

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

“For what is the present, after all, but a growth out of the past.” – Walt Whitman

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2010

President's Notes

Summer Greetings!

The first half of 2010 has been busy for your Sacramento River Delta Historical Society board and general membership.

Our January general meeting and potluck was delicious and entertaining/enlightening as we learned about the remains of the Clarksburg Ferry. In addition, we voted on board membership. We had openings for four members, and they have been filled by three returning members, Terry Alchorn, Doris Pylman, Linda Van Lobensels and one new recruit (hooray!), Cathy O'Connor. It's a good group to work with, and I encourage all of you to consider spending some time as board members. There will be several openings on the board come December of this year, so think about it!

In March, Alex Westhoff of the Delta Protection Commission and the newly forming Delta National Heritage Area committee spoke to a (mostly polite) crowd. Many of our membership arrived with their own ideas about what a National Heritage Area might be a negative impact. Because our delta and its history, culture and future are so precious, it is understandable and even appropriate that we are sensitive to any (more) and all issues and committees that are created "for" us. An extremely interesting and provocative topic and we had to keep reminding ourselves how establishing a NHA here could be of historical merit. Bottom line, there is an advisory committee being set up, and there's room for you and your input!

And during this time, the San Diego Maritime Museum contacted us with a proposition: if we could come collect it, a half-hull scale model named "Modoc & Apache", that represents two paddle wheelers that used to travel the Sacramento River could be ours. After various ideas were entertained, it was Plan "M" that succeeded. We are indebted to Dick and Marlene Marshall who added extra time and

mileage from to their southern California vacation to collect the model and bring it back north in their motor home. We're not certain just where it will be displayed, but for the time being, it will be at rest in our Resource Center.

And kudos to us! The Sacramento County Historical Society awarded SRDHS a great honor when they bestowed an Award of Excellence in Education to us at their annual dinner in March. Tom and Laura Herzog, Bobbie Collier, Esther Koopman, Judy Culbertson and I attended the event and were proud to represent YOU!

Keep up the good work, and keep on making history!

Debbie Chan
President 2008-2010

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Julie Griffin from Rio Vista
Curtis & Jackie Hageen from Courtland
Dorothy Hays from Courtland
Jeff Kan Lee from Santa Rosa
Ted & Mary Oda from Isleton

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to thank all those who made memorial contributions to the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society.



38th Annual - July 25, 2010

Isleton – “Queen City”

Part 1 of 2

By Kathleen Graham Hutchinson

Dr. Josiah Poole platted Isleton in 1874 in Georgiana Township, Sacramento County. It occupies the site of a former Patwin Indian settlement at the confluence of Jackson Slough and the Sacramento River on lower Andrus Island. Jackson Slough divided Andrus from Brannan Island. The slough, now largely obliterated, roughly followed the path of Jackson Boulevard, Delta Avenue and Third Street and today Isleton spills over both islands. Brannan Island was not fully reclaimed until 1872. Andrus Island reclamation began in 1852 under the direction of George Andrus. [George Andrus married Amelia (Runyon) Pratt, the eldest sister of Solomon Runyon of Courtland (Onisbo).] Among early area settlers were George A. Knott, Hugh Davis, J. Fitch Wilcox and Hart Fellows Smith. Knott was a member of the local Grange and held offices of Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. Hugh Davis settled just north of the present day Isleton Bridge. His son Charles K. Davis was sheriff and tax collector for many years. In the flood of 1907, the family saved their home by chaining it to a large oak tree. J. Fitch Wilcox of Brannan Island is remembered for allegedly burying, in 1852, \$50,000 which he was never able to find. Smith settled on Grand Island in 1852 and moved to upper Brannan Island about three-quarters of a mile below Isleton in 1853, where he ultimately owned 600 acres and a three story Italianate home which burned after 1907. His barn still stands, a handsome, well-built structure, now part of a turf farm. Smith shipped his produce (potatoes, cabbage, corn, beans, onions, and other vegetables and fruit) by sloop to the Vallejo and San Francisco produce markets. He was prominent in the Grange and a Justice of the Peace. Poole, an M.D., settled on Andrus Island in 1854. During the Civil War he was the First Lieutenant



of the Walnut Grove Union Guard. In 1854, he bought what became the “Poole Ranch” and “Riverview Creamery Ranch” (established in 1869). In 1874 he traded the creamery for land on which he established Isleton. He subsequently built a wharf, and in collaboration with fellow Isleton settler, John Brocas, the town was named Isleton. Poole was the first postmaster (before the Post Office was officially commissioned) and in 1876 established a sugar mill.

