

# Yolo County Historical Society



## Prez Says

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas. I know I did. My family surrounded me with their love and support, and it made the holiday go by with laughter. I am eternally grateful for them. I certainly hope that this next year will be fabulous for all.

I have been receiving a regular issue of the *Dixon Tribune* published every Saturday in Dixon since the late 1870's. Hayward S. Melville and another individual have been researching and giving me and others brief synopses of the articles. I always look at the Yolo County news and sometimes when it is appropriate, I will send the information off to Winters and Davis. The last one that I read dealt with the hot springs in Lake County. That topic interested me, so I had to research the springs and this newsletter is devoted to the springs and to the numerous individuals who traveled to Lake County and "took the waters." If you know of people in your family who traveled to the springs for recreation and "healing," please let me know. I tried to research the names, but alas could not get to the archives. I think you will find this interesting. Thank you, Hayward, for bringing it to my attention.

It has been quiet the past few months. With the holidays, weather, and the activities in our lives, not much is happening in the world of history. Dino Gay and I met with Ron Burch and his friend to discuss the lighting at the *County Fair Museum*. We will order lights in January. Dino also has a friend who will help with the plans for the map on the wall. Jon Durst, one of our members, volunteered to work on that project. We now need to place casters on each of the display cases so we can move them around the room. Our next focus will be on security for the building and then we will feel comfortable asking the historical societies to display their items. If you can help with this project or know of someone or some group that can help us, please let me know.

Our downtown Woodland First Fridays will begin either in February or March. We are all concerned about the weather.

Our Schoolhouse will open only during the month of May this year. More information later.

I met with Mary Aulman and she and I are planning a book tour and signing of David's book (see page 9 of this issue). Many of you have already purchased the book. Thanks so much. I will try to publish the dates in the newsletter.

As Always,  
History Rules!

Kathy Harryman , President Yolo County Historical Society



# How Are Hot Springs Formed?

from **World Atlas**

A hot spring is a **spring** of geothermally heated water that rises from the earth's crust to the surface. Also referred to as thermal or geothermal springs, hot springs vary in size and produce water that ranges in temperature from warm to very hot. While no universally accepted definition exists, examples of criteria to define hot springs include water that is warmer than its surroundings, warmer than human body temperature, warmer than the ambient ground temperature, or warmer than 50 °C (122 °F). Some hot springs are safe for bathing, while others contain water hot enough to boil an egg.

## Formation

Hot springs can form in several ways, but most commonly occur when rainwater or groundwater is heated by **magma** underneath Earth's surface. Cracks or faults in the Earth's surface allow water to flow deeper towards the mantle, where it comes in contact with hot rocks that heat the water. Underground pressure then forces the hot water upwards, back to the Earth's surface through the same cracks or faults. The amount of underground pressure determines how fast and how far the hot water flows. This type of hot spring usually forms in areas with **volcanic activity**.

Hot springs can also be formed when absorbed rainwater is heated underground by the radioactive decay of elements present in the rock. For every 1,000 feet of depth, the groundwater is heated by an additional 15 °F. Additionally, the hot water becomes more viscous and rises up through cracks and faults to the earth's surface. As the hot water reaches the surface, it can flow slowly or quickly depending on the amount of underground pressure. Generally, the flow rate of hot springs differs depending on the volume of underground water and the amount of underground pressure.

## Uses of Hot Springs

Hot springs can be popular tourist attractions for several reasons. For example, hot springs contain very high mineral content, including radium, lithium, and calcium, which some believe have medicinal values. Hot springs are also sometimes included in rehabilitation clinics for individuals with disabilities.

The largest hot spring in the world is the Grand Prismatic Spring, located in Yellowstone National Park, within the United States. The hot spring is approximately 110 m wide, 50 m deep, and has a flow rate of at least 2,100 L per minute.

