

Davis Historical Society Activities in 2002, 2003, 2004



Accomplishments of the Members of the Davis Historical Society in its Inaugural Year, 2002-2003

In the first year of the Davis Historical Society, members engaged in the following activities, which are properly thought of as accomplishments.

1. Identified as DHS members, several officers and other members addressed the Davis City Council on December 18, 2002 in support of maintaining the architectural integrity of the Anderson Bank Building.
2. Established a web site (www.davishistoricalsociety.org), which was continuously up-dated and expanded over the year.
3. Established the Papers on Davis History Series and published three papers in it, which are available on the web site.
4. Began the Larkey Project, an effort to republish all 154 of the Portraits of the Past columns Joann Leach Larkey published in the *Davis Enterprise* between December 19, 1969 and May 10, 1973.
5. As part of Larkey project, all of the columns were assembled on ledger-size pages and a bound copy made available to the public at the Hattie Weber Museum. (Previously, the columns were difficult to access.)
6. As another part of the Larkey project but also for more general use, computer scanning equipment was donated to and set up at the Hattie Weber Museum.
7. Hosted a refreshments table and informational exhibit at the moving of the house at 312 D Street to 516 D Street on March 7, 2003. (Photographs of this event are on the web site.)
8. Helped DCTV make the video film, "Moving History: Journey of a Davis Home," which featured the DHS and was shown many times on Channel 5.
9. Began the long-term, five-part project titled "Researching Davis History." The project plan is on the web site, as is an initial draft of the Project's Part V, Public Exhibits of Davis History.
10. Staffed an informational exhibit at the May Faire of the Yolo County Historical Museum that resulted in several new members and much good publicity.
11. Identified all 19th century-built structures still standing in Davis (Papers on Davis History # 3).
12. Organized the Davis stop of the Coast-to-Coast 90th and 75th Anniversary Lincoln Highway Tour. Aspects of this event included cooperating with the Hattie Weber Museum to hold a welcoming open house at the Museum and arranging a proclamation of welcome and celebration delivered by the Mayor of Davis.
13. Published twelve lively and timely issues of the monthly newsletter *Davis History Matters*. (All past issues are on the web site.)
14. Began to investigate archive resources and expansion of archive facilities.
15. Established and maintained three email lists: Board members, all DHS members, interested members of the public.
16. Made a variety of Davis history documents available on the DHS web site.
17. Held four open-to-the public Board meetings attended by non-Board members that were lively and entertaining while also getting business done.
18. Accepted 300 copies of John Lofland's *Demolishing A Historic Hotel* for retail and wholesale distribution through the Avid Reader Bookstore in Davis.
19. Produced four editions of a promotional flyer that describes the work of the DHS.
20. Designed and digitized a striking and dignified DHS logo.
21. Google began indexing the DHS web site, newsletter stories, and other Society items. This is an important event because it means the DHS is very easy to find world-wide and will come up in many kinds of searches.
22. Evaluated and voted to support the Old North Neighborhood Association plan for the redesign of traffic flow on Fifth Street between A and L—a safe Fifth Street being a feature of historic Davis.
23. Began a reciprocity Associate Membership with the Davis Downtown Business Association.

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Activities of the Davis Historical Society in 2004

1. Toured the Yolo County Archives (May 2).
2. Six issues of newsletter published, name changed to *davisvilletoday* under the new editor Jim Becket.
3. Held three meetings, including the Annual Meeting. Mary Ann Harrison to organize the 2005 Annual Meeting.
4. Downsized the organization to provide for continuity and the capacity for collective action without administrative and program burdens.
5. Web site streamlined and maintained.
6. Achieved public availability of HRMC minutes and made that fact public on the DHS web site.
7. Revised the DHS leaflet.
8. Shifted from annual to lifetime memberships.
9. Held three Davis History Conversations at the Hattie Weber Museum.
10. Notified DHS membership of several important events and decisions regarding infill preservation in the Davis Original City.
11. Provided historic photos for the 50th anniversary celebration of Valley Oak Elementary School.
12. Lyn Lofland, Chair of the Publications Committee addressed the Davis Kiwanis Club on the Larkey project.
13. Board wrote letter to the Davis City Manager expressing concern over the causes and consequences of reassignment of a city staff member for City's Historical Resources Management Commission.