
□ **Yolo County
Historical
Society**
September, 2019,
Newsletter

Pres Sez

Kathy Harryman, President

This past year, I have spent time researching my heritage. Yes, I have joined the millions of individuals who paid for the saliva test and am now, for a fee, a member of Ancestry. But what fun I'm having! I never knew. I have relatives from the 1600's and I even have someone who jumped ship during the Gold Rush. Of course, I had to travel to the Azores, where my ancestors originated. I even took my 2 daughters. Our eyes were opened.. Now then of course, I have to go back to show my husband and son! Another trip!

Since "history" is what we are all about, I decided to look up that

word in the Oxford Dictionary. The following definitions head the entries.

"the study of past events, particularly in human affairs."

"the whole series of past events connected with someone or something."

The synonyms of "history" ae: the past, former times, historical events, days of old, the old days, the good old days, time gone by, bygone days, yesterday, antiquity, the olden days, and yesteryear.

As we begin another year in the Historical Society, the above words, definitions, and synonyms lead all of us to think about history and the impact the study of history has had on our lives and continues to have on our lives.

As Always,
History Rules!

***Doors Close –
Doors open.***

By Kathy Harryman

The door has officially closed for the Gibson House Historical Museum Board. This group was composed of people chosen by the Yolo County supervisors and individuals that were placed on the board under an original agreement signed in the 1970's. That is the reason why a member from the Yolo County Historical Society

always had a place on the board. The new board has made the decision to disband. Their purpose, that of overseeing the history of the Gibson House has ended. Our board member was Jenny Lillge. I would like to thank her, on behalf of the organization, for her dedication and persistence in advocating for history in the county. She is a treasure. As the board disbands, they voted to give the Society the items that were owned by the Museum Board. There is a page and half of items. Among them are chairs and tables that we would like to make available to the historical groups in the county. Our board has accepted the items and are now going to work on distributing items to historical groups in the county. We've already given some display cases to the Winters' Historical Society and some miscellaneous items to the Native Sons of the Golden West. If you belong to another historical society and you would like to 'borrow' or 'keep forever' something, please contact one of our board members.

We have had 6 successful **First Friday** free tours of various buildings in Woodland. We've been to Cranston's building, The Porter Building, The Porter Theater, The Excelsior Building, and the House Dresser/Cigar Shop and Corner Drug. We are reaching anywhere

from 150-200 people at each of the free events. I meet with the owners and they give me a tour. Then I research all the information that I can find. I then schedule a time to bring our docents to the building and give them a brief overview of the highlights. We are so fortunate to have Jane Niehues and Pat Campbell as docents. These ladies are doing a fantastic job. We find that we are attracting all age groups. Young people bring their children, older people come after dinner, and young adults come with their friends. We always manage to have someone share their personal stories about their experiences in the building.

What fun it is to open the old buildings and share the history and the story of the buildings' inception. Many people respond with "I didn't know that!"! That is the joy of sharing the story. **Our next building will be the Wirth Building on Main Street on Friday, October 4 from 6-7:30. Join us.** The tours are free.



Yolo County Historical Society Meeting Schedule for 2019-2000

Oct 3 9:00 Yolo County
Archives, 226 Buckeye St.
Woodland

Nov. 7 10:00 Mary Stevens
Library 315 E 14th St **Davis**



Jan 9 12:00 Esparto Regional
Library 17065 Yolo Ave Esparto
Feb. 6 10:00 Clarksburg Library
52915 Netherlands Road
Clarksburg

March 5 10:00 Knights Landing
Library 42351 3rd St **Knights
Landing**

April 2 10:00 Winters Museum
13 Russell St **Winters**

May 7 10:00 Hattie Weber
Museum 445 C St. **Davis**

All are welcome to attend the
Board meetings. We try to carpool.
If you are interested, please call me
at 662-2189 or
khwoodland@aol.com.

New Faces

We welcome **Barbara Graham** to our Board as a Director. She is super involved in history. Not only is she writing her own history, she is a member of the Woodland Opera House Board and an active member of the Stroll Through History. Welcome, Barbara. She compiled the meeting schedule for us.

County Fair

Kudos to Pat Campbell for another successful fair year for the Spring Lake Schoolhouse. Working with the Yolo County Archives, she was able to staff 3 days. Big Thank You's go out to the following: Jane Niehues, Thessa Bunn, Jeri Hunter, Marti Mackie, Linda Silles, Marti Bagan, Gerda and Marc Faye, Gary and Diane Christison, Terri Laugenour, Mell Russell, Rob Coman, Pat Shebert, Merrily DuPree, Betsy Monroe, Karen Coffee, and Anastasia Panagakos.

Patrons

Thanks so much to the following for supporting the Yolo County Historical Society. We could not run this organization without your additional help. You can also be a patron by contributing \$100.00 or more.

