

Title:	Remarks at Dedication of Jerome C. Davis Homestead Plaque, University of California, Davis. Part 1
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Time	Transcription
0:05	[static]
0:10	Phyllis Haig: And we're very pleased to have so many of you able to attend this historical occasion. Among many distinguished guests we have with us today are Bert Smith, one of the Regents of the University of California. Would he please stand? [applause] I would like to introduce Emil Mrak, Chancellor Emeritus who was Chancellor of the UCD [University of California, Davis] campus when the public's attention was drawn to the Davis Farm on the site and who played a key role in efforts to be preserve the original olive trees and the fig trees. Emil.
1:09	[applause]
1:16	Emil Mrak: Thank you very much. It's a real thrill to be here, and to realize in a way I'm vindicated that I made myself very famous one time when the present Chancellor was in my office. I came to work late as usual, and good heavens, they were cutting down a tree and I screamed out to cut the thing to the crotch and let it suffer. And that has gone down as a Mrakism. [audience laughter] I think we're very fortunate to have these lovely trees planted by the Jerome family, Jerome Davis family, Mr. Davis. It's a thrill to me. I love the evergreens, the olives, because I feel they work the year-round. But I've developed a great love for the fig trees, not only for their fruit, because of their ability to survive in

	<p>spite of the architects who wanted to make a suite between the buildings there. And then they sent our Superintendent of Grounds, Terry Suber out here to cut them down. The guy left after about a year after that, and I don't know whether that's the reason or not. But Jim Meyer said he almost got fired that day. [audience laughter] But he saved the tree, it's really doing well. You can see that Mr. Davis knew how to pick good trees. So, I'm just happy about this whole thing. I won't say anymore, but congratulations to those who thought of doing this and it's something that just has a filling meaning to me and the campus. Thank you very much.</p>
3:02	[applause]
3:08	<p>Phyllis Haig: Thank you Chancellor Mrak. I'd like to introduce at this time Maynard Skinner, Mayor of the City of Davis and Registrar of UCD [University of California, Davis] campus who will share a few remarks with us.</p>
3:21	[applause]
3:28	<p>Maynard Skinner: Members of the Davis family and Chiles family, distinguished guests, and friends. In 1858, the State Agricultural Society examined the farm of one J.C. Davis. A thorough description of this farm was mentioned in the journal. A dwelling house, 15 by 30 feet with a wing 24 by 80, all two stories high, well built and thoroughly finished. The Executive Committee, in 1858, awarded to J.C. Davis a beautiful engraved silver water pitcher. And I have this water pitcher here today. This has been reposing in City Hall, [laughs], for a number of years and we polished this up for this historic occasion. And I am told this is made out of coin silver, as opposed to being made out of sterling silver. Made out of coins in those days. The original homestead stood here until 1975 and it spawned something that the Davis family could not have visioned, could not have dreamed about, I don't think. The following account from the July 10th, 1968 [1868] <i>Yolo Democrat</i> describes Davisville's early beginnings - that the proposed location for the depot of the Vallejo railroad on Putah Creek is of considerable importance and a town of considerable importance will soon spring up in that locality. The site is on the banks of Putah Creek at Davis Ranch, a rich agricultural setting settled by farmers mostly of whom have secured a competence to themselves as a reward of energy and frugality. The hotel there is strong with visitors attracting thither by the promising business character of the place. The new town is to be called Davisville, well I'm not too sure if we</p>

	<p>shouldn't go back to calling Davis "Davisville. For on April 19, 1906 when the "ville" was dropped the local newspaper stated, "the name 'Davisville' is a long one without anything to recommend it." [audience laughter] [clears throat] In fact, the "ville" attached signifies a countryside place of insignificant import. [audience laughter] We believe it is a general consensus of the people that the "ville" should be eliminated as a matter of convenience and necessity. While on this day of concern for the open space, environment... We're trying to recapture, we've come a long ways, we're trying to recapture a little about what the original Davisville was all about. Some of the things that were important in those days are still important now. Davis was founded largely because of the railroad. There are some of us in this town who would like to lose that railroad. [audience laughter] In fact, last spring a delegation of Davisville-ites attempted to do that very thing. [audience laughter] Some of the earliest plantings were trees and orchards. We have concern for these and fortunately, we still have some of the original trees in Davis today. As you know, we have great concern about our street trees. We have concern about our street trees, isn't that right Emil? [laughter]</p>
7:03	<p>Emil Mrak: I forgot to mention that!</p>
7:05	<p>Maynard Skinner: [laughter] So we have concern about our trees and the active planting of trees. There was concern for an industry in those days and the early chronicles tell us about a mulberry silk industry that was here in Davis of all things. Almond hullers was another industry and today if you follow the newspaper accounts, we're still talking about attracting industries to Davis. There was strong cooperation between the University and the City. One of the first city fathers, Sam Beckett, was on the faculty. In 1869, there was no jail in the city of Davisville. Our public offenders were locked up in a hotel. But we still have no jail! Though we have a few more centers, I suggest. [audience laughter] The 3-mile limit on spirits is fermenti enacted in 1911 largely due to women's lib. It was called women's suffrage in those days. We still have the 3-mile limit in effect in Davis. Well, has Davis changed? Yes its change is inevitable. But hopefully as we grow, we can have concern for the amenities and the historical significance of those early days. The efforts of the Davis Landmark and Historical Society and the joint efforts of the City and the University are testimony to that. There are other things that we must do. We have landmark trees. We have attempted to identify sites of historical significance and there are</p>

