

Gratton Elementary School District

4500 South Gratton Rd.

Denair, CA 95316-9762

209-632-0505

1 Elementary School

Enrollment 125

The history of Denair, like that of most of the San Joaquin Valley, is centered around the railroad and the adventurous young people who settled the West.

Rancher John T. Davis made his home here in 1871, followed by Charles Sperry in 1878 and Harry Clark with his bride in 1882 giving Elmwood Colony its start. The La Grange Dam was completed in 1893 and by 1905, Elmwood Colony could irrigate its land. In 1896, the expanding railroad built on 12 acres of the Davis Ranch. John Denair, a division superintendent for the railroad, bought the townsite which was later named for him. The Elmdale Post Office was established June 17, 1898 and in April 1902 John Davis deeded the land to establish the Elmwood School District. The town was renamed Elmwood on July 14, 1904 and the town blossomed. In 1905, the Crouch-Warner General Merchandise Store was built, establishing the first church in Elmwood. On April 24, 1907 Elmwood was renamed Denair, honoring John Denair. In 1912, the high school was established. Stanislaus State College continues the tradition of education that has run through the history of Elmwood Colony--the Colony that grew into an oasis of abundant water and rich land, truly the "Oasis of the San Joaquin Valley"--