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*The Henry Stelling Family of Davisville
A Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Mansion Family*

Valerie Vann

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The Henry Stelling Family of Davisville A Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Mansion Family

Valerie Vann

Biographical Note: Valerie Vann is a 50-year resident of the Old North Davis Neighborhood of Davis, California. Her interest in the historical resources of Davis dates back to her high school years, when she admired the diverse architectural styles of Old North, and later watched the clearing of much of the original downtown residential stock in the 60s, followed by the stirrings of historic preservation with the first landmark designations and the efforts to save the Hunt-Boyer Mansion in the late 70s and 80s, and served on the Davis Historical Resources Management Commission 2007-08. She received a BA in Geography from U.C. Berkeley in 1965.

The Henry Stelling family was the third Davisville family associated with the twelve room Italianate Victorian house located at Second and E Streets (now 604 E Street) in Davis, California known as the Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Mansion¹, a Davis City Historical Landmark (1984) also listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1976), and the sole surviving large downtown Davis Victorian residence.

Oddly, the Stellings' association with the Mansion as owner-residents in the period 1887-1899 is largely unknown, figuring in none of the published accounts of the landmark or the standard Davis histories.² This lacuna in the mansion history is perhaps to some extent owing to the absence of a local Davisville newspaper for most of that period³, a problem for all Davisville historians, since information has had to be gleaned from the newspapers of adjacent communities and various public records.

The most extensive coverage of the Stelling family is contained in two long articles from the *Woodland Daily Democrat* newspaper in October 1896, prompted by a family dispute that drew the attention and speculation of their neighbors in the then still small, compact village of Davisville. (The two articles are appended below in their entirety.)⁴

Henry Stelling (c.1841?-??) was a native of Baden in Germany. He and his first wife Maria, or Mary (1852-1886), also a native of Baden, were farmers in the Tremont township of Solano County in 1870. They had a baby daughter, Henrietta. According to the 1870 census, Stelling owned real estate worth \$3000 and personal property of \$1500.⁵

When the 1870 census was conducted in August, the "Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer Mansion" hadn't been built yet. William Dresbach, the Davisville grain and general goods merchant credited with naming the town, had married Isabel Pearce, the daughter of a local British born dentist in May 1870.⁶ Later that year Dresbach bought the first town lot of the four eventually comprising the Mansion property, the second in 1871 and the third lot in 1874.⁷ The Mansion is generally supposed to have been built around 1875.

Dresbachs moved to San Francisco sometime late in 1877, where Dresbach continued his grain merchant business, trading on the San Francisco exchange.⁸ As a result of his speculations in

the grain markets, Dresbach went bankrupt for the first time in 1878, and most of his Davisville properties became tied up in the bankruptcy proceedings. Some of the Davisville properties, including the Mansion, eventually ended up belonging to the Capital Savings Bank of Sacramento after a mortgage foreclosure and forced sale.⁹

By 1880, the Henry Stellings had five children:

Henrietta,	10	(the married daughter of the 1896 family dispute, age 26 in 1896)
Mary	8	(the “Miss May” of 1896, then age 24, still living at home in 1896)
Henry Jr.	4	(age 20 in 1896, possibly not still at home)
Hugo	3	(age 19 in 1896, also possibly not still at home)
Rosa	1	(aka Rosie; age 17 in 1896, probably still at home) ¹⁰

According to the census in June 1880, three generations of the Sessions M. Enos family were apparently already living in the Mansion, along with a live-in servant, although the deed from the Sacramento Capital Savings Bank to S.M. Enos and his son William S. Enos was dated July 29, 1880.¹¹ S.M. Enos was a dairy farmer with property north east of Davisville (the “Tule House”); his son William was a western Yolo county sheep rancher whose wife Cornelia was the daughter of Francis Russell of the eponymous Russell Boulevard in Davis. The younger Enos’ had two young children by 1880.¹²

At this time the Stelling family were still living on the Solano County farm in the Tremont district south of Davis. In addition to the five Stelling children listed above, there were three more girls born after the June 1880 census: Katie (b. 1881 or 82?), Clara (b. Mar. 1884) and Hilda (b. Dec. 1886). Henry Stelling’s first wife Mary died Dec. 1, 1886, and she is buried in Davis cemetery¹³. The dates suggest that Mary Stelling died in childbirth. These last three girls were probably the “three youngest children” of the 1896 articles.

