



## Prez Says

We have seen the eclipse or at least part of it, so I thought this poem by Walt Whitman might be appropriate.

### Give me the Splendid, Silent Sun

Give me the splendid silent sun, with all his beams full-dazzling,  
 Give me juicy autumnal fruit, ripe and red from the orchard,  
 Give me a field where the unmow'd grass grows,  
 Give me an arbor, give me the trellis'd grape ....

Again, we have many historical events happening in the county.

Along with "War Cookies and Bread," on April 27 at the Yolo Library in Yolo, Mel Russell presented a 50-minute visual presentation on how vital agriculture was to winning the First World War. She emphasized the part played by the people of Dunnigan, Zamora and Yolo maximizing agricultural output for the war effort.

On Sunday, May 4, the Historical Society of Winters is sponsoring the **Japantown Monument Dedication** (see page 6, *The Lost Community* ....).

May 4 is the **California Honey Festival** – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Woodland.

On May 12, Mother's Day, at 10 a.m. Holy Rosary Catholic Church will have a mass and groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction on their 5th church in Woodland (see page 6, *Grateful* ....).

As always, History Rules!  
Kathy Harryman, President



## BIG DAY OF GIVING

- On Thursday, May 2, we are again part of the Big Day of Giving campaign. There are 830 nonprofit organizations in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties participating in this year's drive.
- Our focus is our schoolhouse at the fairgrounds. We would like to provide free transportation for the schools who have not been attending the program.
- We would like to provide funds for the restoration of the Haswell Cabin along Cache Creek. The final project has a media focus.
- We would like to work with the Yolo County Archives searching for materials that could be used to share our history with the community.
- Nonprofits exist through your generosity. Without you, we would be "history."
- Please donate with a check payable to **YCHS** and mail to **PO Box 1447, Woodland, CA 95776**. We are a 501c3 tax deductible organization – ID# 23-7086043.



# Methodist Church History

by Kathy Harryman

I recently attended the 70th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Knights Landing. I received the following historical information about the beginnings of the Methodist community in Yolo County, written by Rev. Peter P. Ahn, Ph.D. and used with permission.

The earliest recorded Christian activity occurred in 1821, when a Franciscan priest, baptized an Indian in the region of Knights Landing.

In the spring of 1847, James G.T. Dunleavy, a Methodist Exhorter visited Knights Landing. The following year, the bloody war of the American-Mexican people ended on Feb. 1, 1848, and Mexico made a treaty with the United States, ceding to the United States the present states of California, Nevada. ....

Mr. William Knight arrived in Yolo County in 1843, and settled down in Rancho Carmelo, on the banks of the Sacramento River, 31 miles northwest from Fort Sutter. As the town grew, Mr. Knight called it Baltimore, naming it after his own hometown. Later, it was changed to Knights Landing.

Near the end of October 1849, Rev. Isaac Owens of the Methodist Church was invited to camp as a minister of the Gospel. He preached the first sermon in the Sacramento Valley. Rev. Owens stayed with the people in the town both Saturday and Sunday and held the first Communion Service in Yolo County. ....

In April 1850, Rev. David Pollock was sent to Sacramento to organize a church by the Southern Methodist Church. Rev. Pollock was an energetic and gifted preacher with a feeble body. He had keen missionary spirit which motivated him to preach, crossing the river into Yolo County. He preached at West Sacramento, Broderick, and Fremont.

In 1861, Rev. J.M. Rogers was appointed to the Knights Ferry circuit. He was unable to serve continually because of his poor health. It is a regrettable fact that no one could secure any records between 1861-1869.

The Knights Landing community organized the "Sabbath School" under the superintendency of Mr. Stoddard and trained many children with Bible stories. To carry a successful Sabbath School, they contributed toward the Sabbath School Library. It was an unusual endeavor that laymen organized this project to teach their children the Bible and religion before they found(built) any church in the town.

Rev. Bradbury visited Knights Landing and gave lectures on the two evenings of Monday and Tuesday in November of 1859. His lecture involved the subject of language and he dealt mainly with English grammar. He promised the people that he would visit them again in December that same year. Whenever the circuit riders found the schoolhouse, they organized "the class" to teach people the Christian faith.

Conference journals show that the church had a membership class, a Sabbath School, and some women's work in the church since they established the new church. The church had a library and they circulated 150 volumes in 1883.



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**Methodist Church** - *continued*

The United Methodist Church in Knights Landing served the people in the town tirelessly and introduced the Gospel to Woodland. The year of 1884, when Rev. J.G. Shelton was minister, he began to consider the growing village of Woodland as a possible place for missionary work. Rev. Shelton came over to Woodland and found Methodist families and organized "the class." Soon this organization outgrew the home in which they were meeting, and they planned to expand the church. They met in a storehouse on First Street near Main, then in the Adventist Church, and finally they built their own church on Second and Court streets.