By December 1876, Isleton sparkled as a thriving new community and “The Sacramento Union” commented: *“The town is growing very rapidly. The addition to the Isleton Hotel is about completed, which makes that building quite large and spacious.....Josiah Pool [sic], the founder and property owneris erecting a building on the corner of Second and B Streets for a drug store and harness shop. He, Pool [sic] has also erected a blacksmith shop on the same street. Isleton bids fair to be quite a thriving village in the future. We see nothing to hinder as we have quite an extensive farming country around it, the soil of which cannot be surpassed for vegetables, or grain or grazing purposes. It is convenient for steamboat navigation and the steamers of the California Transportation Company stop at our wharfs twice each day. Sailing vessels and other steamers land here, too. The Sugar Manufacturing Company has also located their factory here, and several other manufacturing enterprises are in contemplation of erection this coming year.”*

The California Sugar Manufacturing Company mill built in 1876, processed beet sugar. The lower story was brick and the upper stories were wood framed. It cost \$24,000 for the land, building and machinery. The machinery was manufactured in Sacramento and Europe. The mill was abandoned after the flood of 1878 which ruined the sugarbeet crop. The building was sold to H. M. Ames who unsuccessfully tried to refine watermelon sugar and which ultimately led to the building’s sale in later years to the Isleton Cannery.

The town endured four major floods in its first twenty-five years: the first was in 1878, followed by 1881, 1890 and 1972. The floods of 1878 and 1881 were financial disasters for Dr. Poole. In 1881 the town and surrounds came into the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co. as a result of default by Dr. Poole who was a charter holder of Pacific Mutual stock. Poole subsequently retired to Tucson, Arizona where he died in 1902. (Many of his descendents remain Deltans.)

Isleton was organized in Reclamation District 407. The “formidable system” of levees built around Isleton between 1880 and 1893 were underwritten by the Pacific Mutual Insurance Company. The insurance company built the dredge “George A. Moore” named after its president, to do this work on lower Andrus Island. The dredge was sold in 1892/3 to Josiah Greene, a major landholder on Merritt Island.

In the big flood of ’07 the levee broke at the Max Kuhn Ranch (site of Riverview Creamery) near the Point of Brannan and quickly inundated Isleton. Many Delta islands were flooded in 1907 including Andrus, Brannan, and Bouldin. A third of the homes and commercial buildings were damaged. The Hutton family remembered that Herbert Crew rowed them across Second Street to the wharf where they took a riverboat to Hood and thence rowed “overland” to Franklin to stay with Mrs. Hutton’s family, the Carrs, Franklin dairymen. After the flood, Claus Spreckels, the sugar baron, toured the town and “reaffirmed his faith in Isleton as an agricultural producer.” Sixty-five years later in 1972, Isleton flooded again. On June 21, a dry summer day, the reclamation district superintendent noticed water seepage along a Brannan Island back levee and scheduled work on it for June 22. But, the levee broke the night of 21/22.

Following in Poole’s footsteps was New Jerseyite Philip Hogate Gardiner. In 1872 he rented and farmed 250 acres on Brannan Island. In 1875 he joined J. Fitch Wilcox to open a general store in Isleton. In 1878 he married Ida Poole, Dr. Poole’s daughter. After his marriage he bought out Wilcox’s interest in the store and built the Gardiner Improvement Company building. He conducted his mercantile business in association with his sons Wilbur and Lester. The Gardiner Improvement Company building also housed the Gardiner Dry Goods Store and on the second floor, first apartments and later the I.O.O.F. Hall. He was the first



Philip Hogate Gardiner First Commissioned Postmaster 1879

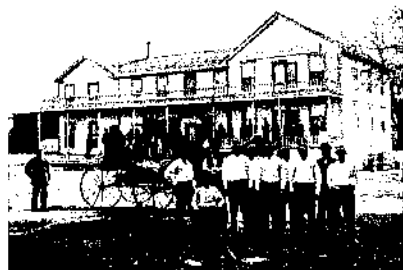
Ida Poole Gardiner First Councilwoman 1923

official Postmaster after commissioning in 1879 and at his death; his daughter Lucretia "Crete" Gardiner de Back succeeded him in the position. A walkway around the side of the building gave access to the Post Office and the levee top. Gardiner was also agent for the California Transportation Company riverboats from 1865 until 1887 and the Wells Fargo Express Agent. In addition to his business interests in town, he rented a large tract of land on Grand Island on which he raised horses and cattle. Civic spirited, he helped establish the first Isleton school District and served as a district trustee.

