

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

There is a lot to share in this newsletter. I'll go in order of dates. First, elsewhere in this newsletter you will read that we are sponsoring a Free Museum Day in Woodland on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Before you look at the information see if you can name all of the Museums in Woodland. I have to admit that a couple are a "stretch".

Thanks to Yolo County Historical Society Board Member Bob Sommer, programs have been booked through May.

The May Festival, at the Gibson Museum, is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Some of you can expect a phone call from Avery Campbell who will be looking for "BAKERS". Avery is organizing the Country Bakery again this year and we cannot thank him enough.

The Society's Spring Trip is in the planning stage, and if the past is any barometer, the bus will fill up fast. The date is Tuesday, May 24. We will be visiting the Haggin Museum, in Stockton, and the Mickie Grove Regional Park in Lodi. Cost has yet to be determined but it will include lunch in Stockton as well as the usual "munchies" on the bus. The reservation form will be in the April newsletter.

As has been our custom, our February meeting was a joint meeting with the West Sacramento Historical Society. The speaker was April Farnham who shared her research on local Native Tribes. After the presentation, we visited the Society's historical display in the West Sacramento Community Center. This space was graciously given to the Society by the City Fathers.

Peace,

BJ Ford, President

## **ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION YOLO COUNTY HISTORIC MUSEUM**

This year's Arbor Day celebration, at the Museum, will take place on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The day will not only include the Annual Plant Sale but docents will be available so visitors can tour the recently refurbished Gibson Museum. Don't miss this opportunity.

## **SPRING LAKE SCHOOLHOUSE**

Will spring ever get here???? We are waiting and planning. Our schoolhouse will open shortly. Letters have been sent to our teachers and schools are beginning to schedule times to visit. We are all anxiously awaiting. Will it ever get here?

Kathy Harryman

## **FREE MUSEUM DAY**

**April 9, 2011  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Yolo County Archives**  
226 Buckeye Street

**Christian Church Museum**  
509 College Street

**Heidrick Ag History Museum**  
1962 Hays Lane

**Hay's Antique Truck Museum**

1962 Hays Lane

### **Yolo County Historical Museum**

512 Gibson Road

### **Mark Reiff's Home**

57 Jefferson Street

### **Spring Lake Schoolhouse**

Yolo County Fairgrounds

### **Woodland Museum of Biblical Archaeology**

240 West Street

### **Springlake/Woodland Fire Museum**

Yolo County Fairgrounds

### **Woodland Opera House**

340 Second Street

## **MORE INFORMATION ON SPRING TRIP**

The History of the Haggin Museum began in 1912 with the San Joaquin Society of California Pioneers, an organization dedicated to the collection and preservation of information and materials connected with the early settlement of San Joaquin Valley. They decided to build a museum to house its collection of photographs, diaries, letters and artifacts related to pioneer heritage. In 1928, the San Joaquin Pioneer and Historical Society was founded and pledged itself to the cause of creating a museum in Stockton to preserve the local area's historical treasures. In 1929, the City offered a site in Victory Park for the construction of a larger facility and the fundraising began. Finally on June 14, 1931, the Haggin Museum opened its doors.

Micke Grove Park, in Lodi, is an 18 acre Museum with 8 exhibition buildings and 4 historic buildings – including the 1866 Calaveras School and the 1847 Charles Weber

cottage. Captain Weber (founder of Stockton and first farmer in the area).

## **PIONEERS OF YOLO COUNTY**

### **CLARKSBURG -**

Clarksburg was named for Robert Christopher Clark, a lawyer from Kentucky who bought the site of Clarksburg in 1856. By 1870 there were 480 people living in the area. In 1876 the Clarksburg post office was established.

### **LITTLE LISBON –**

Three miles upstream from Clarksburg a Portuguese settlement developed in the late 1850's. Most of its settlers emigrated from the Azores.

The first settler in the Little Lisbon district was John Miller, an Azoran whaler, who had changed his name from Joseph Souza Nevis Mello when he jumped ship and joined the American whaler fleet. After arriving in California in 1849, he settled just above Clarksburg in 1856 where he bought 186 acres of swamp and overflowed land and began to farm. Miller encouraged a number of his friends and relatives from the Azores to come to California. His enthusiasm extended to helping organize the Lisbon School District. He furnished the schoolhouse and paid \$400 salary for a Portuguese-speaking teacher.

Joseph Miller's descendents, the Dutra family, relocated in Rio Vista where they are still conducting the family dredging business. The private Dutra Museum in Rio Vista can be toured by special arrangements.

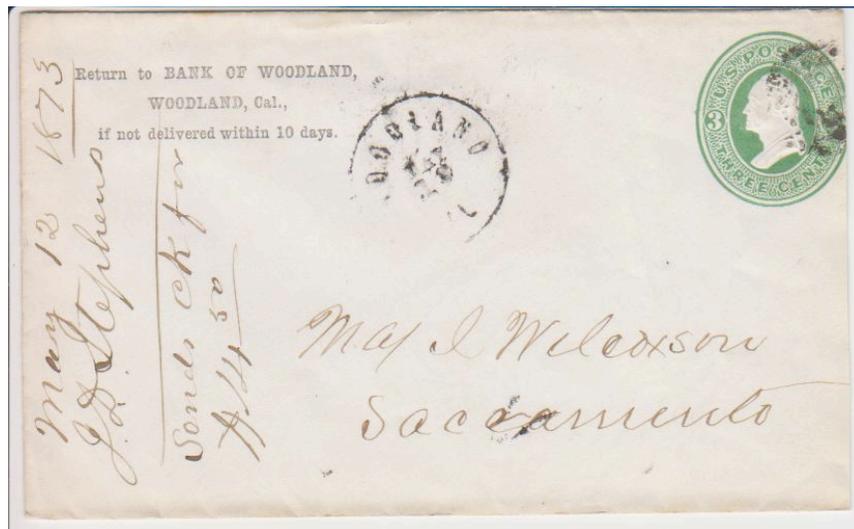
[Extracted from: Pioneers of Yolo County – date unknown]

## **VISION STATEMENT**

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

**March 2011**

## **“BANK OF WOODLAND THROUGH HISTORY AND DOCUMENTS”**



A presentation, presented by Ryan Baum, of the Wells Fargo Asset Management Group, will focus on the history of the Bank of Woodland. The founder, John Stephens, was instrumental in the early development of Yolo County as an agricultural center and regional banking center. His history is the personification of the Gold Rush and California's maturity from purely a mining-based economy to one of production and services.

The presentation will take place from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Woodland United Fellowship, 240 North West Street in Woodland.

Those attending are invited to visit the adjacent Woodland Museum of Biblical Archaeology following this meeting. A docent will be available to answer questions.

All Yolo County Historical Society General Membership meetings are open to the public.