

# Yolo County Historical Society



September 2015

## Pres Says:

This year is an exciting year for the Yolo County Historical Society. We have great programs lined up for your enjoyment. **October 18<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m., we will be at the Pollock/Reiff Ranch and hear about Wells Fargo right by the old Wells Fargo Building. In November, we will go on a mini field trip to Sacramento and visit the Sacramento Medical Museum where instruments from the past are stored. In January, we will visit Woodland Fire Station #1 and hear about the early efforts to fight fires in Woodland and the Spring Lake area. In February, we will be treated to a discussion on post cards and their history. All will be encouraged to bring old postcards to this discussion. In March, we will look at the architecture of Woodland in the historic Carnegie Library. April brings baseball to the county and our April presentation talks about all the 'farm' teams throughout Yolo County. Finally in May, we will hear the first of a 3 part series about World War I and Yolo County.

I am very happy with the programs. There is a lot of local historical information for all of us. Along with the presentation, Marilyn Kregel and Claire Childers have again graciously donated monies to sponsor a writing contest. This contest will be open to the 4H students throughout the county. Look on our website for more information. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., encourage them to compete.

Hopefully we will have a major celebration in June with the restoration of the WPA building in Davis....Yea, team....Look for that....

The County Courthouse is showing signs of moving activity....We will keep you abreast of that project.

Now that school is in session, our fall living history program will begin...We owe thanks to the following ladies who came and cleaned for the Fair: Erin and Lea Cliff, Andraya and Jannell Tam, Betsy and Anjulee Petersen, Bella Henneke, and Janene Denis. These ladies are from the Church of Later Day Saints in Woodland. Thanks to Connie Crandall, one of our school marms for arranging this. And thanks to Connie for volunteering to teach adults at the Fair.

Many of you commented on my article in the last newsletter "To Fix or Not To Fix"...Thank you ...We have to be diligent....

Remember, History Rules!  
Kathy Harryman



## Business Buddies

The following businesses in town have financially supported the Yolo County Historical Society. We would like you to support them and keep your money local:

**L & S Printers, Main St.**  
**The House Dresser, Main St.**  
**The Gifted Penguin, Main St.**  
**Corner Drug, Main St.**  
**Dahlin & Essex Inc.**  
**Chamberlain Farms**  
**Bill Marble**  
**Michele Giguere**

**Bernard & Lynn Gough  
Larry Shapiro**

If you know of any business that would like to join our support list, contact me. Businesses pay \$50.00 per year for advertising.



**Hattie Happenings**

**Almost There**

By the time you read this, we hope to have raised the last few thousands of dollars and gotten the final plans for restoring/renovating the Museum Annex! It's been five long years but this spring should see us moving in. Get ready for a big party then!

Meanwhile, the new post card exhibit is generating quite a lot of interest. Both pictures and text give a sense of life in Davis just after the turn of the century. Then, as now, there were boosters and critics freely and fully expressing their respective views!

October is going to be a big month for the Hattie. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the "Battle of the Books" fundraiser will be held to help replenish our coffers.. Participants are invited to read one or more of five books by distinguished Davis authors: Andy Jones and Kate Duran's Where's Jukie?, John Lescroart's The Fall, Kim Stanley Robinson's Aurora, Larry Vanderhoff's Indelibly Davis and Naomi Williams' Landfalls. The authors have all graciously agreed to be quizmasters for the contest. For details, check the websites for The Davis Store or the Hattie Weber Museum. Each of the books is a "good read" and the evening should be fun.

Also in October, on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Gerri Adler will give a tour of historic Downtown Davis. This local history buff grew up in Davis in the 50's and has many wonderful stories about that and earlier eras. The tour starts at 2pm at the Hattie

Weber Museum and takes about 90 minutes. Cost is \$14 per participant. Sign up by calling the Museum at 530-758-5637 or Adler at Lasting Impressions, 530-756-2122.



**World War I and Yolo County**  
By Kathy Harryman

I am sure many of you are aware that my other life was that of a teacher. I spent my final years in the profession teaching sophomores World History. One of my favorite units dealt with World War I, The War To End All Wars! It is with great honor that I share with you parts of the following letter from the United States World War One Centennial Commission:

Ms. Kathy Harryman,

World War One (WWI) began 100 years ago on July 28, 1914. More than four million American Families saw their sons and daughters serve in uniform, and more Americans gave their lives during WWI than during the Korea and Vietnam wars combined. As our nation observes the centennial of the First World War, the United States World War One Centennial Commission (WWICC) seeks the Yolo County Historical Society's leadership and participation to recognize and remember those who served our country in its time of need and to contemplate the lessons learned from the war.

