



CASTOR CANADENSIS

Newsletter of the Jedediah Smith Society • University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

FALL/WINTER 2010 - SPRING 2011

Jedediah Strong Smith's Lands Purchased by Ralph Smith in Ohio

By Roger Williams

I have read the book "*Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West*" by Dale Morgan, copyright 1953; wherein he has provided several letters of Jedediah S. Smith to his mother and father and his brother Ralph Smith. This is a wonderful book on Jedediah Smith and his family. In Mr. Morgan's book there is a note saying that Jedediah S. Smith sent money to his brother Ralph for the purpose of purchasing land, near his home, from a Mr. Major Tiller, in Ohio. I became interested in finding where this land was located. My research has been aided greatly by the author Dale Morgan and his outstanding book. I obtained copies of the county tax auditor's records, along with maps of the county of Wayne in 1840, Green Twp. 1873, and Mohican Twp. 1874. The search became somewhat disjointed due to the path of county creation and those ranges and sections of land that remained in Wayne County. An outline of the trail of information follows.



The Early Years

Jedediah Smith Sr., on October 21, 1790 at the age of 23, married 19 year old Sally Strong and moved west to New York State. The eldest living son Ralph Smith was born September 11, 1794. Jedediah Strong Smith was born on January 6th, 1799. It appears that many but not all of Jedediah's siblings were born while in Jericho (Bainbridge), in Chenango County, New York. I will not go into the brother's and sister's lives as only Ralph Smith figures into this search. ⁽¹⁾

Around 1810 or 1811; the Smith family moved into Pennsylvania, near Erie and stayed for six or seven years. There seemed to be some sort of trouble in New York that may have followed them into Pennsylvania. At this writing; I do not know the true nature of the problem(s) that may have caused them to leave New York State.

It is here in Pennsylvania that the Smith family made lifelong friends with the Simons family. The father, Dr. Titus Simons seems to have very much impressed the young Jedediah ("Diah"). Jedediah's oldest two living siblings, Sally and Ralph, both married into the Simons family. There was a rumor that Jedediah S. Smith had feelings for Louisa Simons. Louisa married Ralph Smith and that may have been why "Diah" had not married as he approached his early thirties.

The Move to Ohio

Sometime in 1817, Jedediah Smith Sr., his wife and remaining family moved west and south; deep into the state of Ohio and

located in Richland County, Green Township. (Note: Dale Morgan's book seems to be mistaken when it says that they moved to Ashland County Ohio in 1817. Ashland County did not exist until 1846, having been made up of parts of Wayne and Richland Counties.) It is assumed that young Jedediah Strong Smith lived with his parents and siblings at this location until approximately 1820, when he left home, headed west and ended up in St. Louis, Missouri in the early spring of 1821. It was also inferred that the Smith family was not monetarily well off, so that may have been a factor in Jedediah S. Smith's decision to leave home. ⁽²⁾

I have searched the tax records as far back as 1826 and have not found where Jedediah Smith Sr. or Ralph Smith owned land in Green Township. It is not a far stretch to believe that they may have rented land, share cropped, or operated another general store and lumber sales that were actually owned by another person.

The Later Years

On December 24th of 1829 Jedediah Strong Smith wrote a letter to his mother and father addressed to Ashtabula, Ohio. The letter bore the post mark of Loudonville, Ohio. Also in 1829, his oldest brother Ralph was receiving mail addressed to Perrysville, Ohio, Green Township, in Richland County. It seems safe, for this author, to assume that Jedediah Smith Sr. and his wife moved from the area of Green Twp., sometime in the mid 1820's, back to the city of Ashtabula, Ohio. It also appears that Ralph Smith and his wife, Louisa Simons Smith, remained in or around Perrysville. Jedediah Strong Smith must have been visiting Ralph and celebrating the Christmas Holidays when he wrote to his parents. It may be that the closest post office, where a post mark could have been applied, was located in Loudonville; about five miles distance from Perrysville. ⁽³⁾

It would not be a stretch of my thought process to believe that it was during this visit with Ralph that Jedediah ("Diah") became aware of land for sale in Mohican Twp., in Wayne County. The land was owned by Major Tyler (not Tiller) and consisted of at least two tracts; one being 160 acres and another being 101(111) acres (See map of Wayne County where Thos. & Elyah Kaufman owns both tracts and see tax auditor's records). ⁽⁴⁾ (Note: Farm land almost always sells after the crop had been taken off and before another crop had been planted.) In reading between the lines; it is very likely that Jedediah S. Smith planned to quit the hard and dangerous business of the fur trade and move back to Ohio where he would farm, raise livestock and maybe get married.

