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DHS NEWSLETTER
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1. DHS WEB SITE UPGRADE.

One year ago, one of the first activities of the Davis Historical Society was to establish a web site, which is at www.davishistoricalociety.org.

This site was provided free-of-charge by the Davis Community Network. It has been a very fine site, but it is structurally limited. In particular, it does not provide the capacity to organize files (documents) into folders.

The consequence has been a longer and longer list of unsorted files/documents.

Confronting this problem, the Society has moved to another web serve provider, Reid+McMahon here in Davis, and has changed to what is called the Plone template of web site organization (which is described at plone.org).

The process of what web-geeks call "migrating" the files from the old to the new site is going on at this time (a process also called "populating" the new site).

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When that is finished, our URL will go to the new site. Expect to see this change within a few weeks.

2. FEBRUARY 15 WINTER QUARTER DHS MEETING.

The DHS Winter Quarter meeting will be held at the Hattie Weber Museum of Davis, Sunday afternoon, February 15 starting at 3 PM.

There is now a large-monitor computer with web access at the Museum. There will be an actual (not a virtual) tour of the DHS's new web site. This will be followed by a brain storming discussion of possible uses of this new resource.

If you have topics you would like to place on the agenda of this meeting, contact any member of the DHS Board (who are listed on the DHS web site).

3. YOLO COUNTY ARCHIVES TOUR, MAY 2.

As reported in the last newsletter, members of the Davis Historical Society will have a unique opportunity to take a "back stage" tour the Yolo County Archives in Woodland on Sunday, May 2 from 2 to 4 PM.

The tour will be conducted by Mel Russell, County Archivist, who will highlight archive holdings relating to Davis.

More specifically, the gathering will be divided into three parts. The first half-hour will be a short regular DHS meeting. The next hour will be a tour of the archive itself. The remaining half-hour will be refreshments and socializing. This last will provide an opportunity to chat with the archivist, Mel Russell.

Because of physical limitations at the Archive, the tour is capped at twenty DHS members on a first-come-first-served basis. There are still a few spaces available. If you are a DHS member and want to go on the tour, call John Lofland at 758-5258 to sign-up.

4. DAVIS HISTORY MOMENTS, # 1: GEORGE WASHINGTON PIERCE CLIMBS SAN FRANCISCO DEBRIS, MAY 8, 1906.

[reported by John lofland]

The selection of Davisville for the "Univeristy Farm" on April 5, 1906 was only a **conditional offer**. Many conditions had to be fulfilled before the deal was concluded. These included providing clear titles to the three pieces of land making up the deal, purchasing the three properties (the Davisville group only had options and these might not be honored), and completing purchase of water rights.

It fell to George Washington Pierce to complete these and other tasks. This was likely all the more difficult because his very good friend, Jacob LaRue, who lived just down the road at the 2,000 acre Arlington Farm, died suddenly in January, 1906, at age 46. Aside from LaRue, Pierce seems to have been the only member of the Davisville Farm Promotion Committee with the contacts and skills needed to get the job done. With LaRue dead, there was no one to help him.

Pierce's diary chronicles myriad such acts in April through August. To me, one of the most striking events in his flurry of actions was his trip to San Francisco on May 8, 1906.

The great San Francisco earthquake took place on April 18, 1906, less than two weeks after the decision to put the State Farm at Davisville. But this did not deter Pierce from

traveling to Oakland and San Francisco some two weeks later, on May 2 and May 8, to see the U. S. Attorney General and others to nail down titles to the proposed State Farm properties.

Of his May 2 trip he observed: "San Francisco's destruction is well nigh complete. It presents a stupendous field of desolation and destruction."

He described the May 8 trip as involving a problem in that he was able to walk "down California street to Kearney . . . [but was then] forced to go up to Washington. Climbed debris to Battery, back to Washington and finally to ferry."

Here is a report of a 56 year-old man climbing debris in a "field of desolation" for the purpose of clinching a Davisville State Farm deal. **That** is commitment!

For my money, George Washington Pierce is the "Father of the Davis Campus," rather than some others who have been put forth for this appellation.

5. DAVIS HISTORY MOMENTS, # 2: GLORIA JACOBS SHOOTS HER PISTOLS IN CITY HALL, FEBRUARY 26, 1940.

[reported by John Lofland]

On February 26, 1940, Miss Gloria Jacobs, age 17 and a resident of Woodland, addressed the regular noon meeting of the Davis Rotary Club. She spoke on how she came to be a "champion woman marksman" in pistol shooting and indicated that those interested could view an exhibit of her achievements in the window of the Davis Pharmacy. That exhibit contained 285 trophies, medals, and cups she had won for "perfect marksmanship" in contests held in many sections of the country. These awards included the title "Champion" over both men and women (*Davis Enterprise*, 2-23-40). In her talk, she showed the three pistols she used and explained the "perfect precision of their construction" (*Davis Enterprise*, 3-1-40).

At 1:15 PM the same day, she gave an exhibition of her marksmanship in the basement of the Davis City Hall, where a target had been set up. This was a previously announced, public event and a "large group of interested spectators" was reported to have been present. There, Miss Jacobs proceeded to shoot a "perfect score." Her father, who was also present, allowed as how her marksmanship greatly exceeded his own. It seems that he, Yolo County's Highway Patrol Captain, was a pistol enthusiast who had tutored his daughter in this activity from the age of twelve.

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