## Hot Springs of Lake County *(Who knew?)*

<b>Adams</b>	<b>Glenbrook</b>	<b>Newman Springs</b>
<b>Allen Springs</b>	<b>Harbin Hot Springs</b>	<b>Parramore Springs</b>
<b>Anderson Springs</b>	<b>Highland Springs</b>	<b>Saratoga Springs</b>
<b>Bartlett Springs</b>	<b>Hough Springs</b>	<b>Seigler Springs</b>
<b>Castle Rock Springs</b>	<b>Howard Springs</b>	<b>Witter Springs</b>
<b>Crabtree Hot Springs</b>		

## Bartlett Springs

by Kathy Harryman

Bartlett Springs is 11 miles north of Clearlake Oaks. It is near the head of Bartlett Creek, a tributary of Cache Creek. In 1914, it was the largest resort in Lake County, capable of accommodating up to 500 guests. It was also a bottling plant. It could fill 10,000 bottles per day from May to October.

Bartlett Springs was discovered by Green Bartlett when he was on a camping trip in 1869. He was suffering from rheumatism and found that the waters helped him. A post office operated at Bartlett Springs from 1873 to 1935. The resort had a resident physician during the season from mid-May to October. In addition to the main hotel there were large numbers of cottages and several other buildings including a general merchandise store, drugstore, bakery, and butcher's shop.

During the 1880's, Chinese workers were hired to construct a road through steep terrain from Lucerne to Bartlett Springs. The toll road provided a travel route for visitors and supplies to the springs. Later, a fire destroyed structures at Bartlett Springs Resort in the 1930's and the resort never fully recovered.



Today, to get to the Springs, you must travel only during dry conditions using a four-wheel drive (from [Wikipedia](#)).

## BARTLETT SPRINGS ----- Great Health Fountains

by Dr. J. Simms, of New York

from *The Dixon Tribune*, July 5, 1879, provided by Hayward Melville

**BARTLETT SPRINGS. ----- Great Health Fountains ----- [by Dr. J. Simms, of New York]**

The famous Bartlett Springs are situated a little north of the center of, and in, Lake County, California, on a branch of Cache Creek, at an altitude of 2,600 feet above sea level, and are accessible by three routes of public travel from San Francisco or Sacramento; one being by railroad to Williams, thence 40 miles by stage to the Springs. The second way is by railroad to Calistoga, and from thence to the Springs by stage, a distance of 74 miles, through scenery, which is said to be very fine and enchanting. The third line of travel is by railroad to Cloverdale, and by stage 56 miles to the Springs. The scenery is quite weird and grand along this stage road. Fare from San Francisco to Bartlett Springs via Cloverdale is \$10.

*Continued on next page*

*continued* - **Bartlett Springs**

The rate from San Francisco to Williams, is \$6.75. The stage fare from Williams to the Springs varies from \$2.50 to \$5.00 dollars, owing to the opposition stage line. The California Pacific. R. R. Company at San Francisco sells through tickets to the Springs via Calistoga for eleven dollars each. During the height of the season (which is May, June, July, August, September and October) stages leave Williams, Calistoga and Cloverdale for Bartlett Springs regularly.

There are six interesting, useful and important Springs called Bartlett Springs, as follows: The Gas spring, which is one of nature's curiosities, gives forth a little very acid water and an abundance of carbonic acid gas; is situated a short walk to the Northeast over a high hill, and is valuable in curing corns, bunions, and callous feet by immersing them in the water. A small spring near the gas spring is used to drink. To the south of the cabins is situated Sweet spring, so named because the water is somewhat sweet to the taste. The Silver Spring, near the great medicinal spring, furnishes water strongly impregnated with soda; sufficiently so to raise bread finally without yeast, or any other assistance. It is found to be an excellent aid to digestion. The fifth is a freshwater spring nearby and to the south-west, it is water being conveyed by pipes and forced by a hydraulic ram into the hotel for general use.

