

# Yolo County Historical Society



## Prez Says

Wow, the almond blossoms are blooming, and the trees look beautiful. The grass in the hills is green and the mustard seed is blooming. It doesn't get any better than this! A little rain would be nice. We are never happy, are we? There are many important events happening in the Society. David Wilkinson is now selling his books on Amazon and in the Nugget, Local Inspirations and another shop in town. We were going to set up a table at the Almond Festival in Esparto, but we didn't have any books to sell! What a problem! We should all have those kinds of issues.

The Fair Museum is progressing. The lighting has been ordered. Thanks to Ron Burch for all his work in doing this for us. We are now encouraging our vendors to create their displays in their cabinets. The Archives have come and now we have an idea of what they are going to do. The timeline is in its draft form. I have included it in this newsletter (see pp. 5-6). We looked for people who were experts in their part of the county to come up with five events that were important to their specific area. I then added some events for Yolo County and the State of California. Look at the timeline and if you have any suggestions, please let me know. Dino is going to put the timeline on heavy paper and after we color code it, it will go along the top of the walls of the building. He is also working with a friend to enclose the map and that will get hung.

We are again joining the **Big Day of Giving** in May and with that money, we will have a security system installed and will investigate a DVD/movie system to show movies of the county. I have asked the Patwin tribe to be a part of the timeline. If anyone has a connection, please let me know.

Seth, our treasurer, has been working with the Community Fund. He will make a presentation to the board at our next meeting. I would like him to write an article to inform all of what we are doing with our money.

Also, just wanted to share some information about the **Sacramento Historical Society**. They are promoting *Chautauqua Living History*. This month Frederick Douglass performed on Zoom. It is too late for his presentation, but if you are interested in these types of performances, please go to their website. I am sure there will be more.

Enjoy our early Spring.



Remember, as always,  
History Rules!

Kathy Harryman , President  
Yolo County Historical Society

## The Gable Brothers – Who Were These Men?

*The following is information that I discovered in the History of Yolo County by Thomas Jefferson Gregory. It is a biographical sketch of the two men who came to California from Ohio and through hard work and determination, created a place for themselves and their family in this county. I hope everyone knows where the Gable Mansion is located. It is on the California National Historical Register. I am not sure that many know the life of these two men. The articles below are taken from the book word for word. I have left some parts out – Kathy Harryman.*

Men who were born in Yolo County and who have reached middle life here cannot recall a time when the name of Amos W Gable was not familiar to them or when it did not stand for good citizenship and remarkable agricultural success. These men grew up believing in Mr. Gable as an exemplar of unselfish devotion to duty and of material prosperity attained in the face of early handicaps. Newcomers in the county found his prestige so firmly established that they immediately became cognizant of his reputation and through their later personal experiences confirmed all good opinions of him. Gracious and manly qualities adorned his rare personality. Sincerity of purpose marked his decisions. A natural enthusiasm was tempered by caution in judgment. Such was his temperament and such his character that success made no change in his quiet, unostentatious existence, and his happiest hours were spent with his family and his intimate friends and in the pleasant task of improving his beautiful homestead.

The record of his boyhood years is an epitome of struggles bravely endured, hardships valiantly surmounted and obstacles quietly overcome. The frontier record of toil and privation was to him of far less consequence than the private record of bereavement, sorrow and family separation. ...Amos was born Sept 13, 1834 one of fourteen children in Ohio. ...His father died when he was 50 years old and the children were then apprenticed to frontier farms. The greatest deprivation was the lack of educational advantages. To the end of his life, Mr Gable never ceased to regret the fact that he was unable to attend school at a time when the mind was plastic, the intelligence receptive, and the intuition quick, yet perhaps no one ever overcome with greater determination than he this lack of schooling. His lessons were learned in the great school of experience, and he proved an apt pupil. ...he developed self-reliance and learned to realize that true success comes only from strenuous exertion. At the time of discovery of gold in California, he resolved to come west, but it was not until some years later that the opportunity came to him. In 1853, he hired out to drive a team across the plains for Harvey Porterfield in return for his own passage to the west. The party drove 100 head of cattle to the west and settled in Yolo county where the young man received work from Mr. Porterfield at \$30 per month. Appreciation of his tireless labors came in an advance of his wages to \$100 per month and this amount he frugally saved for future investment.