The letter then continues with the future plans of the Commission...The goal is to have each state and territory leaders in place by Armistice Day, November 11, 2015. This Commission will be in place with various activities and information through 2019.

Our organization is honored to be a part of this effort. I am now in the process of gathering people who would like to be on this adjunct committee. If you had someone in World War I, or have an interest in World War I, or know

of someone who would like to be on this committee, please call me at 530 662 2189.

There is more national information at [www.worldwar1centennial.org](http://www.worldwar1centennial.org).



## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: YOLO CITY BECOMES WOODLAND

### UCD's Professor Turrentine Jackson And The History of Wells Fargo

By Dennis Dingemans

A fascinating 19<sup>th</sup> Century relic – a building out in the countryside used by the Wells, Fargo & Co. as a stage stop and express office – will be the subject of our Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, meeting (at 2:00) at the Reiff Ranch just south of the village of Yolo and adjacent to a former crossing of Cache Creek. This occasion is an appropriate time to review the many scholarly contributions to the history of the Wells Fargo companies by the distinguished historian, W. Turrentine (Turpie) Jackson. Not long after Professor Jackson was hired by UCD in 1951 as its first tenured faculty member in History he was also employed by the Wells Fargo Bank headquarters in San Francisco to be its consulting historian. Over the next 20 years he wrote a dozen significant publications that addressed the facts and significance of Wells Fargo's contributions to the economy of the West. Although a Louisianan by birth and a Texan during youth and academic training, Jackson's work on the local economy was part of his and his family's social and economic engagement with their adopted California home.

Jackson was a prolific and respected scholar and his work on Wells Fargo built conveniently upon his earlier work. Beginning in 1941 he published 50 scholarly articles, four major books, a handful of other monographs, a hundred book reviews, dozens of non-academic works, and a score of public history studies. His area of expertise was the Trans-Mississippi

West. He wrote about exploration, transportation modes, interactions with Native Americans, the politics of economic development subsidies, land and water issues, and the emerging celebration of its scenic environment. His dissertation at The University of Texas chronicled the designation of Yellowstone as a National Park. He wrote about the support in Wyoming for woman's suffrage. In 1952, Wagon Roads West examined federal road surveys and expenditures. In 1956 When Grass Was King traced the evolution of the western Range Cattle Industry. In 1963 Treasure Hill portrayed a Nevada silver mining camp and its supply and marketing links. In 1968 The Enterprising Scot reviewed foreign capital investments in American cattle and lumber after 1873.

In various essays he engaged with major topics in the historiography of the West: The Frontier Thesis of Fredrick Jackson Turner, the relative success of comparative studies of frontiers, and the rise of a critical New Western History.

The first of Professor Jackson's works on Wells Fargo was motivated by a particular situation whereby the bank felt its reputation to be under attack. During the 1950s and early 1960s, an individual from Marin County would picket Wells Fargo's banks with signs claiming that use of a stagecoach image as the bank's logo was based on historical fraud. Jackson's 33-page article in 1966 was definitive in refuting the unfounded (and clearly absurd) assertion that Wells Fargo was always only a financial services company and that it never owned nor operated stagecoaches. In "A New Look at Wells Fargo, Stagecoaches, and the Pony Express" Jackson definitively established from archival material that Wells Fargo owned coaches and used them in its express delivery services. Receipts and order forms showed the purchase of new coaches. Schedules for WF stagecoach service were collected from Jackson's comprehensive review of newspapers published all over California during the 1852 to 1869 period. Jackson was merciful, not

vindictive, in pointing out what might have led to the mistaken conclusions by the picketing person – the protestor was a descendent of the owners of the Overland Stage and of organizers of the Pony Express.

In subsequent publications Jackson examined Wells Fargo’s activities in particular places. He analyzed the history of Wells Fargo as an express company as well as a bank within those geographical contexts. Separate studies addressed operations in Southern California, along the trans Sierra crossings, in the Pacific Northwest, in Colorado, in Utah, in Montana, in Idaho, and along the Reno to Virginia City corridor. The most interesting single publication is “Wells Fargo: Symbol of the Wild West.”