	<p>other homes and other things that we must identify and preserve for the future. But as we grow, hopefully we can take a page out of the past. Some of the things we're talking about today - streamlines, tree-lined streets, open space, greenbelts, the bucolic setting - they talked about those things in the early days of Davis and Davisville. We call them by a different name, but the intent was the same. So 100 years later, we've come so far but yet we're going back to some of those values and some of the concerns that were registered in those days. And hopefully, we can preserve these in some small way and honor those that we can. Thank you very much for being here.</p>
9:20	[applause]
9:26	<p>Phyllis Haig: Thank you Mayor Skinner. I would like to introduce James Meyer, Chancellor of the UCD [University of California, Davis] campus, who will relate the site of a Davis homestead to the beginning of the University State Farm.</p>
9:42	[applause]
9:47	<p>James Meyer: Thank you Phyllis and ladies and gentlemen. I'm pleased to be here and pleased that you are here. You notice the program is set up deliberately. We place Emil Mrak first so that we could straighten out some of the truth afterwards. [audience laughter] I indeed was in his office the day they cut the top of those two fig trees off. Emil was quite unhappy about it and it was the only time I've ever seen a man sit at attention when he brought Terry Suber in and complained about the problem. It turns out also that Emil was more interested in these fig trees because he knows more about the sex life of fig trees than any human being in the campus. [audience laughter] Also, he is an avowed expert on trees and I see that since he's retired, he's taking over the problem with the city trees and that he hasn't figured out they know what they're doing. But this is good that he is here and he is able to relay how great he thinks these olives trees are. They do drop an awful lot of olives and we spend a lot of time sweeping up olives. This is alright. But this is a very magnificent olive tree and probably the nicest in town. The Davis Farm won this award in 1858, and this is about the same time that the land grant concept of public service started. When grants of land were given to the states, so that they might start Colleges of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts. These grants of land were used in various ways. In California, the College of Agriculture, developed at Berkeley and professors of agriculture were hired. There's a great deal of concern during that</p>

time period of time from 1868, when the University of California was started, till about 1900 as to what these professors of agriculture were or what they should do. There was no such thing as that field and so they were hired from various disciplines, such as botany. These farmers in California expressed a great deal of dissatisfaction and thought they weren't as practical as they might be and worked hard with the Legislature during the time preceding 1905 to develop a farm school somewhere in the state and of course, the legislation was put forth at that time establishing a farm school at Davis. The Davis citizens at that time were no less political than they are today and wrote the legislation in such a way that it was almost inevitable that it be placed here at Davis, which was very good and very good for the University as far as I'm concerned. The University Farm School, of course, was primarily used to supplement the teaching program in Berkeley at the start and then two year agriculture became active on this campus for students coming from Berkeley for one or two years during their teaching program. It was until 1922, that the four-year program was started in the College of Agriculture here at Davis. Continued development occurred here on this campus until 1948 when the School of Veterinary Medicine was started and of course, as you know the College of Letters and Science started in 1952 and the campus has grown rapidly since that time, particularly during the 1960's under the Chancellorship of Emil Mrak. I think part of the reason that the campus and the town had grown so well together is the fact that it has, in fact, grown together. The campus expansion and the town expansion, more or less, goes along. If you look back into old newspapers, you find that many of the people who are in the city council's planning commission and so forth were involved with the University one way or another. And even today you'll find that the mayor who was here is Assistant Vice Chancellor, the Registrar on the campus, and so we keep close contact with what goes on in the city and vice-versa. So that there has been a close intermeshing of the campus and the University during these periods of time. One of the big problems that the city did try to annex us last year and one of the things that fired them up was this building right here. They don't have a fire department that could put a fire out in a building higher than three stories high and since this is nine stories high and they found out that a fire truck would crash if it took a ladder up, they gave up and decided not to annex us for a while. So this site has a great deal of historic significance. [audience laughter] And [unclear] you will find that most of the people on the City Council are either students, or they work for the University, or