Henry Stelling married again after Mary’s death, but exactly when is unknown. Henry would have been left with eight children under 18, including a newborn. The second wife, Sophia Stelling, was born 1864¹⁴ (hence 20 years younger than Henry). If Henry married her shortly after Mary’s death, Sophia would have been 23 years old, Henry Sr. about 46, the two oldest Stelling daughters 17 and 15, and the eldest son Henry Jr. about 11 years old when their father married again.

It seems likely that soon after Stelling’s second marriage, the family left the farm and moved into town. On November 23, 1887 Henry Stelling bought the DHBM property (which by then consisted of four of the original Davisville plat “lots”, or one quarter of the block bounded by Front, First, Oak and Laurel streets¹⁵) for \$2000 from William S. Enos and his widowed mother, Mrs. S. M. Enos. William Enos had added the southernmost fourth lot (Lot 12) to the property in 1884; Dresbach had only owned the northern three lots.¹⁶ The elder Enos had died in 1884 and the son’s family (William & Cornelia Russel Enos) moved to a ranch in Inyo County near Independence shortly after selling the DHBM property to Stelling and disposing of most of the remaining Enos Yolo County properties.

In 1888 the DHBM property on the earliest Sanborn insurance map¹⁷ is shown with the northern three lots developed, the Mansion occupying the northern two Lots 9 & 10. The tank house with windmill (the main well pump) was located near the south side of Lot 11, with an

outbuilding, possibly a combination storage and outhouse at the southeast corner of the property. Lot 12 was still undeveloped. The map also shows two hydrants in the surrounding grounds, one on each side of the house, presumably to supply the gardens and extensively planted grounds it was notable for in the late 1890s and 1900s. (A 1913 biography of John Hunt implies that the oldest twenty orange trees — of 35 total in 1913 — on the property were planted about 1888, when the Stellings would have been resident.)¹⁸

The 1888 Sanborn map also has a “certificate” attesting to its accuracy¹⁹, signed by four “Ins. agents”; H. Stelling is one of them. This is interesting because a comparison of the improvements on the DHBM property with other properties in town suggests that the water supply system of the Mansion in 1888 probably made it better equipped in case of fire than most of Davisville, including the major commercial buildings and churches.²⁰ By 1891 the Sanborn map shows that the southernmost Lot 12 had been developed as a corral with stable and other outbuildings, along with the brick rainwater cistern near the back porch of the house, indicating essentially a “state of the art” Victorian residential water supply system during the Stelling period.²¹

Beginning in April of 1891, the *Woodland Democrat* newspaper carried a series of articles describing Henry Stelling as a grain buyer, reporting that he had purchased a lot in north Davisville along the railroad, intending to erect a large (60 x 200 feet) iron warehouse, and other property. (The population of Davis was also “guessed” at 625 souls in the article.) For some reason Stelling was unable to build the new warehouse, but by July 1891 he had bought the “old Granger” warehouse and scales, and was making improvements to them, including roofing the scales and adding a 50-foot extension on to the warehouse, making it capable of storing 6,000 tons of grain.²²

In April 1883 Stelling also purchased an office in a prime location on Davisville’s main business block,²³ Olive (G) Street between First and Second (now 2nd and 3rd Streets).

The Stelling children figured in various news reports from 1893; e.g. two of the younger girls completed exams at the Davisville Public School in May, and teenagers Henry Jr. and Hugo and friends went bicycling up to Knights Landing that summer.²⁴ (The article and ads in the paper called the bicycles “wheels.” The ads show the modern style of bicycle with the wheels the same size.)

Sophia Stelling, Henry Stelling’s second wife, died Aug. 25 1895, and was also buried in the Davisville cemetery. There were apparently no children from this second marriage.

Beginning in December 1895 with a report that Henry Jr. had “killed about three dozen robins yesterday,” the *Woodland Daily Democrat* regularly carried articles of the eldest Stelling son’s exploits as a local marksman, entering competitions and issuing challenges to other area trap shooters and hunters.²⁵ (Henry Jr. was the son said to have threatened his father in the family dispute of 1896; his reputation as the local sharpshooter would have added spice to the local gossip.)