The arrival of the younger brother, Harvey C. Gable in 1861 with \$700 in cash enabled the brothers to invest in cattle and form a partnership that continued throughout their lives. With an enthusiastic faith in the future, they purchased Mr. Porterfield's ranch and went heavily in debt in the venture. For a few years they met with fair success. Stock being then allowed to roam at large, pasturage was a matter of small expense. But a change came with the severe drought of 1864. The year 1865 found them with a debt of \$5500 which they were unable to meet. They met with creditors ... The debt was eventually paid, off and afterward they began to accumulate property until they became the joint owners of 8,500 acres of land, much of it under cultivation. Large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep as well as horses and hogs were raised on their ranches. Cattle brought them great wealth and gave them a standing among the leading property owners of the county. In June 4, 1874, Amos W. Gable married Miss Mary Gottwals. They had four children: Harvey Hayes, Myrtle, Gertrude, and Awilma (Mrs. H.D. Porter). The family removed to Woodland in 1882 and made their home on the corner of Laurel and First Streets. Three years later, Mr. Gable erected a residence on the corner of First and Cross streets and eventually converted the property into one of the most attractive homes in the city. ...He was a Mason of the Knights Templar degree. While realizing his labors with increasing wealth, he never lost his business-like aptitude for affairs, and until his death on Feb. 24, 1898, he served as vice-

*Continued on next page*

*continued* - **Gable Brothers**

president and director of the bank of Yolo and as a director in the Yolo County Savings Bank, besides retaining the personal management of his extensive landed interests in the county. Upon his death, his son Harvey Hayes Gable, assumed the management of the large ranch and other varied interests.

**Harvey C. Gable**

The intense activities characteristic of the Californian of the twentieth century cannot dim the memory of the labors of the pioneers nor will the luster of their achievements ever fade from the grateful recollections of later generations. The lives of these early settlers were as varied as their temperaments, but destiny brought to all of them a common service for their adopted commonwealth, a common endurance of privation and a common struggle for success. Some, however, passed away ere yet success had set its seal upon their brows; some from the nature of their environment or their erring judgment failed to grasp the coveted measure of prosperity; but some there were of whom Harvey C. Gable, was one, who rose from an orphaned lad without means and attained a remarkable degree of prominence and popularity.

The annals of the Gable family show a genealogy characterized by industry, honor and patriotism. The pioneer spirit has been strong in the blood. Early established in the new world, each generation bore its share in the development of the land the followed the tide of migration toward the west. The privations incident to frontier existence they bore with a patience that never murmured. At the death of the father, Harvey C. Gable, who was born in Ohio March 11, 1836 was a child of 10 years and afterward he had no home, but earned his livelihood by the hardest of work on frontier farms. When his brother, eighteen months older than himself, secured a chance to work his passage to California he determined to join him as soon as possible. The opportunity came in the spring of 1854, when he had a chance to work his way across the plains. When he reached the destination of the party, he was bare headed and barefooted and his clothing ragged to the point of extreme discomfort. Without any delay he secured work and later he met with some success in the mines. After having secured \$700, he joined his brother in 1861 and invested in cattle, later buying one half interest in the Porterfield ranch. ...Their lives (both Amos and Harvey) flowed on harmoniously side by side, there being little difference in their histories except that caused by the marriage of the older brother. Both lived to be about 60 years of age. Both had the same discouragements to meet and both inherited the same rugged constitutions and high principles. Their vast properties continued in one estate until they died and are now managed by the son of the older brother, Harvey Hayes Gable ... the sole male inheritor of the honored family name in this county and himself the possessor of admirable traits of character.



