

Wheatland Historical Society



Who are we? A group who discovered and is still discovering the savory and rich history of Wheatland and the area. Join us!

Did you know that Johnson's Rancho was the location of the Donner Party rescue site and included Cantonment Far West (also known as Camp Far West), the western most outpost of the U.S. Army? Camp Far West was established to protect miners and settlers from local Indians. As it turned out, it was the Indians that needed protection from the miners.

Wheatland supported the gold rush towns of Nevada City, Grass Valley, Rough & Ready, and Smartsville by selling food and supplies to miners. In 1866 commerce increased when a rail line was built through Wheatland. Our town began to grow.

~ Visit our website ~

www.wheatlandhistoricalsociety.org

*“Whiskey is to drink.
Water is to fight over.”
History is to be savored.*



Johnson's Rancho, Camp Far West,
Lofton, and Kempton's Crossing

The 1879 Thompson and West map above focuses on the geographic area of East and West Bear River Townships. Wheatland is located between Bear River and Dry Creek in the East Bear River Township.

In the little red schoolhouse we house the Wheatland History Museum. It's open for research and information from 10 AM to 2 PM on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

Wheatland Historical Society Membership Application

I want to join the Wheatland Historical Society. Add me to your email or mailing list (events, tours, and other communications).

ANNUAL DUES: circle type of membership

Individual Membership	\$ 35.00
Family Membership	\$ 50.00
Business Membership	\$100.00
Individual Life Membership	\$250.00

Join by filling out the application below. Wheatland residents *over 80 years young* may be members at no cost by also filling out the membership application below.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

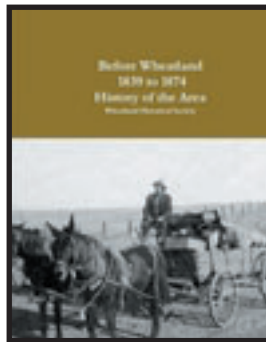
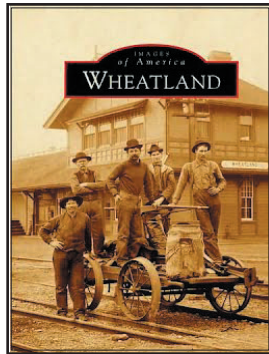
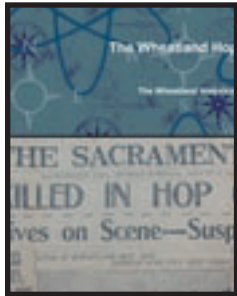
Phone _____

Email _____

Mail your tax-deductible checks payable to the Wheatland Historical Society to P.O. Box 164, Wheatland, CA 95692

*YOUR SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF
DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP
IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.*

Our Books for Sale



The Wheatland Hop Riot (\$16.25)
 Wheatland (\$23.75)
 Wheatland 1874 - 1974 (\$16.25)
 Before Wheatland (\$16.25)
 Prices include sales tax
 Shipping/handling - \$3.25

Wheatland History Museum
 111 Main St., Wheatland
 Open 1st Saturday each month
 10 AM - 2 PM

Originally formed on January 17, 1974, the Wheatland Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of information about people, families, sites, artifacts, pictures and documents important to the history of the greater Wheatland area including the old Johnson's Rancho and surrounding areas of south Yuba County.



Wheatland - Incorporated in 1874

The 1st recorded inhabitants of the area were the Maidu Indians. Later the Wheatland area fell under a Spanish Land Grant known as Johnson's Rancho in 1822.

Wheatland was carved out of the original Johnson's Rancho and is the official "end" of the 2,000 mile long Emigrant Trail traveled by pioneers in the mid-1840's who crossed Bear River on their way to Sutter's Fort.

Interesting Wheatland Historical Facts

- Emigrants crossed Bear River on the Johnson's Rancho before continuing on to Sutter's Fort. Numerous Wheatland pioneers are buried in historic Lofton Cemetery - over 175 burials. The earliest marker in the Wheatland Cemetery dates back to 1845 when Claude Chana, first involved in gold mining and then a pioneer fruit culturist, was buried.
- Wheatland's Chinatown thrived in the 1860's through the early 20th century.
- Fires decimated the town at 3 least times (1880, 1898, and 1903).
- In 1882 Wheatland farmers participated in the one of the first double class action lawsuits against hydraulic mining pitting the farmers against the miners resulting in the 'Sawyer Decision' banning hydraulic mining.
- Wheatland elected the first African American mayor west of the Mississippi in 1888.
- The bloody 1913 "Hop Riot" erupted on the Wheatland Durst Ranch after an IWW effort to unionize 2,500 hop workers resulting in 3 deaths.
- Camp Beale was established in 1942 during WWII from lands taken from local ranchers, Promises to return their land did not take place. In 1951 Beale AFB replaced Camp Beale.