel Middle School was the highest-ranking middle school in Haywood County.
Bethel Middle and Bethel Elementary Schools both received "B" grade achievement ranking.

2023

- **Bethel Middle School Football Field**
Bethel Middle School installed an artificial grass, synthetic turf football field.

2024

- **Bethel Middle School**
Built a new football stadium combination concession stand/bathroom on its campus.

Bethel/Cruso Schools Timeline Summary

Bethel/Cruso Schools – 1800s

Subscription School 1 - 1825 - Unknown

Subscription School 2 - 1834 – Unknown

First Free Public School - 1838 – Unknown

Bethel Academy – Pre-Civil War; official date 1866 - 1922

Chinquapin Grove – 1867 – early 1900s (possibly 1902)

Crabapple – 1880s – 1928 or 1935

Cruso (1) – Dates Unknown

Dix Creek – Late 1800s - 1934

Henson Cove – 1866 – 1987 - 1903 (may have been two schools at different times with the same name)

Hickory Grove Academy - 1866 - Unknown

Ivy Hill – 1881 - 1928

Mountain Grove – 1870s - 1893

Old Center - 1880s - 1900

Panther Branch – 1867 – 1880s

Piney Grove – 1879 - 1915

Shut-In Ridge – 1874 – late 1800s (possibly 1895)

Bethel/Cruso Schools - 1900s:

Bethel Academy – (Pre – Civil War) Official dates 1866 - 1922

Bethel Elementary – 1954 - Today

Bethel High – 1954 – 1966

Bethel Junior High (Later called Bethel Middle) – 1954 - Today

Bethel Kindergarten – 1980 – Today

Bethel Reading Circle - 1923

Bethel School (grades 1 – 11 prior to the division of schools) – 1921 - 1954

Bethel Summer School – Dates Unknown

Biltmore Forest School – (1896 – 1909 at Biltmore Estate) 1910 – 1913 at Sunburst

Burnett Siding – Early 1900s - 1929

Cecil – 1930 - 1954

Crabapple – 1880s or 1890 – 1928

Cruso (2) – 1928 (one source lists 1935) - 1966

Dix Creek – Late 1800s - 1934

Faith Cottage – Late 1920s - 1927

Garden Creek – 1916 - 1933

Henson Cove – 1866 – 1987 - 1903 (may have been two schools at different times with the same name)

Inman Chapel Pioneer Night School – 1929 - 1941

Inman Chapel Kindergarten – 1924 - 1941

Inman Chapel Nursery – 1924 - 1941

Inman Chapel Friendly House Summer School – 1930s - 1941

Inman Chapel outreach to Black children at Spruce/Sunburst – 1927 - 1928

Ivy Hill – 1881 – 1928

Lake Logan Academy (see Summit Academy) – 1985-1987

Little East Fork (Laurel Grove) – 1920s - 1929

New College Community Experience of Columbia University – 1932 - 1939

New College Nursery – 1932 - 1939

Piney Grove – 1879 - 1915

Spring Hill – 1904 - 1954

Springdale – 1937 - 1953

Spruce – 1904 - 1927

Summit Academy (see Lake Logan Academy) – 1985 – 1987

Sunburst – 1909 - 1927

Sunburst Kindergarten – 1909 – 1927

Sunburst Nursery – 1909 - 1927

Spruce/Sunburst Black School – 1904 - 1927

Walnut Grove – 1900 – 1920s

Bethel Schools – 2000s:

Bethel Kindergarten – 1980 - Today

Bethel Elementary – 1954 - Today

Bethel Middle – 1954 – Today

Bethel/Cruso Camps

Camp Daniel Boone – 1941 – Today on Little East Fork

Camp Henry – (1959 – 2000 in Black Mountain) 2002 – Today at Lake Logan

Camp Hope – 1926 – 2021 in Cruso

High Valley Camp – 1934 – 1961 in Springdale in Cruso

Land of the Sky Wilderness Camp (LOTSWILD Camp) – (2003 – 2008 in Swannanoa) 2009 – Today with base camp on Burnette Cove in Cruso

Wellsprings Adventure Camp – 2005 – 1913 at Camp Hope in Cruso

HISTORIC BETHEL/CRUSO SCHOOL BUILDINGS THAT CONTINUE TO EXIST:

Bethel Elementary – 2006 - structure with unique environmentally friendly design - good condition