	<p>are married to someone working for the University. And so we keep pretty good control over things. [audience laughter] So we will not have to annex the city, and they will not have to annex us. [audience laughter] But I do think that there has been and there needs to be a continuing interaction between the City and the University in trying to bring forth campus, community, and public needs. And one of the reasons that people choose Davis, and it has turned out to be one of the most popular campuses, why students choose it, why faculty choose it, is because of the city of Davis. The city of Davis is a good place to live and it is very important to us as a University. So thank you very much.</p>
15:06	[applause]
15:12	<p>Phyllis Haig: Thank you Chancellor Meyer. Joann Leach Larkey, local historian and author of <i>Davisville 68</i> and <i>Portraits of the Past</i> will unveil a plaque.</p>
15:25	[applause as plaque is unveiled]
15:47	<p>Joann Leach Larkey: It gives me special pleasure to have had a part in unveiling this plaque, which is the first historic marker that has been placed in the City of Davis since the highway came through. All the other markers in this area are markers on the Lincoln highway that marked part of the first transcontinental highway. I think it's particularly significant that we, today, are commemorating not only a site that has great historic value, but we are also paying tribute to some living monuments that stand nearby. Davis has, as has been mentioned by previous speakers, been very proud of the trees they have. We are proud of the native trees that still grow on the banks of Putah Creek, and these are incorporated now in the University's Arboretum. The city is making corresponding efforts to protect other areas along the natural waterways for native plants and wildlife habitats to abound. The wording on this plaque, which you may see on your program, is to commemorate the site of the Jerome C. and Mary Chiles Davis Homestead. References have been made to these olive and fig trees, which we believe to be part of the original planting of the orchards that Jerome Davis set out. I think it might be safe to assume that they have a much more significant history - the trees, themselves. They have been dated with tree borers, so that we're fairly certain they date back to the early 1850's. [unclear] We're not sure exactly when they were planted but in view of the fact that William Wolfskill, his brother, John Wolfskill, who came and became the first American settler in both Yolo and Solano County, brought with him many kin in</p>

1842 cuttings of both olive and fig trees and planted them [unclear], which is in the Winters area. He has become known as the father of the deciduous fruit industry, which that area is still very famous for. It seems quite logical that he made cuttings available to his neighbors, Jerome Davis, as he did other neighbors in the Vaca Valley, Pleasants Valley, and throughout Yolo County. I don't know how it's possible, perhaps one of our University scientists could tell us how we could trace the parentage of trees but it seems quite possible that both trees have specific significance. Also because the Wolfskill [unclear] Ranch now where there a beautiful stand of the original olive plantings has been donated to the University of California is used for experimental purposes for the pomology and other departments. We knew very little about the original inhabitants of the site on which we stand today, there were archaeological evidence that prehistoric Indians had inhabited this site surrounding the intersection here of 1st and A street. When the first settlers came, they were wise enough to know that they could see that the Indians had lived there. They were wise enough to know they chose high ground that was perhaps safe from the flooding conditions that abounded in this area before the days of dam and flood control projects. And here they settled. The Indians were gatherers and hunters. They were living in a garden paradise and had no need for cultivating agriculture as we know it today. But when the first pioneer settlers crossed the plains, they were quick to realize that not all of the [unclear] California was up in the Sierra, that much of it was here on the plains in the form of agricultural production. People like Joseph Chiles, who was a member of the first wagon train that crossed the Sierra Nevadas from Missouri to California in 1841, was - I have always contended - the first American to have an interest in this site. Members of the Vaca and Pena families had come here in 1842 and settled mostly on the southern side of Putah Creek, which flows within a few feet of where we sit. There was a land grant granted in the north bank in 1845, one that was not confirmed and years of litigation was involved before land claims were settled. But we do know, now, and thanks to the University Library who is collecting archival information on the history of not only the Davis campus but the city of Davis, a [unclear] came to us recently and it included some testimony of Jerome Davis. I would like to read it to you verbatim because I think it tells the real story.

