

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Can it be Fall already? It's time to start thinking about Thanksgiving, Christmas, cold days, and frosty mornings. I guess it won't be so bad. We are looking forward to new programs on the 4th Sunday of the month for us, the members of the Yolo County Historical Society, along with members of the public who find our programs of interest.

Speaking of which, the front cover announces Dr. Clover's presentation on the Hesperian College. This program was originally scheduled for last October but health got in the way. We are very excited that we were "forced" to wait because now we are being joined by the Christian Church congregation who were instrumental in the College's establishment in Woodland originally. This should be an interesting program with many new faces in the audience.

Shirley Goldman and I have put our heads together and begun the planning of a trip to Calaveras County but it will have to wait until Spring as the weather now will be iffy. Not sure of costs as the bus companies are also having their costs rise under the current national situation. We also have the information gathered a couple of years ago for an overnight trip to Redding. We are also looking at a couple of short trips. Ever taken time to learn the history of Dixon? What about the Pena Adobe in Vacaville? We are always looking for suggestions.

Peace,  
B.J. Ford President

## **Some Stone Carvers & Monument Companies that Produced the Yolo County Cemetery Stones in the late 1800s-early 1900s**

Rather a long title but it covers the content of a brochure just published by Peggy B. & Patrick Perazzo. We do not have enough brochures to enclose in this newsletter, BUT, if this interests you, please give B.J. Ford a call, 662-0952, and one will be sent by mail. They will also be available at the office of the Woodland City Cemetery. There is also information at <http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/c-a-stone-carvers/menu.html>

Peggy joined Historian David Wilkinson in a walking tour of downtown Woodland during the Stroll Through History discussing the various types of stones used in the historic buildings along the Main Street.

## **THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

Right now all is quiet at the Spring Lake Schoolhouse, but things will get busy in October. By then some classes will be well into their yearly studies and ready for a field trip back into 1890.

As of press time, sixteen classes had called to make reservations for the fall; and even twenty-two classes had already asked to be included in the spring schedule.

Joyce Sahara, Jackie Scott, and Marilyn Scholz-schoolmarms all-spent some time one morning after the Fair to get the schoolhouse ready for the classes that will soon come.

We're ready!

## **ARCADIA PUBLICATIONS**

Many of you are aware of the books on the history of communities done by Arcadia Publications. They are primarily historic photographs with a short statement of the history of said photograph. The City of Davis has a book while the West Sacramento Historical Society has published three books in the past several years. A person, or persons, willing to undertake such a project whether it be Woodland, Knights Landing, Winters, or Esparto, would need to spend time at the Yolo County Archives doing research in order to compile the appropriate photographs and information. There are also "historians" in Yolo County who have old photographs. The Yolo County Historical Society has not published a book in several years. Book sales are one of our primary sources of income. If you have an interest in working on such a project, please give BJ a call, 662-0952.

## **ATTENTION KNIGHTS LANDING RESIDENTS**

Many of you will remember Gerrie Robinson who did her Master of Science Thesis on "Knights Landing Oral Histories: Capturing Stories for Future Generations." The Society has received a copy of her Thesis along with a note saying she has left a copy at the library in Knights Landing. The Society will be giving their copy to the Yolo County Archives which will also make it available for reading. Congratulations to Gerrie on receiving her Master of Science in Community Development from the University of California at Davis.

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

We would be remiss if we did not publicly thank Society board member, Kris Turner, who has overseen the Woodland Cemetery Reenactments during the Stroll Through History for many years. Kris has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. We cannot thank her enough for her dedication to this project. She will be missed. The Cemetery Reenactments are one of the outstanding events of the Stroll and will continue with a new leader next year.

## **TREASURES OF YOUR PAST A GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints this one day event will be held in Chico on October 18th 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Fee includes lunch and a CD with: Genealogy Program PAF 5.2, Internet Resources, Conference handouts for all classes, Booth handouts from all genealogy societies and specialist organizations. 23 unique classes to choose from. For more information call 530-519-2363 or to register: go to [www.chicostake.org/treasurer](http://www.chicostake.org/treasurer) or send your name, address, phone number and Materials Fee to : Chico 4th Ward, Treasures of Your Past, 1878 Humboldt Rd. #2, Chico, CA 94928.

