

# Yolo County Historical Society



NOVEMBER 2016

## Prez Says

Another month has sped past us....Wow! Thanksgiving is only a few days away. I remember teaching elementary school at Plainfield and organizing a "Thanksgiving Feast". Of course it had to be 'real' because we were studying early American history. So, I sent out a call for deer meat, pheasants, doves, and wild turkeys. Remember that Plainfield is out in the country surrounded by farmers who loved to hunt. Well, there was not a wild turkey to be found....We had deer, pheasants and a regular store bought turkey, but no wild turkey. How times have changed! Now we have wild turkeys roaming the streets of our communities in this county. I almost ran into one group the other day while driving to a meeting. The inhabitants of the cities have now decided that the turkeys are no longer 'cute'. They are a menace, eating plants and leaving their droppings all over. Maybe we should all organize another real "Thanksgiving Feast". Just a thought! All of us on the Board wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. We all have a lot to be thankful for.

Remember, as always...

History Rules!

Kathy Harryman  
President, Yolo County Historical Society

## On The Road

By Mardi Bagan

On October 1<sup>st</sup> I visited the Sacramento City Cemetery for their Fireman's Tour. What a fun way to spend a Saturday morning. There were several members from the fireman's historical society in period appropriate attire with a fully restored Hook and Ladder truck.

Sacramento had one of the first volunteer fire company in the state, organized in 1850. The volunteers served until 1872, when a paid department was formed.

We visited several of the graves of these colorful characters from this period and ended at the fireman's plot. Each October the fireman's society has a ceremony-recognizing fireman who lost their life while in service by ringing the bell that was placed there in 1863.

Sacramento City Cemetery offers monthly tours with varied themes. It is a great way to spend a Saturday morning and then stop at The Tower Café for lunch!



## 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. If

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

**L & S Printers, Main St.  
Larry Shapiro  
Bernard & Lynn Gough  
Dahlin & Essex Inc.  
Alderson Convalescent Hospital**



## **Mexican Land Grants in Yolo County?**

Did this county have Mexican Land Grants? Weren't we too far north to be owned by Mexico? Who had these land grants? How many acres were involved? How much did these individuals pay for their grants? Did they pay on credit? What were their obligations? Did they have to swear allegiance to Mexico?

These questions will all be answered by our next guest, Mark Davidson, publisher of "Early Sacramento Land Grants". Mark is a "Certified Signing Agent" for sales and loan documents. He is associated with the Sacramento and El Dorado Association of Realtors Instructor. We will meet Mark at our monthly presentation on Sunday, November 27 at 2:00 at the Gibson Museum, 512 Gibson Road in Woodland. Come and spend an afternoon learning about the Land Grants of Yolo County.



**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

## **2016-2017 Patrons**

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Looking for an old article published in the newsletter or upcoming events? Check it out on our website. [www.yolo.net/ychs](http://www.yolo.net/ychs)

**If you have a story** you would like to share that relates to Yolo County, send it to [rbarzo@yahoo.com](mailto:rbarzo@yahoo.com) and we can include it as space is available. Photos are also encouraged! Our members enjoy reading about the memories that have been shared in the newsletter in the past.

### **Workers Needed....**

As many of you know, we have two storage units in the basement of the IOOF building in Woodland. One unit is for book storage and the other unit is for 'everything else'. Well, needless to say, the 'everything else' unit needs to be organized and items need to either be donated to the County Archives or, if multiples, thrown away. We also need to catalog the contents and publish the catalog in case anyone wants to do research. Terry Laugenour has agreed to be on a committee to help do this. But, she can only do it on the weekends and on Monday. If you would like to help, please e mail me at [khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com) and let me know what day you would like to help. We could probably get this done in 2-3 meetings.



### **Remember When.....**

The following are excerpts from the Yolo County Historical Society Newsletters from 1974. We thought it might be fun to reminisce for some and for others, find out new information.

January 1974

“Due to fuel shortages, no tour will be scheduled for February but plans are being made for the membership to attend the Almond Festival in Capay Valley.”

February 1974

“Finally, after months of problems and delays---sinking ground, hallow sidewalks, bad weather –work on the Opera House Plaza will begin. Chairman Tom Inks and his committee will start leveling the ground as soon as weather permit. Plants and trees will be the next step. This work on the Plaza will be done in areas close to the

sidewalks because part of the Elliot property may be needed for additional space in the Opera House when the restoration begins. In any case, expect a bit of beauty to emerge in the downtown area ...soon!”

March 1974

“Through recent passed legislation, AB1032, the Junior League of Sacramento, Inc., is selling the State’s surplus brick. This is Historic Old Sacramento Brick, made here from 1849-1870. It can be picked up at the warehouse on the southwest corner of Capitol and Front Streets. NO DELIVERIES. Saturday March 23 is the last day of the sale which is held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The brick is \$50.00 per palette of 500 bricks. Proceeds from the sale of these old bricks will go toward the reconstruction of the Old Eagle Theatre in the Old Sacramento State Historic Park...”

April 1974

“Work started on the Plaza early Saturday, March 16...Benches were arranged and trees donated by the City of Woodland were placed in redwood planters on the lot. Twenty volunteers worked most of the morning cleaning, leveling, and grooming the lot. While the work went on, the Opera House was open for tours. The Reveille Lions Club of Woodland contributed greatly to the success of this initial step in beautifying the Plaza”

June 1974

“The Society wishes to thank with appreciation member Floyd Myers Marsh of Williams for the donation of a lovely concert grand piano for the Woodland Opera House. The piano, first purchased in 1911 by the Parrish family of Yolo County, will add a new dimension to the concert series being planned for the fall.”

**Yolo County Historical Society**  
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**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.*