We had known that Colonel Charles had purchased an interest in land here that he had divided it in 1854 between his two daughters and their husbands, Jerome Davis and Gabriel Brown. But he had stated in response to a question that, I was in possession of what was called a Spanish league, a square league of land.” (I think that, well I shouldn’t say, I’m not sure of the acreage involved in that.) I was in possession in common with Mr. Chiles.” (He’s referring to Joseph B. Chiles). Chiles first bought, and I bought from Chiles. Chiles sold the east half to Gabe Brown. I first went on that place in 1849.

(This is something we didn’t know when we wrote the history of Davis. We’re going to have to republish it now and correct the many errors which it contains.) I was not in possession myself. I was on it for Mr. Chiles. He put stock there in 1848, and I came to this country in 1849 and continued putting stock on that place.

His interrogator, Judge Catlin, said ‘Was Mr. Chiles in possession?’ The answer is yes. ‘Were you and Chiles employed?’ ‘I was at first,’ he answered.

‘How long did you continue to live at Davisville or on this land?’

Jerome Davis responded, ‘Up to the sale of the land to the railroad company. I was there all the time, from the time I moved there in 1851. I lived in Washington, which is on the western side of the Sacramento River opposite Sacramento in 1850. And moved in 1851 to that place.’

So we do know that Jerome Davis came in 1851, that his father in law previously had cattle here on this place and made some part of an arrangement with the Vaca and Pena families to acquire this land. Other references indicate he did this possibly as early as 1843 or ‘46. We still have some research to do to have all the answers. But I think it’s interesting to be able to trace this back and it certainly broadens the history. Joseph Chiles and Jerome Davis didn’t act alone to develop this as a prize winning agricultural farm. They had the help of many other members of the Chiles and Davis family. Joseph Chiles brought out a nephew of his by the name of Isaac Chiles. And descendants of that family are here today, I’m pleased to say. He, for many years, because he was young and didn’t have funds of his own, worked for the Davis family and helped manage the ranch. He was a bookkeeper. He was a telegraph operator for the first telegraph that went through. And eventually, acquired the interest of the eastern



half of that land which lies east of Davis. East of Pole Line Road is the best way I can explain it. So that great acreage out to what is now Mace Boulevard, or Road 104, was part of the Chiles ranch and the other part was part of the Davis ranch. We're still tracing actual boundaries of this ranch because they used natural landmarks, and here our trees come in again. The first deed was measured from an oak tree on the bank of Putah Creek to another oak tree in the direct line. And then they sited between the second and third dip in the Sutter Buttes at such and such an angle and went a thousand bars this way and a few thousand bars that way and it's a little hard to trace that on today's map. We can only conjecture exactly what he did own. But one other documentary that tells us about the early home site was a newspaper report that was printed at the time of Mary Chiles Davis' death. She had lived in Sacramento from the time she and her husband had sold this ranch in 1869 until 1914 when she died. And it's unfortunate that you and I and a few other people didn't get over to speak with her. She would have had wonderful tales to tell. But in a [unclear] article to an account of her death, was written by William King, who came here in 1852. And he stated that Miss Lizzy Chiles who was a third sister of Mary and Fanny Chiles, also a daughter of Joseph B. Chiles, and a Mr. Tully, Leonard Tully, the groom to be, were both residents of the section known as Washington. The Chiles and Davis families had also interest in a ferry operation and a dairy farm, just opposite the I Street bridge. This young couple had impressed a clergyman. And one morning in the year of 1850, we know the date to be December 4th, the trio, all on horseback, set out for the rancho of J.B. Chiles, the bride's father. The ceremony was solemnized in a dwelling that also had some history. It had been constructed in New Bedford, Connecticut, I presume, in the knock down form and shipped around the horn, unloaded from a ship at Benicia, and hauled to the wilderness as it were then, but now the University Farm by oxen. So, here again is another clue. We know that in 1850, there was a dwelling house here on the Davis farm, the Davis campus, as we know it. And from this, and the drawing that accompanied the award of best farm in 1858, the original of which you can see by going into the lobby of the main library - there's a display case just to the right of the reference desk, one of the original drawings of the Davis farm is standing there. The house that we see in 1858, we have no way of knowing whether it's the original one that came around the horn or whether that house was moved and a larger house erected later on. Another home was built on the Isaac Chiles' property and some of the original barns still