## CEMETERY THEATER

On Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, visitors flowed in and out of The Woodland City Cemetery to feast their eyes, and ears, on numerous character portrayals. All in all, there were 32 volunteers in period costume stationed by their headstones or markers, telling the public who visited, about their lives which spanned the past two centuries. Some were solo, others were in groups, some were spouses, one was playing TAPS, and one even had her four month old son with her as part of her re-enactment.

We learned how the Gable brothers settled in Woodland and were close into old age. We heard George Hecke who established the California Department of Agriculture in 1919 and survived a dive into his empty swimming pool. Martha Price, the tombstone with the oldest burial date, tells how she died from complications from childbirth along with her newborn son. Sara Laugenour Huston told us how she established the Home Alliance paper and served as editor and publisher for 35 years. We learned how Frank and Gertrude Freeman founded our town of Woodland. We met Lydia Lawhead who served as president of the Northern California District of the California Federation of Women's Clubs. Harriet Lee told us how she was one of the first founders of Mother's Day. Immigrating from Italy in 1906, Joseph G. Motroni told us how his becoming a brick mason helped when he founded his own contracting business. We heard how Mary Frances Gaither tended to the nursing needs of many people of all races from the Capay

Valley. Personal items belonging to Rhoda Maxwell, who taught until she was 65, were on display. The establisher of the Sanitarium, Kathleen McConnell Mixon, told how she and her two sisters scrubbed the rooms with carbolic acid. We saw an impressive genealogy display, and tablecloth, from the descendants of the Low family whose grandfather was the vook at the Bemmerly Ranch for nearly 30 years. We listened to suffragettes with Emily Hoppin sing, who helped close down 40 saloons in 1870's Woodland while working for equal suffrage for women. One tombstone reading, "Unknown male and parts of two others" needs more explaining than one sentence. Amelia Jackson spoke of her husband, Byron Jackson, and his finest invention, the agricultural centrifugal pump. And last, but not least, we viewed an actual saloon shooting of Leal Burrows by the Sheriff and three conniving prostitutes.

Well, that's the low-down on what was happening at the "quiet" cemetery on Saturday.

Kris Turner (Cemetery Coordinator)

Bourne Drive.

Marilyn Kregel

## **LOCOMOTIVE 1233 ARRIVES AT THE HISTORIC WOODLAND SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT**

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

In 1949 Spring Lake School and Willow Slough School joined and became the new Willow Spring Union Elementary School.

When the two one-room country schoolhouses were combined, and a new multi-room school was built at the corner of Gibson Road and Road 101, the two original school buildings were no longer needed. The question then became, "What shall we do with them?"

The solutions were creative. The 1869 Spring Lake School was purchased by the Yolo County Historical Society, after a valiant effort to raise the \$350 needed. The building was moved off the property at Gibson Road and Road 101 to the Yolo County Fairgrounds, where it remains today.

The old Willow Slough Schoolhouse, built in 1861 and located at the corner of Road 102A and Road 27, enjoyed a different fate. In 1951 Robert Bell bought the empty Willow Slough building and moved it to Road 101, near the new Willow Spring School. There he used the old schoolhouse as part of the new house he was building for his family.

Today, then, both of the old schoolhouses are still in use—one on the fairgrounds and the other as part of a house on the newly renamed

After lengthy discussions, and a couple of years of preparation, Southern Pacific steam locomotive 1233 has been moved to a track at the Historic Woodland Southern Pacific Depot. Spreckles locomotive 50 and Southern Pacific caboose 1156 also made the trip and all are now on display at the depot. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people and now allows the Sacramento Valley Historical Railways to display key pieces of its collection at the depot located at 1120 Lincoln Avenue in Woodland. Visit their website at [www.trainweb.org/SVHR](http://www.trainweb.org/SVHR).

### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE:**

Articles for the newsletter will be accepted until the **20<sup>th</sup>** of each month. Please either e-mail Jeannette Molson at: [JLMolson@aol.com](mailto:JLMolson@aol.com) or mail to the Yolo County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1447, Woodland CA 95776.