

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you invited a friend to join the Society? Or better yet, have you paid your dues or is there a red dot on the cover of your newsletter. (The Society's year runs from July to June).

As you read through this newsletter and see the many activities taking place, and with the Board of Directors holding a workshop for further planning in late September, you do not want to miss out.

A couple of members of the Board of Directors are leaving our County and we need to replace them knowing that there are people who would enjoy being in the leadership of the Society as it moves forward. Please don't hesitate to ask to be considered. Call B.J. Ford at (530) 662-0952.

Just a reminder that the Vintage Fashion Follies is being held on Saturday, September 11th at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 620 North Street at the corner of 2nd Street in Woodland. The time is 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with refreshments during the 15 minute intermission. Sandy Beers, of Cricket's Creative Apparel, had designed and made nearly 100 costumes from 1850 to the present. More than 40 actors in authentic and/or reproduction costumes will re-create **actual and fictional historical events in California and Woodland**. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the Red Cross Office, Sir Speedy, the United Methodist Church Office, Kayana Taillon Photography (all in Woodland) or online at strollthroughhistory.com or call (530) 666-6972.

B. J. Ford, President
Yolo County Historical Society

LINCOLN'S FAVORITE BLACKSMITH

Fred H. Schroeder, a German immigrant shoed President Lincoln's saddle horses during the Civil War. He was reportedly Lincoln's favorite shoer.

Schroeder was nearby when Lincoln was shot and took an active part in the policing and search for the assassin.

After the war, Schroeder moved to California. In 1869 he married Marie Martin. The couple had 16 children. One of his daughters became Mrs. Frank Covell. Schroeder died in the Covell home in Davis on January 16, 1925 at the age of 88.

A large assortment of blacksmith tools is on display at the Hattie Weber Museum of Davis as part of the current "Davis Industry: Windmill to Robots, Phase 1" exhibit. There is also information on the Windmill factory and the famous cocoonery located just outside Davisville on the Chiles ranch. More conventional industry, such as the manufacturing of the early almond hullers and the now departed Hunt-Wesson tomato processing plant are also featured.

The Museum is open from 10 – 4 on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The address is 445 C Street. Admission is free. Visitors and volunteers are more than welcome.

PA GRAND REVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS

Harrisburg PA will be the site of the 150th year reenactment of a special celebration held in 1865. This celebration is to recognize the many African American men and women who served during the Civil War but who were not invited to the "official" celebration held in Washington, D.C. honoring Civil War veterans. Over 100 Civil War veterans have been identified and will have their lives portrayed by re-enactors in Civil War attire. One soldier, William Nelson Molson, cousin to Jeannette Molson, will be one of those honored. William N. Molson was a color guard for his regiment, the PA 43rd, and fought at Hatcher's Run, in Virginia. As a part of the program, a nine-member symposium will take place on Friday, November 5th. Jeannette Molson has been asked to be a part of that symposium. She will be mentoring the young man who will portray her cousin.

SPRING LAKE SCHOOL HOUSE NEWS

School House Director, Kathy Harryman, advises that 3rd grade classes will begin visiting the Spring Lake School House in October. This year will be a challenge in that many local schools are combining 2nd and 3rd grade classes but the School Marms are ready for the challenge.

Prior to the opening of the school, the floors and porches will be receiving a new coat of paint and exhibits are being refreshed.

Kathy has some small projects she would like to see finished; desk drawers need to be adjusted. She would like to see a small "broom closet" built in the back of the school.

Kathy's contact information is on the back of this newsletter. If you see yourself volunteering for one of her projects, give her a call.

The Home missionary, Volumes 39 – 40

By American Home Missionary Society, Congregational Home Missionary Society, Page 281. 1867

Description of the Field. In Yolo County, Cottonwood township, about twenty five miles west of Sacramento city, stands a Congregational meeting house, dedicated to the service of the living and true God. Taking this house of worship as the center, a radius of ten miles in extent will describe my field of labor. Within this circle, twenty miles in diameter, there is not, to the best of my knowledge, another house appropriated to the worship of God, nor any other organized Christian church of any denomination.

The district is agricultural; the soil exceedingly rich and productive; and almost every foot of it is susceptible of irrigation. The railroad in contemplation, between Knight's Landing and Vallejo, must afford us at least one depot; and a canal for the double purpose of commerce and irrigation, will, doubtless, be opened at no distant day. It is, indeed, believed by some that the canal projected will mar the healthfulness of the climate, but I anticipate no such result. A sea breeze from the bay sweeps from the plain, at frequent intervals, every miasmatic and deleterious agent. The climate is truly temperate as any breathed in our Commonwealth. The project, also, is extensive, beautiful and interesting.