We know that in the spring of 1830, William Sublette took twelve wagons, ten of which were heavy wagons, along with Jedediah, to the trapper's rendezvous near the Popo Agie River. At this rendezvous; The Jackson, Sublette, Smith Company sold their business to several other men, which included Milton Sublette, James Bridger, and Thomas Fitzpatrick. The three men returned to St. Louis with ten heavy wagons weighed down with furs. All three, one time partners became wealthy men.

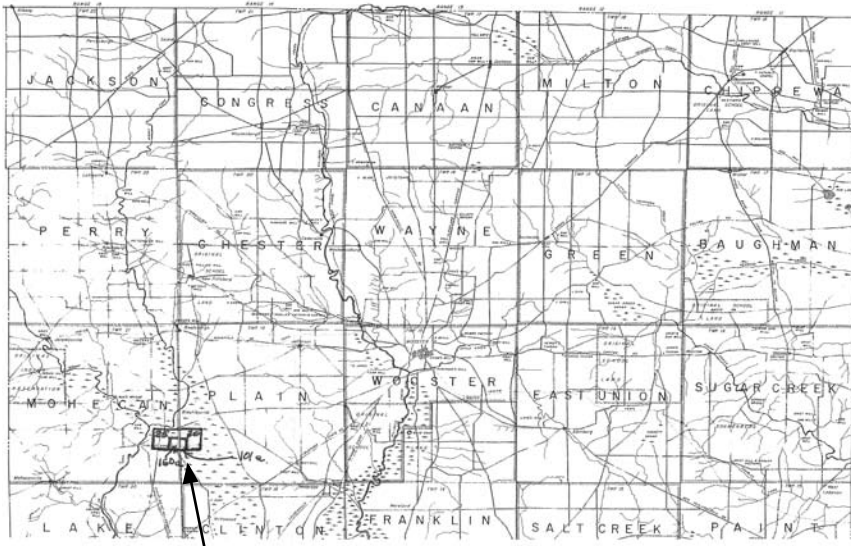
In the fall of 1830, Jedediah S. Smith purchased a house in St. Louis on Federal Street and had two of his brothers, Peter and

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JSS' Lands Purchased by Ralph Smith in Ohio

Continued from front page

1840 Map of Wayne County, Ohio



160 acres and 101 acres purchased by Ralph for Jedediah.

Austin living with him. He also purchased two house slaves to manage the St. Louis house. Jedediah felt strongly that it was his and his brother's obligation to see to it that none of the family or very close friends was in need. He wanted to make certain that his younger brothers, not including Austin and Peter, were well educated, even to the higher levels of education, for which he would provide the finances. He sent money to Ralph and others to disperse among various persons, including their elderly parents, as they saw fit but always restricted them from telling from whom the funds came. It can be read into the various letters that Jedediah Smith Sr. was now living with Sally and her husband Solomon Simons, possibly in Ashtabula, Ohio. Smith Sr. did not like the climate in central Ohio. Small Pox was again sweeping along the borders of the Great Lakes, New York State, and along the Ohio River Valley. It is not for sure if this was the cause of death, but Sally Strong Simons, died sometime in early 1830.

The Ohio Land Purchase

It was found in the receipts of Jedediah S. Smith that he had sent Ralph Smith, the sum of \$1500 dollars, with instructions to purchase land from Major Tiller (Tyler) in Jedediah's name. (5) According to the tax records for 1830; Ralph purchased 160 acres and 101 acres from Major Tyler. Jedediah's name was not recorded on the land; as he was not present at the time of deed transfer. I feel that Ralph planned to transfer title to Jedediah once "Diah" arrived in Ohio, which never happened. The records indicate that Ralph held title to the lands tracts until 1840, which shows he sold 101 acres to George Kauffman (Kaufman). It is not discernable, from the information I have; as to which tract(s) of land was to be Jedediah's. Did Jedediah assume that Ralph would live near him on some portion of the land? I discovered that when Ashland County was formed; the eastern most ranges and sections, namely sections 24 and 25, of Mohican Twp., Richland County remained as part of Wayne County, range 14, Plain Twp. This is somewhat confusing to the novice researcher. The map of Wayne county, dated 1873, indicates that George Kaufman, or

