



July 2019



From the Archives **Lt. Robert D. Fawcett**

Galt has had hundreds of World War II veterans that have served with distinction, and one of those was Lt. Robert D. Fawcett. Fawcett flew B 17 Flying Fortresses with the 381st Bombardment Group of the 533rd Bombardment Squadron of the 8th US Army Air Force. He was stationed in England and flew bombing raids over Germany in the last months of the war. The Group was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citations for flying without fighter protection to bomb aircraft factories at Oschersleben on January 11, 1944. In a letter to his grandmother dated March 18, 1945, Lt. Fawcett said that "he was the only group leader in the 8th Air Force." Four days later, Lt. Robert D. Fawcett was shot down over Germany and perished. He received the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Purple Heart. Lt. Fawcett's body was returned to the States the following year.

Liberty School House

The past several weeks, Lyle Lagge, Ron Jacobson, and Steve Matz have been working on the Liberty School House that was donated to the GAHS by the Henke Family Trusts. The north side of the building was an add-on. The men worked to detach it from the building. The backside was presumed to be an add-on also, but with closer review, it appears to be part of the original structure. It could have been the back coat room. That part will remain and will make the move to its new home at the Rae House Museum. We are waiting for the mover to fit us into his schedule. It would have been beneficial to have the foundation laid at the Rae before the move, but that takes more volunteers. If anyone is interested or wants to help with the foundation, please contact Janis. On another note, we have received a few more desks and a teacher's chair. We possibly have located a teacher's desk.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

There are still many who have not renewed. Remember once several months have passed without payment, names will be dropped from our membership roster and you will no longer receive our newsletter. The month to remove names will be in June so please be kind and send in your renewal through our website or by mail ASAP. Individual dues are \$20, Family \$40, Business \$50, Student \$10, Individual Lifetime \$200 and Family Lifetime \$250. Dues are Tax Deductible!

Contact Rhonda Smith with any concerns about membership. rhonda@galtsmiths.com.

2019 Historical Society Executive Board

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Ralph Cortez ~ 2nd Vice President
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740 Spaans Drive #2
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A Message From The President

One hundred and fifty years ago our founding settlers celebrated the first Fourth of July in their newly formed town of Galt. It must have been a two-folded celebration: One celebrating our country's independence from England; and second, celebrating how proud they were to accomplish forming a new township in California. Little did they know or even dream that 150 years later, Galt would, again, be celebrating both events. The Fourth of July in 1869 was very different from today's celebration. There were parades with horses and wagons, picnics, singing, playing games, children having fun playing with each other, friends, family and neighbors sitting around and talking with each other. People came from the country into town to participate in the festivities. While in 2019, some of these same things are happening, our pace is much more rapid and we do not take the time to actually enjoy the day or our friends and family. Galt will have a wonderful parade this year. You may see a few horses; but mostly tractors or trucks pulling "floats." The floats will be decorated; much more than in 1869. At the end of the parade, everyone goes their separate ways, maybe having bbq's or meeting up with friends. In 1869, I would guess the festivities lasted all day in old town Galt.

There is much commercialization of this holiday and most holidays. This day is about our patriotic spirit for

our town and our country. If seeing the American flag waving in the wind brings tears to your eyes or hearing our national anthem makes you want to stand and cheer, then you know what I mean. In 1869, our founding settlers did not take all this for granted. Many had just lived through the Civil War: A war where they fought for the freedom for all Americans. The American spirit engulfed their lives. So you can understand that in 1869 in Galt, this celebration was memorable for all.

This year, our 150th celebration in September, we will be trying to recreate much of what happened in 1869 by stepping back in time. If you come to join in the fun, wear period clothes. Enjoy the games, the music, and the fun from 1869. When you come to Fourth St (formerly Front St) try to visualize the old town, the train depot, the gathering of people who came to celebrate, and what a wonderful day it must have been. In those days there was not a lot of parties like today; so to celebrate on one important day was the highlight of the year. Those who worked so hard on farms and stores came together to rejoice.