	<p>exist from that. But unfortunately, we have only trees to mark the site. Isaac Davis, who was the father of Jerome Davis, played another major role in the development of this property. Both Jerome and Isaac served as Presidents of the State Agricultural Society in the 1860's and Isaac Davis was the County Judge who had served as the Justice of Peace of Yolo County since 1851, was his first term of office. He was a man of good education. He had come from Ohio and served as, I'm told, the first Grand Officer for the Masonic Lodge in California - I believe that was as early as 1853. At the time he died in 1869, he had a funeral that sounded very much like a state funeral in a special train carrying 100 residents of Yolo County was hired to attend his funeral in Sacramento. He called attention to the State Agricultural Society's members of the importance of farming well for the future of a College of Agriculture. This, his words, were given in 1863 and I think it's a fitting tribute to him that today the University stands on the land where he had lived for a number of years and helped to develop the agricultural prominence of this area. When it came time to locate the University, Chancellor Meyer referred to the fact that the law was enacted. It was enacted by many people we have to pay tribute to many when we talk about the founding of this University. But, I think also we can pay special tribute to the people who lived in this area who worked so hard to bring it here. It didn't just happen. It happened because residents of the Davis area wanted it to happen and were willing to contribute their time and talent to attract, play the game of politics I suppose, that made the Site Selection Committee decide on a Davisville site, rather than 69 other sites that were offered throughout the state of California. They found a Chamber of Commerce and very actively promoted this as a site, knowing that the ground was fitted for agricultural development, that it had good transportation facilities, that the climate was amenable and healthy for living, and they were very successful. I don't know that anyone has ever regretted the choice that was made at that time and we've all lived to see the University grow into something that is very important. This period of cooperation has continued and I think here today with the city cooperating with the University authorities wholeheartedly, we have been able to dedicate a plaque that marks a site that not only commemorates the very early -</p>
31:03	[static]
31:14	END
	[Remarks continue in part 2.]

Title:	Remarks at Dedication of Jerome C. Davis Homestead Plaque, University of California, Davis. Part 2
Date:	September 3, 1972
Collection:	Audiovisual Collection
Length of interview:	Twenty-six minutes, one second
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Time	Transcription
00:09	[Jerome Davis Mitchell?]: [muffled audio] I hope I get all these people's names right that I have on the program here. [Woman laughs away from the mic.] Let's start off with Mayor Skinner, Katherine [Mrak?], James and Katherine Marler, And, can I list anyone else out now—And Joann, and So, ladies and gentlemen, it's not only] a pleasure to be here, but it's nice to see all you people who have responded to this historical event. I would just like to say that I apparently have been selected for this being the senior member of what still is not passed by of the Davis family, and other members of the Davis family here and of course parts of the Chiles family too, and I would just like to go back a little bit and say to Mayor Skinner that I agree with him that there's certainly nothing corny about "ville" and there's certainly nothing corny about Davisville and if you go back to your French if you've ever been in France nearly everything is "ville" back there. I just want to say that I would like to congratulate all those who have contributed to this dedication and particularly I know that Joann and Ms. Haig has done a lot of work on it and probably a lot of other people, and I was going to say that in the interest of time I was going to present some real old time family history of the Davis family that goes back over a thousand years, but with everyone's permission and the interest of time, perhaps we could do that at the luncheon, if that's alright with you folks. So thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, and in fact, on behalf of the Davis family for this wonderful reception [Applause.]
02:15	Joann Larkey: [muffled voice] Thank you, Mr. Mitchell. I should tell you that when I met Mr. Mitchell for the first time, we had corresponded and we had a very hard time tracing down members of the Davis family, for years they were missing people. When he arrived to the centennial luncheon that we had for descendants of pioneer families he announced to me that he had come to repossess the Davis farm that the ninety nine year lease was up. [Crowd laughs.] I'm [thrilled?] to see he hasn't succeeded in that, and that the original deeds in such question I think he would've had a hard time proving his case. We

