

Yolo County Historical Society



Prez Says

2026! Happy Birthday to the United States – 250 years of existence. And some of the Europeans thought we would only last a few years. We showed them, didn't we?

Right now, there isn't much happening throughout the county. I think everyone is recovering from the holidays and trying to keep warm and toasty during the fog days. There are a few items that I have included in our newsletter. One is a letter written by Gloria Lopez sharing what the Winter's Historical Society did last year. I thought it should be published for all to read.

The other article concerns the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) plaque that was placed at Everman Park in Woodland. I have lived here since 1975 and have never gone to that park. I knew there was a park in that area, but I had never seen it. So, I was thrilled to be at the dedication and not only to see the lovely park, but also to hear about the history of the park. I wanted to share that with you. We are so fortunate to have individuals who have lived in this city and county who have valued their history and made it available for all of us.

The mural is finished on the north side of the Porter Theater, on the corner of College Street and Dead Cat Alley. It was done in December when it was foggy. It is delightful. Please be sure to drive by and see it. Thank you, David Wilkinson, for spearheading that event and honoring one of our many theaters in Woodland.

Again, no one has stepped up for the Presidency and the Treasurer's position. We can always have two people share each position. Please think about it.

Remember, as always,
History Rules!

Kathy Harryman, President

Be Part of an Amazing Group of People.

We need a President and a Treasurer to take over in June.



Business Buddies

Please support these local businesses.
They support YCHS.

Corner Drug

Dennis Dahlin, RLA

Legislative Intent Service

Marco Brando

Pleasant Pheasant

Zamora Hills Ranch, LLC

What is With the Weather??

by Kathy Harryman

I tried to go online to see what the weather was in the 1800's. I wanted to discover if fog was prevalent during that period. We have had fog since around Thanksgiving. What I found out was surprising.

Formal weather monitoring began in 1849 in San Francisco and San Diego with only rain measurements. Los Angeles began keeping records in 1877. Residents and farmers relied on observations of clouds, winds, The Old Farmer's Almanac, experience in how the seasons flow, animal behavior signs, and their own arthritic bones. (Smithsonian Science)

Apparently, no one was keeping track of the weather in the Central Valley. I decided to look up "Tule fog" in [Wikipedia](#). Here is what I found.

Tule fog is a thick ground fog that settles in the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley areas of California's Central Valley. Tule fog forms from late fall through early spring (California's winter season) after the first significant rainfall. The official time frame for tule fog to form is from November 1 to March 31. This phenomenon is named after the tule grass wetlands of the Central Valley.



Formation

Tule fog is radiation fog, which condenses when there is a high relative humidity (typically after a heavy rain), calm winds, and rapid cooling during the night. The nights are longer in the winter months, which allows an extended period of ground cooling, and thereby a pronounced temperature inversion at a low altitude.

Tule fog is characteristically confined mainly to the Central Valley due to the mountain ranges surrounding it. Because of the density of the cold air in the winter, winds are not able to dislodge the fog and the high pressure of the warmer air above the mountaintops presses down on the cold air trapped in the valley, resulting in a dense, immobile fog that can last for days or at times for weeks undisturbed. Tule fog often contains light drizzle or freezing drizzle when temperatures are sufficiently cold.

Tule fog is a low cloud, usually below 2,000 feet in altitude and can be seen from above by driving up into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada to the east or the Coast Ranges to the west.

Above the cold, foggy layer, the air is typically mild, dry and clear. Once tule fog has formed, turbulent air is necessary to break through the temperature inversion layer.



Daytime heating (cloud-penetrating visible light wavelengths transformed to infrared by the ground) sometimes evaporates the fog in patches, although the air remains chilly and hazy below the inversion and fog reforms soon after sunset. Tule fog usually remains longer in the southern and eastern parts of the Central Valley, because winter storms with strong winds and turbulent air affect the northern Central Valley more often.

So now we know! We are stuck with the fog and the cold unless we head for the hills and see the blue sky and sun.