Old photograph of  
the Gable Mansion  
in Woodland,  
California

# TILLYFEST BLUEGRASS WOODLAND

## NOVEMBER 5, 2022

by Dino Gay, President Native Sons of the Golden West

**TILLYfest Bluegrass Woodland** will be held at Blue Note Brewing/Heritage Plaza and other Historic Downtown Woodland locations on **Saturday, November 5, 2022**. Lynne Gough, Woodland Parlor 30 NSGW, member and author of *Asa and the Holstein Queen*, will be the featured speaker at TILLYfest.

Parlor 30 will be celebrating the life and times of Yolo County's own Tilly Alcartra – the World Champion Holstein – through American roots music, food, fun and games for all ages.

If you are unfamiliar with Tilly, here are some excerpts from an article that appeared in the March 21, 1919, edition of *The Chronicle* and *North Coast Advertiser* of Nambour, Australia and was written by Frank T. Price of New York:

### TILLY ALCARTRA — WORLD'S GREATEST FOOD FACTORY.

#### CALIFORNIA HOLSTEIN AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT WITH WORLD'S BEST MILK PRODUCTION.

Hereafter there will be a new standard for judging dairy cows if Tilly Alcartra of California is to have any thing to say about it. For Tilly, the perennial producer of the Holstein-Friesian breed, is setting a life work standard for the other big producers in the dairy world to shoot at.

This cow which has just broken all records for milk production over a yearly period has a unique record of production extending over a six-year period that is unapproachable from almost every angle. Her latest production which has just been announced as a 'world' record for one year in milk production is 33,424.8 lbs. milk containing 1,058.39 lbs. fat.

Tilly's record for a lifetime of usefulness is based upon the following production figures authenticated by her owners, the A.W. Morris & Sons Corporation of California:

Age	Lbs. fat in year	Lbs. milk in year	Lbs. fat in 7 days
2 yrs. 6 mos.	445.0	14,837.2	13.91
3 yrs. 5 mos.	673.0	21,421.3	18.52
5 yrs. 1 mo.	951.2	30,451.4	23.42
6 yrs. 5 mos.	952.4	20,826.6	25.78
7 yrs. 7 mos.	833.7	26,814.8	Not tested
9 yrs. 3 mos.	1,058.39	33,424.8	Not tested
<b>Total, 6 yrs</b>	<b>4,913.6</b>	<b>156,776.1</b>	

Think, of it dairymen, over 4,900 lbs. of fat in six years; and a milk production of over 156,000 lbs! Put your pencils on this production at average prices and find out what Tilly's owners have actually realised in dairy products during the remarkable career of this wonderful cow whose usefulness is not yet ended by any means.

This old champion with the new records was bred in Iowa by McKay Brothers. Her sire was Alcartra Polkadot Corrector and his dam was a former world's champion and one of the breed's greatest foundation cows through both sons and daughters. Tilly went to California as a yearling and it is the Morris herd that her wonderful, records have been made. Tilly, best of all, transmits her remarkable characteristics, for her oldest son has a long string, of two-year old daughters with records that reach up to figures that surpass the two-year-old records of Tilly herself.

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continued - **TILLYfest**

Parlor 30 is now looking for musical groups, sponsors, partners, vendors and volunteers for **TILLYfest**, a fundraiser that is intended to help establish a permanent downtown local history museum and venue. For info contact Dino at [dinogay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dinogay@sbcglobal.net) or call (530) 383-0772.