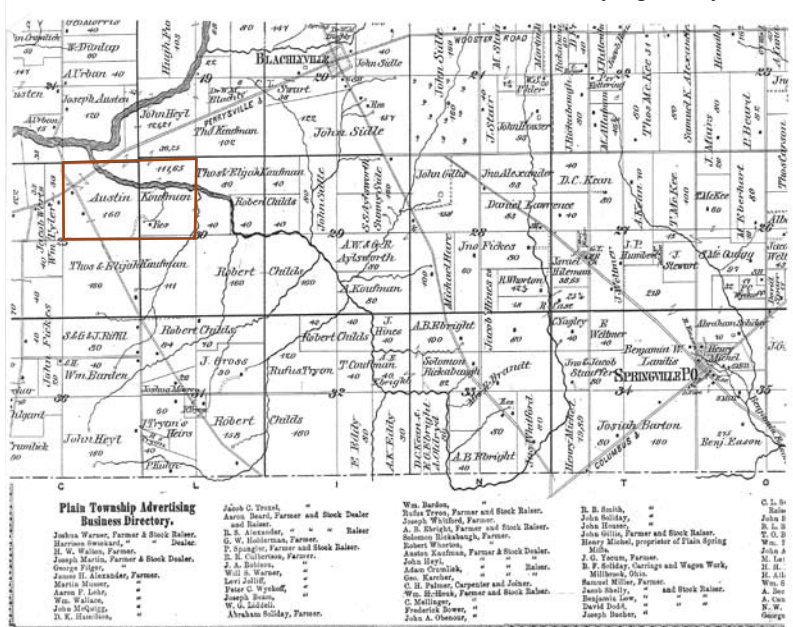
his heirs, purchased the remaining 160 acres and tracts in other sections too. An easy way to locate the properties purchased by Ralph Smith is to find the town of Funk, Ohio, on a current Ohio State Map, and go about one half mile south.

Epilogue

In September 24th, 1830, Austin Smith sent a letter to his father telling him of Jedediah S. Smith's death at the hands of the Comanche Indians. Austin also sent a letter, around the same time, to his brother Ira Smith, informing him of the loss of their "guardian and protector" brother. (6)

It can be concluded that the land(s) in Ohio became the inheritance of Ralph Smith from his brother Jedediah. I find no reference that William H. Ashley, the executor of Jedediah's estate, required the sale of the land(s) to settle the affairs.

So ends the research of finding the Ohio property of Jedediah Strong Smith. It is my intent that this information be shared with anyone who is interested. Please note that I do not have possession of the actual letters mentioned herein. I am relying totally on the



**1873 Map of Southern portion - Plains Township. (7)
(Boxed area indicated land held by Kaufman)**

reprinting of the letters as shown in Dale Morgan's book, herein referenced in this writing. I have not reprinted the text of the letters as I have no authorization to do so. I only used the information contained therein as a guide.

I am in debt to the Ashland Country Clerk's Office for information and maps of Green and Richland Counties, circa 1874. I am also in debt to the Wayne County Clerk's Office of copies of tax auditors records from 1826 thru 1840; copies of which have been sent to the Jedediah Smith Society for their achieves.

Footnotes:

- 1) "Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West", copyright 1953, by Dale Morgan, pg. 25.
- 2) Ibid., pg. 373
- 3) Ibid., pg. 354
- 4) Ibid., pg. 433
- 5) Ibid., pg. 433
- 6) Ibid., pg. 362
- 7) Wayne County Historical Society, partial map of Wayne County, Plain Twp., section 25 and 30.

FALL RENDEZVOUS 2010

By Joe Molter



This year's fall Rendezvous of the Jedediah Smith Society was held in Three Forks, Montana, in conjunction with the 2010 Fur Trade Symposium. This symposium was sponsored by the Three Forks Area Historical Society to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the building of a fort there by a group of Manuel Lisa's St. Louis Missouri Fur Company trappers lead by Andrew Henry and Pierre Menard in 1810. Its location was at the

juncture of the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers, which form the mighty Missouri River. As you recall, Andrew Henry would later join William Ashley in a trapping venture that 12 years later would introduce the young Jedediah Strong Smith to the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade and start him on a life of adventure and discovery, opening up the wild places of the west by the trails he would follow and roam. To my knowledge, Jed never visited the Three Forks area, but did traversed and trapped the lands within a 100 mile of it.

