

# Yolo County Historical Society



## Prez Says

We had a wonderful annual meeting at St. John's Church in Woodland on Thursday, Sept 9. We were in the air-conditioned room with lots of spaces around round tables. We introduced the past officers and the directors and then voted on the new slate. The President is Kathy Harryman, the Vice President is Mardi Bagan, the Secretary is Barbara Graham, and the Treasurer is Seth Alban. Congratulations to all!

We also re-affirmed our bylaws by vote. Nothing was changed, but the by laws were reviewed at the board meetings. Our highlight of the evening was honoring several individuals who have gone above and beyond in this organization to promote history in this county. Our first recipient was Dennis Dingemans. I wrote about him in the last newsletter. The second recipient was Bob Sommer. His wife, Barbara, who is also our website and newsletter guru, received the posthumous award. Bob was on the board for years. He was our secretary and after taking notes at our meetings, he would go home and type them and send them out the same day. He set high standards for all of us. He also represented the association when he worked with David Wilkinson in producing the book *Hollywood Comes to Woodland*. Bob wrote many books on his own. He was always willing to help at our functions. He will be missed.

The next award was long overdue. It went to Joanne Leach Larkey who has written numerous books for the association, published many historical articles on Yolo County, written newspaper articles for the Davis Enterprise, and was instrumental in the concept of the Winter's History Museum. She also worked with a group of dedicated gardeners at the Gibson House to raise money for the Museum. She could not attend our function, but I did talk to her, and she was humble. Wow! What a great list of individuals! We are all proud of you and the dedication that you have shown to history in this county.

I also shared some of the activities that have been happening at our storage unit. One of our members, Teri Laugenour, has been working diligently cleaning up the storage unit. We originally had two units, but with the increase in rent, we decided to move to one. Teri has organized and gone through all the files and the papers in our unit. We have given a lot of items to the Yolo County Archives. We also found the original list of items that the society gave to the Gibson Museum. She is now tracking down the items with the help of Heather at the Archives and Iulia at the Gibson Museum. Thank you, Teri.

On that same note, we were asked by the Archives to gift 105 pictures to the county. Apparently, these pictures were given to the society by individuals in the 80's. They were housed at the Archives. After reading all the past information regarding the photos, I decided that we could not gift them. We would continue to house them at the Archives for the use of any researcher, but we would request that YCHS be given credit for the use of them. In this newsletter, there is a list of the photos. We will also post the list on the website.

My goals for the coming year are to resume the Woodland Business downtown tours on the First Fridays and to work on and finish the Fair Museum.

After the presentations, Marilyn Mitchell, the historian at St. John's, gave us a brief overview of the German church. We all learned a lot, especially that a group of German immigrant women wanted a church. Just goes to show the power of women!

Remember, as always, History Rules!

Kathy Harryman, President

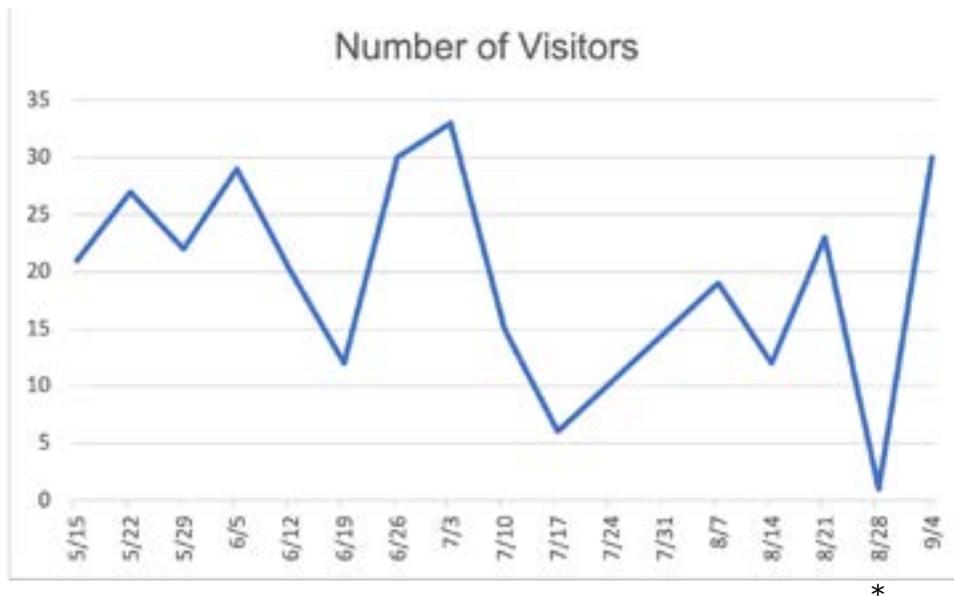
# From the Hattie Weber Museum

by Merrily DuPree and John Cain

## Report to the Yolo County Historical Society, 9/9/2021

Since our last report, we had adjusted to the announced end of the state’s Covid-mask mandate, and then abruptly reinstated it. This uncertain situation has led to some confusion, but visitors have invariably been cooperative.

