

10. THE CAMPAIGN, MAY-DECEMBER

Led by the hard-charging (and apparently sometimes abrasive) George Pierce, the Committee undertook several Davisville promotional efforts over the rest of 1905.

Although rather puny in light of current site selection promotions, e.g. the site of the Olympics or even a Bio-Lab, the reproductions of several items below depict the heartfelt efforts of 1905 Davisville.

STRIFE IN THE PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

In 1933, Promotion Committee member Dr. Walter Bates wrote a memoir memo on the events of 1905 and thereabouts. Apparently never published, the original typescript is in UCD Special Collections.

From the distance of a quarter of a century, Dr. Bates offered the view of Pierce seen to the right.

We had quite a time with him. He was an antagonistic, bull
dog fighter and he antagonized Woodland very strongly from the first by a letter in
the Yolo Democrat and I wrote another denying everything he said and we had a scrap in
front of the post office about it.

Reproduction of the two-page offer the Promotion Committee sent to the State Farm Selection Commission dated May 12, 1905

Pierce was the Chair of the Promotion Committee and Bates was the President of the new Chamber of Commerce. Here we see a "studied ambiguity" regarding who is in charge.

	Davisville Cal. May 12, 1905.	
	To the Hon. State Farm Commission, Gentlemen:-	
	The undersigned Committee of citizens of Yolo county hereby renew their offer of a site for the proposed State Farm, previously made to your Honorable body that it may be strictly in accordance with your instructions issued to the press.	
Offer.	We offer what is known as the M. V. Sparks place, situated immediately adjacent to the town of Davisville	
Location.	on the west. The property is located chiefly in Yolo county, though ten acres of the tract is in Solano county. It is bounded on the north by the Davisville and Winters county road; on the east by the town of Davisville and the lands of H. Hamel; on the south by a Solano county road and the center of Putah Creek; on the west by the lands of Jas Campbell. (See map attached.)	preferred right to the use of water on 180 acres of land.
Acreage.	The place contains <u>727</u> acres, more or less.	Distance from Depot. The property is about three eighths of a mile from the depot of the Southern Pacific Company, in the important railway junction of Davisville.
Soil.	The soil is what is known as sedimentary deposit, is rich and deep, overlying a substratum of clay. The land slopes gently toward the north and east, making every part of it susceptible of irrigation from the canal of the Yolo County Consolidated Water Company which enters the place at its south west corner and follows the general course of Putah Creek across the property.	Climate. The climate of the locality in which the proposed site is situated is typical of that of the great agricultural sections of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.
Price.	The price asked for the land is One Hundred and Twenty (120) Dollars per acre. With the deed to the land passes	Improvements. The land is well fenced and cross-fenced and has on it the usual buildings incident to farming a place of its size.
Water right.	the title to thirty six shares of the capital stock of the above named Water Company, which carry with them the	Crops. The place has been and is now used chiefly for the raising of grain, but about thirty acres are planted to alfalfa.
		Bond. This Committee holds a bond for a deed on the entire property, at the price stated above. This bond is to run until <u>September First, 1905</u> , and the above offer will remain open until that date. The bond upon this property will be transferred to the Commission at any time on demand.
		Time limit. Regarding the proposition to bond property for a term of two years, it is our understanding of the matter that this feature was incorporated in the instructions to meet the possible emergency of the purchase price exceeding the appropriation. As the purchase price of the entire property offered by us is but little more than one half of the amount appropriated for the purchase of the State Farm, we hope the above named feature will not be considered applicable in this instance.
		G. W. Pierce, O. B. Wilbur, B. B. Tuttle, A. J. Plant, G. K. Swingle, J. E. La Rue, W. E. Bates. Committee,

Pierce's Journal of the Davisville Campaign

As described in columns 4 and 5, George Pierce kept a journal in which he wrote a few lines each day describing what he did and what happened.

A few years ago, Professor of History Emeritus Richard N. Schwab transcribed these handwritten pages to typescript in digital (Word) format. The UCD Department of Special Collections has made these files available to the public.

We have gone through the Word transcript file for 1905 and reproduced the entry for each day Pierce wrote about the Davisville

campaign. These quotes are assembled in the booklet just below.

In order to provide a wider sense of the journal itself, we quote the *entire entry* for each day there is mention of the State Farm.

We highlight State Farm actions by printing them in red. All other activities are in black print.

In simply flipping through the pages, one sees a great deal of red print spread over most of 1905.

The "Ideal Spot" Booklet

In addition to face-to-face lobbying, one of the Promotion Committee's more important products was a 20 page booklet measuring some five by six inches titled "An Ideal Spot for a University Farm."

Its pages are reproduced and assembled for viewing just below.

Likely written by Pierce and La Rue, the booklet enumerates the virtues of the land being offered.