The early church trained potential members and children in the church. Missionary education was rigorous and the missionary fund was apportioned. Continuous efforts were made to expand the church and membership increased to 121 under the leadership of Rev. J.M. Pratt in 1895.

Northern and Southern Methodist churches were merged in 1939 and the Methodist church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. The church merged with the Yolo United Methodist Church in May 1969 and serves the Knights Landing, Robbins, Yolo, and Zamora communities.



Editor,

Thank you to Kathy Harryman for sharing dolls from her extensive collection, together with stories of the women who created them, in the society's March-April 2024 newsletter. Her article was in honor of Women's History Month.

Back in 2018 I helped my husband, Dennis Dingemans, then director of the Hattie Weber Museum of Davis, arrange some of Kathy's fascinating World War I dolls in a display case in conjunction with the hundredth anniversary of Armistice Day.

This time, we get to see examples of composition dolls and also a doll from Kathy's collection of Black rag dolls. All these dolls have interesting histories and tell stories about their times and places.

I'd like to encourage newsletter readers to use Kathy's piece as an invitation to learn more about any of the dolls that interest them. I'm especially hoping that all of us become more knowledgeable about the "Golliwog" doll, which as Kathy notes, was inspired by a blackface minstrel toy. This means that, innocent as it can appear, it has roots in hurtful stereotypes of Black people.

Please read the rich and well-documented article, "The Golliwog Caricature," here:

<https://jimcrowmuseum.ferris.edu/golliwog/homepage.htm>

There are lots of other references to "golliwog" on the web, but this one, from a well-respected public history source, is especially worthy of your attention.

I am not urging YCHS to ban difficult artifacts from its newsletter or display cases. Quite the reverse. Let's help residents and visitors understand the multiple meanings that history holds for our diverse friends and neighbors.

Robin Datel  
Davis

# The Lost Community of Winters

by Kathy Harryman and Gloria Lopez, Winters Historical Society

On Saturday May 4, the **Historical Society of Winters** presents a day long acknowledgment of the Japanese contribution to the city of Winters. The activities will begin at 11:am with a Buddhist Service at the Winter's Cemetery. At 1:30 there will be a Taiko Drum Performance at Rotary Park and at 2:00 there will be a Japantown dedication also at Rotary Park Gazebo. The monument will face the location of the original Japantown.

During this time, **The Winters Museum**, located at 13 Russell Street, will be open. Among their features is a display entitled "Lost Japanese Community of Winters". This project has taken over a year to organize. A group, composed of representatives from the Japanese American Citizens League and the Historical Society of Winters met to discuss how to tell the story so that it wouldn't be lost, and others could learn from it. Members contributed stories, photos, and artifacts honoring the Japanese who became farmers, business owners, and community members. The display tells the story of the families who were sent to internment camps during WWII. The exhibit was developed by several descendants of these families and will include many artifacts and photos.

Floyd Shimomura, a native of Winters, shares the story of his parents who were forced to leave with only one steamer trunk. Shimomura became the national president of the Japanese American Citizens League, instrumental in the redress for the Japanese community in 1988.

The celebration and the work of the Winters Historical Society are to be commended. This is another example of the importance of our history. Yolo County has grown in importance because of the contributions of groups such as the Japanese to the community. Congratulations to the Winters community.

## Grateful for the Past, Committed to the Future

Holy Rosary Parish is celebrating its dedication of its new church with a groundbreaking ceremony on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12 at 10:00 a.m.

There has been a Catholic presence in the city of Woodland since 1870 when the first church was built on Main Street, between Elm and Walnut Streets and dedicated in memory of the Holy Rosary. This church lasted one year. Heavy rains caused the steeple to crack, and the building was declared unsafe. In 1874, construction was begun on the corner of Main and Walnut Streets for the new church.

In 1883, property was purchased for a Catholic cemetery (St Joseph's) on West Street, and in 1884, Holy Rosary Academy was built on Main Street. The Academy was a boarding school staffed by the Holy Cross Sisters and attracted many students from San Francisco and the Bay Area.

In 1911, that church was declared unsafe due to faulty construction and poor soil conditions. A lot was then purchased on the corner of Court and Walnut Streets. The old church was moved to the north corner to make room for the new building on Main Street. That building still stands and has been used for various activities.

In 1912, ground was broken for the new church. In 1913, that church was dedicated in honor of the Queen of the Holy Rosary. Thirty-seven years later, signs of stress were found in the church. Construction began for a new church on the corner of Court and Walnut Streets. During this time, the Academy burned. The pastor at that time, built two schools: the present Holy Rosary Catholic School on California Street and the small 'primary' school on the church property.