Throughout the early years other well-known Isleton families were: Perkins, Hutton, Johnson, Lind, Jensen, Dickey, Crump, Dron, Vieira, Hodapp, Ferreira and Bryant. Charles Perkins arrived about 1880 and settled north of town at what he named "Shore Acres Ranch". Perkins became a produce commissioner agent for Lorenzo Scatena & Son of San Francisco and was furnished a Cadillac automobile with which to visit customers. It was the first automobile in Isleton. A.P. Giannini, Scatena's son, often stayed with the Perkins family when dealing with Delta farmers. Giannini later founded the Bank of Italy, which became the Bank of America.

The Reverend John Hutton and family came to town in 1887. Hutton was a Methodist circuit rider preacher. His son William delivered the mail by horseback to outlying islands and later became a clerk at the Gardiner Improvement Company. William Hutton's wife was the first librarian and housed the collection of 100 books at their home. Will Hutton served many years on the school board. His son Vernon became President of the Isleton Chamber of Commerce, a City Councilman and Mayor.

Isleton had two hotels. The Isleton Hotel, built in 1876/77 at the corner of D and Main Street, was by 1880 rented to Stanford Dickey who in 1881 bought the hotel with an extra lot. Dickey added a saloon. The hotel "mascot", a monkey, sat in a cage on the porch. The cage door always remained open and the monkey moved around the porch at will, wholly tame. When Gardiner built the Bank of Isleton, half of the hotel was moved to B Street where it is a private residence today, painted butter yellow. J.D. McCarthy and Brothers evidently followed Dickey as proprietors. The Central Hotel, built in 1904



was located where Dunn's auto dealership later located. In 1907 it was operated by Annie and J.W. Harris. Harris died in late 1907 and Alice and Ed Bryan become the proprietors. (Annie and Alice were the daughters of Hart Fellows Smith.) During the Bryan's proprietorship, the hotel



was often referred to as "Bryan's Hotel and Saloon". In 1916 the Bryans sold to Talford Blanks. By 1925, the Russell Brothers were the listed proprietors. Their dinner specialty was fried chicken. Lunch was offered too. Another listed owner, at one time, was Cal Hensley. The "Rocking Chair Brigade" sat on the porch, chatting about market prices, swapping yarns and expertly

expectorating tobacco juice into spittoons spotted at the foot of each porch post. The hotel burned in 1930.

In 1916 Balmsmeier's Plumbing opened. In 1918 J.W. Gardiner established the Bank of Isleton, later bought by the Bank of America. A blacksmith shop was located nearby and a dirt path was beaten from the blacksmith shop across the street to the saloon in the Isleton Hotel. Nicolas Alfred Harvie "the Nova Scotian" owned a blacksmith shop and hardware store. (Harvie later moved to Sacramento where he continued his business.) The senior Dennis Leary of Grand Island was one of his best customers. A livery stable stood where the old City Hall stands. A slaughterhouse was located on the bank of Jackson Slough. Cattle from Grand Island were driven to the Isleton Ferry, and thence to slaughter. On crossing, the cattle routinely bolted overboard and escaped.

