

**NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY 2020 MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: JULY 16, 2020

TIME: XX PM

These notes summarize information that was planned to be presented at the July 16, 2020 Business Meeting of the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) Board of Directors, and the activities discussion for the organization. These notes include updates as of July 28, 2020. The meeting was canceled in advance due to concerns about the novel coronavirus and resulting state and local restrictions on gatherings.

The next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY August 20, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m.** in a second-floor meeting room at Grace Lutheran Church **WILL NOT OCCUR**. We will monitor state and local guidance, Grace Lutheran Church, and the opinion of the NPHS Board regarding when it might be appropriate to resume our public meetings this year.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

We hope all our members and friends are staying safe and healthy.

2. AGENDA REVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The latest Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletters will be circulated for viewing at the next possible meeting. The July 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News was Part 3 of a series about historic street names in San Diego (see the last pages of this summary).

3. MINUTES ACCEPTANCE

The meeting summary from the canceled June 18, 2020 meeting has been posted on the website.

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The financials for the period of June 17 to July 16, 2020 were sent to Board Members on July 16. During this period, three members renewed (thank you Randi, Judy and Christine!). Two renewing members gave additional donations (thank you, Randi and Judy!). Total income in this period was \$130. Expenses in this time period totaled \$1,250. These were the grant funds dedicated to the Water Tower art project. We had to return the grant funds to the County because we were not able to complete the project as the art site (fence at the water tower) became unavailable.

ACTIVITIES PORTION OF MEETING

5. UPDATE ON PLAQUE FOR WATER TOWER

Coordination with City Public Utilities Department staff regarding the feasibility of placing the plaque in a boulder or some kind of low wall next to the two-story building at the Water Tower site is pending return to some kind of normalcy.

6. UPDATE ON COUNTY COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

We never received a response from multiple attempts to contact County staff regarding the question of if we could apply the remaining \$1,250 from the 2019-2020 grant for water tower art to placement of the plaque. Therefore, in compliance with the deadlines in our contract, we

returned the funds when we submitted our final report documenting how other grant funds were expended for the last Car Show.

7. NORTH PARK MINI PARK PAVER PROGRAM

Update: The NPHS Board of Directors considered participating in the Paver Program for the North Park Mini Park now under construction behind the North Park Theatre via an email discussion on July 23-24. The sponsoring organization, the North Park Business and Neighborhood Foundation, is a 501C3 and therefore, purchase of a personalized paver is tax deductible. Funds raised will help obtain improvements to the mini park including a movie screen, maintenance, music and other amenities such as tables, chairs, games and organized activities for all ages. These special enhancements will not occur through the City and must be funded by the community. A flyer for the program is below. The link to more information is: <http://www.northparkminipark.com/>

The NPHS Board unanimously approved purchasing an 8-inch by 8-inch paver with our organization logo and our name NORTH PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The paver has been ordered.

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NORTH PARK

Mini Park

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"ORDER YOUR PERSONALIZED PAVER TODAY!"

Celebrate your love for North Park for years to come by purchasing a personalized paver at NORTH PARK MINIPARK.com

8. PLANNING FOR PAULY'S ADDITION WALKING TOUR

The team has developed a route, photo notebook and draft guide notes focusing on the southern part of Pauly's Addition from Dwight to Upas and Alabama to Texas streets. All walking tours are pending return to some kind of normalcy.

9. EVALUATIONS OF HISTORIC HOMES AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In July, we did not evaluate any homes. However, we did respond to several requests for information as summarized below.

1. William asked: "I currently reside in Los Angeles but I grew up in San Diego in particular the neighborhood of North Park. Part of this project is learning more about the area north of University Avenue on 30th St. the businesses that have come and gone the traffic improvements as well as any statistics that might be on file or microfilm somewhere."
2. Susan asked: "I live in a historical Mills Act home on 28th St. I am looking for resources that might have old photos of my home. Can you recommend resources to help with this?"
3. Bethany said: "I would just like to say a quick word of thanks! As a youth services librarian and educator, I've been running a fun beginner's historic research class online over the last few months during this difficult time with school's being out and social distancing, and I thought you all might enjoy hearing that we were able to get some great use out of your historical society's website and research resource links list. We were even able to use some of this information for a mini-project last week. Thanks so much for sharing!"
4. Andrew asked: "I am a relatively new resident of North Park (4 years) and am stoked to find out about the historical society. Since moving here my son and I have had fun finding horse shoes (of the kind worn by horses) while digging in your back yard and imagining what it was like when the trolley system ran. The reason I'm writing is that I am interested in learning more about the history (old deeds, permits) of my particular corner of North Park ... and could likely use some pointers for finding more information."
5. John and Joanne asked: "Hello. We have enjoyed the articles in the Uptown News about the Alphabetical Street Names. It has led us to talk again about the unknown (to us) origins of our street - Grim Avenue in North Park! Do you have any advice on finding out where the name came from and why some street signs say Grim Ave and some say Grim St?"