Historical Society of Winters and the Winters Museum

by Gloria Lopez

The year 2025 has been a very busy one for the Historical Society of Winters and the Winters Museum.

Exhibits

We try to have about two new exhibits a year at the Winters Museum. First, we had "Winters Businesses" which included not only a retrospective of various businesses but also a great roundtable discussion event that included several residents who had grown up in family businesses. Rob Coman (Vasey Bros) and Julie Skaggs Campbell (California Market/Town & Country/Lorenzos) talked about growing up in a local grocery store. Niki Greenwood reminded us how special Greenwood's Department Store was. Carie Kiefer assured us that Myrna is still alive and kicking!

Our current exhibit is "The Journey from Spain to Winters: Stories of Hard Work, Strong Families, & Good Food." The goals of this exhibit include being colorful and joyous, and honoring the sacrifices and courage of those who left their homes in Spain in search of a better life for their families and found just that in Winters! At the Grand Opening on November 1, a crowd of about 125 descendants and friends gathered at the Museum to enjoy paella (courtesy of Joe Lopez and family) and other Spanish treats that were shared by all. The exhibit has been very popular and will remain until at least the end of February 2026. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFaRurxJrMU to watch a preview.

Any ideas what we should include in future exhibits? Let us know!

Awards

In January, the Historical Society received the Theodore Winters Award. What an honor!

Our board member, Susan von Geldern, was honored with a 2025 Yolo Philanthropy Award! She is a gem and is instrumental in finding and training docents for the museum.

Big Day of Giving in May was a success as our donors and supporters certainly came through with funds needed to help fund our exhibits, upkeep, and renovations for the year. Thank you!

The "150 Club" was started in May to honor the sesquicentennial (150-year) birthday of our town, Winters. We celebrated this birthday on May 22. About 100 people dropped by for cake, refreshments, and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday, Winters!" Everyone can join by donating \$150 (or more). In the Spring of 2026, we will have a special event to honor these members. Our goal is to have 150 donors donate \$150. Would you like to join? There is still time!

Schedule

The Winters Museum will be CLOSED for the winter holidays from December 22 through January 7. It will reopen on Thursday, January 8.

To arrange a visit by appointment, email wintersmuseum@gmail.com or call 530-304-1528.

Finally

And last but not least, as 2025 comes to a close, please keep the Historical Society of Winters, aka The Winters Museum, on your year-end donation list. Our goal of preserving and sharing the rich history of Winters depends upon you! Visit www.wintersmuseum.org/support to donate.

Keep the memories alive!

Everman Park (Woodland)

Speech delivered by Janet Fulton

Honorary Sacramento Chapter Regent¹

I am here to share the story of Everman Park and the Yolo Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution during the United States Bicentennial. Organized in 1964 with twelve members, the Yolo Chapter was geographically destined to be one of DAR's small, but mighty, rural chapters. It averaged less than ten members in attendance at regular meetings, reaching its zenith in 1971 with thirty members and recognition by the California State Society Daughters of the American Revolution for its membership growth.

Members were dedicated to bringing the types of DAR service, occupying a unique niche, to Yolo County that one would when numbers are small. The Yolo Chapter prioritized awarding a DAR Good Citizens Scholarship for high school seniors annually, with criteria based on both academic excellence and community service.

They purchased United States flags and DAR lineage books to donate to area institutions and held Christmas parties for veterans living in local convalescent hospitals. One year, they participated in a parade. And, members staged fundraisers to pay for it all.

In 1967, Florence Koenitzer joined their sisterhood. Mrs. Koenitzer was of the generation of university educated women who channeled their prodigious talents and drive to community service. She was a Girl Scout leader, member of Davis Republican Women and the American Association of University Women, and an elder in the Davis Community Church.

In early 1971, she suffered a heart attack. Some people might have pulled back. Not Florence. She was installed as the Yolo Chapter's Regent that May.

As the United States Bicentennial approached, Florence Koenitzer and her husband, Lester, an engineering professor and builder, developed a grand plan. They would donate four acres of land to the City of Woodland for a neighborhood park, in honor of Florence's DAR

Patriot ancestor, Michael Ebermann, a German immigrant whose name was anglicized to Everman, and who served in Virginia's militia and also sold bacon to the Continental Army.