By 1924, Isleton was bustling and its population counted over 1000, which made it the second largest town in the Delta; only Rio Vista was larger. In 1925 "Virginia Dare" extra dry ginger-ale was offered by the Isleton Products Company, and Collins Drug Store was on the site of the present Del Rio Hotel. The Peterson-Harvie Garage had been established as well as Dunn-Bonetti Dodge (1922). Ed Cook's Meat Shop sat opposite the Central Hotel. Later Hartin's Butcher Shop occupied space in the Isleton Bank Building. In 1924 Kamourian's Shoe Repair Shop opened and by 1925 Martin Johnson owned the local Chevrolet Agency. The Gardiner family interests built the Gardiner Apartments, Ivan K. Hamilton operated the Isleton Refreshment Parlors and R.R. Huntley, another local blacksmith, manufactured asparagus discs. In 1925, on Main Street at the site of the blacksmith shop the Isleton Playhouse (theater) was built. It featured a hand operated projector, and depending upon projectionist, the film ran fast or slow. Notwithstanding, the organist never could keep up with the picture. The Stefani family lastly operated the theater before it burned. Later, Balsmeier Plumbing occupied the site. In 1925, hay storage was located on 4th Street, City Hall and the Fire House were on the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Second, and across the street an "auto concessionaire" (Chevrolet) and storage, the I.D.E.S. in the former Grange Hall, (I.D.E.S. stands for Irmandade do Divino Espirito Santo and is a Portuguese Society), and a restaurant. Above the restaurant was a furniture and crockery store. Another blacksmith shop was located on Jackson Boulevard. At the corner of A and Second streets, Delta Telephone and Telegraph had an office next to the Hartin Meat Market; then followed the Library, Central Hotel (dining room, pool hall, and office), Dunn-Bonetti, and several other buildings. The Library was located next to Collins Drug Store and lastly to its present site. A barbershop stood second from the corner on B Street. Next to Gardiner Improvement Company was an electrical supply office. On Main Street a dwelling (the de Back house) located in the middle of the west side was followed by a garage, service station and opposite C Street, the movie theater. There were two dwellings on the wharf and a small ice house at the upriver end of the wharf. In the center of the wharf was a freight shed and waiting room and on the downstream end another dwelling. And, there were several service stations. The "Isleton Journal" was published as a part of the "Delta Herald".

Dairying was an early enterprise in the area, represented by the Riverview Creamery, the Golden State Dairy, and the Isleton Creamery (established in 1906). The Isleton Creamery was on the levee near the wharf and burned in 1921. It produced "Isleton Butter", cottage cheese and milk.

Isleton was the headquarters of the California Pickle Growers Association. Heinz 57 and Pioneer Fruit Company leased a pickle vat room and packing room from the Gardiner Improvement Company. Nevertheless, the town became widely known as the "Asparagus Capital of the World". Isleton was surrounded by asparagus canneries: Griffin & Skelly below town (which by 1925 also canned spinach, fruit and tomatoes. North of town National, Ensher Alexander & Barsoom, Pratt-Low, Sun Garden (1927 Isleton Cannery), Bayside Canning, Libby, McNeill and Libby (Banee Crew managed it), and Golden State on the Mokelumne



HISTORIC CROP — Famed for many other things, the Delta also long ago was known as "The Asparagus Capital of the World." In the late 1920's, about 95 percent of the world's asparagus was produced in the Isleton area and other nearby asparagus lands. This photo shows one of the canneries in operation in that era. During the season those plants run they need night shifts at the peak of the pack. The Sun Garden Cannery in Isleton still operates during the season but other such facilities have centralized in other places, although much asparagus still is produced in the Sacramento County Delta.

River east of town. The Bayside and National canneries were owned by Chinese syndicates in the 1920's, after which Ensher Alexander & Barsoom bought one of them. Three-quarters of a mile north of the Post Office, the Libby, McNeil & Libby Cannery #1 complex consisted of : (at riverside), two warehouses; box, shook, nailing and printing shed; wharf and shipping sheds. On the land side were the cannery office, receiving platform and shed, pumps, cottages, superintendent's house, Chinese boarding house, baths, and a small auto garage. Bayside Canning Company next door consisted of (at riverfront), spinach shed, cooler, wharf house, shipping shed, box factory, and shook storage. On the landside of the levee, the cannery, a warehouse, boiler house, Superintendent's house, dormitories, four houses, fourteen cottages, and a dining hall. The Bayside Canning Co of Alviso, Santa Clara County, was organized by Thomas Foon Chew in 1906. By 1931 it was the third largest in the U.S. The cannery burned during demolition, February 2002. The nearby Isleton Cannery begun in 1940 as Sun Garden Cannery was adjacent to Second Street "Chinatown" and consisted of the cannery and box factory linked by overhead walkway to the shooks shipping wharf and on the landside a boiler house, cafeteria, seventy-six cottages and one house. (Shook is the thin lightly sanded pine board used to make fruit and vegetable crates and packing boxes.) Part of the old sugar mill was incorporated into this cannery.

(Continued in the December newsletter. Following are short bios of early Isleton leaders.)