I hope you all enjoy this holiday but let's not forget our founding settlers. Let's rejoice for them. Without their planning we may not be here today. Happy 4th.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray

Policy and Procedure Review

Nominating Committee Procedure

I. Purpose:

The purpose of the GAHS Nominating Committee is to gather a list of potential candidates and place them for voting by Members at the Annual Charter meeting held in October of each year. The Committee will operate and be structured as follows:

II. Procedure:

1. Guidelines and procedures for the Election will be conducted as outlined in the By-Laws.
2. The President appoints the Nominating Committee which is composed of three members.
3. The Chair will announce the list of candidates at the September General meeting.
4. Each confirmed candidate will be informed that they have the opportunity to speak on their behalf at the September General meeting.
5. Nominations may be held from the floor at the September General meeting and if so, the individual may also speak.
6. Each presentation at the September General meeting will be limited to five minutes. There will be a total of ten minute allotted at the meeting for a question and answer session after the final speech.
7. There will be no speeches, additional comments or nominations at the October General meeting.
8. The Chair will distribute a final list of candidates on a ballot for each office with voting instructions at the October General meeting.
9. Members will fill out the ballot and return to the Chair.
10. Committee members will take the completed ballots and adjourn to a private, confidential room and count ballots.
11. Any Nominating Committee member running for office will recuse themselves from counting ballots.
12. When the final votes are tallied, the Chair will announce the winning candidates.
13. The list of Officers are as follows:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Second Vice President
 - d. Recording Secretary
 - e. Corresponding Secretary
 - f. Treasurer
 - g. Historian

Calendar

Sunday | July 7 | 1pm - 4pm
Rae House Museum Open House

Thursday | July 11 | 2pm
Executive Board Meeting
500 C Street

Saturday | July 13 | 8am
Workday at McFarland Ranch

Saturday | July 27 | 6pm - 10pm
Sip & Snack at the Mac

No general membership meetings July and August

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

Gossip from the Galt Gazette July 1886

Alf Randolf of Hicksville has gone to the West Side with his threshing outfit. He took along a jolly crew.

★

Charlie Quiggle and Joe Hunter engaged in an altercation Thursday afternoon at the Arcade. Hunter won't hunt anymore rows in that quarter.

★

James Sawyer mentioned for candidate for Supervisor of the 5th District on the Republican ticket.

★

Fire last week at Marengo Ranch. Originated from Quiggle threshing machine. 25 sacks of wheat and 2 large piles of straw burned.



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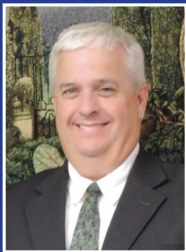
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The Galt Balloon Festival is a Weather Permitting Event

Galt 150 Gear

For those of you who live “out of town”, Sesquicentennial Memorabilia can now be ordered and shipped to you. To see a list of items available click on the website: Galt150.com and then click on Galt 150 Gear. There are still a few Challenge Coins available as well as tshirts, hats, garden flags, hot/cold drink cups, and enamel lapel pins. Proceeds from the sale of Sesquicentennial items will fund the community celebration on September 14, 2019 in Old Town Galt.



In Memory

We are sad to say that we lost another of our members, Janet Farrell. Janet was a life time member of the GAHS. Janet was 93 years old. We want to express our sincere sympathy to Janet’s children and family. You are in our thoughts.



Around the Horn



If you've been a member of the Historical Society for any length of time you know that some of the early buildings in Galt were moved from the town of Liberty before its demise. A couple of those buildings still exist in the form of the Christian Church (Iglesia Rosa de Saron), the Red Schoolhouse and one that doesn't, the Wriston residence (pictured). You also heard that the lumber for some of those buildings came from "around the horn," which means the lumber was brought by sailing ship from the East Coast, around the tip of South America (Cape Horn), and up to California. Did you ever wonder why the lumber came from such a great distance?

As a point of reference, the town of Liberty was established in 1852, four years after gold was discovered by James Marshall and seventeen years before Galt was founded. In the years leading up to the California Gold Rush, the population

on the West Coast was a meager 25,000 people. To build homes and businesses, residents milled their own lumber or had a local "sawyer" do it. The only local lumber mills processing building materials were in the Bay Area. They could price their product as they saw fit. John Sutter saw this and partnered with James Marshall to build a sawmill close by to process his own lumber for more building projects he had planned. When Marshall discovered gold in the millrace, it brought an end to Sutter's mill and, in a touch of irony, miners used the lumber from Sutter's mill to make sluice boxes and other mining projects since lumber was hard to come by.

With a flood of gold seekers coming to California in 1849, the demand for building materials skyrocketed and so did prices. Initially, most of the population living in the Valley or Foothills lived in tents and log cabins. So did the residents of Liberty. As the local farmers and

businessmen prospered, they were able to buy lumber for shops and housing. During this time, ship captains bringing passengers from the East Coast to the California gold fields saw there was a need for lumber and took advantage of it. On subsequent trips the ships brought as much lumber as they could carry, most of it from Maine, which explains some of the pine framing in the schoolhouse. It appears that the prices for East Coast lumber was a little cheaper than the local brand, hence the construction of Liberty buildings with materials from "around the horn."