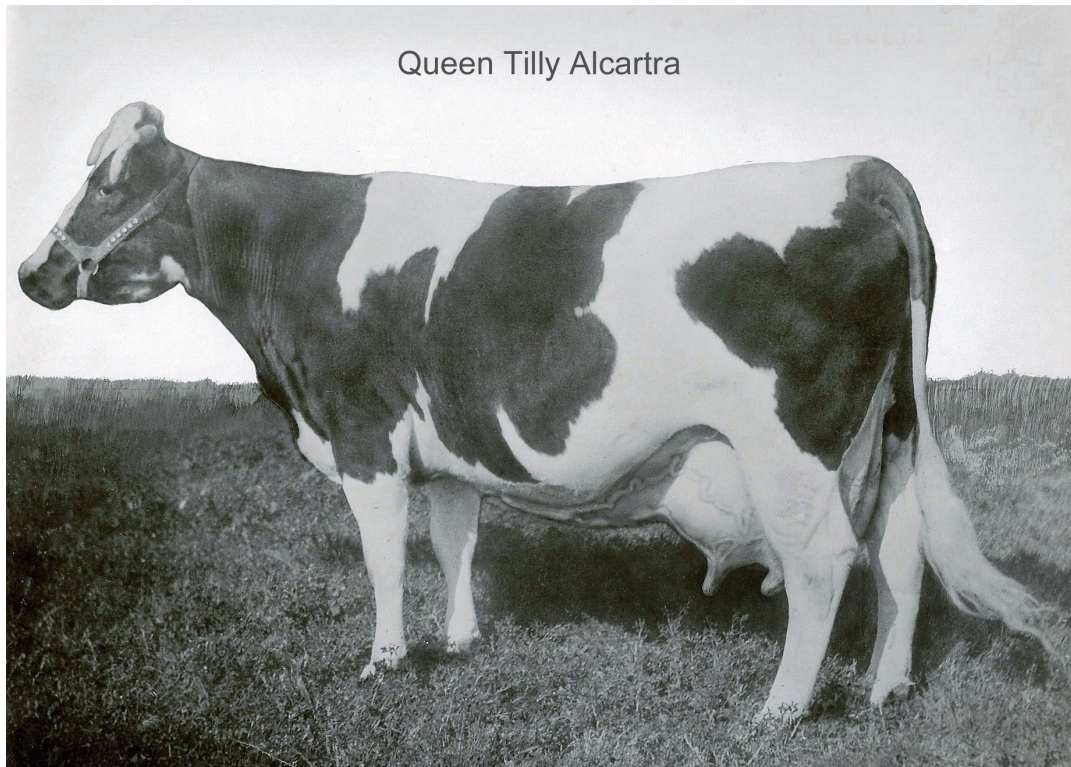


Photo Credit: Lynne Gough, Parlor 30 member & author of *Asa and the Holstein Queen* Featured Speaker at TILLYfest

## Patrons\*

The following folks support the Yolo County Historical Society. We could not run this organization without your additional help. Thank you very much!

Starr and Jeff Barrow  
Ryan Baum and Alice Wong  
Bob Bigelow  
Don and Pat Campbell  
Rob Coman  
Mark and Merrily DuPree  
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Marjorie Pearce  
Jane Proctor  
Marcia Reemts

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Lynn Wilen  
David Wilkinson  
Peggy & Suellen Witham

**Business Buddies:** [Corner Drug](#), [Local Inspirations](#), [Simas Family Vineyard](#)

\* You can also be a patron by [contributing](#) \$100 or more.