10. COMMUNITY COORDINATION

Gregg Schloss of A&B Sporting Goods shared some photos and brochures from Toyland Parades and other events during the 1960s, which Katherine scanned. Past meeting summaries have presented some of these scans. Here is a newspaper clipping of Deanna Anderson, 1965's Miss North Park, in an October 1965 parade that was supporting a proposal for a multipurpose stadium in Mission Valley.



The July 2020 PastMatters column in Uptown News presented Part 3 of a series about San Diego street names. More than 250 street names were changed by a single ordinance in 1900 to correct many name duplications. Replacement street names in the ordinance were provided by Louis Jackson Davids, the relatively new city engineer who was discussed in Part 1 in the May 2020 issue of Uptown News. July's Part 3 discussed the names of military heroes in La Playa and scientists and engineers in La Jolla and Clairemont/Bay Park that Davids provided and still exist in these neighborhoods. See the last pages of these notes for that article. Future PastMatters columns will discuss original street names in North Park, so stay tuned!

11. UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Information regarding future events in 2020 is summarized below.

- Table in Lobby at San Diego History Center: August 2020. Before public health restrictions were implemented, the History Center offered us another opportunity to display in August, when Katherine was scheduled to give a Tuesday Talk on "North Park and How it Grew." Considering the latest surges in the number of COVID19 cases, this opportunity is not likely to be offered nor would we do it.
- Festival of the Arts: At this time, North Park Main Street has postponed this event. Due to reasons not related to the current pandemic, the NPHS Board decided at the November 2019 meeting to skip exhibiting at the Festival of the Arts in 2020.
- Presentations for the Community: We have typically arranged for an outside speaker to make a free presentation in May, and had a few people in mind who could be quite interesting. Given the current public health crisis, we will wait until it is safe to gather in groups before arranging a community meeting, which likely means waiting for a safe and effective vaccine, so may not occur until 2021.

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Prepared by



Katherine Hon
Secretary, North Park Historical Society

Heroes and scientists

San Diego street names: Part three of the series

PastMatters

KATHERINE HON

As discussed in earlier PastMatters columns, Ordinance No. 755 adopted May 21, 190 changed the original names of more than 250 streets in San Diego. This ordinance eliminated duplication and achieved some continuity where street names changed from tract to tract.

The source of replacement names in Ordinance No. 755 was Louis Jackson Davids, the relatively new city engineer. He noted in his transmittal memorandum to the Board of Public Works that his suggestions for new street names were "taken from natural objects (trees, flowers etc.) or from men celebrated in Science, Literature, Statesmanship, War etc.; care being taken to maintain alphabetical order."

These celebrated gentlemen include military heroes in La Playa and scientists in La Jolla and Clairemont/Bay Park.

LA PLAYA'S MILITARY HEROES

The Point Loma neighborhood of La Playa — which began where ships first landed at the southern end of the peninsula — appropriately gained street names reflect-

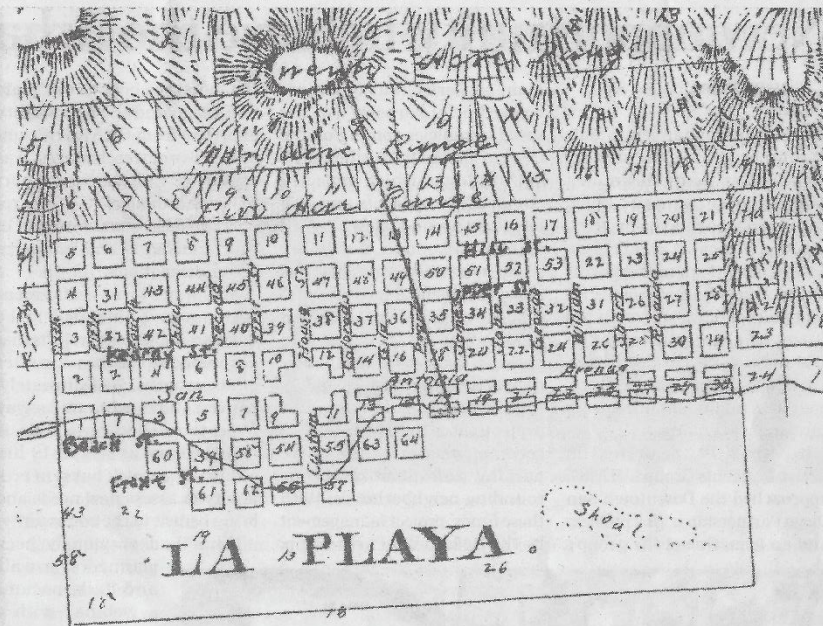
ing historic naval heroes with Ordinance No. 755. McCall, Nichols, Owen, Perry, Qualtrough and Rogers. These names replaced Pearl, James, John, George, William, Short, Ricardo and two unnamed streets, respectively.

