

Annual Report 2023



2023 was a year of digitization and collections processing! Archives staff focused heavily on increasing access to our collection by participating in some very large digitization projects, as well as prioritizing the organization, rehousing, and cataloging of new and backlogged donations.

With support from the Friends, our Extra Help Library Assistant worked on cataloging and digitizing over 1,900 photographs from the Yolo County History Museum Photo Collection. Additionally, staff worked closely with the Clerk Recorder's Office and USImaging to digitize all of the property records in our collection.

Archives staff also spent time with the community this year. We had a table and display at both the Yolo County Women's History Month event in March and at the Sacramento Archives Crawl in October. We also had the pleasure of hosting a group of students from the Winters Participation Gallery at the Archives in June.

In July we welcomed Sarah Bartlett as our new Museum Curator. Sarah has been working on a collections inventory, digitization of objects, and development of new temporary and semi-permanent exhibits.

We are excited for 2024 where we will work towards curriculum creation and more outreach around our database, online resources, and collections.

Heather Lanctot
Archives & Records Center Coordinator



Outreach and Community

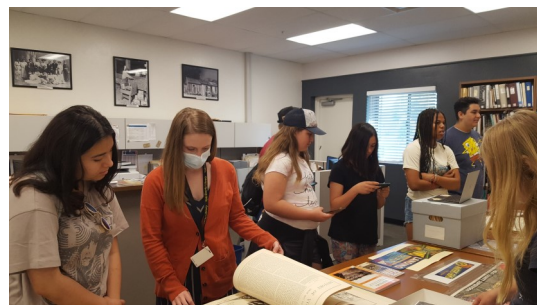


The Archives and Historical Collection partnered with the Winters Branch Library to contribute scans of historical photos and artwork from the collections for a “ghost painting” program for adults and teens. Ghost painting is a recent social media trend that involves painting ghosts or other spooky additions into other pieces of art.

On Saturday, March 18th, Rachel tabled at the Yolo County Women’s History Month Committee’s event at the Gibson House. Rachel provided information to

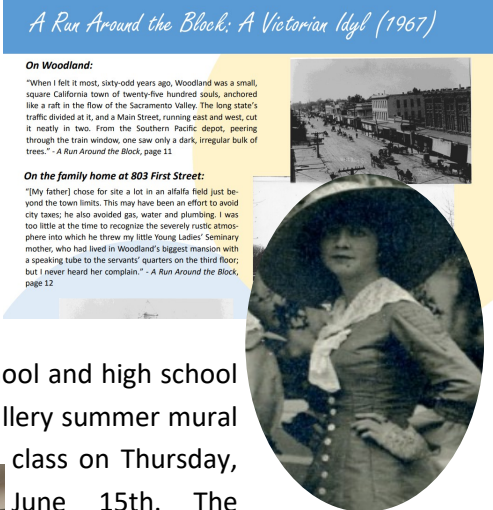
attendees about the Archives’ resources and services. To support the theme of “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories,” Rachel created a display on Veta Hurst Griggs, the author of A Run Around the Block (1967), a memoir about growing up in Woodland, CA at the turn of the twentieth century. The display can be viewed online at yolocountyhistory.com

We had the pleasure of hosting middle school and high school students from the Winters Participation Gallery summer mural



Health Foundation building's mural project

On June 22nd, Heather participated on a panel at Community, Hearts, and Minds: An Institute on Ethnic Studies Disciplinary Literacy. The three-day institute was part of the 2023 Summer Institutes put on by the California History-Social Science Project at UC Davis. Educators from across the state came together to focus on implementing Ethnic Studies in the TK-12 classroom. In addition to Heather, the other panelists were Christine Cheng (Instruction and Outreach Librarian UCD Archives and Special Collections), Araceli Moreno (Youth Education Advocate, Save California Salmon), and Dr. Lorena V. Márquez (Associate Professor Chicano/a Studies UCD). Araceli and Lorena discussed their community centered projects around collecting histories from, and creating



class on Thursday, June 15th. The students did a tour and listened to a presentation from Mel Russell about the importance of agriculture during WWI. Materials from the Archives were brought out to the Reading Room to help inspire the students’ work on the



curriculum about, Native American and Chicano/a communities. Christine and Heather emphasized the importance of Archives as both repositories for primary source materials and as collaborators with community groups to help preserve and raise awareness around the histories of underrepresented communities.



In October, Heather and Rachel tabled at the annual Sacramento Archives Crawl and interacted with **157 visitors**. The theme this year was “Myth, Folklore, & Legend.” The Archives highlighted four Yolo County ghosts: the Woodland Opera House ghost, the 666 Dead Cat Alley ghost, the Snowball Mansion ghost, and the Werner-Hamel House ghost. The Lucy Snowball bookmarks were a big hit!

Collections

There were a number of digitization projects that took place over 2023.

With funding from the Friends, Archives staff and volunteers continued to work on digitization projects. Inventorying, processing, and digitizing the Yolo Historical Museum Photo Collection was the main priority. The collection of 4000+ photographic prints, negatives, lantern slides, and tintypes were transferred to the Archives in spring of 2022. The images cover a wide range of Yolo County locations, topics, and people, and it has already proven to be a useful resource for researchers. Staff were able to process and scan **over 3,400 photos** (1,900 additional photographs since last year) from this collection. Archives staff were also able to digitize **44 indexes to property records, 67 yearbooks, and 99 maps**.



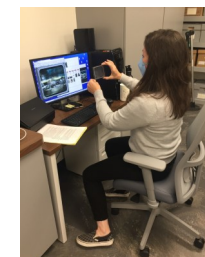
Over the course of 7 weeks in January and February, the digitization company US Imaging, under a contract with the Yolo County Clerk Recorder’s Office, worked in the Archives to scan all of the County’s property records. The Archives hosted the contractors and made sure that they had access to all of the original documents in our collection storage area. The company is in the process of reviewing all of the scans for quality and completeness. The Archives will be receiving a copy of all of the scans once this work is completed.

A new batch of audiovisual files are available to be viewed on the CA Revealed website. The digitized materials include **37 reels of Board of Supervisors meeting recordings, 4 reels of Woodland High School football films, and 21 VHS tapes**



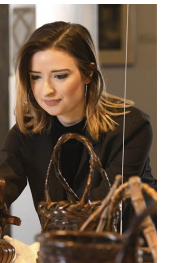
content here: californiarevealed.org/partner/yolo-county-archives

Personnel

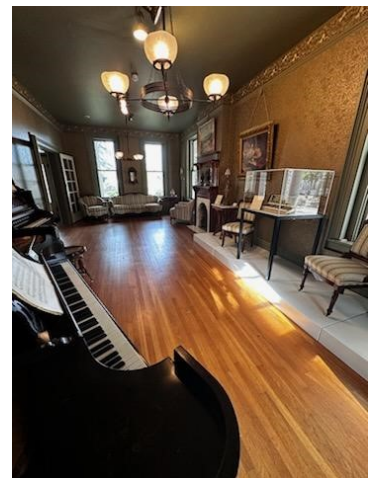


Our Extra Help Library Assistant **Michelle Trujillo**, continued to work on processing and digitizing the large collection of photographs that were transferred from the Yolo County Historical Collection in spring of 2022. **Sarah Bartlett** came onboard as our new Museum Curator for the Historical Collection in July. Sarah has bachelors degrees in Anthropology, Classical Studies, and Political Science and a masters

degree in Anthropology. Sarah has experience in curation of digital and physical exhibits as well as training and certification in preservation. Sarah has also worked as a docent at a Victorian-era house museum.



Yolo County Historical Collection



With the hiring of a new curator, the Gibson House museum was able to reestablish open hours. Community members can now access the house every Thursday from 2-4pm for free. While in the house guests can explore the newly refreshed bottom floor complete with both newly displayed objects and didactic material. In October the museum welcomed **over 100 visitors** through its doors during community events. The house was open for the Woodland Stoll and the property hosted a concert by the Woodland Community Band. Additionally, this was the first year

that the Gibson House was open during Yolo Art’s large Art Farm Fundraiser which brought a new audience to the house. Sarah has onboarded 4 volunteers to help with the documentation and preservation of the Yolo County Historical Collection and to continue the work of making it accessible to the public. Two of those volunteers have been photographing the collection and, with Sarah, have created digital versions of more than 400 objects.



Volunteers & Interns



We are so grateful for our volunteers! Over the course of the year they provided **798 hours of service** (192 hours less than last year). The reason for lost hours in 2023 was due, in part, to increased hours in 2022 from our intern and a reduction in hours at the beginning of 2023 when we lost four volunteers. In August we welcomed three new volunteers: Susan, Amy, and Hara! Volunteers have worked diligently on processing projects, digitization, and research requests.

Research

This year we hosted **77 research appointments** in our Reading Room (including repeat visitors) and conducted **remote research for another 177 patrons**. Our total number of patrons was 196 (27 fewer than 2022).

Top 10 Collections Used in 2023

*purple text = not top 10 in 2022

Collection	2022	2023
Tax Assessor Rolls	127	150
Deed Books	180	137
Photo Collection	142	134
Official Records	43	86
City & County Directories	75	77
Ancestry.com	63	54
Newspapers.com	63	54
Assessor's Maps	30	41
Obituaries	54	40
Photo Coll. Yolo Historical Museum (#2022-005)	26	40
Probate	52	36

Research Highlight! After receiving a rare photo from a former Dingle School student who remembered walking by the house on his way to school in the 1960s, Archives staff delved into the history of the now-demolished Jackson-Curtiss House at 608 College Street in Woodland. With help from local historian David Wilkinson, we learned that the house was built by Dr. George H. Jackson in 1881 and was later remodeled in the 1920s by Elizabeth Curtiss.



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Professional Development



The Society of California Archivists held their annual meeting in Sacramento in March. Heather was able to attend the conference and also volunteered on the local arrangements committee. She attended sessions titled: Collaborating to Share "Hidden" History, Reparative Description Projects, and Community-Centered Archives Practice and the Institution. Heather also attended the webinar: "Revealing Your Family's Location: Genealogy through City Directories" hosted by Backlog Archivists & Historians.

Friends of the Yolo County Archives

The Archives would like to thank the **Friends of the Yolo County Archives** for their continued partnership and support!

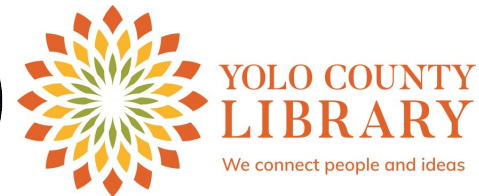
- Anastasia Panagakos, President
- Claire Phillips, Vice President
- Dr. John Jackson, Treasurer
- Ryan Baum, Secretary
- Rob Coman, Communications Director



Board Members:

Karen Coffee, Merrily DuPree, Diane Adams, Jim Lapsley, Thom Lewis

Cover Photo: Gladys Faye, Mildred, Charles, and Bus (Frank) swimming in Cache Creek. 1912. YHM02894. Acc. #2022-005



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Public research by **appointment**.

HOURS:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.