The great medicinal spring, named Bartlett Springs, since a man by the name of Bartlett first claimed it about seven years ago nestles in a small basin in the Coast Range of mountains facing to the southwest, and as inclosed and well protected by a cement stone floor, wall, and a beautiful fountain which pours out 3/2-inch streams of water constantly; another half inch flow is conveyed by pipe to the front of the hotel porch, besides a sufficient quantity of water is discharged through a waste way to water a small city. Thus, at all seasons does this water for itself out from some great reservoir which lies hidden within the darkness of some vast mountain vault. The water of this remarkable spring has never been subjected to a quantitative analysis, but that it contains considerable mineral in the solution is evident from the fact that it weighs nine, whereas common water ways each, pounds to the gallon. The water is perfectly clear, quite cold and unusually pleasant to the taste. It throws down no precipitate however long it is kept, unless boiled, and then it turns milky in appearance and gives down a white precipitate. The water is very pleasant to drink and is used by patients the entire year.

The Springs and the hotel are always open to visitors. For medicinal purposes. This water is excellent. It helps digestion, aids the glandular and accretory functions, sets up more thorough and healthier action of the bowels and kidneys, lends strength to the nerves, and in a most wonderful manner. It helps all who are afflicted with bodily ailments, and cures hundreds annually, who are so fortunate as to drink it. It is found of great value in curing syphilis in all stages, dyspepsia, rheumatism, eczema, [illegible] scrofula, seizure disorders, dropsy, every manner of liver, kidney and nervous afflictions, [illegible], discoloration and all diseases of the skin, mercurial poison, impure blood, cankered mouth, sore eyes, female complaints, gout, ringworm, scurvy, apoplectic and paralytic tendencies, necrosis of any bones, tumors, week, lungs, gravel and urinary difficulties, and as a blood equalizer. It surpasses all known remedies. When this water is used freely several months. It cures all diseases, if taken in proper time, to which the human family are liable.

Many healthy people visit Bartlett Springs as a Mountain resort, a place of rest, and sportsmen find fine trout fishing in the creek, which runs through the place, and deer, grouse, quail, rabbits, squirrels and other game on the adjacent mountains. At the Springs. There are from 60 to 70 cottages, which can be rented by those who desire to keep house, from Mr. Townsend Settle, a pleasant and accommodating gentleman.

The place has a physician, schoolhouse, with a district school taught by Ms. Emma Smith, of Sacramento, two stores, Baker, Butcher and barbershops, express office and post-office, bathhouse with hot and cold baths, saloon, and important among the rest is a good hotel with as good beds as found anywhere, and a liberal table supplied with the best the land affords, and kept by Mr. Alexander, one of the most gentlemanly and the kind of man, assisted by Mrs. Alexander, an estimable lady, and her daughter, all being adapted to the situation they so ably and suitably fill. Mr. Alexander's lease of the Spring continues to the close of next year.

# History of Harbin Hot Springs and Wilbur Hot Springs

by Kathy Harryman

Hot springs have had a long history of restorative healing powers and were often considered sacred healing places for the region's Native peoples: Patwin, Pomo, Wintun, and Colusi. The springs and their surrounding lands were held as neutral territory, and members of all Nations knew they could use the waters peacefully.

The first recorded use by a settler is unclear. One source said that in 1856, James M. Harbin took over the ownership of the land. His property later becomes Harbin Hot Springs. Another source stated that in 1863 one of General John Bidwell's men became ill. The local Native Americans told Bidwell about the powerful curative water in the hills. Bidwell took his man there and he was cured. He returned to San Francisco and Chico and spread the word about the springs.

Harbin Hot Springs has been a Victorian resort, a hunting lodge, a boxing camp, and a free-form university and experimental drug haven for hippies. It is now owned by the **Heart Consciousness Church**, a nonprofit religious organization that runs the springs as a retreat center.



Harbin Hot Springs Swimming Tank, circa 1915



Harbin Hot Springs Main Annex, circa 1938

## Wilbur Hot Springs

In 1863, Ezekial Wilbur and Edwin Howell purchased a 640-acre ranch for \$1,500. Formed to mine copper along Sulphur Creek, their partnership was soon disbanded when copper ore proved difficult to treat and decreased in value. Within eight months, Wilbur purchased Howell's share and it became known as **Wilbur Hot Springs**.