**GREAT OVERLAND  
MAIL ROUTE.**

**PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC STATES.  
WELLS, FARGO & CO.  
SOLE PROPRIETORS.**

**FARE REDUCED! TIME SHORTENED!**

On and after the 1st day of April, 1867, passengers will be forwarded through at the following reduced rates, viz:

<i>Sacramento to Omaha</i> .....	<b>\$236.</b>
<i>Virginia City to Omaha</i> .....	<b>275.</b>
<i>Austin to Omaha</i> .....	<b>225.</b>
<i>Sacramento to Cheyenne</i> .....	<b>250.</b>
<i>Virginia City to Cheyenne</i> .....	<b>225.</b>
<i>Austin to Denver</i> .....	<b>175.</b>
<i>Salt Lake to Bannock, Montana</i> ....	<b>120.</b>

This advertisement in a newspaper of 1867 shows a \$236 ticket price for Sacramento to Omaha. Jackson’s research included a comprehensive review of newspaper advertisement for Wells Fargo services from the 1850s through the 1870s.

It is to be regretted that Jackson himself never published much about the region that is of greatest interest to us today – Yolo County and its links to the network of offices in the towns of California’s Great Central Valley. Jackson, however, was very helpful to Joanne Larkey and Shipley Walters in their preparation of the 1978 book *Yolo County, Land of Changing Patterns*. Their acknowledgments report that he “was helpful in his advice regarding sources and determining the scope of the book.” Page 32 says of the Reiff Ranch building that “this brick building was built in the late 1850s by William Gaston Hunt on his ranch on the south side of Cache Creek near Cashville. Used as a Wells, Fargo & Co. Express office between 1861 and 1872, it was also a ‘drive-in bank.’ Large amounts of gold coins were brought here from the Woodland Racetrack in wagons which were unloaded inside the building to ensure safety from bandits.”

Woodland’s founding father, Franklin S. Freeman, is reported by Shipley Walters (p. 26 of *Woodland: City of Trees (1995)*) to have to have eagerly pursued the firm as a foundation of Woodland’s growth. “In 1867 he persuaded Wells, Fargo & Co. to open an agency on Main Street and to hire him as agent. Wells Fargo had been operating express offices and banking houses in mining towns and cities all over California since 1852. With a reputation for trustworthiness their agencies became many a town’s link to the outside world for news, funds, and purchases. The Woodland agency was an immediate success, continuing to operate on Main Street until 1918.”

Jackson, in his hour-long video memoire on file at the UCD Library, remembers assisting in the preparation of *Davisville '68 (1968)* by “meeting weekly with the book’s team of authors ‘to keep them on track’ -- even though the a-historical topical outline was a bit unusual for an history.” Professor Jackson was the rare UCD history professor with both a local area professional expertise and a willingness to engage in the writing and making of local

history. Especially notable was his participation during the 1960's and 1970's in a series of public seminar meetings (with a bit of a town hall format) in The Foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The goal was to engage in discussions of the history of Mother Lode towns and the ways that historic preservation and historic references in the built environment could augment public cohesion and economic development. Another example of Jackson's rootedness in his Northern California home came in the form of 30+ years of sponsorship and guidance of one of UCD's largest (and, with Jackson's hectoring, most academically successful) fraternity houses. A dramatic, posthumous, contribution from this former Texan to the University and the region came with the Jackson family's substantial financial support for the Mondavi Center.



**Thanks to the following** for generously supporting the Society ..... You too can be a Patron by donating \$100.00 to help us run our projects

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- Donald & Pat Campbell
- John & Helen Daniels
- Jonathan & Barbara Durst
- Robert & Judy Simas
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**Memberships**

Thank you for promptly sending in your membership. The programs we support are greatly enhanced by your generous donations. We know that some of you have forgotten us. If you receive a red dot next to your address, this is a gentle reminder that this is your last newsletter. To keep your newsletter coming, please send in your dues.



**A History and Tour of the Yolo Blacksmith Shop**

On Thursday, **November 19<sup>th</sup>**, 2015 from 1-3PM, Terry Goddard, owner of the Yolo Blacksmith Shop will give a presentation about his shop that has been in continual business since 1853. Considered one of the oldest working forges in California, come and learn more about this wonderful historic building that has helped build our wonderful County of Yolo. The shop is located on the S.E. corner of Second & Sacramento Streets, in the town of Yolo.

**P O Box 1447  
Woodland, CA 95776**

**Address Service Requested**

**Dated Material**

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