

Do you know what this object is?
Pop back next month to see the answer!

Hints:

- It was used in farming
- It was an important tool in the planting process
- This company started making them in 1868 and continued for over 100 years

Yolo County Historical Collection

NEWSLETTER

PICTURING YOLO COUNTY IN THE MEDIA

Museum Curator Sarah Bartlett recently spoke with Bill Buchanan on his KDRT radio program about the Picturing Yolo County Exhibition. In the interview, Bill and Sarah talked about the newly restored portraits and portrait frames on display in the Gibson House, as well as some of the local artists featured in the exhibition. You can listen to the radio show here or at kdrt.org/audio/davisville-march-31-2025-tales-vanished-yolo-county-19th-century-painters

PICTURE YOURSELF IN YOLO COUNTY PROJECT

You can still submit to this project through June 10th. The Yolo County Historical Collection strives to create diverse exhibitions that show the history of all Yolo County residents. The goal of the Picture Yourself in Yolo County project is to work towards the telling of a more inclusive history through community collaboration. If you want to see yourself in the Gibson House, use the Picture Yourself activity sheet at the end of this newsletter or on the YCHC website here.

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Miss the March 25th Women's History Month presentation? You can watch it online here! Listen to Barbara Graham and Floyd and Ruth Shimomura talk about the impact of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership.

Have a hankering for historical cooking? Check out our new cooking series here.

Collections Object Spotlight

By Maggie Chang

Adding Machine

YO1-C404-01

Gift in memory of Joseph Germeshausen Harling

Mechanical calculators were conceptualized as early as the 17th century by an astronomer named Wilhelm Schickard as a tool to more accurately solve mathematical calculations that were tedious or long. However, they were incredibly complex and costly, relegating them to curio collections for the wealthy. It took until the 1800s, with the invention of the arithmometer, for calculators to be streamlined enough

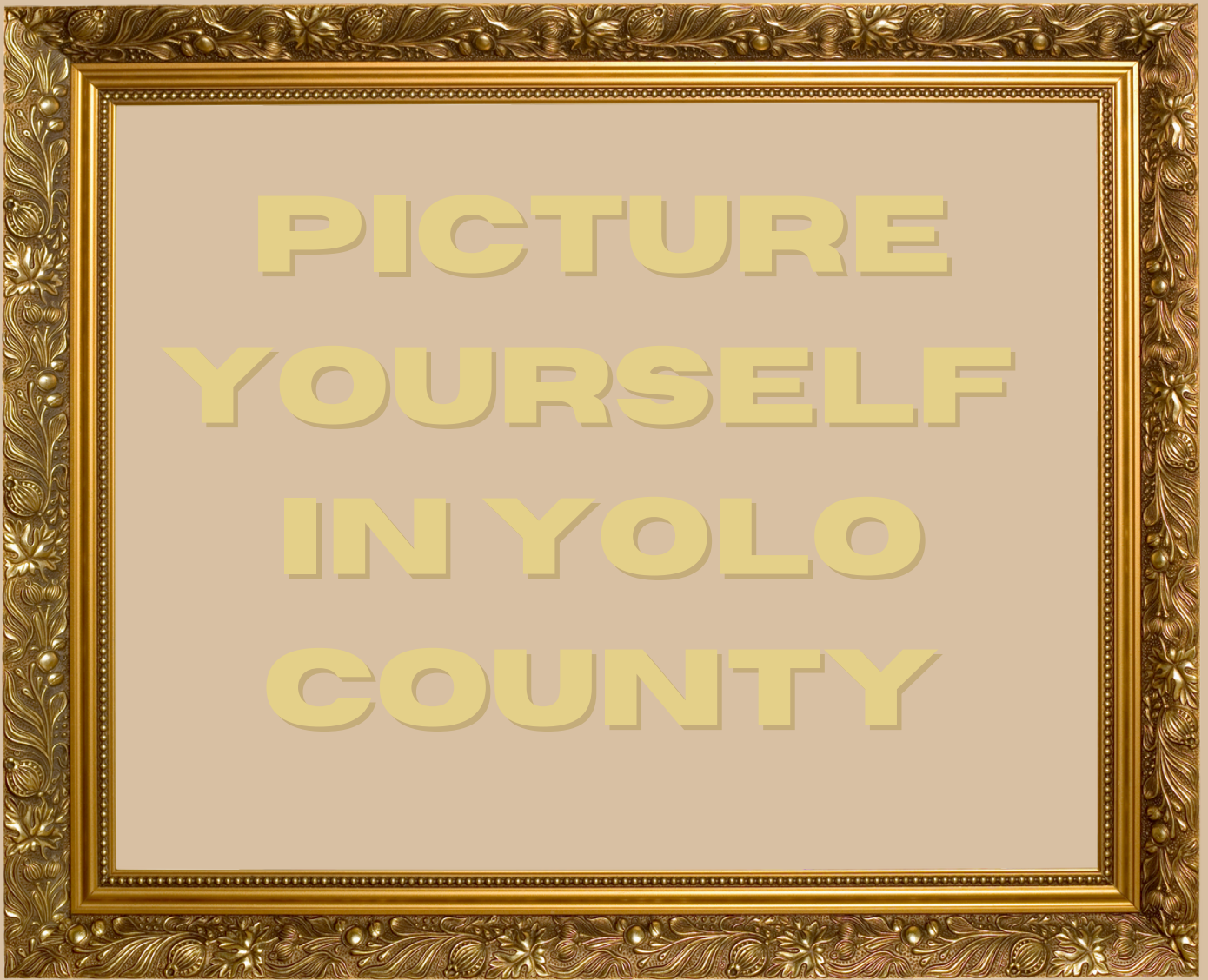


to enter the realm of everyday use. Amongst all the calculator iterations, “adding machines” were the most ubiquitous in American office spaces. They were machines specialized for bookkeeping, as shown by the dedicated “subtotal” and “total” buttons on this Remington Rand model. Workers could avoid the tedium of hand-writing transactions while reducing the amount of human error in calculations, greatly improving workflow. These machines paved the way for electronic calculators and computers, which would eventually phase them out in the 1970s.

This adding machine was donated in memory of Joseph Germeshausen Harling by his son. Joseph Harling was a watchmaker and jeweler at 521 Main St., Woodland from 1937-1964. There is also a sticker on the front of the machine with the name and number of another local Woodland business, Joe's Office Equipment Supply.

The owners of Joe's were John and Jovina “Jo” Roman. The business was named after Jo, who died in 2007. After her death, John continued to run the business until his retirement in 2025. In the beginning, they focused on selling stationery and office supplies, but as big box stores moved into the area, Joe's found it hard to keep up and pivoted to typewriter repair and architectural drafting. Since Joe's focused on repairing old machines, it is possible that this adding machine was taken to Joe's for repair at some point in its lifetime.





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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Attach a painting, drawing, or photograph of yourself, or your family to the template handout.*
2. If you want your portrait returned to you, write your name and address on the back. All others will leave the Yolo County Historical Collection after the exhibition ends.
3. Return the template to the Gibson House Museum, via the email below, or the Davis, Yolo, Clarksburg, and West Sacramento Branches of the Yolo County Library to be hung in the Gibson House as a part of this exhibition.
4. If you are under 18, parental permission is required for all photographic submissions.

*By submitting your template, you grant Yolo County Library and the Yolo County Historical Collection permission to post it publicly in the Gibson House and on our website and social media.

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YCHC
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