By 1896 Henry Jr. (age 20) and brother Hugo (19) apparently worked in, or were frequently around their father’s grain warehouse, since they testified in February 1896 about details of the warehouse business in a criminal case involving a theft of sacks from the warehouse.²⁶ (The

thieves had been spotted by the local constable loitering around the warehouse, and had attempted to sell the stolen sacks in Woodland.)

Also in February 1896, Henry Stelling Sr. married for the third time, a young woman in her twenties named Bertha, like Stelling a native of Germany. The marriage may have taken place in San Francisco. (Certainty is complicated by Henry Sr.'s age being variously given in the available documents, and that the names were common among German immigrants.)²⁷

Stelling continued to make improvements to his warehouse that summer.²⁸

In late September and early October 1896, however, the *Democrat* "Davisville Doings" column reported a "startling" rumor that Stelling had sold out his entire properties, including "a fine residence built by Dresbach," the "Granger warehouse" and his Olive Street office, to one "Jno. Reith." The rumor of sale however turned out to be wrong. The articles mentioned that the Mansion had been built by William Dresbach at a cost of \$10-14,000.²⁹

The family dispute in October 1896 is the next report of the family (see Appendix). Note that in 1896 Davisville was still a very compact small town, and the Mansion was in the first residential area of town, just west of the tiny business district on Olive Street. The George Webers (Weber was the proprietor of a Davisville saloon) lived just across the street. The dispute occurred in early Fall, when people would still be using their porches and having their windows open in the mornings & evenings for ventilation. Consequently the neighbors and probably much of the town overheard or witnessed the goings on of the apparently noisy family dispute, taking sides and gossiping about it.

The exact facts of the matter can't be known, as only the senior Stelling couple (with Mrs. Bertha Stelling as the spokesperson) were afforded a rebuttal on the record. Her account may have been sympathetically colored by the newspaper, which by then – judging by the second report's somewhat self-serving tone – was either ashamed of its earlier lurid reporting, afraid of a libel action, or both.

The three "little" children in question were probably Katie (15 or 16), Clara (12) and Hilda (9). Rosie & Katie Stelling had attended the Davisville Public School in 1892-93, but Rosie would have been 17 or 18 in 1896 and probably would have no longer been in school.³⁰

As the proposed curriculum of arts and music at St. Josephs Academy in the articles indicates, it was a girls' school, one of the premier academies of Sacramento, operated by the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy, a far cry from an "asylum" as suggested in the 1896 articles.³¹ Nor was the \$65 tuition trivial for the time. The point made in the Stellings' rebuttal that the children were not to receive religious instruction indicates that the Stellings were not Roman Catholic. The idea that a "rich man" like Stelling should not send his children away to a boarding school rather than "care for them at home" is perhaps indicative of the parochial small town Davisville culture of the time.

In late November 1897, Stelling's Davisville properties apparently were briefly offered for sale, and Henry Sr. and Bertha Stelling moved to San Francisco about that time, where Stelling, like William Dresbach, was a speculative grain broker. He apparently continued to retain the Davisville properties for income, visiting town occasionally, until finally advertising

them for sale in early 1899 in an ad that expressed Stelling's desire "to leave the town," presumably meaning close out all connection with Davisville entirely, as he no longer resided there.³²

Who, if anyone, occupied the Mansion between 1897-99 is unknown, as is the part the family dispute between the adult children and the new young Mrs. Stelling may have played in the senior Stelling's move to San Francisco. At any rate, the family seems to have broken up shortly thereafter, with all the children remaining in the Davisville vicinity.

Henry Jr. stayed in Davisville, and Hugo apparently did also.³³ Perhaps the brothers occupied the Mansion and looked after the Davisville properties, including the grain warehouse. Henry Jr.'s shooting exploits continued to be reported in the Woodland paper until May 1898, when he also reportedly decided to move to San Francisco to further his marksman career, where he seems to have become something of a "pro" as a lieutenant and later captain of a team at one of the San Francisco shooting clubs. Although never seeming to reach really top rank, he was frequently listed in competition reports of the shooting clubs (*San Francisco Schuetzen Verein* and *Germania Schuetzen Club*) associated with the local German *Bunds*, and other East Bay groups through at least 1904.³⁴

The eldest daughter Henrietta had married a Davisville farmer, William Baker, around 1891; they had two sons: Godfrey (1892) and Hubert (1897). The Stelling daughter Clara (16) was living with her sister Henrietta Baker in Davisville in 1900 and attending school. Henrietta died between 1900 and 1910; her husband and sons continued running the farm through 1920 at least.³⁵