EARLY ISLETONIANS

By Kathleen Graham Hutchinson

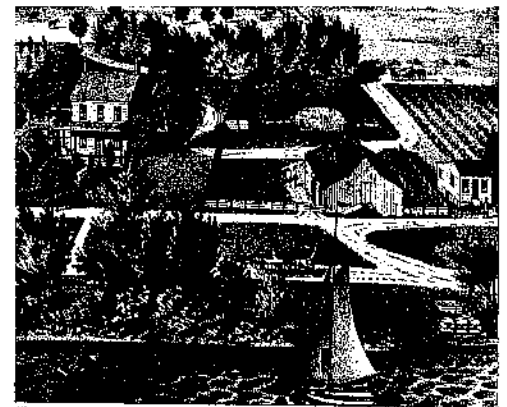
Hugh Davis — arrived in the Delta in the early 1850's, and settled on a ranch just north of the future Isleton Bridge. He reclaimed his land with the help of a Chinese crew which had been driven out of the gold fields by brutal and rough prospectors. Hugh's son

Charles K. Davis in 1902 married Hilda Johnson, also from an early pioneer Delta family. They also lived on the ranch where C.K. farmed with his father. For many years he was also the Deputy Tax Collector. He had a hard time collecting poll taxes from the Chinese as they would hide in the ditches when they saw him coming. In the big flood of 1907 the family saved their house by chaining it to a huge oak tree in the yard. C.K. and Hilda had six children: Augie Akers, Christine Kirk, C.K. Davis, Jr., Marian Pruit, Dorothea Fisher and Hazel Acres.

Charles Perkins —arrived in Isleton about 1880 and settled on a ranch north of town entitled "Shore Acres". He married the school teacher Lena Teeple and they had a family of three: Lorna, Charles Elliot and Alice Perkins Heimbach. "Charlie" became a commission agent for Scatena and Son of San Francisco and as such he was furnished with a three-seater Cadillac in which to visit his many clients. His was the first automobile in Isleton. Scatena had an adopted son A.P. Giannini who often visited Delta clients and while in town stayed with the Perkins. Giannini would later go on to found the Bank of Italy, later to become the Bank of America. "Shore Acres" was later purchased by Ed and Alice (Smith) Bryan.

John Hutton — In 1881 the Rev. John Hutton was appointed a circuit parson to the Isleton District of the Methodist Church. His son William took a job delivering the mail by horseback to the nearby islands. In 1889 William married Annie Carr of Franklin. They settled in Isleton and William took a job as a clerk for the Gardiner Improvement Company. In the flood of 1907 Herb Crew rowed the family across Second Street to the wharf from which they took a riverboat to Richland. They stayed with Annie's family, the Carr's, in Franklin until returning. Annie became the first county branch librarian keeping a collection of 100 books at her house. The house burned in 1930 along with the Central Hotel, Dunn's Garage and several other buildings. Will Hutton was involved in lodge, church and community affairs. He was a member of the school board for many years. Will and Annie had two children; Pearl (Hutton) Arlin and Vernon. Vernon married Mary Traganza and followed his father into community affairs: fireman, member Odd Fellows, Masonic and Shrine lodges, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, city councilman and mayor. He and Mary owned an insurance agency. Their daughter, Maryanne (Mrs. Walter Bergstrom) and her two children lived in Woodbridge, San Joaquin County.

George Knott — lived four miles upriver from Isleton. He was born in 1829 in Maryland, moved to Missouri in 1838 where he farmed and finally crossed the Plains to California in 1852. Upon arrival he farmed, finally moving to Andrus Island in 1855 where by 1880 he owned 250 acres. He held the office of Justice of the Peace and Notary Public. In 1859 he married Miss J. Craib, a Scots lassie. They had six children.



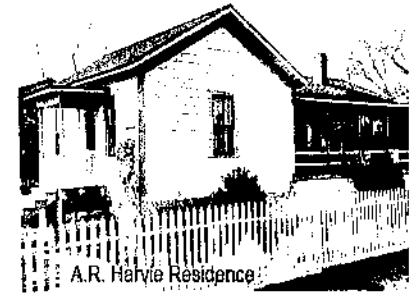
View on the Fruit Ranch of Geo. A. Knott, 250 Acres, August 18, 1880 - Sacramento Co. Cal.

