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Outreach and Community

The Archives focused on virtual programs, social media posts, and digitization of collections in response to continued COVID restrictions on in-person gatherings.

The Archives contributed content to the Library’s Facebook and Instagram pages for Women’s History Month (March). Many of the posts featured digitized content from California Revealed, including interviews with Supervisors Betsy Marchand (1994) and Twyla Thompson (1999). With support from the Yolo County Women’s History Month Committee, the VHS recording of Shipleys Walters’ “Unsung Heroines of Yolo County” (1992) was digitized and made available on the Library’s YouTube page. The Archives also hosted two wonderful zoom talks by Shirley Dickard (March 24th) and Mel Russell (March 31st). The talks had 29 attendees and 27 attendees respectively.

The Archives also hosted a zoom talk by Jim Lapsley, Chair of the Woodland Stroll Through History. The talk, “Creating Neighborhoods in Historic Woodland: Plat Maps and ‘Additions’”, discussed the growth of Woodland prior to and after incorporation in 1871. There were 30 attendees.

Meeting the Archivists

We also participated in two events for the Sacramento Archives Crawl. On Oct. 5th Heather participated in a panel discussion with other archivists from the State Library, State Archives, Center for Sacramento History, Sacramento Public Library, Sac. State, and UCD Archives. The panel answered questions from attendees and talked about the archival profession. YCA also hosted a talk on Oct. 8th by Floyd Shimomura and Emily Masuda on the perseverance of the Japanese American Community of Winters. These events were well attended, with 37 attendees at the panel and 41 attendees at the talk.

Volunteers

We are so grateful for our volunteers and the 973 hours of service they provided this year (14 more hours than 2020). We continued to work on remote and onsite projects throughout 2021. Volunteers contributed to collections processing, grant projects, data entry into the new database, and collection inventories. Our volunteers are integral to the success of the Archives. Thank you volunteers!

Yolo County Historical Collection

The Museum Curator completed the review of the collection and closed out the NEH preservation assistance grant, which provided storage supports for quilts and paintings. We were excited that the Museum Curator position was made permanent and a 5-year plan was created to guide collections management and outreach. View the plan here: https://bit.ly/35dR1Kq

The Spring 2021 exhibition, “Healing Histories,” focused on Yolo County’s medical history and how herbal remedies have been utilized across time and cultures. The signage in the East and West Parlors and the Kitchen of the Gibson House was also updated to better interpret the items in the collection and highlight the story of the Gibson Family.

We continued our monthly zoom presentations and Collections Revealed videos. These presentations included the Life and Stories of Emily Hoppin with Shirley Dickard, Honoring the Unknown Soldier with Mel Russell, Re-Indigenizing Native American Culture with Diana Almendariz, and Gold Rush Medicine with Dr. Bob LaPerriere. The seven social media videos highlighted children’s toys, medicine in Yolo County, Victorian cosmetic practices, crazy quilts, the Hotel Julian sign, artwork of the Blowers family, and Spreckles Sugar Company. These talks and videos can be found here: https://bit.ly/3FUxLe8; https://bit.ly/3KFM8ro

In the final few months of the year, the Archives started partnering with the Friends of the Yolo County Archives to feature “Behind the Scenes” posts on Facebook. Isabel Araujo, one of the Board members who also volunteers at the Archives, has taken leadership on the posts. These posts feature volunteers, staff, collections, and projects. They have helped to increase awareness of the collection and the work that we do.

Lastly, Heather also gave a zoom presentation to the Davis Genealogy Club on Tuesday May 18th where she provided information about the resources that are available at the Yolo County Archives, and at County Archives in general, that may be useful to genealogists. There were about 30 attendees at the talk.

Collections

Staff worked hard to get new Collection Management Policies for the Archives and the Yolo County Historical Collection completed. This policy, approved at the June 8th Board of Supervisors meeting, is critical for good stewardship of both collections.

The first half of the year staff and volunteers worked to complete the implementation of the Yolo County Collections Database. The database, which contains digital reproductions of and information about the historic records and objects from the Yolo County Archives and the Yolo County Historical Collection, launched Oct. 4th. The Archives side of the database currently has over 8,000 digital objects and 46,000 collection, folder, and item level records.

Archives staff and volunteers also worked diligently on two grants. The NEH Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions was completed in summer. This grant allowed us to purchase archival boxes and folders to process 633 boxes of Board of Supervisors’ materials. The grant resulted in not only a better preserved collection, but also 27,626 folder & item level records added to Axiell.

In September Archives staff started scanning collections for the CA Humanities Relief Grant, with funding from the NEH American Rescue Act Plan of 2021. We were awarded $22,500 to pay for staff time to scan, and upload to Axiell, indexes, maps, blueprints, naturalization records, and photographs. The grant will be completed in May of 2022.
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226 Buckeye Street
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8010
archives@yolocounty.org

Public research by appointment.

HOURS:
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Research

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JWA

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