He built a wood framed hotel and opened it in 1865. European settlers were attracted to the springs because of the healing minerals in the water.



In the late 1800s, the locations were popular among those who could afford to travel to and stay at fashionable hot springs. Often the journey was long and arduous, requiring travel by boat, train, and stagecoach. To get to Wilbur Hot Springs, guests would travel on the Southern Pacific Railroad to Williams, then travel 22 miles to the springs, a four-hour trip by stagecoach. By the 1880's the health resort reached its zenith. The resort changed hands several times. In 1909 it became a post office, and then a stagecoach stop.



**Wilbur Hot Springs** exists today. The most exciting event today is waiting for the **Fountain of Life Geyser** to erupt every 45 minutes! **Read** more history.

# Volcanic Activity in Clear Lake Region

The Clear Lake volcanic field lies in the Mayacamas mountains about 80 miles north of San Francisco. The volcanic field consists of lava dome complexes, cinder cones, and maars (shallow crater lakes) of basaltic to rhyolitic composition. Mount Konocti is the largest volcanic feature.

The area has intense geothermal activity, caused by a large, still hot silicic magma chamber about 8-1/2 miles wide and 4 miles beneath the surface. It provides the heat source for the Geysers, the world's largest producing geothermal field on the SW side of the volcanic field. Its geothermal power plants can generate approximately 2000 megawatts, enough to power two cities the size of San Francisco.

The latest volcanic activity happened about 10,000 years ago and formed maars and cinder cones along the shores of Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California. Volcanism around Clear Lake is related to the complex San Andreas transform fault system (info [source](#)).



**Typical eruption style:** effusive (lava domes)

**Clear Lake volcano eruptions:** ca. 10,000 years ago

**Lastest nearby earthquakes:**

Time	Mag. / Depth	Distance/Location
<b>Wednesday, January 5, 2022 11:41 GMT (1 earthquake)</b>		
Jan 5, 2022 3:41 am (GMT -8) (Jan 5, 2022 11:41 GMT)	1.1 7.4 km	44 km (27 mi) 10km SE of Boonville, CA
<b>Sunday, January 2, 2022 13:37 GMT (1 earthquake)</b>		
Jan 2, 2022 5:37 am (GMT -8) (Jan 2, 2022 13:37 GMT)	1.3 7.3 km	48 km (30 mi) 2km SE of Redwood Valley, CA



Despite the name of the steam field, no natural geysers exist anywhere in the Geysers-Clear Lake area. The name was suggested to early explorers by the fumarolic activity and steam rising from hot springs in what later became the earliest developed part of the steam field.

# A Synopsis of David Wilkinson's New Book *Gertrude's Oaks: The History & Legacy of Woodland's Urban Forest* – now available

by Mary Aulman

The young pioneer schoolteacher, Gertrude Swain Freeman, gave Woodland its name in 1861 when her husband founded the small town carved out of a valley oak grove. Gertrude loved the trees and rural surroundings, but to her dismay many of the native valley oaks disappeared during her lifetime, a trend that continued in the modern era. *Gertrude's Oaks* is David Wilkinson's new deeply researched book, the latest installment in a series he has penned about Woodland's remarkable cultural history. This book traces Woodland's relationship with its trees spanning three centuries.

The Woodland author brings to life this dynamic and colorful history while introducing readers to several notable historical figures in Woodland's formative years whose pens forced the community to consider its destructive tendencies towards its oak tree heritage. Using genealogy and other primary research sources, Wilkinson delves into the lives of such notable writers as historians H. Wallace Atwell and Corydon P. Sprague (*Western Shore Gazetteer*, 1870), Franklin T. Gilbert (Depue's *Yolo County History and Atlas*, 1879), and Edward Leake and son Paul Leake who published the *Daily Democrat* newspaper throughout much of the 20th century.