The other five girls seem to have stayed in the area as well after the senior Stellings moved to San Francisco, perhaps in the Mansion, or with their sister Henrietta. Possibly some of the younger girls did go to school in Sacramento after all, for in the 1900 census records, May (or Mary, then 27, still unmarried), the daughter who was still living at home in 1896, and two other Stelling girls, Rosie (21, also unmarried) and Hilda (13) were "lodgers" with the family of George and Nellie Manning on W Street in Sacramento. Hilda Stelling, the youngest child, was still attending school; the older girls had no listed occupation. Manning was an upholsterer; there seems to have been no family connection between Mannings and Stellings.³⁶

How these three girls were situated financially is unknown; however a January 1900 deed³⁷ suggests that they may have been supported by income from the Davisville Baker farm. In this deed, Henry and Bertha Stelling of San Francisco deeded to the Stelling children Etta (Henrietta, Mrs. William H. Baker), Mary (May), Henry Jr., Hugo, Rosie, Clara and Hilda joint ownership of farm land formerly belonging to W. W. Montgomery, with the stipulation that the land be leased by William Baker, the husband of the oldest daughter Henrietta. The implication is that the Baker farm and orchard operation would provide income for the other children. Daughter Katie is not listed, and was probably deceased by 1900.³⁸

At about the same time, Stelling, Sr. also transferred his Davisville Olive Street office property to the eldest son, Henry Jr.

The DHBM property was finally offered for sale in 1898 and 1899. The Enterprise display ad in March 1899 included a small figure of a two story house, that while not an actual depiction

of the Mansion, indicated an imposing structure. The description emphasized the amenities of the property:

“..1 two-story house with large out buildings, barn and windmill (water pipes throughout house and grounds) .. The dwelling is one of the finest in Davisville and cost originally \$10,000.”³⁹

On 25 March 1899 Henry and Bertha Stelling sold the DHBM property for \$2250 to Frank and Jennie Hunt, the proprietors of the Hunt Hotel on Olive Street.⁴⁰ The newspaper reports of the sale called it the “Stelling mansion on the corner of First and Laurel Sts.,” and mentioned that John Hunt was having the trees and shrubbery on the property trimmed, was “making improvements” and generally putting the property in order, implying that the grounds at least had not been well cared for after Stellings moved to San Francisco. It was however described as “a very fine two-story building” that “cost, with the lot and accessories \$10,000 some years ago.” The article speculated that the selling price had been between \$4-5,000.⁴¹ (The advertisement had stated that the properties were being offered for “50 cents on the dollar.”)

Frank Hunt, who apparently never lived in the DHBM, sold it to his widowed brother John Hunt that summer for a nominal \$10 “in gold coin” (a common convention of the time for intra-family property transfers).⁴²

In March 1901, John Hunt also purchased Stelling’s office between First and Second (now 2nd & 3rd) streets on Olive (G) Street for \$800, and J. H. Oeste bought Stelling’s 5 acre orchard north of his warehouse.⁴³ The John Hunt family became the last to use the Mansion as a residence; Hunt’s daughters Josephine Hunt and Mary Hunt Boyer occupied the house until their respective deaths in 1950 and 1973.

The San Francisco April 25, 1910 census lists a thirty-five year old woman who may have been Bertha Stelling (Mrs. Henry Sr.): German ancestry, immigrated 1889, speaking English language, able to read and write. Although the woman is reported as having been married for fourteen years (i.e. in 1896; childless), she was living alone at the time of the census, and is recorded as owning outright the home on Hyde Street in a middle class neighborhood; she had no listed occupation.

Thus the Stelling family faded from Davisville history, the last confirmed “sightings” being of the girls in the Sacramento and Davisville 1900 census, of Henry Jr. in the San Francisco sporting pages 1900-04, and the senior Stellings in the 1900 and 1910⁴⁴ land transfers. The family’s material contributions to the Davisville scene have also faded: the “Granger warehouse” and scales are gone,⁴⁵ and while much of the most important infrastructure of the Mansion remains, including the ornate tank house (“windmill”), brick cistern and citrus trees, it is not known with certainty which of these were developed during the Stelling era 1887-99. They, and perhaps the 10 remaining orange trees, are the only surviving witnesses of the spectacular 1896 family uproar; but unlike the Stellings’ Davisville neighbors, they’re not telling.

