

Wheatland Historical Society



Are you interested in joining the Wheatland Historical Society to learn about the rich history of our area?

Wheatland was carved out of the original Johnson Rancho in 1866. Johnson Rancho was located near the end of the Immigrant Trail that ended at Sutter's Fort.

Did you know that Johnson 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? Interestingly, Camp Far West was established to protect wagon trains from local Indians. However, it was the Indians that needed protection from the miners.

In addition, Wheatland was a support area for the Gold Rush towns of Nevada City, Grass Valley, Rough & Ready, Smartsville, and others providing food and supplies to the miners.

*“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

This 1879 Thompson and West map 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

Who are we? We're a group of history-loving individuals who want to learn about the rich past of both this historical region and this community.

~ Visit our website ~
www.wheatlandhistoricalsociety.org

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).

Please circle type of member:

ANNUAL DUES:

Individual Membership	\$ 20.00
Business or Family Membership	\$ 35.00
Life Membership	\$150.00

Wheatland residents *over 80 years young* may be members at no cost by filling out this membership application.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

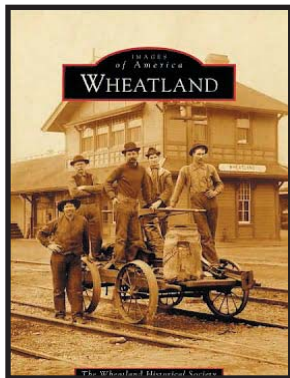
Phone _____

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 DUES
IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.*

Our Books for Sale



The Wheatland Hop Riot (\$15),

Wheatland (\$22)

Wheatland 1874 - 1974 (\$15)

All prices include shipping & sales tax

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



Wheatland - Incorporated in 1874

The greater Wheatland area of interest to the Society includes the northern boundary to South Beale Road, the eastern boundary to the Spenceville Wildlife Preserve, the southern boundary to Bear River, and the western boundary to the Feather River.

Interesting Wheatland Historical Facts

- Wheatland had a Chinatown in the early years of approximately 300 residents.
- The historic Wheatland Hop Riot took place in 1913 on the Durst Ranch after an effort to unionize the hop workers.
- The riot was a major labor dispute in the United States and led to 3 deaths.
- Fires decimated the town on numerous occasions (1880, 1898, and 1903).
- In 1888 Wheatland elected the first black mayor west of the Mississippi.
- Immigrants crossed Bear River on the Johnson Rancho before continuing on to Sutter's Fort.
- Camp Beale was established during WWII in 1942 from land taken from local farmers. A promise was made by the U.S. government to return that land at the end of the war.
- Beale Air Force Base replaced Camp Beale in 1951. The land was not returned to the farmers.
- Numerous Wheatland pioneers are buried in historic Lofton Cemetery with over 175 burials.
- The earliest marker in the historic Wheatland Cemetery dates back to 1845.
- Claude Chana, first involved in gold panning and then a pioneer fruit culturist, is buried in the Wheatland Cemetery.
- The original inhabitants of the area were the Maidu Indians.