Bethel Elementary (tri-level) – 1954 - lower-level structure continues to support some Bethel Middle School classes; upper levels are in deteriorating condition and contain asbestos - devoted to storage for Bethel and other schools in Haywood County

Bethel Gymnasium and Cafeteria – 1954 - maintained in good condition

Bethel Gymnasium – 1980s - maintained in good condition

Bethel Kindergarten – 1980s - maintained in good condition as the sixth-grade building of Bethel Middle School

Bethel Middle – 1972 - maintained in good condition

Cecil - 1930 - restored and maintained in good condition as a home by the Schott family

Chinquapin Grove – 1867 - moved, restored, and maintained in good condition as a private museum by Norman Long

Cruso – 1928 or 1935 - maintained in good condition as a community center by Cruso Community Club

Garden Creek School – 1916 – building that is assumed to be the former school is maintained in good condition as a home by John and Ricki Denton

Little East Fork (Laurel Grove) – 1920s - original structure (not visible) is surrounded by Laurel Grove Baptist Church, which is maintained in good condition

Inman Chapel – 1902 - restored by Bob and Phyllis Barnett and others and maintained in good condition

Inman Chapel Friendly House – 1927 where many of the educational programs occurred – privately owned and in deteriorating condition

Mountain Grove – 1870s – moved and maintained in good condition as a home by John and Phyllis Gaddis

Spring Hill – 1925 – restored and maintained in good condition as a home by Teresa and David Mitchell

Springdale – 1937 - restored and maintained in good condition as a home by Laura G. Willis

Lake Logan Academy (Summit Academy) – 1985 – maintained in good condition as the home of Bill and Karen Hollingshed

CAMP STRUCTURES THAT CONTINUE:

Camp Daniel Boone – 1941 - maintained in good condition by the Boy Scout Council of America

Camp Henry – 2002 - maintained in good condition by The Episcopal Diocese at Lake Logan

Camp Hope – 1926 - in deteriorated condition after the 2021 Tropical Storm Fred deluge

LOTSWILD Camp – 2009 – cabin style buildings maintained as camp structures by the Bolejack family at the head of Burnette Cove in Cruso

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Dick Alexander – deceased (High Valley Camp, New College, Springdale)

Nancy Armstrong (Lake Logan/Summit Academy)

Roxanna Billings (Pansy Blalock's "Notebook")

Spencer 2 Dogs Bolejack (LOTSWILD Wilderness Camp)

Sandy Boone (First Superintendent)

Amber Capps (Crabapple, Cruso)

Ted Carr (Lake Logan/Summit Academy)

Riley Covin (Bethel Academy, Bethel Presbyterian Church Singing School)

Doug Chambers (Owners of school buildings that continue to exist, also, *Springdale*, *Sunburst*, and *Walking in the Footsteps* DVDs)

Mike Clark (Cruso)

Riley Covin (Second Subscription School at Ebenezer Church, Bethel Academy)
Ann Crawford (Cruso)
John and Phyllis Gaddis (Mountain Grove)
Joseph Geier (Lake Logan/Summit Academy/SOAR)
Lowell Grogan (Spring Hill)
Zac Guy (First Subscription School)
Cheryl Haney (Bethel, Burnett Siding, Crabapple, Cruso, Hickory Grove Academy, Inman Chapel – all school programs, Lake Logan/Summit Academy, Mountain Grove, Old Center, Shut-In-Ridge, Sunburst, Sunburst Kindergarten, Walnut Grove, *Pigeon Valley*, and proofreading)
Carroll Jones (First Free Public School, Garden Creek)
Carol Litchfield (Cruso, Lake Logan/Summit Academy, proofreading)
Norman Long (Bethel, Chinquapin Grove)
Mike McLean (Biltmore Forest School)
Sadie McNair (Camp Henry)
Louis Oats (Black School at Sunburst)
Shawn Parris (Bethel Middle)
Phil Paxton (Garden Creek)
Caroline Ponton (Garden Creek)
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Sheila Sumpter (Lake Logan/Summit Academy/SOAR)
Hugh K. Terrell (Bethel, *Sonoma – Valley of the Moon – Sunburst*)
Bill Terrell – deceased (Second Subscription School at Ebenezer Church, Bethel Academy, Bethel)
Phyllis Vance (Garden Creek)

*Data for this report is from sources listed in the Bibliography as well as from oral information. Determining correct dates and precise location of schools, some from two centuries ago for which there is little written documentation and with details derived from oral sources, means that information may need correction or updating.

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