On these streets, the theme of naval heroes continues. For example, Captain James Lawrence (1781-1813) commanded the USS Chesapeake in the War of 1812 and was mortally wounded in a battle with the British Royal Navy frigate Shannon. His dying command — "Don't give up the ship" — was immortalized on the battle flag of his friend and fellow naval hero Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry (1785-1819), who was well regarded for his success in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie.

Commodore Perry's younger brother, Matthew Calbraith Perry (1794-1858), also achieved commodore rank. He commanded the USS Shark, on which he sailed to Key West to plant the U.S. flag and claim the land as a U.S. Territory after Florida was transferred to the U.S. He became famous for helping open Japan to U.S. influence. The younger Perry served under his brother and several other officers honored with street names by City Engineer Davids, including William Bainbridge, Stephen Decatur and John Rodgers, which was spelled "Rogers" in Ordinance No. 755.

Matthew Perry named the Key West harbor "Port Rodgers" in 1822 for John Rodgers (1772-1838), who commanded the USS President during the War of 1812 and fired the first shot of the war. Rodgers later served as president of the Board of Navy Commissioners and as Secretary of the Navy.

Davids provided an alphabetical series of hero names starting with A through G to replace streets numbered First through Sixth plus Custom House Street on an early La Playa map, but those original streets were south of the Fort Rosecrans Military Reservation boundary and never implemented.



On this map of La Playa compiled by Charles H. Poole in 1854, the current military reservation boundary is approximated with a diagonal line drawn by La Playa historian Tom Kettenburg. Most of the streets south of the boundary were never implemented, although a map like this appears to be what City Engineer Louis Davids used for his street name changes in 1900. (Courtesy of Tom Kettenburg)

Davids suggested the street names Admiral, Bainbridge, Chauncey, Decatur, Emmons, Farragut and Goldsborough.

Commodores William Bainbridge (1774-1833), Isaac Chauncey (1772-1840) and Stephen Decatur (1779-1820) served in the War of 1812; these street names can be seen in what is now Liberty Station and was

previously the Naval Training Center. David Farragut (1801-1870) — a Civil War hero who was the first person to hold the ranks of vice admiral, rear admiral and full admiral in the U.S. Navy — is also honored with a street in Liberty Station.

The street name Goldsborough is gone in San Diego. City Engineer Davids may have wanted to honor

Louis M. Goldsborough (1805-1877) — who was promoted to rear admiral in 1862 during the Civil War and commanded the Washington Navy Yard from 1868 to 1873 — or the officer's younger brother, John R. Goldsborough (1809-1877). John Goldsborough was captain of the USS Union, USS Florida and USS Colorado during

SEE STREETS, Page 15

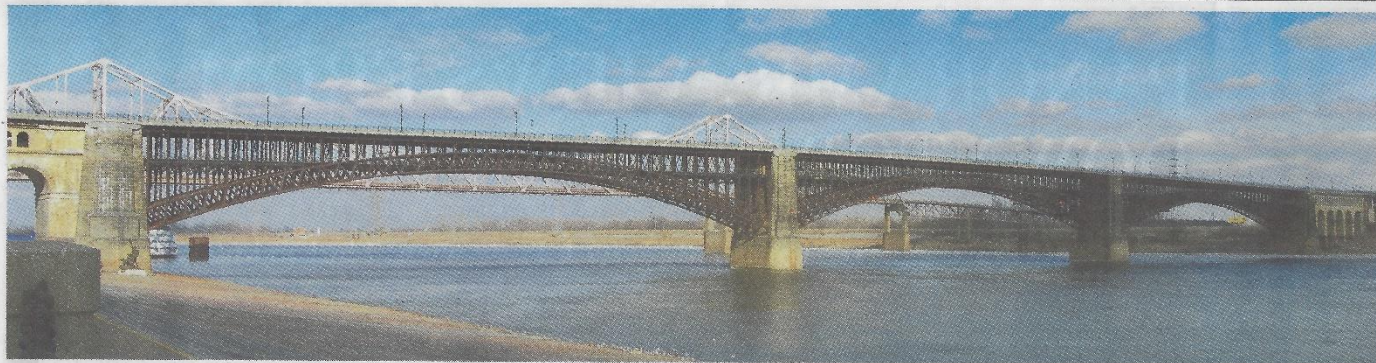
ing historic naval heroes with Ordinance No. 755.