The numbers of visitors have remained high (see graph below).



Our exciting announcement is that two new volunteers have joined us. **Lulu Zhang** will be our news writer, and **Breanne Weber** our digitization specialist. (Yes, items from our collection will soon be available for on-line viewing and research!) Thanks to YCHS for your help in spreading word of our need for volunteers. At this point, we have sufficient staff to run the museum smoothly.

We’d also like to announce our two new temporary exhibits. **The Wheat Boom 1850-1900**, is the result of many months of research by Dennis Dingemans on an important 19th-century phenomenon in California agriculture. **Davis Olympians** focuses on three men with connections to Davis who participated in this year’s Olympics: Nyjah Huston (skateboarding), Hugh Hoagland Watanabe (basketball for Japan), and Ty Kelly (baseball for Israel). These three, an African-American, an Asian-American, and an Israeli-American, are the latest in a century of Olympic participation by Davis men and women.

A bit of sad news – a 1937 small pane of safety glass in the WPA Storage Building was broken by a vandal. By a happy surprise, the pane, made of chicken wire encased in glass, did not shatter, and prevented the perpetrator from entering the building. Our new agreement with the city for the building requires us to pay for the replacement window. We’ve ordered a new wire-and-glass pane from the only company in the U.S. still manufacturing it. *Davis Glass and Screen* will install it soon.

\* dangerous air-quality day

# What's in a Name?

by Kathy Harryman

Have you ever gone to a town or city and wondered why that town was named its name? It's easy when it a town is named after a president or a famous person, but sometimes the names of certain towns cause me to wonder. Wonder with me as we explore the origin of town names in Yolo County.

## Blacks Station/ Zamora

J.J. Black farmed on land in this area in 1865. In 1875, the Northern Railway Company began extending the railroad from Woodland to Red Bluff. When it reached Black's farm, he donated a strip of land 100 feet wide by 3150 feet long for depot and grounds and the station was the result. Rights of way were sold. The town plat was laid out. In 1906 the name was changed to Zamora.

A post office opened in Prairie in 1857, changed its name to Black's Station in 1876, and to Zamora in 1915. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamora,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zamora,_California)

## Bryte/Broderick/West Sacramento

One of the area's most well-known dairy farmers was Mike Bryte. Bryte came to California in 1849 to try his hand at gold mining. He didn't make a fortune in gold but was able to purchase a dairy farm with his findings. When the California Steam Navigation Company came to Washington, Bryte used the steamships to carry his dairy products to various markets within the region. Profits from this allowed Bryte to expand his holdings. Bryte was able to own several thousand acres of land in the area to farm on and raise livestock. Mike Bryte's influence in the community was marked by his election to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and later as sheriff. During the 20th century, his property was divided and became known as the community of Bryte.

In time, the region began to develop. The town of Washington was renamed Broderick in honor of U.S. Senator David C. Broderick. After 1900, the three communities known as Bryte, Broderick, and West Sacramento were cumulatively known as "East Yolo."

From 1900 to 1920, the population of this area doubled from 1,398 to 2,638. The West Sacramento post office opened in 1915.

These communities officially incorporated as the City of West Sacramento in 1987.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Sacramento,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Sacramento,_California)

## Capay Valley

Many of the small towns in the Capay Valley were established by the railroads as they built and developed transportation systems to ship their agricultural products to places throughout California. I have added a few of the towns, but the best site to read about the influence of the railroads on this valley is cited below.

<http://www.capayvalleyvision.net/Capay-Valley-Historical-Timeline.html>

## Clarksburg

Clarksburg was settled in stages dating back as early as the 1850s when Merritt Island was first cleared and developed for agricultural use. Postal authorities established a post office in 1876 under the name "Clarksburgh" and changed the name to "Clarksburg" in 1893. The town was named after Robert C. Clark who settled there in 1849. In the 1920s the New Holland Land Company began subdividing the tracts in the area and formally established Clarksburg as an unincorporated community.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarksburg,\\_California#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarksburg,_California#History)

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*continued* - **What's in a Name?**

### **Davis**

Jerome and Mary Davis owned a ranch which at one time covered 12,000 acres, much of which would later be developed into the city of Davis, whose name derives from the Davis ranch.