# Timeline

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>
1500-1000 B.C	Plains Miwok inhabited this area	Yolo
1772	Pedro Fages & Spanish explored delta	Yolo
1821	Mexico wins indep from Spain	Yolo
1828-43	English & French trappers hunted in area	Yolo
1833	Malaria kills Native Americans	Native American
1837	Smallpox killed 75% of native population	Native American
1842	William Knight built house and ferry service	Knights Landing
1842	Wolfskill Land Grant Beginning of local agriculture	Winters
1843	Three major Mexican land grants in Yolo	Yolo
1846	Bear Flag Revolt – Knight & Ezekiel Merritt participated	Yolo/Knights Landing/ Clarksburg
1847-51	Former Rancho Canada de Capay opened for sale	Capay
1849	Gold was discovered in California	Yolo
1849	Town of Fremont (along Sac River) First county seat	Yolo
1850	Calif admitted to Union, Yolo organized, 27 counties	Yolo
1853	Wyckoff built first commercial building	Woodland
1853	Snowball & Reed laid out Knights Landing	Knights Landing
1855	Buckeye `s Post office established	Yolo
1856	Town of Antelope established	Yolo
1857	Cacheville (Yolo) County Seat	Yolo
1857	Town of Prairie (later Zamora) established	Yolo
1858	Joseph Souza Nevis (Joseph Miller) from Azores settled Lisbon area	Clarksburg
1861	Hesperian College opens	Woodland
1862	Woodland becomes county seat	Yolo
1868	Cal-Pac RR line through Davis	Davis
1869	Cal-Pac Railroad reaches Knights Landing	Knights Landing
1869	Charles Reed – Father of Reclamation Dis	Yolo/Knights Landing
1870's	Northern Railway Co railroad from Woodland to Red Bluff	Yolo
1875	Agriculture and railroad create Winters	Winters
1876	Blacks Station established (Later Zamora)	Yolo
1876	Antelope name changed to Dunnigan	Yolo
1877	Cache Creek Post office moved from Cottonwood, changed name to Madison	Yolo
1877	Cottonwood moves one mile north to Madison	Yolo
1877	Vaca Valley & Clear Lake Railroad create town of Madison to ship gravel to bolster the railroad ties.	Yolo
1879	Robert Christopher Clark - first peach orchard	Clarksburg
1883	Fire destroys 42% of Knights Landing	Knights Landing
1884	Langville laid out name, changed to Capay	Capay

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*continued* - **Timeline**

1888	Vaca Valley & Clear Lake Railroads Esparanza - Madison to Rumsey	Capay
1890	Green Berry Logan – first Black man in the county	Capay
1890	Esparanza is renamed to Esparto (feather grass)	Capay
1892	Great Fire	Woodland
1892	Winters Earthquake	Winters
1892-93	Great Flood Knights Landing	Knights Landing
1894	2nd Baptist Church founded	Woodland
1895	Woodland High School	Woodland
1905	Woodland Public Library opens	Woodland
1906	Davisville selected for Berkeley's farm	Davis
1907	Flooding of Sacramento River	Yolo
1908-18	Flood projects reclaimed Yolo Basin	Yolo/State of CA
1910	First library opened Knights Landing	Knights Landing
1911	Male voters supported Women's Suffrage	Davis
1911	A. H. Fredson buys land for town	Yolo
1914	Capay Dam 'longest rubber fitted dam in world'	Capay
1915	First Almond Festival	Capay
1915	Town of Zamora named formerly Blacks Station, Prairie	Yolo
1916	Holland Land Co. sold reclaimed land as model farms	Clarksburg
1917	Davis incorporated	Davis
1919	Bypass area created as flood control	Yolo
1920	Young instructors from Farm settled and experimented on the land	Clarksburg
1926	Biggest bootlegging bust in US in Guinda	Capay
1929	Highway between Woodland, Knights Landing, Marysville	Knights Landing
1933	Bridge built over Sac River	Knights Landing
1933	First Winters Youth Day	Winters
1942-46	Japanese internment – farms impacted	Yolo
1942-64	Bracero Program Mexican farmworkers on farms	Yolo
1944 +	Mechanization inventions from the Farm solved farmworker problem sugar beets, tomatoes, dichondra	Yolo
1957	Monticello Dam and Lake Berryessa established	Winters
1959	County adopts Master Plan ? Herbert Hatcher?	Yolo
1962	Yolo Causeway established	Yolo
1962	Sacramento Yolo Port opened for inter shipping	Yolo
1964	Davis City Council applied bicycle lanes to city streets	Davis
1968	Service district formed to govern Knights Landing	Knights Landing
1975	Village Homes subdivision	Davis
1985	Knights Landing Library Branch opened	Knights Landing

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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[basommer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:basommer@ucdavis.edu)