Davis Cemetery Stelling Family Plot Monument

(Photos courtesy Dennis Dingemans)



Both First & Second Stelling wives' markers on two sides of monument (the other sides are blank)



First Wife Mary Stelling
"Wife of H. STELLING
Died Dec. 1, 1886
Aged 38 Yrs. 11 Mos & 1 Day."



Second Wife Sophia Stelling
"Beloved Wife Of HENRY
STELLING Died Aug. 25, 1895
Aged 31 years 11 days"

Appendix – The October 1896 Family Dispute

Woodland Daily Democrat

1896 Oct 19

DAVISVILLE SENSATION

*The Citizens Threaten H. Stelling With
Violent Treatment*

*The Trouble Has All Grown Out of Al-
leged Mistreatment of Children By
His First Wife [sic].*

At a late hour this afternoon word came to the Democrat office from Davisville, to the effect that one of the leading citizens of that place had been given a stated time in which to leave or else do better on pain of being treated to a coat of tar and feathers.

H. Stelling and family are responsible for this the latest sensation, and the trouble dates back for four or five months.

Mr. Stelling has been married three times, his latest venture being only a few months ago. By his first wife he had a large family of children some of which are grown.

There has been trouble in the family, the children alleging they have been mistreated by their father. These complaints have reached the ears of the people and much indignation has been expressed in consequence.

It is reported that a few weeks ago Stelling took three of his smallest children and put them in an asylum. There was considerable talk about this, people believing that as he is rich he ought to take care of his children at home.

Matters reached a climax today. A row occurred in the Stelling home, and all the family appeared to take a hand. The tumult became so loud that the whole neighborhood was attracted.

The streets were soon crowded with excited people, and a barrel of tar was procured and rolled out for use.

After the disturbance was temporarily

quelled Stelling went to his office. There he was waited upon by a crowd of citizens who informed him that unless he left or promised to do better in twelve hours, he would be treated to a coat of tar and feathers.

Henry Stelling, Jr. has threatened to kill his father unless he stopped his ill-treatment and came to some satisfactory terms.

Stelling told the citizens that he would bring the little children home from the asylum, and he and his wife took the afternoon train for Sacramento to get the children.

After his departure the crowd began to disperse, and there will be no further trouble tonight, but it is the general opinion that more trouble will follow within the next few days.

Woodland Daily Democrat

1896 Oct 21 p 3

The Other Side

Henry Stelling and Wife Deny Statements Made About Them.

A few days ago an article, based upon information furnished by citizens of Davisville, appeared in these columns, in which it was stated the people of that town had threatened Henry Stelling with violence unless he accorded better treatment to his children.

The information as it came to us contained intimation that Mr Stelling was influenced to mistreat his children by his young wife, and there was the further intimation that she has been using her absolute control over him to estrange him from his children and to compel them to seek an asylum among strangers.

Mr. and Mrs. Stelling called at the DEMOCRAT office today and requested

the names of our informants, which, of course, under rules recognized in all well-regulated newspaper offices, we could not divulge. They stated that the article contained many errors and was calculated to do them great injustice.

Mrs. Stelling, who did most of the talking, is a very bright and prepossessing young woman. She is a German by birth, has the air of a woman of culture and converses in a manner calculated to impress one with her sincerity.

She stated that the whole trouble has grown out of the opposition of Mr. Stelling's grown-up children by a former wife to her marriage to their father. One of his daughters is married to William Bakar [*sic. Baker*]. Another daughter, Miss May, is 25 years of age and was residing with her father at the time of his last marriage.

Mrs. Stelling says this daughter resented her appearance in the Steilling home the first day of her marriage, and offered her the grossest insults and indignities on the following morning. She charges that Miss May has lost no opportunity to poison the minds of the neighbors against her and that she has conceived a violent dislike to both of her parents. She also charges that she has so misrepresented and abused her in the presence of the little children that she finds it almost a hopeless task to win their love.

She says her only complaint against some of her neighbors is that they accept the words of prejudiced children and condemn her without giving her a hearing, or visiting her house to see if there is any foundation for their charges.