Odette & Dan Christenson

Geraldine Hunter

John and Kathy Harryman

Barbara Graham

Don and Pat Campbell

Mike Truitt Family

Meg and Tom Stallard

Claudia and Chuck Owens

Ryan Baum & Alice Wong

Starr and Jeff Barrow

Rob Coman

Tom Crisp

Carol Danke

Steve and Teri Laugenour

Jon and Barbara Durst

Delta Commission

Lydia and Steve Venables

Business Buddies

Please support these local businesses. They support the Yolo County Historical Society.

The House Dresser

The Gifted Penguin

Corner Drug

Celebrate Winters Agriculture at the Winters Museum

This 1934 photo captures the Martin Brothers as they prepare to harvest almonds. From left to right, Mike, Frank, John, and Emilio Martin are equipped with the tools of the trade and prepare to harvest the almond crop on the E.R. Crum ranch. With canvass tarpaulins laid on the ground under each tree, rubber tipped mallets and long bamboo poles were used to strike the heavy tree branches and knock the 'L' out of the almonds still in the trees. The in-hull almonds were dumped from the canvass tarps into a wooden sled pulled by a horse (later by a tractor), then bagged and sent to the almond hulling machine in a nearby barn. It was hard work in the hot August sun. (The photo is taken from *An American Paella* by Gloria Lopez, courtesy of Elena Martin Cody.)

See more photos like the one above in the Celebrate Winters Agriculture Exhibit at the Winters History Museum. The Museum is located at 13 Russell Street in Winters. Call 530-304-1528 to check the Museum schedule or arrange a visit.

An American Paella by Gloria Lopez, courtesy of Elena Martin Cody.)

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***Transactions of The
California State
Agricultural Society
During The Year 1858***

“Hutchinson & Green’s Grain Farm”

Copied and edited by YCHS’s staff. (pp. 237-239)

Note: this Yolo County farm in 1858 won the first prize for “best grain farm in California.” Especially notable is the contrast with the farm’s first year (the harvest in 1852, a bonanza year) when a bumper crop was harvested at great expense by hand labor and transported at great expense to a newly built warehouse in Sacramento. Then, alas, within a few days the warehouse burned to the ground with no grain salvaged. However, 6 years later, the farm of Hutchinson and Green was thriving as you can tell from effusive praise below. The management is heavily commended and labor saving farm machinery is state of the art. The practice of selecting prize winning farms and publishing a vignette of their exemplary practices didn’t last long. All across the USA agricultural societies were more interested in hosting horse races (and heavy betting) at the county fairs than they were in exhorting good farming practices.

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This farm lies on the north side of Putah Creek 15 miles west of Sacramento. It contains 6,200 acres, of which there are 3,650 acres enclosed with good and substantial fence and cultivated. The remaining is in open cattle range, covered mostly with wild oats. The fences are of superior character, one half being 4 or 5 feet high. The other half are also with ditch three feet wide. The lumber is redwood, the most durable fencing known. Posts are set 2.5 feet into the ground. There are all told 16 miles of these fences.

This year (1868) there are 1,600 acres in grain. Wheat covers 970 acres. Barley covers 530 acres. Some of the wheat is very heavy, yielding not less than 50 bushels per acre. No portion of the wheat is injured by smut. They use vitriol in preparing their seed.

They have cut and put up this year over 1,000 tons of hay prepared from the wild oats. It is equal to the best hay in the world. The vineyard has 4,000 vines. Two year old vines grow luxuriantly and are beginning to bear. Vegetables and orchards are in great variety. There are on the farm 300 head of cattle. Some are of great beauty and rare value. Horses number 75, mules are 35, hogs are in the hundreds, poultry are many and various.

The farm is provided with teams and tools, or farm-furniture: seven gang plows of three and 22 single plows, 20 harrows, one grain drill, 1

cultivator, 7 reapers and mowers, 3 threshing machines, 9 revolving horse-rakes, 3 dozen hand rakes, four hay pressers, 17 wagons, 5 mule teams of 6 mules each, 8 yoke of oxen.

There are three workshops; one blacksmith, one wagon maker, and one harness-maker. There are 4 wells, 5 pumps, and one wind-mill. There are 7 corrals and 600 feet of sheds. The dairy house is 16 by 22 feet with brick walls double and hollow.

The farm requires a force of men varying from 30 during the rainy season to 65 in the harvest. The harvest this year was entirely by the latest machines, three of which were run day and night for a little over 3 weeks.

The systematizing and economy of labor impressed the judges. The best materials and best manner were evident in tools, implements, and labor-saving machinery. A mare and colt from this farm was awarded the first premium in the fair at Marysville. The farm house has been expanded several times to accommodate the addition of farm hands. Its beauty is not so striking a feature as is comfort and convenience. The farm is located 15 miles from its main market in Sacramento and its source of supplies, yet the economy is such that not a mile is traversed by a team without forethought to hauling any load destined for the same location.



1 A field on the "big ranch" after 166 years of use 1853 – 2019 2 A paradox of perception -- verticality emphasized.





3 Scenes common to wheat country: summer dry piles & Wheat Straw stacks. All photos are this year in Yolo County.