Dr. Josiah Poole, M.D. – was born in Illinois in 1830. In 1847 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his enlistment term of eighteen months (with distinction) under General Zachary Taylor. He then returned to Illinois where he remained until embarking for California in 1852. He crossed the Plains and mined in El Dorado County or San Andreas, Calaveras County until 1854/55 when he settled on Andrus Island. During the Civil War, he was a lieutenant in the Walnut Grove Union Guard. He married Missouri native Sarah Freeman, daughter of Thomas Freeman of Linden, San Joaquin, in 1864. Widowed he remarried. His second wife the widow Annie E. Wells was also a Missouri native. The original Poole property, 164 acres was called “The Poole Ranch”. In 1869/74 he purchased 800 acres on Brannan Island and moved to Rio Vista. The acreage was north of Newtown Landing and later was called the “Riverview Creamery Ranch”. In 1874 he traded the 800 acres for land on which he platted the town of Isleton. After floods and financial reverses – a failed sugar beet mill and his land repossessed by the Pacific Mutual Insurance Company, he retired in 1881 to Tucson, Arizona where he died in 1902. It appears that his brother or other relative Francis M. Poole, also born in Illinois but in 1835, lived near Isleton. He married Sarah Norman of Illinois. He lived 2.5 miles upriver from Isleton.

Sanford J. Dickey – was born in Bartholomew County, Indiana February 27, 1832 the son of Thomas Dickey and Eunice Starke. His parents were from Randolph County, North Carolina and married in Monangahela County, Kentucky. They moved to Clarke County, Indiana 1815 and then Bartholomew County. In 1847 Dickey farmed in Marion County, Indiana. In 1854 he married Cynthia Billups and his father gave him 40 acres. In 1857 with his nephew Thomas Dickey he migrated to California. He left Council Bluffs, Iowa May 10th and arrived in Placerville, CA September 27th. He worked a few months on a ranch on the Lower Stockton Road near Franklin. He then acquired 160 acres southeast of Franklin which he sold in 1867 to buy a dairy one mile south of Franklin. In 1868 he moved the dairy to the Tibbets Ranch, two miles below Richland (Hood). In 1869 he moved to the Ross Ranch midway between Franklin and Richland. In 1875 he moved to the Miller Ranch two miles below Freeport and sold meat. In 1878 he moved further down the river to the Neubauer Ranch. In 1880 he rented the Isleton Hotel and in 1881 he bought it and the extra lot. He managed the hotel and rented the 819 acre Cole Ranch on Georgiana Slough. He became the road overseer for Grand Island and Georgiana Township. In 1867 Cynthia (Billups) Dickey died and in 1868 he married the widow Malinda Haroff Funk. His children were Delilah b. 1855 (Mrs. James Aitkens of Sacramento), Homer Lawrence b. 1857, Naomi b. 1859, Sanford Jr. b. 1865, Angeline b. 1869 and Hiram Joseph b. 1879. Dickey’s nephew Thomas lived 1.5 miles from Isleton.

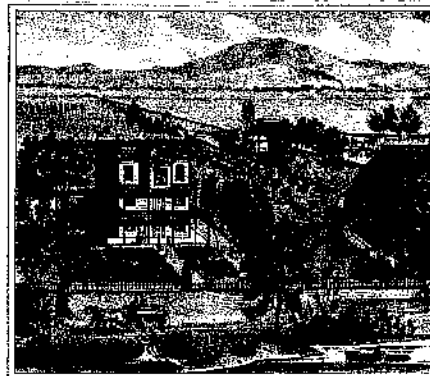
Nicolas Alfred Harvie – was a Nova Scotian Scots born December 23, 1851. His parents were Nicholas Harvie and Elisabeth Ettinger. Elisabeth was from Pennsylvania and descended from a very early American family originally from Alsace. In 1870 he moved to Boston and then to Providence. He was a contractor/builder. In 1873 he moved to the Pacific Coast and California. He married Mary A. Cochran of Sacramento the daughter of Robert and Mary Williamson both of New York who had come to California in 1849. He was a blacksmith and hardware store owner in Isleton and later moved his business to Sacramento. He had three children: Ada R., G. Edwin and Kate.

G. Edwin was the father of the celebrated educator Jean Harvie of Walnut Grove School. Kate married Walter Mansfield Brown of Ryde and had one son Walter. She died young and Brown married secondly Marion Aldrich of Courtland (a Greene cousin) and had a daughter Mildred. Brown sold the Ryde store and moved his family to the San Francisco Peninsula where he became a commission agent mainly dealing with olive growers.



A.R. Harvie Residence

Hart Fellows Smith – Prominent Brannan Island resident Hart Fellows Smith was born April 16, 1832 in Illinois. In 1839 the family moved to the Memphis, Tennessee area. While in Tennessee, Smith worked as a brickmaker and bricklayer. On April 16, 1852 he began his Plaines crossing with an ox team to California arriving September 27, 1852. He chopped wood for riverboats on Grand Island, Sacramento County, earning \$2.50 per cord. In March 1853 with a friend George Jearney he rowed down the Sacramento River to select 160 acres of swampland. After passing innumerable sloughs, he settled on “the next one” and selected 160 acres a half mile below the mouth of Jackson (sometimes called Smith) Slough. By 1878 he owned 600 acres and a fine three story house. He farmed raising grain and fruit. He also engaged in river freighting Delta produce. In 1860 he married



A VIEW ON THE RANCH OF HART F. SMITH, 300 ACRES, ISLETON, SACRAMENTO CO., CAL.

Margaret McKeever of Memphis, Tennessee who he met while traveling by Sherman Island to San Francisco with a sloop full of produce to sell. She was of Scots descent, had come around the Horn and her family worked on the Soule Ranch on Sherman Island. The couple had eight

children: Theresa, Garrett, Laura, Alice, Hart, Annie, John and Warren W. Smith died in 1903 on a windy night oiling a cranky windmill, falling 50 feet and never recovering. Garrett and John at the time lived in Walnut Grove, Hart had just returned from Alaska in 1903 and Warren was attending the University of California. The family home after surviving several major floods burned and was never rebuilt. The barn, however, remains at the “oak grove” south of town. Smith’s daughter Alice b. 1875 married at sixteen the dashing Ed Bryan. He drove his uncle’s four horse stage round trip to Sacramento. He was driving the stage when bandits held it up at Rosebud Farm near Hood. Married in 1896, they went to San Francisco for a two day honeymoon. They went to the races, Ed made some lucky bets and they stayed two weeks. They returned to Isleton to live next to the Philip Gardiner’s. There their daughter Gertrude was born. Next they lived in Walnut Grove leaving “the Grove” in ’03 so that they could go into the creamery business with her brother Warren. The 1907 flood wiped out the creamery business and Bryan took a job as a night watchman on a dredger repairing the levees. When Alice’s sister Annie’s husband J.W.

Harris died, the Bryans took over managing the Central Hotel in Isleton until 1916 when they sold the business. Alice Bryan owned a 40 acre ranch near Clarksburg and sold it to buy the Perkins "Shore Acres" Ranch, where they lived the next ten years. In 1925 their daughter Gertrude (Bryan) Dennison was appointed Isleton Postmistress. The Bryans returned to Isleton and Ed became her assistant. Until 1936 they lived in the big frame house as you exit town (above the mobile home park). They moved back to Clarksburg in 1934 and back to the frame house in 1937. Ed took a job on "Eddie's Bridge" to Tyler Island. In 1944 Ed began work on the ferry where he was badly injured. He stayed until retirement, though. They sold the frame house in 1950. Ed died in 1959. Alice lived on 4th street and celebrated her 100th birthday in 1975.

Philip Hogate Gardiner – was born in New Jersey August 29, 1846, the son of John W. Gardiner and Sarah Hogate, both of New Jersey. Gardiner migrated to San Francisco in 1867 and spent a year in Contra Costa County farming. In 1868 he went to Nevada to prospect in the White Pine Mountains (Elko). In the spring 1871, he travelled to Rio Vista where he farmed until he rented 250 acres on Brannan Island near Isleton where he continued farming. In 1875 with J. Fitch Wilcox he built a store and in 1878 bought Wilcox out. The Gardiner Improvement Company offered groceries, dry goods, hardware, grain and farm instruments. By 1879 he was Postmaster, the agent for twelve



GARDINER HOME. The original Gardiner home on A Street was a small Victorian that was soon too small for the expanding family.

years for the California Transportation Company and agent for Wells Fargo Co. Express. He helped establish the Isleton school district and was an early trustee. In 1880 he rented large tracts of land on Grand Island where he raised horses and cattle. In 1878 in the oak grove at the north end of town he married Ida Poole the daughter of Dr. Josiah Poole and Sarah (Freeman). The Gardiner children were: Lucretia "Crete" Gardiner (Poole) de Back b. 1881, James Wilbur b. 1884, Philip Hogate Gardiner, Jr. b. 1886, Lester Poole b. 1891, Verda b. 1900, and Ida Jewel b. 1901. "Crete" went to Isleton schools and business school in Stockton. She kept the books at the Gardiner Improvement Company. She married Paul de Back who began his career as a clerk at the firm. Paul was born in 1879, the son of Joseph W. de Back and his wife Marie. The family moved to California in 1888 and settled in Vorden. Paul became a representative for the Pioneer Fruit Company. Crete, after her father's death was Isleton postmistress until 1916. Crete and Paul had one son, Philip Gardiner de Back who married

Edna Mae Emigh. They lived in Walnut Grove with their four children.

John Wilbur Gardiner constructed the Isleton Bank Building in



Gardiner Improvement Company is headquarters for area ranchers and residents, carrying a complete line of hardware and household items.

1918 and was named President of the bank as well as the Gardiner Improvement Company. He with W.A. Hechtman of Sacramento was a founder of the California Asparagus Growers Association. He married Ethel Elizabeth Jacobs from Dutch Flat, Placer County, a teacher educated at the San Jose Normal School (SJSU today).



Interior of Gardiner Improvement Building shows portion of appliances, sporting goods, paint and electrical supplies always in stock.

Philip Hogate Jr. married and moved to Oregon. He returned to Isleton but died shortly thereafter, a young man. Lester Poole married Esther Beckman. They had two sons; Lester and James Wilbur. Lester and his wife Irene had three children and James and his wife Geraldine Comeback had two children. The brothers farmed. Ida Jewel never married. She was a school teacher in Rio Vista and later a librarian.

On March 13, 1937 the Isleton Chamber of Commerce honored the Gardiner family for 60 years of contribution to the city. Among the attendees were Mayor Lester and Mrs. Gardiner, Mr. and Mrs. James Gardiner, Miss Jewell Gardiner, Mr. and Mrs. Paul de Back, Mr. and Mrs. Philip G. de Back.

L. B. Woodworth – lived four miles below Isleton (near Ida Island). He was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1844. He immigrated to California in 1866 where he was a mining engineer in Amador County until 1873. In 1873 he settled in the Delta, first on Andrus Island. While in Amador County he married, in 1871, Jennie C. Stacy of New York. Their property and house was down river a short way from that of Hart Fellows Smith. The Woodworth house built in the early 20th century stands today.

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Who, What, Where? – Can you help us?



Another interesting item:

VORDEN RANCH

General Rules and Regulations

1. Rising bell rings at 5: A. M. in summer, later as days grow shorter
2. Teamsters are to clean and harness their horses before breakfast.
3. Breakfast gong rings forty minutes after rising bell—5:40 A. M. in summer.
4. Working bell rings one hour after rising bell—6 A. M. in summer.
5. Noon bell rings at 11:30—stop work and make for headquarters unless otherwise instructed.
6. Dinner gong rings at 12:10 P. M.
7. Working bell rings at 1 P. M.
8. Evening bell rings at 6 P. M. in summer, earlier as the days grow shorter.
9. Supper gong rings at 6:40 P. M. in summer.
10. All hands are to be in front of Main Ranch Barn when working bell rings.
11. When working far from Ranch Headquarters, work is to cease early enough to permit employees to reach Ranch Headquarters twenty minutes after ringing of noon and evening bells, unless otherwise instructed.
12. No smoking allowed in or around any buildings, except blacksmith shop and bunk houses.
13. Intoxication will not be countenanced. Any lapse in this respect will be sufficient grounds for immediate discharge.
14. No liquor will be permitted on the premises.
15. Teamsters are to thoroughly clean, water, harness and unharness their horses. Watering and cleaning to be done daily.
16. Teamsters are only to turn out their horses when and where directed—and if horses are turned out, to catch them up again.
17. All time checks must be O.K.'d by Matron before being presented at office.

P. J. VAN LÖBEN SELS, Proprietor.

SRDHS 2010 SCHEDULE

July/August.....	Summer Break
September 21.....	General Meeting
October 19.....	Board Meeting
November 16.....	General Meeting
December.....	Board Meeting
December Newsletter	
January 18, 2011.....	Annual Potluck

INFORMATION

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society web site is srdhs.org. Please view and enjoy the information. If you wish to email the resource center, the email address is srdhs@riverdeltawireless.com.

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Name: _____
 Address: _____
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- I'm paying Annual dues for the following year(s):
 - 2009 Other _____
 - \$25.00 a year for Annual Membership
- I've enclosed \$150 to become a Lifetime Member
- I'd like to register as an Honorary Member – Free to those members 80 years and older

Please mail this form with a check payable to SRDHS to:

SRDHS Membership
 P.O. Box 293, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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*The Sacramento River Delta Historical Society publishes the Sacramento River Delta Society Newsletter twice a year.