Since their marriage eight months ago, Mrs. Stelling insists that she has patiently borne insults, misrepresentations and indignities, hoping by forbearance, kindness and a spirit of forgiveness to win the love of the children,

which she earnestly desires.

She says that when the eldest [sic] daughter charged that there was a desire to make a slave of her, she was told that a girl would be employed and she need not work. To this she demurred and asked that she be permitted to do the work and be paid the wages that would be paid to a girl, and that in accordance with her wishes was allowed \$18 a month.

She insists that she has made an earnest effort to become reconciled with Miss May, and that on the day of her marriage her husband made his daughter a present of \$100.

In reference to taking the three small children to Sacramento, she makes the following explanation. The daughter frequently reproached her father for not giving her a better education and she concluded that, in order that she might not be reproached with neglect of the smaller children, she would give them a good education. After consulting with her husband they decided to put them in the St. Joseph's school in Sacramento.

She agreed to pay \$65 a month and the conditions were that the children were to be taught two languages, music, painting and other accomplishments. Another condition was that they were not to receive any religious instruction. She thought she was doing the little children a great kindness and one that would please the older brothers and sisters.

The trouble occurred when they were arranging to ship the children's clothing to Sacramento. The two eldest daughters and one of the sons came along and the son requested to speak to the father. Mrs Stelling charges that the daughter (sic), without any provocation, rushed up and struck her in the back and also in the face. It was this collision that attracted the crowd that

quickly gathered around them.

The neighbors threatened violence unless the children were brought home, and Mr. and Mrs. Stelling accordingly went after them. Both of them declare that there is no such feeling of the son toward the father as would influence him to resort to violence.

Mrs. Stelling declares that she is misunderstood, misrepresented and maligned because people will not come to her home and investigate for themselves. She has attended to her domestic duties, kept the books, attended to all the correspondence and weighed the grain, for three months, and at the same time found leisure to make the children fifteen dresses. She says she will overlook and forgive everything if she can only win the love and respect of her children, and she very earnestly desires a peaceful and happy home.

Notes

¹ Hereafter “the Mansion” or abbreviated “DHBM.” The five families are Dresbach, Enos, Stelling, Hunt & Boyer. The Mansion with about a fifth of the original grounds is currently owned by the City of Davis. The complete DHBM property consisted of Lots 9, 10, 11 & 12 of Block 1, Range D of the original Davisville 1868 town plat. The town lots were originally divided among the “founders”; John P. Jackson owned Lots 9-11, DWC Rice owned Lot 12.

² For example, Larkey’s classic *Davisville 1968* centennial history makes no mention of the Stelling family. City files from the Davis Historical and Landmarks Commission (now the Historical Resources Management Commission) from the late 1970s and 80s note the ownership transfers from Enos to Stelling, and Stelling to Hunt, based apparently on information from a title search, but seem to have been unaware that the Stelling family ever lived in the Mansion. A Mar. 29, 1992 *Davis Enterprise* article, when the house was used for UC Davis offices, noting that S. M. Enos sold it to “Henry Stelling of Solano Co.,” seems similarly unaware. Since the deeds and 1899 *Enterprise* notice of the sale to John Hunt were apparently the sole sources on the Stelling connection, perhaps researchers were misled by the fact that the Enos-Stelling deed identifies Stelling as a resident of Solano County, and in the Stelling-Hunt deed as a resident of San Francisco, implying absentee ownership.

³ *The Davisville Advertiser* expired May 7, 1870 (just before Wm. Dresbach’s marriage); the *Enterprise* commenced Nov. 18, 1898, after the Stellings had left Davisville. A second major handicap for researchers in this period is the loss of all the 1890 Census records in a National Archives fire.

⁴ *Woodland Daily Democrat* Oct 19 & 21, 1896. See Appendix for full text of the articles.

⁵ U. S. Census 1870, California, Solano County, Tremont District.

⁶ *The Western Shore Gazetteer and Commercial Directory, For the State of California, Yolo County*, C. P. Sprague & H. W. Atwell, Woodland, Yolo County, 1870. Marriages in Yolo County (1850 through 1870.)

⁷ Yolo County Archives, land records: Book L Page 102, Book L page 106, Book R page 7.