And so, in 1972, they solicited the participation of sixteen of Michael Everman's descendants to donate to the development of the park.

The total family gift included landscaping, a park building with restrooms, a supply room and maintenance room, children's play area, senior citizens area, lighted basketball and volleyball courts, lighted walkways, a horseshoe pitching area, a tree house, and picnic tables and benches.



In 1974, Florence Koenitzer, now serving as the California State Society Daughters of the American Revolution District II Director, presided over a dedication ceremony that included Daughters of the American Revolution and local civic dignitaries, and representatives from other community-based organizations.

Everman Park was the first park in California dedicated in honor of a Revolutionary War Patriot.

The Koenitzers didn't stop there. Florence created an overlay between DAR and their personal generosity. In 1975, she presided over the dedication of a memorial grove dedicated to California State Society Daughters of the American Revolution District II Chapters.

continued on next page

Everman Park - *continued*

And, in 1976, the Yolo Chapter installed and dedicated a grove of trees in the park to the United States of America and its Bicentennial. The three plaques marking these donations are still present.

Mrs. Koenitzer passed away in 1982 and her husband, Lester, followed her in 1999. In the Yolo County Archives there is a newspaper clipping where Lester proclaims that Everman Park was their "pride and joy."

As time elapsed and culture changed, the Yolo Chapter's active members became fewer and more elderly until it disbanded in 1993.

Members transferred mostly to the Sacramento Chapter, which also absorbed the Yolo Chapter's service area, and continues to provide occasional DAR service within Yolo County.

Sadly, the institutional memory of even the existence of Everman Park was lost until several years ago when a curious Sacramento Chapter Past Regent reviewed Yolo Chapter records at the Yolo County Archives.

How fitting that the Everman Park's history be restored to Yolo County and Daughters of the American Revolution as we approach America 250. Thank you, Mr. And Mrs. Koenitzer!

[Everman Park Website](#)

¹ On the occasion of the Sacramento Chapter's America 250! Patriot Marker Dedication at Everman Park, Woodland, CA on November 22, 2025.

**Patrons 2025-26**

Thanks so much to the following for supporting the Yolo County Historical Society. We could not run this organization without your additional help.

You, also, can be a patron by [contributing](#) \$100 or more.

Ryan Baum and Alice Wong
 Don and Pat Campbell
 Odette & Dana Christensen
 Katherine Cobb
 Rob Coman
 Tom Crisp
 Paul Crist & Leila Stone
 Ginger & Bob Day
 Karen & David Dumars
 Louise Dumars
 Mark & Merrily Dupree
 Barbara & John Durst
 Moira Fitzgerald
 Alfred & Kay Graf
 Barbara Graham
 Erik & Suzy Hallen
 Daniel & Sarah Hrdy
 Richard Harrison
 Kathy Harryman
 Susan Larkey
 Dr. Frank Lemus
 Jenny Lillge
 Gloria Lopez
 Jane Niehues
 Claudia & Chuck Owens
 Jane Proctor
 Carol Rose
 Roger Sornsen
 Tom & Meg Stallard
 Roz Stone
 Mike Truitt Family
 Ramon & Karen Urbano

Feel free to use this page or [download](#) the PDF.

Yolo County Historical Society

Application for Joanne Larkey Writing Grant

Name of applicant _____

Brief biography of the applicant

Short summary of the subject matter

Relevance to Yolo County history

Proposed Title

Estimated Number of Words of completed text _____

Timetable for completion _____

Estimated number of photographs/illustrations _____

Photos used with permission Yes No

Estimate of publication costs _____

Request for grant (Circle one) \$500 \$1000 \$1500

YCHS has the final say in editing the manuscript.

The author is responsible for working with YCHS to market and promote publications. Possibilities include websites, social media, placement in bookstores, and book signings.

Must submit a digital copy that is formatted to the contracted printers' standards.

Name _____ Date _____