By Galt's founding in 1869, there were lumber mills up and down the West Coast courtesy of the lumber barons. Building materials became easier to come by at a greatly reduced price. So why were buildings moved from Liberty to Galt and how did they do it? To be continued

June Dinner Meeting



We had a great time at our June dinner/meeting at the Rae House Museum June 24th. The board bbq'd hot dogs and everyone brought their specialties for all of us to eat. The June general meeting is our last meeting for the summer. We will resume general meetings in September.

Bits & Pieces

Executive Board Elections

Within this newsletter, you will find a policy and procedure about nominations and election, as well as a form if you want to run for an office. Please have the signed forms back to Nominating Chairman, Shaun Farrell by August 30th.

Thanks to Shawn and Heather Farmer

During the absence of the caretaker at the McFarland Ranch, Shawn and Heather Farmer stayed at the ranch. They kept the lawn and yard in immaculate condition, cleaned the restrooms, and washed down the house. Thanks so much for spending the time at the ranch.

Pay Pal

We are still having issues with Pay Pal if you want to renew membership or join. It completes the form but does not let us know you have done this transaction. For the time being until this is fixed, it is best to send a check to GAHS PO Box 782, Galt 95632. This also includes the store online. Call us to purchase anything. When buying tickets, such as for Sip & Snack, it works fine. Ralph and Maria have been working diligently to fix this.

Sip & Snack at the MAC

Speaking of Sip, I am taking names of volunteers NOW to work the front gate (taking tickets, money, wristbands). There are several shifts left. Also we need help with setup on Thursday, July 25 and 26; and tear down on Sunday July 28. We also need some people to help serve food for the restaurants who will be sending food but cannot send employees; and I need ice runners. Ron and Judy also need docents for the house. Please contact me as soon as possible if you want to volunteer. First come on shifts. Tickets are available online at www.galthistory.com under PayPal or by going to Barsetti Vineyards Tasting room to pick up tickets.

Historic Plaques

The Board has selected some site that warrant a historic plaque. One is the Quenelle's Garage, which is owned now by Jim Spaans, where the old train depot sat, Charlotte Cameron's house in Thornton, and the old Sill home on Palin. We still are seeking one more site if anyone has suggestions for us to consider. The Quenelle Family is paying for the plaque on the garage and Mike and Linda Greer are paying for the plaque that will be posted on a new kiosk the city is planning where the train depot stood.

Fourth of July Parade

You may or may not get this before the parade on Thursday July 4th, but the GAHS will again have a float in the parade. Harry Souder is the chairman for the float. Harry will be pulling a decorated trailer with his tractor. Parade leaves the market grounds at 9:30 am Thursday; travels down C St, left onto 4th St; left onto E St and back to the market grounds. Come out and support our float.

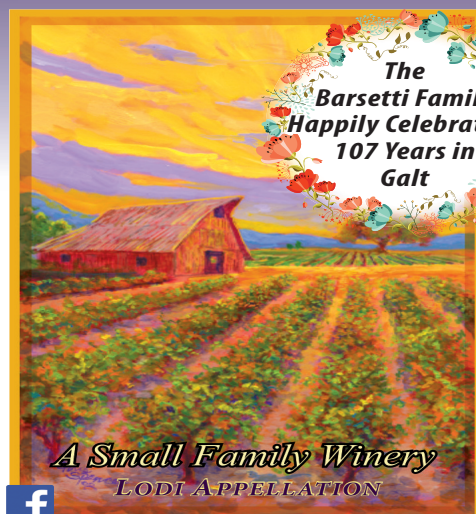
Restrooms Receive Final Inspection

After several years, the new restrooms have been completed, final inspection by the county received, and we received the ok for them to be used. Thanks to Ron Jacobson, Lyle Lagge, and all those who helped complete this job.

Roses at the Rae

Master Gardener, Steve Matz and Earl Arrants have been trying to keep up the rose gardens at the Rae Museum. Unfortunately, at the first of the year, the roses did not get the major pruning needed. All we can do now is dead head. If anyone would like to help them or want to learn more about pruning and upkeep of roses, please contact me and I will put you in touch with them. Remember, these roses represent memorials of people who have passed away. We want to honor them by making sure the roses always look perfect.

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