⁸ *San Francisco Call*, Jun. 29, 1901, front page. Dresbach obituary. Dresbach was also a “forwarding agent:” he purchased grain directly from farmers or on the Exchange, and contracted shipping from San Francisco Bay ports (Port Costa and San Francisco) to overseas markets (Cork, Liverpool, Antwerp, La Havre, Hamburg, Rotterdam). Along with the market reports of the price of grain paid, Dresbach’s shipping contracts were regularly reported in newspapers from Oregon and Reno, Nev. to Fresno.

⁹ In addition to the Dresbach bankruptcy, the DHMB Davisville lots were involved in legal disputes among the original founding owners of Davisville, including a couple of estate settlements, up through the mid 1880s. According to a February 1879 report on the first Dresbach bankruptcy in the *Fresno Republican*, Fresno, “The liabilities of Dresbach & Co., grain dealers, who recently failed, amounts to \$1,014,907.98, assets, \$600,441.37.”

¹⁰ U. S. Census 1880, California, Solano County, Tremont District.

¹¹ U. S. Census 1880, California, Yolo County, Putah District, Davisville town.

The Enos paid the bank \$5000 for the DHBM property (Lots 9, 10, 11). Wm. Enos, the son, bought the undeveloped Lot 12 in 1884 from the estate of DWC Rice, one of the original Davisville developers, for \$50. Yolo Co. archives, 28 Deeds 344; 37 Deeds 484.

On the 1880-81 tax rolls, the improvements on Lots 9-11 were assessed at \$3500, S.M. Enos, owner. (Yolo County archives; research by Virginia Isaacs, 2006)

¹² Gilbert, *Illustrated Atlas of Yolo Co.*, 1879. Biographical entry for William S. Enos, which indicates that the younger Enos family was still living on their sheep ranch northwest of Winters on the present day Enos Creek at the time the book was compiled in 1879; the infant Mallory (b. 1879) was listed.

¹³ Davis Cemetery records: Mary E. Stelling 1852/12/29 1886/12/01, and the Stelling family plot monument inscription. The children's birth dates are from the 1900 Census, which reported month and year as well as age.

¹⁴ Davis Cemetery records: Sophia Stelling 1864/08/10 1895/08/25 and the Stelling family plot monument inscription.

¹⁵ Now called First, Second, E and F streets.

¹⁶ The mansion sits on the northernmost 2 lots (Lots 9 & 10); the southernmost Lot 12 became the corral with stable, etc.— mostly likely developed by Henry Stelling — and later a garage.

¹⁷ Sanborn Insurance Map Company, Davisville Map 1888, sheet 1 of 2.

¹⁸ Gregory, Thomas, *History of Yolo County with Biographical Sketches*. Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, 1913. The description of the DHBM house & grounds in the biography of John Hunt; states that the first 25 orange trees were planted circa 1888, implying that the Stelling's planted them.

¹⁹ Sanborn Map 1888, sheet 1 of 2: "*Certificate - We the undersigned Ins. Agents having examined this Sanborn Map of Davisville Cal. find it a correct Survey & worthy the support of our co's.* [signed] James O'Neal, H Stelling, W.G Bullard, Ligget Drummond"

²⁰ Valerie Vann, *Windmills, Tank Houses & Related in Davisville, 1888*. 2006. Web publication, <http://www.davishistoricalsociety.org> Folder 1.2.2. Farming, 1872-90

²¹ Sanborn Insurance Map Company, Davisville Map 1891 sheet 3 of 5.

²² *Woodland Daily Democrat*, April 9, 1891. *Winters Express* ("Davisville Notes" & "Real Estate Transfers"), May 9, 1891; June 20, July 11, 1891.

For comparison, an 1883 Fresno County tax assessment on Wm. Dresbach for stored grain – probably for shipment to San Francisco, valued 5783 tons of wheat at about \$115,000. *Fresno Republican*, Fresno, Feb. 3, 1883.

The "Granger Warehouse," as it continued to be called, remained in use for decades; known as the "A.J. Plant Warehouse" in the 1910s-40s, it was located south of Sixth Street where Sixth deadends at the railroad. The lot is now occupied by Hibbert's lumber yard.

²³ Yolo Co. records, 38 Deeds 278

²⁴ *Woodland Daily Democrat*, May 31, 1893; July 17, 1893

²⁵ Beginning with the report in the *Daily Democrat* of Dec. 9, 1895 and continuing until Henry, Jr. moved to San Francisco; e.g. *Daily Democrat*, Apr 10, 1896; Sep 20, 27, Nov 22, 28, Dec 6, 31, 1887; Jan 3, 1898. Why robins were considered a suitable game bird isn't explained; perhaps they were numerous enough to be considered a pest in the orchards.