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**Grateful-** *continued*

The Community Center was built in the 1970's providing a gym for the school and an auditorium for parish functions.

The last phase of development for the Parish will be with the building of a 'new' and much larger church on the corner of California and West Cross Streets. This site will meet the needs of the growing Catholic community of Woodland.

The history of these first 154 years shows an often difficult and challenging journey to not only survive but establish a strong Catholic identity. These past 154 years are a strong testament to the endurance, faith, commitment, and mission of the Catholic parishioners in Woodland.

## History of the YCHS Logo

Kathy Harryman interviews Dino Gay

Where did we get our logo?

I was asked that question and I had no idea. It was before my time on the board, and no one ever talked about it. So, I decided to delve into the history of our logo.

Our logo was designed by Dino Gay who is a professional graphic artist. We sat down one day, and I asked him some questions. He doesn't remember who contacted him and asked him to create a logo.

He does remember working with Shipley Walters on the cover of Shipley's *Woodland: City of Trees*. He was in the graphic design department at UC Davis. Apparently, at that time, one could use their services. He also worked on the covers of John Lofland's books *Demolishing a Historic Hotel*, and *Old North Davis*.

Dino graduated from UC Davis and started his studio in the late 1990's. He thinks the logo was created around 1996-98. He couldn't remember when exactly. He created it pro bono in trade for a lifetime membership in the historical society. The parameters he set for himself, were that he outline the county and that the scripted "Y" be superimposed on the county at the upper right corner. In addition, he wanted it

circular in design,

flexible enough that it could be reproduced in black and white,

reproducible in either a small or large size,

asymmetrical, to be more distinct from other groups,

and to have a graphic identity.

He balanced the design because of its asymmetrical quality. When he presented it to the board, he was surprised that they agreed on the design.

I wasn't surprised. Joanne Larkey, Bob Sommer, Dennis Dingemans, and BJ Ford were on the board and were all very creative individuals.

We have lived with that logo for over twenty years. Is it time for a change? Dino thinks so. What do you think?



# Hattie Weber Museum Report

## by Merrily Dupree

Since the last report, John and Merrily have been working on revising the museum's permanent exhibits and also examining the collection to ensure all items have been accessioned and are stored properly.

Regarding the exhibits, we've started with the one on the Davis Library, which was put up during the late 1980s. We're adding some new objects and photos and rewriting the captions. A major goal is to provide more information about Etta Reed Haussler, who was a major force in the campaign to provide a library for the community, and Hattie Weber, who was part of that campaign and then played an invaluable role by becoming the Davis Free Library's first paid librarian, in 1911.



We're especially excited to have recently received from the **Friends of the Davis Library** a 1934 unabridged dictionary, which was donated to the library by Etta Haussler's family after her death. The cover is inscribed "To the Davis Library in memory of M. Etta Reed Haussler, Its Founder." Patrons used this dictionary in the old library building for more than thirty-five years.

We're also adding information about how Hattie Weber became a professional librarian, despite having grown up in a town without a library. We've started the review of the museum collection with the books, checking the accession numbers with those in our Past Perfect program and coming up with a more user-friendly system of organization.

Volunteer, Lulu Zhang, has recently added several materials to her "Ride a Double Decker—Spare the Air" exhibit, which tells the story of the red English buses used by the Davis Unitrans system. About a week after she put the exhibit up, UCD announced its plan to celebrate the 110 millionth Unitrans rider (since 1967), with a marching band and gifts. Suddenly our exhibit was participating in the celebration, so Lulu added recent *Davis Enterprise* articles about the event. Since then, "Double Decker" continues to be popular with visitors of all ages. It's a familiar Davis subject about which many are curious, and the exhibit's many red buses make it especially attractive.

Lulu has been in touch with Bob Black, ASUCD President in 1966, who masterminded the bus project. He's expressed interest in giving a talk at the museum about this period of UCD history, which would be an exciting development.

To update you about individuals camping in tents near the WPA storage building: the original woman, who had been there since last summer, is now gone. Tracie Reynolds, one of our liaisons with the city, believes she was convinced to go to a shelter. Then, about three weeks ago, a small group with another tent appeared in the same location. They left, however, after only a few days.

Our main concern is the welfare of those who must live in these conditions. We're also at a point, however, where we want to do some repainting of a wall of the building, and, most importantly, to get estimates for replacing the roof (which wasn't done when the building was remodeled in 2020). We're concerned that if people are sheltering adjacent to the building, contractors won't be willing to take the job. Do you have information or suggestions regarding this situation?

## Patrons

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

You, also, can be a patron by **contributing** \$100 or more.

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