The Three Forks area is also unique in other early historical events that have occurred in this location. It was a crossroads and hunting grounds of various Native American tribes, such as the Blackfoot, Shoshone, Flathead and Crow. It was here that the young, 10 to 12 year old Shoshone girl, Sacagawea or Sacajawea (you'll find both spellings in this part of the county) was captured by a war party of the Hidatsa Indians and later taken to the Mandan country where she would be bartered to the French Canadian trapper, Toussant Charbonneau. In 1805, Charbonneau and Sacagawea, along with her eight-week-old son, Jean-Baptiste, would join the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition as interpreters and she would end up returning to this same location that five years previously she had been captured and separated from her own tribe. It was here also at this spot that the ex Lewis and Clark expedition members, John Colter and George Drouillard would both return, with John in 1808,

being stripped of clothing and chased by 200 Blackfoot warriors, ran five miles to save his life and George in 1810, being ambushed by Indians to lose his life. It was here that Father DeSmet spent his first summer in Montana at the "headwaters" with the Crow and Flathead Indians in 1840, doing missionary work and it was at this site that Gallatin City, the first County Seat of Gallatin County was constructed in 1862.

The Symposium was well attended with 110 registering for this three day event held on September 9th through the 11th. My wife and I felt fortunate to have made our reservations early to be able to stay in the newly restored Sacajawea Hotel. This National Historic Register hotel was built in 1910 and originally served railroad passengers and crew, being a popular jumping off point for touring Yellowstone Park in the early 1900's. It's a handsome, white painted, two stories, wooden structure with a full covered porch across its front and side that's supported by ionic capped columns and is festooned with hanging flower baskets and a line of rocking chairs, giving it a peaceful, inviting charm.

After checking-in at the hotel and registering for the symposium, it wasn't long before we were climbing aboard our buses and off on a tour of the area. Our first stop was a hill southeast of town which gave us a broad view of the valley in which the small town of Three Forks resides. Here we were pointing out where the course of John Colter's famous five mile run occurred, the three rivers and their convergent point to form the Missouri River and the location where Sacagawea was captured. We then moved on to the old site of Gallatin City with its few remaining dilapidated buildings and were also shown the probable site of the old fort that was built here in 1810. We headed for the Headwaters State Park, which has preserved this historic location in its pristine and wild character. By the time we arrived at the park, the skies had darkened with low,

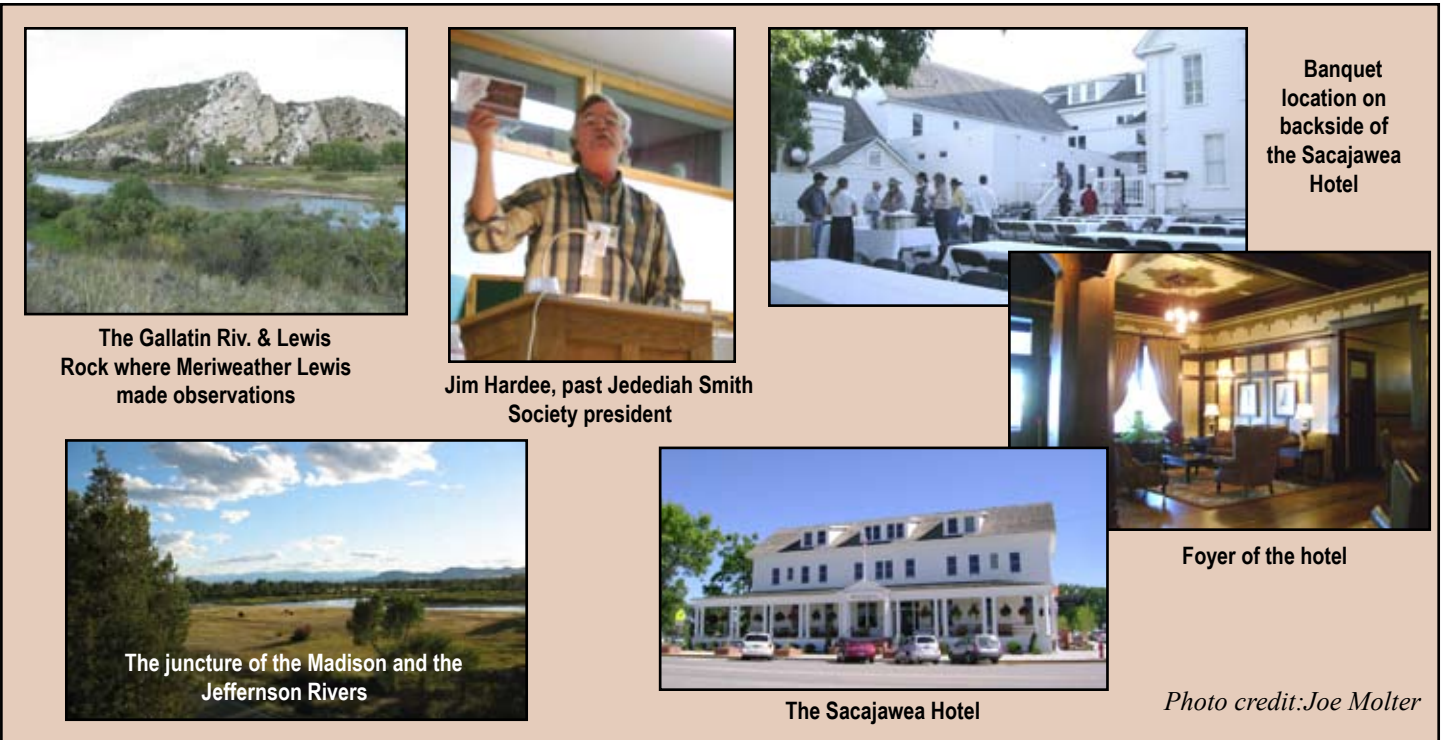


Photo credit: Joe Molter

moister laden clouds and before we left the buses, that moister started to drop. One of the park's rangers gave us a talk on the historic significance of the area, as the rain proceeded to "get with it"! Taking a small stroll down to the point where the Jefferson River joins the Madison, we notice a contingent of six, horse mounted, old time trappers in buckskins with their faithful dog, riding up to us through the mist. As we talked and took pictures of these men "out of the past", the rain intensified and I was then sure thankful for that umbrella by my wife had brought! The moisture persisted, putting a damper on that day's trip, but the following days the sky cleared and the sun shown, almost allowing us to forget that damp experience! Some of us had to returned to this unique park at the "headwaters" during the next few days, to hike its trails and climb its hills and savor its awesome views and sights which appear today as they did when Sacagawea, Lewis and Clark, Manuel Lisa, John Colter and George Drouillard sauntered across them.

The next couple of days after the field trip, a total of 15 speakers presented their interesting and informative talks dealing with local Native American Culture and Contact, Lewis and Clark and the Early Fur Trappers and Traders that frequented this area. These talks were delivered at the old Ruby Theater, which was within easy walking distance of the hotel. One of the speakers was Jim Hardee, our past president of the Jedediah Smith Society who talked

about "The Fort at the Forks", and another was Cody Merchant, a reenactor/storyteller, dressed in his buckskins, portrayed John Colter and told us of his five mile run and narrow escape from the Blackfoot warriors. I appreciated and found all the speakers interesting and was impressed by their qualifications and expertise. I have already requested a copy of the proceedings which will be coming out in a few months and if you also have an interest, you'll need to contact the Headwaters Heritage Museum at PO Box 116, Three Forks, MT 59752. During all our breaks, there was always some sort of delicious refreshments to nibble on and there were also about eight to ten vendors selling fur trade related items, books etc., as well as displays and interesting people to chat with. The trappers we met the first day out at the Forks of the Missouri had also set up camp behind the hotel and were there to greet and answer any equerries throughout the symposium period.

The Fur Trade Symposium ended with a very pleasant evening, highlighted by a banquet on the backside patio of the Sacajawea Hotel. The weather was perfect and the banjo and fiddle music being played kept our feet a tappen. As I sat feasting on Buffalo Ribs and enjoying the conversations of other Jedediah Smith Society members and friends that had joined us, I thought to myself, there's no better way to end this three day symposium that I had so thoroughly enjoyed, than to spend it with good compadres, eaten fine vittles!

FALL RENDEZVOUS 2010



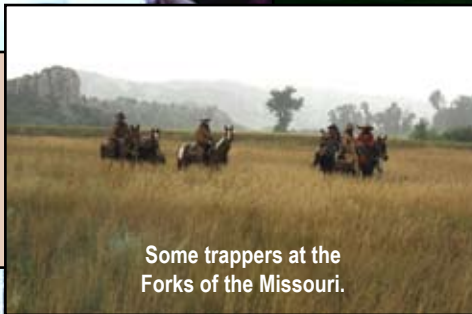
Cody Merchant protraying John Colter



Friends and members of the Jedediah Smith Society enjoying the banquet



Trapper encampment behind the Sacajawea Hotel



Some trappers at the Forks of the Missouri.



Preston Miller, one of the vendors



Our banquet music.



Jim Hansen of the Museum of the Fur Trade on right

CAPT'N SAYS

Our Capt'n has moved on to "green pastures" and is camped beside the "still waters." Dr. Haworth A. Clover, "Al" to most of us, passed into the Lord's care on March 3, 2011, peacefully in his sleep.

Born in Woodland, CA, in February 18, 1933, to Herman & Margaret Clover, who later moved to Tracy, a town 80 miles south, where Al would complete his lower education and graduate from high school. Al's father, being a school teacher, helped foster in him a passion for learning, teaching and a respect for history.



Al spent 2 years in the Army at Fort Huachuca, AZ, during the Korean War.

He attended the College of the Pacific located in Stockton, CA, which today is called the University of the Pacific (UOP). He is one of its few students to be honored in four graduations ceremonies, receiving a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Arts and Conservatory of Music, a Master of Arts in Education and a Doctor of Education, between the years of 1954–1977. It was during his early years at this college; Al became acquainted with the newly formed Jedediah Smith Society (JSS) in 1957 and became one of its charter members. He continued to be associated with this university and received adjunct faculty status for purposes of researching in the field of Western U.S. History and in 2005, was honored with the Distinguished Alum of the year.

In 1960, he accepted a teaching position in the Bay Area in the town of Hillsborough. Here Al taught mostly 5th grade at a local public school for a forty year period. During this time he met and married Carol and they started and reared a family of three, i.e. Hal, John and Catherine.

From the few records I possess dealing with history of the JSS, I know that Al was the Rendezvous Chairman in 1996, and I'm sure he held that position several years prior to this date and was quite enthusiastic and proficient in carrying out its duties, because the following year he was voted in as it's Executive Director. In this position, Al served faithfully for the next 14 years, right up until his passing. It amazed me all the things Al handled in this position, maybe too much, but he love what he did and was darn good at doing it. He continued organizing the Rendezvous' and having fine editorial skills, Al make sure the newsletter, the "Castor," got out by soliciting articles or writing many of them himself. He was also instrumental in getting published many of the JSS publications which included: the Bicentennial Edition of the "Jedediah Smith and His Monuments", the Third Edition, Revised "Bibliography of Jedediah Strong Smith," the Number Two in the Fur Trade Series, "Soft Gold, California's First Commercial Market," and Number Three in the Fur Trade Series, "Jedediah Strong Smith, The First Hiked Search for His Crossing, The Sierra Nevada, West to East." Al was also the Treasurer, worked with Curriculum, book sales and was on the Essay Contest and Nominations Committees.



Al was involved with many other history related activities, and other organizations and even though his disabilities of later life somewhat hindered him, he kept pressing on with the same determination and commitment we all so admired, right up until the end.

Fare-thee-well dear friend, you'll truly be missed. May we rendezvous someday "in the sweet by and by" and "meet on that beautiful shore."

Joe Molter, JSS Board of Directors

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SPRING LUNCHEON 2011

The Large Community Room
University of the Pacific Library, Stockton, California



Saturday, June 18, 2011

Gather: 11:30 Lunch: 12:00

Speaker: *Daryl Morrison – Head of Special Collections, U.C. Davis Library*
Topic: *Beginning Years of the Jedediah Smith Society and the Individuals who Established the Organization*

Build Your Own Sandwich, Green Salad, Dessert, Drink
Price: \$16.00

Reservations and Payment required **before June 11**

Make check payable: Jedediah Smith Society
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Dues will expire Jan 1st