In the 1860s, the California Pacific Railroad purchased a large portion of the ranch owned by Jerome and Mary Davis. The Davis Junction began operating in 1868, serving as an important stop on the railroad line connecting the eastern Bay Area to the rich farmlands of the Central Valley and Sacramento, allowing much improved transport for agriculture and livestock products.

<https://www.cityofdavis.org/about-davis/history-symbols>

### **Dunnigan**

The town of Dunnigan was founded as Antelope by two early settlers, J. S. Copp and Jolin Wilson. During the year 1853 they were living near the Sacramento River. The winter flood sent them to higher ground and they settled on new claims here. The following year, A. W. Dunnigan, a Yolo County postal worker, came and gave name to the place. In 1876 the railroad came along, and the town plat of Dunnigan was filed for record at the county seat November 1 of that year.

A post office opened in 1856, the name was changed from Antelope to Dunnigan in 1876.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunnigan,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunnigan,_California)

### **Esparto**

The name Esparto was chosen by the railroad. It means "feather grass" in Spanish (Stipa tenacissima). In 1888 Esparto was laid with track from the Vaca Valley Railroad (later consolidated into the Southern Pacific Railroad) that trailed to Rumsey.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esparto,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esparto,_California)

### **Guinda**

The town was named by Southern Pacific Railroad officials after a cherry tree at the site. Guinda is Spanish for "Morello cherry."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinda,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinda,_California)

### **Knights Landing**

In 1843, William Knight settled on the Sacramento River. This natural landing place was to become an important landing and shipping point in the area. It wasn't until 1853 four years after Knight's death that the townsite was officially named Knights Landing.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights\\_Landing,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_Landing,_California)

### **Madison**

The name was bestowed by Daniel Bradley Hulbert after his hometown, Madison, Wisconsin. The townsite was laid out and named "Madison" in 1877 when the railroad, the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad, reached that spot, as the terminus, after expanding north from Winters.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison,_California)

### **Rumsey**

A post office was erected in 1878 near the Rumsey community, but it was named "Rock." In 1888 it was moved two miles north to the terminus of the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad, and the name was changed to "Rumsey." The name, Rock, was after a rock landmark, and the name, Rumsey, was given after Captain D.C. Rumsey who owned the land at the time.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumsey,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumsey,_California)

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*continued* - **What's in a Name?**

**Winters**

In 1875 the town of Winters, named after land holder Theodore Winters, was established when the railroad crossed into Yolo County. By 1876 Winters had become a busy agricultural and commercial center with three trains daily.

<https://discoverwinters.com/history/>

**Woodland**

In 1851, the year after California became a state and Yolo County was formed, John Morris settled in what is now the corner of First and Clover Streets in Woodland. Two years later Henry Wyckoff arrived and built a store that he named "Yolo City." Yolo City might have stayed a singular store if Frank S. Freeman had not bought it and acquired 160 acres (0.65 km<sup>2</sup>) of land in 1857. Freeman began to develop a town that he hoped would be a trading center for one of the richest crop-growing areas in America. Gertrude Freeman, his wife, suggested to the post office that the town be called Woodland and the post office accepted. On July 5, 1861, the Woodland Post Office was established, and Freeman was made the postmaster.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodland,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodland,_California)

**Yolo**

Yolo County was one of the original counties of California, created in 1850 at the time of statehood. The name is from an Indian name believed to be a version of an Indian tribal name Yo-loy meaning "a place abounding in rushes" or of the name of the Indian chief, Yodo, or of the Indian village of Yodoi.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yolo\\_County,\\_California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yolo_County,_California)

**Dues are Due**

If you have not sent them in, please do so. If not, this will be your last newsletter. If you receive a hard copy, there is a red dot next to your name. If you receive an email, then I will send out reminders. We hate to lose you.

- \$25 Household
- \$50 Business (name in all the newsletters)
- \$100 Patron (name in all the newsletters and a discount on our trips)

Make check out to **YCHS**  
 Mail to  
**YCHS**  
**PO Box 1447**  
**Woodland CA 95695**

## Photos currently housed at the Yolo County Archives

These may be used by any researcher with credit given to the Yolo County Historical Society. This listing is also available on our website at [http://ychs.org/publications/YCHS\\_photoList.pdf](http://ychs.org/publications/YCHS_photoList.pdf).