	<p>have one other visitor. We'll introduce other family members and be more informal at the luncheon, but I would like to acknowledge Mrs. James Wrede who is a granddaughter of Col. Joseph B. Chiles. [Applause.] She said she didn't want to say anything, but I think we'll call on her later. She [unclear] related, her mother was the half-sister of Mary Davis. Joseph Chiles after he got his first family all comfortably settled, the daughters all married, went back to Missouri and on his seventh trip west brought a new bride and started all over again. So there are really two families and we're very happy to keep track of so many of them. I think I said quite enough, and thank you very much. [Applause.]</p>
<p>03:46</p>	<p>Phyllis Haig: Thank you, Joann. The plaque will be bolted to the redwood mounting to your right under the fig tree. Luncheon will be served in the south patio room at the Memorial Union now. For those of you who would like to ride, there's an elephant train right out here on the street. For those of you who are walking over to the Union, you just return to Shields Avenue here, walk straight across the Quad to the north side where the Memorial Union is. Thank you for coming. [Applause.]</p>
<p>04:29</p>	<p>Joann Larkey: [audio starts mid-sentence.] — Here, is a unique collection of — We went to no small ends to get it all together. There's silver awards that we're given by the State Agricultural Society, most of them we were given between 1860 and '62. The one to this — my right here is much later. This was given to Phineas Chiles, who married the widow of Isaac Chiles, and it was in 1888 for the best herd of Durham cattle. The oldest one we have, I think, is 1861, and these were made as was the pitcher you saw at the dedication, of coin silver, with accompanying first [class?] of words, the goblet to the far left there was awarded to Isaac Davis in 1862 for the best winning cow, four years old, by the name of Lizzy. I suppose that was for young Lizzy Tully who was married at the ranch there. Jerome Davis also got a goblet in 1861 for the best-winning bull at four-years-old. They not only got awards for having excellent agricultural production, but they were importers of pure-bred stock from the eastern states, which was no small task to get it across the plains in those days. The small cup in the foreground was salvaged from the ashcan, I'm told, by [Dixie Ray?], was very badly burned and tarnished and you didn't know it today, she's polished it so beautifully, but it was awarded to Joseph B. Chiles for sweepstake premium award which I guess was the most that they could give in 1861. For what I would say, a mule [voice comes by, far away from the mic] she corrects me, she says it's a mammoth jackass. [Crowd laughs.] And if you look at the photograph of the Chiles ranch, over there, I think a mammoth jackass is in the foreground with one of the herdsman holding it, but this was the pride of Missouri. It was brought to California, I'm told, and he was [unclear]. The pieces of the tea set are engraved with the name of Mary A. Davis, and long ago we got a letter saying that this is some person that had brought the tea set, had written to inquire who was the Davis family. They wrote to the Chamber of Commerce in Davis, as a matter of fact, to find out, because they thought it was so ornately engraved, that the man who had owned it most certainly had been a man of wealth and circumstance, and they were giving it to their daughter as a wedding present. They had purchased this in a shop down in Pacific Grove. As quite by chance, through a conversation with my mother-in-law in Oakland one day, I found out who now owns this, and I called the lady, and she said she'd love to lend it any</p>

time we wanted to use it, which I think is very commendable on her part, so Captain and Mrs. Chiles stopped by and picked it up yesterday and brought it out for us to see today. It is ornately engraved and is a very lovely piece of silver. In the foreground, is the small silver medallion that belonged to Colonel Chiles too. Unfortunately, it's not [unclear], but evidently, it was one of the first premium awards that were given at one time or another, and another medal, which is a recent history, this is Mrs. Elizabeth Riordan. Where are you, Mrs. Riordan? Would you stand? [Background noise] She, excuse me, Mrs. — she's Mrs. [Boshan?] now. Her grandfather was Thomas Riordan and she was recently honored by the State of California. The farm was given an award for being more than a hundred years old. They lived out west of Davis and the farm is still in existence today, and she actually has a picture of a fig tree planted on the Riordan Ranch from a planting that came from Jerome Davis's fig tree, so I think here again we see that neighbors were cooperating with each other even in the pioneer times. Thank you for bringing it. [Microphone noises.] [Audience claps.] A person that deserves special recognition today is Commander Percy Steele. Would you stand, please? He is another long [unclear] of the Davis family. His daughter, Ms. [Nelani Sparky] — is here also, was a Davis resident in 1968 when she read "The History of Davis" in the newspaper and realized that, you know, maybe those were the relatives in Ohio that she was related to. One thing led to another, and it turned out that both she and Mr. Jerome Davis Mitchell, who you heard from earlier, had an identical family history in their family bibles. The Davis family [unclear] Ohio where their great-grandfather had served in the Revolutionary War, had been, I think, drafted into the service, something like, ten or fifteen times through the French and Indian War all the way up to the Revolution, so it's a family [unclear] — longstanding. We can't help but think that there must be a million more Davis relatives somewhere in the world. Maybe we'll trace them all down. I did want to introduce to — Captain Chiles and his family. Would you all stand? I'm not sure where you're all sitting, and three of their five children? Four of the five children are with us today. Jim is a student at the Davis campus and his [unclear] recent history, he's building [pause then laughs]. He has spent the summer constructing the new geodesic domes, out here, which is an answer we hope to the low cost housing problem of students in Davis, and I think it's significant that on the same ranch that his great grandfather was helping to construct houses in 1850, he, in 1972, was doing the same thing. The Austin Chiles family is also here. Would you like to stand? They're relatives of half. [A man from beside the microphone says] "Three more at home. [Laughter.] It was a prolific group, huh? [Applause] Well, we're very happy to have you here. Are there any other family relatives I've missed? I know that Mr. Jerome Davis — Mitchell Stanley is here, would you all stand? They had, I think, three or four generations with them today, including some great-great-granddaughters. [Applause.] I'm very pleased that you could all come. They live in Lodi and were very happy to come up for the occasion. I wanted to introduce Mr. Reese, our — the city manager at Davis who has been the father advisor to this commission since it got started in 1963. Bill Taylor, how — you better stand. [Laughter and applause.] Bill Taylor has taken over this lamented task is now an assistant here — its so large we need assistants to assist us these days, and Bill has been very helpful in getting this affair established. [Applause.] Official photographer, Mr. Bill Duncan, is here from the County Board of Supervisors, Bill [Applause.] And Bob Black, who is a former