²⁶ *Woodland Daily Democrat*, Feb. 1 & 5, 1896.

²⁷ *San Francisco Call*: marriage licenses 1896; Bertha Rossbach 23, and Henry Stelling 45. *Woodland Daily Democrat* Oct 21, 1896. The wife's name Bertha appears on later deeds with Henry Sr.

²⁸ *Woodland Daily Democrat*, Jun. 1, 1896

²⁹ *Woodland Daily Democrat*, Sep. 7 and Oct. 11, 1897

³⁰ *Woodland Daily Democrat* ("Davisville news"): "School Report Average of Final Examination in the Davisville Public School 1893." May 31, 1893. Hilda, the youngest Stelling child would have been in first grade at most in 1892-93; perhaps only the upper grades had exams.

³¹ At least two of the "little children" of the Democrat article, Katie & Clara, were not "little" by today's standards: St. Josephs Academy was a high school after 1875. *History of Sacramento Co., Willis, 1913*; Sacramento Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy Congregational History <http://www.mercy150.org/history.htm>.

Resolution by California State Senate on the 150 anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy SCR 99Amended, Feb.24, 2006 (The original Sisters of Mercy school site in Sacramento was sold to the State of California in 1860 for the Capitol site; they then opened St. Josephs Academy at 7th & G streets in Sacramento.)

³² *Woodland Daily Democrat*, Nov. 29, Dec. 13, 1897.

³³ The author has found no trace of Katie Stelling beyond the 1893 school report unless she was, as assumed, one of the three girls sent to St. Josephs in 1896, as Rosie was probably out of school by 1896. Katie apparently died before January 1900. See note No. 38.

³⁴ *San Francisco Call*; numerous issues Mar. 1900 – Oct. 1904

³⁵ U.S. Census 1900, 1910, 1920, Yolo County, Davisville.

³⁶ U.S. Census 1900, 1910, Sacramento & Sonoma Counties. The Mannings had moved to Petaluma by 1910, where he is listed as a furniture salesman.

³⁷ Yolo Co. records, 59 Deeds 67; 58 Records 537.

³⁸ See note 33. This deed is also the last trace of Hugo Stelling the author has found.

³⁹ *Davisville Enterprise*, Mar. 31, 1899

⁴⁰ Yolo Co. records; 56 Deeds 37; \$1000 down payment, remaining in 18 payments. 58 Deeds 537 records that the balance of \$1250 was actually paid in full Nov. 23, 1899 .

The census records for Davisville 1870-1900 indicate that the families of hotel keepers usually lived at the hotel, along with most of the service personnel, especially the single ones.

⁴¹ *Enterprise* article Mar. 31, 1899, p. 3, col. 1; ad on p. 2, col. 5.

Although the newspaper reports of the Mansion purchase and grounds work by John Hunt indicated that he intended to live in it , that appears to have been speculation, as the sale to his brother John followed shortly.

⁴² Yolo Co. records, 56 Deeds 368.

John Hunt had previously farmed west of Davisville in the 1870's, but had returned to live in Bristol, Kenosha Co., Wisconsin some time before 1880, returning to Davisville with his four adult children around late 1899 or early 1900, where he purchased the 348 acre Oak Shade Orchard southeast of the railroad "Y" at

Davisville. Gregory, *History of Yolo County with Biographical Sketches*, 1913. U.S. Census 1880, Wisconsin, Kenosha Co.; 1900, 10, 20, California, Yolo Co., Davis town.

⁴³ *Enterprise* Apr. 21, 1899. Letter from Stelling in San Francisco to the *Enterprise* editor discontinuing the orchard “for sale” ad because of the sale to Oeste. The office property sale is curious, because Henry Sr. transferred title to Henry Jr. in 1900, the deed to John Hunt is apparently from Henry Sr., and there is a quit claim from Henry Jr. in 1910 to his father, possibly in order to clear the Hunt title.

⁴⁴ Yolo Co. land records, Sep. 15, 1910, H. Stelling, Jr. to H. Stelling, Sr.

⁴⁵ See Note 22.

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