1. Maxwell Ranch Buckeye District – grain 1866
2. Woodland city fire 1892
3. Beamer House Woodland
4. Second Street Arch Davis
5. G Street Davis
6. Davisville Depot Davis
7. Railroad tracks Davis
8. Jerome Davis farm 1858
9. First Yolo County Courthouse 1863
10. Home interior
11. JNB Wyatt Winters
12. Winters High School 1907
13. Winters group 1874
14. Apricot harvesting 1910 Winters
15. West Yolo street scene
16. Edmond Burger home Blacks Station (Zamora)
17. Early Capay street scene Capay Saloon
18. Palace Stables Davis
19. Second St. arch Davis
20. Drawing of stationary threshing machine 1870
21. Stable G Street
22. House of Judge Wymack Winters
23. Group on porch – think it is Jim Monroe
24. Group of men with loaded wagon of grain
25. Mr Mrs. JNB Wyatt in home Winters
26. Dawn Staff 1910
27. Beach almond huller Davis
28. Buena Vista Hotel Davis
29. Davis Post Office
30. Railroad tracks Davis
31. G Street Davis 1870
32. Hay crew
33. Aetna Hotel Davis 1903
34. Threshing machine with crew
35. Davis School 1906
36. Horse drawn trolley car Woodland
37. John R. Wolfskill
38. Harvesting scene Davis 1905
39. Charlie Johnson Fashion Stables Woodland 1904
40. Esparto School
41. Cacheville School 1886
42. William & Annie Burger Blacks Station 1890
43. Construction of Odd Fellows Hall Blacks Station 1902
44. George D. Stephens home 1889
45. Empire Hotel 1909
46. Noonday scene Maxwell Ranch Buckeye 1886
47. Harvesting scene Chapman Ranch Winters
48. First postal telegraph office in Davis
49. Jerone Davis farm
50. Harvesting scene Jesse Rowe 1890

*Continued on next page*

*continued* - **Photo archive**

- 51. Apricot cutters Foster Ranch Davis 1906
- 52. Davis school 1889
- 53. Davis Depot
- 54. Musicians in front of Mr. Burger's saloon at Blacks Station
- 55. Woodland fire 1892
- 56. Capay saloon 1919
- 57. Flood damage Rumsey 1906
- 58. Bill Monroe and wife Lizzie Capay
- 59. Esparto Grammar School fire 1915
- 60. Esparto large group on Main Street
- 61. Primary School (C.E. Dingle School) 1905-1912
- 62. Early West Yolo saloon
- 63. Cacheville School 1890
- 64. Davis Grammar School
- 65. Davis Grammar School 1908
- 66. Madison Hotel 1900
- 67. Harvesting barley on Armstrong Ranch 1896
- 68. Davis Grammar School 1890's
- 69. Holt Caterpillar tractor 1913
- 71. James H.B. and Ann Williams Wyatt
- 72. Interior of a Davisville saloon
- 73. Northern Electric Depot Woodland
- 74. Davisville Railroad Junction 1868
- 75. Capay Salon interior early 1900's
- 76. Early Winters baseball team
- 77. Henry and Ann Cooper house Buckeye 1895
- 78. Allie Maston's Saloon
- 79. Winters Main Street
- 80. Wyatt house
- 81. Winters 1879
- 82. Interior of Hunt Hotel Saloon Davis
- 83. Davisville School 1894
- 84. A Woodland winery
- 85. First bridge across Putah Creek
- 86. Gov. Johnson en route to Dr. Hecke's farm Woodland
- 87. Guinda Railroad Station 1896
- 88. Drawing of F. S. Chiles farm for DePue's Hist of Yolo County
- 88. King Residence 1909
- 89. First irrigation pump 1890's Yolanda Ranch
- 90. Putah Creek flood of Jan 1895
- 91. Harvesting on Cannedy and Chapman Ranch Winters
- 92. Dresbach & Bana store Davis 1875
- 93. Earl Fruit Company packing shed 1903
- 94. Allen Doll Ice Cream Parlor Winters
- 95. Capay Brass Band 1900
- 96. Esparto School 1894
- 97. Capay School 1926
- 98. Baseball game in Esparto
- 99. Main Street Capay
- 100 Gov Hiram Johnson 1915 at Winters Apricot Festival
- 101 Woodland Court House and Hall of Records 1900
- 102 Posey Theater Davis
- 103 First well driven by Jesse Gray Rose on University property 1907
- 104 G St Davis 1910
- 105 Capay Saloon 1900

Yolo County Historical Society

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Dated Material

## **Submitting letters and articles**

Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Kathy Harryman [khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com)

## **Change of Address**

Please notify Kathy Harryman [khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com) of any address changes (it costs nearly \$1.00 to get your correct address from the Post Office and your newsletter mailing is delayed). Or sign up for delivery as an email PDF attachment (see above email).

## **Vision Statement**

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

We are a 5013c tax deductible organization

Tax id number: **23-7086043**

See our website at [ychs.org](http://ychs.org)

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