On the north, about five miles from the meetinghouse, is Cache Creek. It rises in Clear Lake, and flows like a torrent during the rainy season; but in summer and autumn it

becomes what the French name imports, a creek hidden or concealed. Then like every stream of mere earthly felicity, it is greatest at its source, sinking continually, instead of rising above its earthly bed, until it vanishes in the grave. Farther, however, than the eye can reach, that lowly bed has from time immemorial been designated and commemorated by trees of the Lord's planting. Towards Sacramento a plain of inexhaustible fertility has a visible limit only in the eastern horizon.

Towards the southeast, south, southwest and west, the scenery is changed. The eye first rests upon "the foothills" and then gradually ascends the more elevated ranges towering above them, till it reaches some of the loftiest summits on the Pacific coast. The beholder, who has been taught to lift up his eyes unto the hills from whence cometh salvation, cannot but be charmed with the prospect. The purity of the atmosphere, the delightfulness of the scenery, and the smiles of heaven are acknowledged every day in the songs of the lark; and he who cannot join the praise, nor enjoy the melody, has no music in his soul.

Character of the People. This section of country is destined to become both rich and populous and it is exceedingly important that churches should be planted here that will shine as lights in the world. The population at present reminds one of the flocks and herds of the patriarch at Padanarai. They were "ring-streaked, speckled, spotted, and grizzled." So it is with this community. There are Congregationalists, Cumberland Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, (North and South,) Cambellites, Bunkers, Second Adventists, Destructionists, Jews, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Skeptics, and many Gallios, that care for none of these things. In pro-slavery and sympathizers there is also another element, as bitter and repulsive as the waters of Marah. But even those waters were made sweet by the "tree" which the Lord pointed out to Moses; and I pray God that *these* bitter

fountains may be sweetened by the tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

A Beginning Made. The house of worship, including the ground in which it stands, is worth about \$3,000, is un-encumbered with debt and is secured by deed to the use of the Congregational church and society in this place. Under God, it owes its existence mainly to the prayers and self-denying efforts of S. B. Holton, Esq., and his excellent wife, whose faith, patience and labors of love are every where spoken of.

A parsonage is now purchased. It is not, indeed, an earthly palace, and yet we think it is honored every day by the presence of him who, though rich, for our sakes became poor. Mrs. Thacher and myself took possession of it on Wednesday, December 12th [1866?], and on the evening following we opened a weekly prayer meeting, which we trust will be continued while the house remains.

Several families have recently come into the neighborhood that seem disposed to keep the Sabbath and reverence the sanctuary. This is certainly an interesting field of labor. If not already ripe, it is rapidly ripening for harvest, and, to secure that harvest, somebody must exercise self-denial. Mrs. Thacher and myself have, for fourteen years [1852 – 1866?], been self-supporting missionaries in California and we think our labors in Yuba County have not been altogether in vain in the Lord. All our time and strength and substance we have consecrated to the cause of Christ, and we are still willing, if needful, for his sake, with our own hands, to minister to our own necessities. We believe, however, that if the Lord of the harvest is pleased, through your prayers and appropriations, to encourage our hearts and strengthen our hands in his service, he will reward you with additional success in the benevolent and glorious work to which you are devoted and make us mutual helpers of each other's joy.

September 2010

COTTONWOOD CEMETERY

The Cottonwood Cemetery began in the mid-1860s as a traditional churchyard burial ground attached to the Congregational Church that struggled for a decade before dissolving around 1879. We will walk around this fascinating cemetery during the talk, so wear sensible shoes for the sometimes-uneven grass. About 500 people are buried with readable markers according to Kemmerle's recent survey [it is alphabetical and on the web]. Important people and families from the local farming communities are buried here; new burials are added every year. Large, ornate, and distinctive stones commemorate many graves. A grove of cypress trees is a distinctive landscaping feature, visible miles from the 4-acre site.

One member and their large marble marker will be discussed in special detail. The stone of Reverend Tyler Thacher (1801-1869) has more writing on it than any other stone in the County! The tragic deaths of the three children are noted: one drowned in 1848, one was "killed by the Indians" in 1857, and one "died by sun stroke" in 1859. The reverend himself graduated from Brown University and was a noted scholar/author, evangelist, pastor, and missionary. They came "around the Horn" to California in 1850 and settled in Marysville before moving to the south of Cache Creek and then to the Cottonwood hamlet. Sadly, when Mrs. Thacher died in 1880 there was no one or no money to carve her name on the stone's fourth panel.

The following pages contain a missionary letter sent around 1867 by Tyler Thacher to his patron organization in the Congregational Church. Notice how raw and frontier-like is this promising western part of Yolo County: no rival church was within 10 miles. Grazing in the hills and wheat on the plain promised prosperity. Notice how hopeful he was that the coming railroad would follow the traditional "road around the tules" from the Winters area to the Madison/Cottonwood area and along Cache Creek to Knight's Landing. Notice that this forceful abolitionist lamented the strong pro-slavery tilt of the Sacramento Valley

On Sunday, October 24, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Dennis Dingemans will give a tour and talk. The Cottonwood Cemetery is located on Road 25, 1/10 mile east of Road 89 [2 miles south of Madison and 7 miles north of Winters].