In addition to writing about Gertrude Freeman's adventurous life, Wilkinson explores the lives of other influential leaders involved in the early 20th-century women's club movement, such as Woodland writer Serelda Gilstrap Thomas, who were committed to Woodland's civic and cultural development. The Women's Improvement Club created Woodland's first Arbor Day celebration in 1903 and was responsible for the development of City Park, Woodland's first municipal park, opening in 1909. Shakespeare Club women joined other groups in protesting the destruction of large Woodland trees located in public parks and advocated for progressive tree preservation laws over a century ago. Rich in historical context, Wilkinson writes about the progression of Woodland's public policies to plant and protect its public trees and expand its urban forest and park system, including a watershed tree ordinance approved in 1940 which led to citizen oversight of public trees. Layered with literary history, *Gertrude's Oaks* shows how imaginative poets kindled California's first Arbor Day in 1886 in San Francisco influencing other cities to do the same. California poets, whose verse deepens our perception about the essential worth of trees, are celebrated throughout the book.

In the modern era, *Gertrude's Oaks* sheds light on renewed citizen activism in the 1990s which led to efforts to develop a better tree protection ordinance to preserve large oaks and other trees threatened by development while informing the public about their value. Wilkinson writes, from first-hand experience, how local citizens created the nonprofit Woodland Tree Foundation in the wake of a lawsuit to save historical trees from a road-widening project. Wilkinson explains the relevance of Woodland's **Climate Action Plan** to the growth of its urban forest and how Woodland's **Urban Forest Master Plan** will guide urban forestry in the future. *Gertrude's Oaks* makes the case for "re-oaking" the city's future landscape in appropriate locations, including new developments. Valley oak trees, a long-lived keystone species which hosts abundant wildlife, are adaptable to warming climates and can sequester large quantities of CO<sup>2</sup>, a greenhouse gas.

The impassioned book contains over 200 archival and contemporary photographs spanning Woodland's history, sourced from the Yolo County Archives and Yolo County History Museum collections and a variety of other sources. Talented Woodland photographers, Susan Bovey, David Rosen and Yvonne Hunter, contributed sparkling photos of the city's beautiful and inspiring landscape. David Herbst, a local artifact collector, contributed rare historical photos. The Yolo County Historical Society (YCHS) and the Stroll Through History, Inc. underwrote the cost of publishing the book. Net book sale proceeds will benefit YCHS programs.

The book is available now on [Amazon](#) and soon in selected Yolo County retailers and bookstores.

# Important dates to remember

## Who said history was not happening in Yolo County?

### Winters History Museum

- Currently an exhibition on the Japanese Internment
- Closing the end of February
- Winters had many Japanese families living and working in the area

### Hatti Weber Museum

- Closed the month of January
- Will open in February with an exhibition on the Japanese Internment
- Focus on several Japanese students who were going to UC at the time

### Woodland – Yolo County Historical Society

- Exhibit in the Woodland City Hall in February
- City of Woodland Library – selection of books dealing with the internment

### County Fair Museum

- Lights will be purchased in January
- Map will be installed in late February

### Big Day of Giving

- May 5, 2022 – Focus again on the County Fair Museum renovation

### Stroll Through History

- October 8, 2022
- Focus on Mid Century Modern houses



## Patrons

The following folks support the *Yolo County Historical Society*. We could not run this organization without your additional help. Thank you very much!

You can also be a patron by **contributing** \$100 or more.

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## Business Buddies

Please support these local businesses.

They support the *Yolo County Historical Society*.

**Corner Drug**

**Local Inspirations**

**Simas Family Vineyard**



Yolo County Historical Society

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Dated Material

## **Submitting letters and articles**

Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Kathy Harryman [khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com)

## **Change of Address**

Please notify Kathy Harryman [khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com) of any address changes (it costs nearly \$1.00 to get your correct address from the Post Office and your newsletter mailing is delayed). Or sign up for delivery as an email PDF attachment (see above email).

## **Vision Statement**

The Yolo County Historical Society strives to preserve, protect and acknowledge the diverse history of Yolo County through education, communication and advocacy.

We are a 5013c tax deductible organization

Tax id number: **23-7086043**

See our website at [ychs.org](http://ychs.org)

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