	<p>student, is now on our Davis City Council, Bob. [Applause] Let's see, I think Dudley Stephens from the Board of Supervisors — here? Here he is! [Applause.] Thank you. We are not only marking local landmarks at this point, we're also trying to coordinate the county's activities, so that we get state and national recognition for some of these. I can't help but feel the site we dedicated today is a local landmark, has statewide significance and only awaits someone to do the research to get the application into the state level and we perhaps will have a newer and larger bronze marker before long, so... Does anyone else wish to say anything? [A man speaks outside of the microphone's range.] All right. All right. I would've asked Mr. Mitchell to bring out a steamer clock that he has that his great-grandmother brought with her when she came to California by ship. It's a darling little brass clock in a leather case. [Unclear.] [Voices in the background.] He has. You don't have to put your coat on to make a presentation. Not in this group. [Laughs.] [Man in the background says something.]</p>
<p>14:39</p>	<p>Jerome Davis Mitchell: Everyone hear me alright? Ladies and gentlemen, it's the second time I've had the pleasure of being up to the mic, having made a few remarks out at the dedication. I would just like to say, before I get into this presentation, that Joann made part of the comment about the jackass, and I can't — I can't begin to compete with that. [Laughs with crowd.] Although when I was a very young lad, in the ice business, and you have to go and date me as [unclear], when I was going to school — I'd always worked in the barn, as a stable boy and as a wagon boy. We had all the wagons and all the horses, delivering ice for the Union Ice Company all over the the state of California. So anyway, the great honor I had in those days, and I'm not trying to disparage the great Jerome Davis, the greatest honor I ever had was the ice men got together one day and in a kidding way they named one of these beautiful gray horses — Jerome after me! [Laughs with crowd.] I had the greatest honor I've ever had outside of this one. So anyway, I have this presentation to make, it has very little monetary value but it does have a lot of family history, and this goes back to the Davis family, goes back over 1100 years. Actually, as far as we can trace it, and I'm sure Joann, she's such a doll when it comes to history I'm sure she'll be interested in all this. That A.D. 843, now that, if my calculations are right, that's over 1100 years ago. So at any rate, the — in some order, I don't know if I'll get it in seniority or in rank order but the right order by rank, but I would like to present one of these to the mayor of I was going to say Lodi because I'm getting... You'll have to excuse that expression... To the mayor of ... what was it? Skinner. Mayor Skinner? You weren't supposed to hear that now ladies and gentlemen. Mayor Skinner, this is for the archives of the city [unclear] it had nothing to do with the current more up-to-date history but this goes way back to the archives. The next one I have here is Joann or Mrs. who is the other chairman of this, [unclear] Mrs. Haig, I'd like to present this to your Historical and Landmark Commission for your files and I'm sure you and Joann will probably share it together, and I didn't mean to leave the last, if not least, is the Chancellor... the active Chancellor who...</p>
<p>17:33</p>	<p>Joann Larkey: I think he had to leave to attend —</p>
<p>17: 35</p>	<p>Jerome Davis Mitchell: Anyone to volunteer to represent the Chancellor...</p>