A remnant of Hull Street — which replaced Colorado Street on an early La Playa map — honors Commodore Isaac Hull (1773-1843), who took command of the USS Constitution from Commodore John Rodgers in 1810 and successfully led the ship in battle during the War of 1812. He later commanded the Washington Navy Yard. Commodore is a rank between captain and rear admiral.

Other street names provided by Davids that remain in La Playa include the alphabetical series Jenkins, Kellogg, Lawrence,



Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's original battle flag emblazoned with Captain James Lawrence's dying command is displayed at the U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Maryland. Both naval heroes of the War of 1812 are honored with street names in La Playa. (Courtesy of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation)



The Eads Bridge over the Mississippi River was completed in 1874 and is still in use today. Eads Avenue in La Jolla honors James Eads, the engineer who designed the bridge and supervised its construction. (Photo by Kbh3rd, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

Streets

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

the Civil War and attained commodore rank in 1867.

CELEBRATED SCIENTISTS

City Engineer Davids provided an alphabetical series of engineers and scientists for La Jolla to replace street names that were duplicated elsewhere. Gone now are Agassiz, Borden and Ictinus, which replaced Vine Street, Olive Avenue and Garfield Avenue. Remaining today are Cuvier, Draper, Eads, Fay, Girard and Herschel streets, which replaced Palm, Orange, Washington, New York, Grand and Lincoln avenues, respectively.

Georges Cuvier (1769-1832) was a French naturalist referred to as the "founding father of paleontology." John William Draper (1811-1882) produced the first detailed photograph of the moon in 1840 and helped establish the New York University School of Medicine. Several of Davids' other replacement names were gentlemen renowned for significant engineering accomplishments.

James Buchanan Eads (1820-1887) designed and built the first road and rail bridge over the Mississippi River south of the Missouri River at St. Louis. The steel and wrought iron bridge was completed in 1874 and is still in use today. It is on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark and is the oldest bridge on the river.

John Doane Pay (1815-1895) was an American civil engineer who helped reconstruct the Long Bridge over the Potomac River. He was Resident Engineer on the New York State canals from 1841 to 1849 and Division Engineer on state canals during the 1850s and 1870s.

Pierre-Simon Girard (1765-1836) was a French mathematician and engineer in charge of the planning and construction of the Canal de l'Ourcq, a 67-mile-long canal with ten locks located northeast of Paris that was initiated upon orders of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

In the Clairemont/Bay Park neighborhoods just east of present-day I-5, Davids replaced lettered street names B through Q with celebrated men of science. Lost to

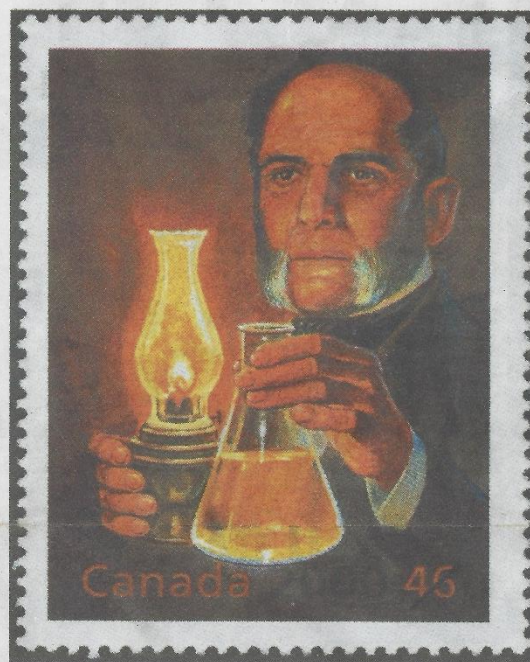
other changes are Bartrum, Corliss, Darwin, Field, Miller, Pasteur and Quain. Remaining names are Edison, Gesner, Huxley, Ingulf, Jellett, Kane, Lister, Napier and Orten.

These scientists include Abraham Pineo Gesner (1797-1864), a Canadian physician with a passion for geology who developed kerosene — the liquid that helped replace whale oil as a lighting fuel, thus saving many whale lives.

Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895) was an English biologist and anthropologist who concluded that birds evolved from small dinosaurs based on his comparative anatomy research. John Hewitt Jellett (1817-1888) was an Irish mathematician who wrote "A Treatise on the Theory of Friction," and John Napier (1550-1617) was a Scottish mathematician, physicist and astronomer who invented logarithms.

Original street names and changes in North Park will be the topic of future PastMatters columns.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org.



Canada issued a postage stamp in 2000 to recognize Abraham Gesner's invention of kerosene. Gesner Street in Clairemont honors him. (Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada)