

St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society
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St. David, AZ 85630

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St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society

Our Mission: To serve the community of St. David and the San Pedro Valley as a society enabling the preservation and development of our historical and physical heritage, while promoting the cultural arts.

EVENTS & NEWS

JUNE JULY 2022



**FIREWORKS DONATIONS
NEEDED -- will you help?**

See page 4 for details.

www.SaintDavidHeritage.org
SaintDavidHeritage@gmail.com

**Facebook: St. David Heritage &
Cultural Arts Society**
**Instagram: St. David Heritage
Society**

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**JULY
22-23**

**"Settlers
& Soldiers"**

**We can't wait to see you at
St. David Pioneer Days!**

Come together with neighbors and friends from the San Pedro Valley and beyond for a truly great time. Share your art, enjoy a family dance, learn some western movie history. Join the parade, see Ft. Huachuca's award-winning "B Troop" cavalry unit, learn about the early settlers and their connections with the U.S. Army, and celebrate your veterans. Experience pioneer activities and an 1840s Mountain Howitzer cannon, play some old fashioned games, and relish a delicious BBQ

Beef luncheon. Meet actors from classic western movie favorites, visit area farms and businesses, and take a historic driving tour. Enjoy music, food, and vendors under the stars. Win fabulous prizes or the Heritage Quilt, and of course, enjoy the **FIREWORKS!**

- **Theme: "Settlers & Soldiers"**
- **See page 3 for a Pioneer Days schedule**, and information to register for the **Art Show**, **parade**, or **to be a vendor**.
- **Please spread the word** to others who love the San Pedro Valley, and **share the event on Facebook & Instagram!**

**2022 PIONEER DAYS
SCHEDULE INSIDE/ONLINE —**

**NEW!! This year:
Friday Family Dance
Ft. Huachuca B Troop
& Cannon Crew
Art Show**

**Meet Movie Legends!
Farm & Business Tour
Historical Driving Tour
AND**

**All your traditional
favorites!**

StDavidPioneerDays.com

Some Early St. David History —

Connecting "Settlers and Soldiers"

Did you know that St. David was settled by a small group of families with connections to the 1846-47 U.S. Army's "Mormon Battalion"? Philemon Merrill led a handful of families to the San Pedro Valley, arriving in November of 1877. He remembered the area favorably from his march with the Battalion from Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, to San Diego, California. That was a beginning to the connections.

In his 1878 edition of *The Hand-Book to Arizona* (available free on Google Books), author Richard J. Hinton wrote of the largely unpopulated San Pedro Valley, that "a small settlement has already sprung up on the San Pedro ... and bids fair to thrive and grow into a large settlement soon. But this leaves miles and miles of good farming and grazing lands along the banks of the San Pedro, only waiting for the plow to



2022 HERITAGE QUILT

Awarded at FIREWORKS!

- NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN -

**Queen Size, Valued at \$1,500
by Wilda Dillman, Kay's Quilts**

TICKETS:

**on page 4, online,
or at events**



bring forth crops equal to any produced in Arizona.”

Six months before Philemon Merrill’s arrival, six U.S. Army soldiers arrived in the Huachuca Mountains and began to establish Camp Huachuca. By spring of 1879, the St. David settlers were actively involved in providing wood and labor for the building of what would become Ft. Huachuca.

By early 1878 the settlers had built a rock fort near what is known as “Escalante Crossing” south and west of the St. David Cemetery. The families lived, worshipped, and schooled their children there for the first few years. Some of the original stones now form a footprint of the fort at the cemetery.

An interesting account of the settler’s involvement is related in an unpublished manuscript by John Stephen Rizley, “The Journey of Philemon Merrill.” When the entire group of settlers decided to log for the spring and summer of 1879 in the Huachuca Mountains, Rizley quotes an account by Rhoda Merrill, wife of Philemon:

I told my husband I just could not go up. My son, Adrian, was helpless—he never walked until he was three years and three months old. There was no water; the reptiles were terrible; and the tarantulas gave me the chills. Mr. Merrill said, ‘But what will we do? I have to go up there. I must work with the boys.’ Well, there was another woman whose husband was in Mexico and who had cows to attend to, so she did not want to go either. So I said, ‘If you will bring your cows up here to the fort and will I will stay, too.’ So we two women stayed alone at the fort with only a dog to protect us. An Army captain lent us the dog, he said he would give it to us if we would give it back when we did not need it.”

In ensuing years, the San Pedro Valley and its families have been closely tied to the defense of our state and nation. As you participate in this year’s Pioneer Days events, we hope you will be inspired by the theme to celebrate your own family or individual “settler” stories and your “soldier” veterans.

In keeping with our theme, Ft. Huachuca’s B Troop mounted cavalry unit will be featured in our parade, along with the Mesal Movie Set stage coach. The games will be graced by the firing of an 1840s Mountain Howitzer. We will honor veterans following the parade in the auditorium. Many of the classic western movies featured on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon depict the settlers and soldiers we celebrate. A driving tour will take you to the St. David fort monument and other interesting places. The local farms tour are a modern extension of the efforts of our founding settlers. Check the Schedule!



US Army ‘Mormon Battalion’ raises the American flag in Tucson in 1846 shortly after passing through the San Pedro Valley.

Ft. Huachuca’s B Troop unit will be represented in our parade.



Pioneer Days a Valley-wide Celebration

The St. David Heritage Society has for a number of years coordinated the popular annual St. David Pioneer Days events and seeks additional partners and participation in a way that builds connections in our broader San Pedro Valley community.

This year’s celebration is themed, “Settlers and Soldiers,” and most activities take place on the St. David School grounds.

The roots of this annual celebration began in 1877 when a handful of “Mormon” pioneer families settled along the San Pedro River, beginning the community of St. David. The next year these same pioneers participated in the building of Camp Huachuca, then Tombstone, and soon after began freighting ore and commodities to and from the railroad lines in Benson and further. Our San Pedro Valley communities have been connected ever since.

Pioneer Days events happen with the participation and help of many volunteers from local churches, school groups, and businesses in St. David, Benson, and beyond. It is our hope that we can sustain meaningful traditions in a way that strengthens our communities and our families.

Following Up — Missing Yearbooks!

Thanks to a number of our readers, several missing St. David High School yearbooks have been located and digitized since our last newsletter. And some years have been identified as not having published a yearbook.

missing year?

If so, please contact Greg at 520-975-9439 or gsherman55@gmail.com. We’d love to scan and return items to you, along with a high quality digital copy.

Currently our earliest St. David High School yearbook is the 1935 edition, and we have alumni photos from some earlier years. Check our updated list of missing yearbooks. Do you have access to a missing yearbook, or an alumni photo from a

Updated list of missing St. David High Yearbooks:

1937, 1939	1988
1941-1948	1992
1950-1951	2004
1955, 58, 59	2011-2012
1960-1964	2016
1966	2020-2021
1976-1979	Thank you!

New Website Launched and Growing

A new St. David Heritage Society website has launched, and you might want to take a look: www.SaintDavidHeritage.org.

It has a more modern and user-friendly format and we anticipate adding a lot more content as we go forward, such as the school yearbooks and family histories which have been donated over the years. Our aim is to make it a resource for community members and researchers, and a place to share the stories of the people who have made St. David, well...home.

The new store and donor pages feature better access to popular items, multiple methods of payment, and a cleaner look.

Thanks for your patience during this building time, and we welcome your feedback. Check back often to see what’s new.

What would you like to see on our new website?

2022 Heritage Scholarships Awarded

Two deserving St. David High School graduates, **Mason Anway** and **Kaden Watts**, were awarded scholarships for their excellent volunteer efforts with events and projects of the St. David Heritage Society. Congratulations! We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Artists of all ages and skill levels!

The Gallery of Dreams in St. David is sponsoring the first annual Pioneer Days Art Show. The juried show will be judged by Lynn Rae Lowe, noted Tucson artist.

Open to all mediums and styles—**paintings, drawings, sculptures, quilts, metal work, photography, and more!** See blue box below to register by July 15.

Children, Youth, Adult Amateurs, Adult Professionals

Special section for "Settlers and Soldiers" theme

People's Choice Awards — come vote for favorites!

Thanks to Pioneer Days Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers!



The St. David Stake, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



GALLERY OF DREAMS

Mescal Movie Set

Ft. Huachuca B Troop & Canon Crew

St. David Volunteer Fire Department

Thanks in advance to scores of volunteers, donors, Heritage Society members and to all of you who come to enjoy and support the efforts of so many. See you soon!

ONLINE PIONEER DAY INFO & MORE —

- Full Events Schedule
- Parade & Art Show Registration
- Vendor Information
- Heritage Quilt Tickets
- Membership Discounts
- Fireworks Donations
- Farm/Business Tour Info
- Historical Driving Tour Info



StDavidPioneerDay.com

2022 SCHEDULE

ST. DAVID PIONEER DAYS

Events at St. David School (Hwy 80, St. David, AZ) unless noted

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

6:00-8:00 PM Art Show (School Multi-Purpose Room)

7:00 PM- "Classic Westerns and Mescal Movie Set" (Aud.)

7:45-9:30 PM Family Dance (outside Auditorium)

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022

9:00 AM Pioneer Day Parade, N. Miller Lane. Road closes to vehicles at 8:45 AM. Theme: "Settlers and Soldiers"

9:30-5:00— Pioneer Day Art Show (MPR)

9:30 AM—12:00 Noon Old-fashioned Games, Pioneer Activities, Ft. Huachuca B Troop Cannon Crew, & More! (Crawford Baseball Field). Games and races (even for frogs), slingshot gallery, farm animals, engine show, wagon rides, photo ops and more.

10:00-11:30— "Settlers and Soldiers" (Lansing Auditorium, 1938 Building) Brief history of early settlers and their connections to the U.S. Army (Mormon Battalion march and the building of Camp Huachuca). Recognition of Grand Marshall and all Veterans in attendance — Come share your love for America!

11:00-1:00 PM Traditional BBQ Beef Meal (K-Hall) Beef, beans, tortilla, slaw, chips, drinks, cookie. \$9 Adult/\$7 under 12; \$1 discount per plate with Heritage Society membership.

NEW!! 1:00-5:00 PM

Art Show continues (MPR)

1:30-2:30 Meet the "LEGENDS" from Mescal Movie Set Share memories of classic films with actors who were in them! (Auditorium)

Local Farm and Business Tour - Showcasing rural lifestyle; demonstrations, activities, products (QR/website for details)

St. David Historic Driving Tour - Discover local history with new self-guided tour (QR/website for details)

5:00-9:00 PM EVENING EVENTS - at High School Football field (Apache Nitrogen Stadium) --

- Youth Tiger Football/Cheer Camp Games
- Food and Craft Vendors / Music
- Fireworks Donation Prizes, Silent Auction, Heritage Quilt
- **GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS!**

ART SHOW ENTRIES! Use QR code below or contact Claire at pioneerdaysart@gmail.com, 520-442-0165. Register by July 15.

PARADE ENTRIES! QR or Tammy, thejollyrogers.tkr@gmail.com

EVENING VENDORS! QR or Alli, daleyallison7@gmail.com

— THANK YOU TO MANY VOLUNTEERS! —

**ST. DAVID HERITAGE & CULTURAL
ARTS SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 3

St. David, AZ 85630

E-mail: SaintDavidHeritage@gmail.com

Editor: Sue Kartchner

**We're on the web -
SaintDavidHeritage.org**

**"Like" and Follow us on FACEBOOK:
St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society**

St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations to SDHCAS are tax-deductible.

Projects of SDHCAS include:

St. David Trees	History Publications & Lectures	Broadway & Beyond!
1938 Building Rehabilitation	Archiving Local History	St. David Fort Monument
Bell Monument & Bricks	1880s Historic Military Ball	Heritage Museum Room
St. David Pioneer Days	Alumni Class Photos	

This Newsletter is available electronically by email and on our website. If you would like to receive it as a PDF document by email, please send your request to us at SaintDavidHeritage@gmail.com.

If you know of others who live outside of St. David who would enjoy receiving the newsletter, please forward it to them, or send us their email address.

We will use your email address for Heritage Society business only and will not share it with others.

New or Renewed Memberships = FREE Heritage Quilt Ticket! Additionally, all St. David Heritage Society members will receive a **\$1 per plate discount at the July 23 BBQ**. Join or renew below, on our website, or at events. **MEMBER BENEFITS** include discounts at all events and premium access to our website content.

FREE! - Your choice of popular Heritage books FREE with each \$50 in Heritage Quilt tickets, fireworks drawing tickets, membership and/or other contribution placed with the order form below. Mark your choice on the form below. As always, copies may also be ordered for \$10 each, below or online.

Fireworks Donations = Drawing Tickets + Fun Prizes

Fireworks are fun AND expensive! Your donations make them possible, and our vendors and others have provided great prizes in exchange for your help. Tickets are available with the form below or at the Pioneer Days events. Drawing prizes will be awarded at the July 23 evening events, 5:00-9:00 p.m. on the football field, prior to the fireworks. Tickets: \$1 each; 12 for \$10; 25 for \$20. Keep one side and place the stubs in the prize bags of your choice that evening. If you order with this form, you can pick up your tickets on the football field July 23.

Silent Auction and Fireworks Donation Items -- We are grateful to local businesses and individuals who have provided significant prizes in support of Pioneer Days. To donate an item, email Trish at belenusfarms@gmail.com or call 480-678-0253. Thank you!

ST. DAVID PIONEER DAYS 2022! Together we will celebrate St. David Pioneer Days with great Family Fun and Fireworks, continuing a long tradition of strengthening our community. Will you join us?

YES! - I'd like to help in the following ways:



_____ **HERITAGE QUILT TICKETS*** (Quilt value \$1,500)
_____ 1 for \$5 _____ 3 for \$10 _____ 7 for \$20
_____ 20 for \$50 _____ Other (Need not be present to win)

_____ **2022 PIONEER DAYS FIREWORKS DRAWINGS!***
(Pick up your tickets July 23 @ football field)

_____ I'm making a tax-deductible **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION*** (\$1 off per plate at Pioneer Day BBQ):

_____ \$15 Individual _____ \$25 Couple _____ \$30 Family

_____ I'm enclosing a Tax-Deductible Contribution*
(Specify amounts in the spaces provided):

_____ 1938 Building Fund _____ Pioneer Days / Events

_____ St. David Trees Fund _____ Scholarship Fund

_____ ***MY CONTRIBUTIONS & TICKETS ORDER at left**
total \$50 or more. For each \$50, please
send a **FREE book** (choose here):
_____ *Chili Peppers & Mastodons*
_____ *Mormon Pioneers of the San Pedro Valley*

ORDER FEATURED PUBLICATIONS:

Mormon Pioneers of the San Pedro Valley—St. David, Arizona
2021 6th Edition, early St. David history, 30 pages, over 60 photos

_____ copies (\$10 each)

Chili Peppers & Mastodons—Reminiscences from Saint David and Beyond, by Larry Scott; narrative collection w/ photos, 78 pages

_____ copies (\$10 each)

FULL ORDER FORM (PDF)
SaintDavidHeritage.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

TICKETS \$ _____ MEMBERSHIPS / CONTRIBUTIONS \$ _____ BOOKS \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

QUESTIONS? Email saintdavidheritage@gmail.com or call 520-720-9329 or visit website, www.saintdavidheritage.org
Make Checks Payable to SDHCAS, and mail to SDHCAS, PO Box 3, St. David, AZ 85630