

# Yolo County Historical Society



MAY 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> the Historical Society will celebrate 50 consecutive years of service to Yolo County. It says a lot about an organization to have existed that long! The individuals who have contributed are too numerous to mention, but their dedication to preserving history in Yolo County is admirable. We need to maintain diligence and continue preserving and sharing history with our community.

Part of the program on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be installation of Officers for the Society. I want to thank all of you for the many years you have allowed me to be the President of the Historical Society. It has been a great ride, but now it is time for a change. I don't know who the new President is (I have a pretty good idea), but I know the new President will lead the Society with fresh ideas and energy.

June is traditionally membership month with renewal envelopes going out in the mail. This year we will have the membership envelopes available at the Anniversary celebration if you would like to take advantage of the opportunity to renew in person.

Mark your calendar and come share in the celebration.

Peace,  
BJ Ford, Almost Past President

## Hattie Hits the Road, Gives a Party, Gets a Facelift

*Submitted by MaryLee Thomson*

May was a busy month for the volunteers at the Hattie Weber Museum of Davis. We shared a booth at the Gibson House Mayfair with the Society that generated quite a bit of interest. Later we had a booth at Celebrate Davis that attracted 167 visitors. The 1930's typewriter was a hit at both occasions and the history quiz created by John Lofland some years ago generated interest at the Davis booth.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, we dedicated the new bricks in the rose garden patio next to the Museum. A group of about 30 attended. Several people spoke about the person their brick honored. It was a very warm day and the lemonade at the reception following the dedication was consumed quickly! We added several items to the exhibit honoring mothers, grandmothers and other exceptional women.

The Davis Rotary Club gave the Museum a grant of \$150 and supplied two workers to help spruce up the front of the Museum. Davis woodworker Jay Bradbury repaired the window boxes which were then sanded, primed, painted and replanted. The front railings were also sanded and painted. Director Dennis Dingemans did the lion's share of the work.

June will see the volunteers back before the Davis City Council arguing for the preservation of the WPA building next to the Museum. We hope to use the inside for

storage and make the building the centerpiece of a history plaza with outdoor exhibits.

Society members are especially welcome to visit the Museum, which is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10 am and 4 pm. The Museum is located at 445 C Street in Davis' Central Park.

### **Winters History Project Report**

*Submitted by Joann Larkey*

More than eight people enjoyed the hospitality of Park Winters, a unique hotel on CR 29, for a delightful evening on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Guests toured the historic George W. Scott home and grounds and heard descendants of the Scott, George Walker Chapman and Henry Fredericks families speak about these early settlers in the Buckeye District of southwestern Yolo County.

The event was part of an ongoing series sponsored by the Winters History Project Committee, which seeks to preserve images of the Winters area and has a long term goal of acquiring a permanent museum location. The Committee would welcome additional image or artifact contributions to its growing collection, and has registration, scanning/copying procedures in place so that original photographs can remain with individual families. For further information, contact 795-2676 or [tachoops@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tachoops@sbcglobal.net).

The next planned event will be a public lecture by Dr. David Vaught, Professor of History at Texas A & M University, author of a popular historical book, entitled *After the Gold Rush: Tarnished Dreams in the Sacramento Valley*. This 310-page volume

was published in 2007 by Johns Hopkins University Press. The author's principal research for this book was conducted in the Yolo County Archives and the Special Collections Department of the UC Davis Library. The absorbing text examines the hard-luck miners-turned farmers who dealt with floods, drought and challenging conditions to develop pioneer ranches along Putah Creek in the Davis and Winters areas of Yolo and Solano counties.

Dr. Vaught's talk will be held on Thursday, August 8 from 7 to 9 P.M. at the historic Winters Opera House, now The Palms Playhouse, located at 13 Main Street in Winters. Co-sponsors of this event will be the non-profit Winters History Project Committee, The Yolo County Historical Society and the Putah Creek Council. Donations to defray traveling and rental expenses will be gratefully accepted at the door.

### **Springlake Schoolhouse**

*Submitted by Kathy Harryman*

The schoolhouse is bustling at this time of the year. All available dates in May have been scheduled with third grade students, their teachers and parents. The schoolmarms and schoolmasters are happily watching the students experience what life was like in the 1890's schoolhouse. The students always want to know if the teachers are going to be 'mean'. We have seen about 600 students this year. That means that there is a lot of wear and tear on the equipment. We will probably have to replace some outside equipment as well as add some books to our program. If any of you would like to help defray the costs of these items, please send your check to our treasurer, Reva Barzo and specify

Schoolhouse. We would be most appreciative of your donation. As you know, the schoolhouse experience is free for the students and the teachers tell us they really appreciate that they can come and visit us and not pay anything. I know the board would like to keep it that way.

Just a few notes on the building: I have asked Pat Murray, from the Woodland Rose Club, to come and prune the roses on the east side of the house. They have not been taken care of and have grown. Thank you Pat I have also asked a contractor to come and give us an estimate on several small repairs to the schoolhouse. The stair railing needs to be strengthened, there are some boards that have fallen off and need to be replaced and the fence holding in the roses is not as secure as it should be. The schoolhouse is just like a home....continually repair.

I would also like to thank all the schoolmarm and schoolmasters for all their help during the year. Marilyn Sholz and Martha Brashear deserve special thanks for coordinating the schools and the teachers. We could not do it without them.

In the fall, BJ and I, visited the Fair Board and expressed our concern about the loud music when the building was open. I just talked with the ladies in the office, and they will not know when the bands will be playing. It is extremely difficult to try to answer questions and talk to the visitors when the music is so loud. We will let you know the results of our questions before the fair.

### **Cemetery Tour**

*Submitted by Kathy Harryman*

Reserve Sunday, October 20 for our annual cemetery tour. This year we are focusing on the epidemics that have occurred in the

Woodland area. You will see an entirely new and different tour with doctors, nurses, a traveling medicine man, victims of plagues and other surprises. If you would like to be part of this tour, please contact me at 662-2189. As you know, this is our only fundraiser of the year. So please support it and bring your friends. Again, I would like to thank Chris Dreith for writing the scenarios for the tour.

### **Gibson House**

*Submitted by Kathy Harryman*

Since I am the liaison to the Gibson House, representing you on their board, I would like to share what is happening at the Museum. There is a new exhibit entitled "Women Who Have Been Meeting in Yolo County for 100 Years". You will be surprised to see the groups and the women who have been getting together to talk, support each other and fundraise for their communities. It was an eye opening experience gathering the information. Along with the groups is a time line of fashion beginning in 1900 and changing every 10 years until 2000. The outfits are charming. Also is a collection of hats, many from the museum, and the rest supplemented with hats from Karen Lafferty.

Kim Dale has added to the fashions with clothing from the 1960's to 2000. She also has shared her shoes. There is an exhibit focusing on the Blower Sisters and their art. There is also an upstairs bedroom devoted to bloomers, with a focus on our own bloomer relative, Ammoretta Scott of Winters. It is an exciting exhibit put together by me with the help of Stella Dinger. Call the museum and schedule a tour for you and your friends. You will love it.

**Yolo County Historical Society**  
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**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*