17:46	Unidentified man: This is a modern-day version of Mammoth Jackass. [Laughter then applause.]
17:54	Jerome Davis Mitchell: [Unclear] Okay, so again, I would like to thank everyone that [unclear] of all the wonderful work you folks have done on this and the honor I had to represent the Davis family and thank you very much. [Applause.]
18:22	Joann Larkey: I think in the interests of put into historical perspective, we should have noted that really, not everyone approved of the University Farm. The University has embarked on an oral history program where they'll take interviews, and very happily, Dr. Blanchard and Don Kunitz made one with John Rogers before he passed away. And he was asked the question, Did the people of Davis all approve of the University?, and then he said, No, but there were some who didn't. Some of the business people didn't think it was a very good idea and some of the farmers didn't think it was a good idea. They thought it would raise the price of wages on their farm if all these new ideas came into town, and they were afraid of some of the drunkenness that students might bring in and all the girls might get pregnant. [Crowd laughs.] We don't have any statistics on how it all worked out but it certainly did increase the marriage statistic for the young girls of Davis. Quite a few of them married students that were at the campus and I think that the ramifications about the drunkenness could be taken with a grain of salt because they very effectively removed the temptations of saloons in Davisville from the scene. They are still with us yet and most campuses have a one mile limit here they wanted to be sure so they made it three miles, so there was no possibility of any students getting the influence of alcohol. Yes. [Audience laughs.] The other person I am going to call on is Commander Steele. He and his family actually wanted to be a part of these festivities and made a donation to help us install the plaque, so they had a very real interest in this and we appreciate it very much. Commander Steele?
20:25	Commander Steele: Ladies and gentlemen, this has been an entirely new sensation to bask momentarily the reflective glory of my ancestors. [Crowd laughs.] I'm from the Ohio branch originally, we lived most of our life in Honolulu and our Pacific Island Guam, but the origins are back there and there are a great many relatives back there, but they no longer bear the name of Davis because they were married and so on — And in fact I know of nobody back there of all the relatives who actually bears the name of Davis. But there is the Davis farm back in my home village in [McConnelsville?], Ohio, and the local cemetery is filled with stones with the name of Davis on it. I enjoy making this [contact?] very much, thank you. [Applause.]
21:29	Joann Larkey: [Unclear] that came out of research of the family is that I believe it was Thomas Davis, the father of Isaac Davis, who was instrumental in founding Kenyon College in Ohio, so they went to university of higher education to deepen this as well, so perhaps we have a sister college somewhere, we should explore it a little. Alright, thank you all for coming today. Jo — did you have something else? [A man speaks out of the range of the microphone. [He says something and the audience laughs and talks louder.] [They hold a muffled conversation.]

22:26	[Jerome Davis Mitchell]: Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention for just a minute. I just want to say that the Davis family, and all the branches thereof are eligible for membership in not only the Sons of the American Revolution, but also the Daughters of the American Revolution and the CAR which is the Children of the American Revolution. I've had my two great [unclear] [grandkids?] that he — she's a CAR. [Crowd laughs.] C'mon, just come up and say a few words, Michelle.. Anyway, I'm sure that if anyone is interested, we have a chapter of the CAR of the daughters. I know, maybe, several in Sacramento, and we have a new chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in Sacramento that's only been organized a few years ago by Colonel Shaw who happened to be the first president. So if anybody is interested, get in touch with me and I will turn you over to the right people because this is [someone coughs] partly a patriotic organization and it is a good old American organization that believes in nothing but good Americanism. It's not part of the John Birch Society, for example. [Crowd laughs.] Well it is a conservative outfit and very patriotic, and my thanks to you again, Joann.
23:46	Unidentified woman: [out of the range of the microphone,] — Grandpa, may I interject? They're interested in the American Indian, and also in preserving American history, and I would say on all levels on that.
23:58	Joann Larkey: Well, I would encourage you all to look at the family trees, we can learn a lot by this, I think. Yep.
24:04	Unidentified woman 2: [remains out of range] — I have the numbers for the Chiles family from the DAR. and we have an SAR Chiles right here, and I also have the numbers from the Daughters of the American Colonists.
24:17	Joann Larkey: That goes back aways. I think the first Chiles came something like 1630 or 40 to Virginia — [Unidentified woman says something unclear.] That goes back a little in our history and I now [unclear]. This is kind of an interesting facet to our heritage. Alright,I thank you all for coming, and do enjoy your luncheon. [ Applause.]
24:47	Unidentified woman 3: May I have your attention for a minute, please. This — [Overlapping voices.] This occasion would not have been possible [someone taps their wine glass] without the rest of our Davis Historical Commission. At this time, I would like to have Steven Jett stand, John Brinley. Did John leave? Roger [Romani and Violet Garden were unable to be with us today. I also would like to thank John [Hardie, Richard Donnell, and Bob Bynum, and Bill Taylor. If it wasn't for them, I don't think we'd be here today. Thank you. [Applause.]
25:30	Joann Larkey: Mrs. Wrede just handed me a Confederate five dollar bill, which I think might be interesting, for those that come look at the display, and because of this interesting silver collection, we are all asking you to pass through the metal detector as you leave. [Audience laughs.]
26:01	END.



