



November 2018



From the Archives Arcade Saloon

After a town is founded, one of the first establishments to start business is a saloon. In its early years, Galt had 15 of them, almost four times as many as churches. That would be typical of Western towns of the late 19th Century. Charles Quiggle built the Arcade Saloon on 5th Street between A and B Streets in 1875. Shortly after that, he built the Arcade Livery Stable right next door. As one can tell from the photo, the Arcade Saloon also housed a bowling alley and a pool hall. This was also the height of the Temperance Movement (a movement against the consumption of alcohol) which led to the demise of the saloon. Rumor has it that a group of ladies from a local church set fire to the Arcade Saloon in 1885. Since they were both made of wood and attached to each other, the Arcade Livery Stable went with it. According to newspaper accounts of the day, that was the only saloon in town to meet that fate. Thanks to Rocky Roberts for the photo donation.

Harvey-McFarland Outstanding Volunteer Awards for 2018

The Executive Board announced the recipients of the Harvey-McFarland Outstanding Volunteer Awards for 2018, as Sue Dean and James Guthmiller. Sue has been our Chairperson of the docents for both museums; and has worked tirelessly to insure the integrity and upkeep of both houses; as well as organizing and training the docents who handle the tours. James has helped us tremendously in our annual car show by getting major sponsors that help attract more attendees and supplying large prizes for raffle. He is also instrumental in helping the Galt Area Historical Society with donations from the Real Men's Club. Congratulations to both of you. Sue wants to thank everyone who has helped her this year with her tasks.

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpreting the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonians.

Each year that you renew your membership you join us in our mission of engaging and empowering each other to make history a meaningful part of our contemporary lives. Your membership helps preserve the legacy of our ancestors, commemorate local heroes and preserve our historic architecture. Our members in GAHS help answer the Who, What, Why, Where and When questions that make historical societies important. It puts those of us in the present in touch with the people of the past who shaped our landscape, named our landmarks, and made the decisions that ultimately affect us today.

A great big thank you to all annual members who have paid their 2018 dues. Our goal is to have 100% dues paid ASAP. A reminder that dues are due in January of each year. So, if you wait to renew too long it will seem like you have paid twice! You can submit your dues through the mail, PayPal on the GAHS Website or at our monthly meeting. Also, within our membership area, we encourage you to inform us when you have a change of address. Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, guildstreetsmith@sbcglobal.net or call, 209-745-4504.



A Message From The President

For any organization, their most important asset are their members: Just like any successful company cannot survive without good, dedicated, hardworking employees. We are very fortunate to have a large membership of people who care about the history of our area and want to preserve and protect that legacy. Just because some of our members do not live near Galt or perhaps cannot volunteer as much as others, does not mean that they do not support or care about promoting our society or our mission. Those members help in other ways, including financial support. Thankfully, we have members who are able to help in our day to day operations and activities. However, we always need to seek new members. All of us have family, friends, and neighbors, or know new people to our area who want to get involved in Galt's history and learn more about it. We are all a wealth of knowledge when it comes to educating these people about Galt. I personally carry several Galt Area Historical Society membership applications with me in case I meet someone who wants to join. When I am asked what we do and why they should join, it is very easy for me to explain what I am passionate about. If any of you want some applications for membership, please contact me and I will get them to you. You can also encourage people to go to our website where they will find an application and can pay through Pay Pal. When someone shows interest in joining, it is best to be able to give the application then. In our busy lives, sometimes our best intentions get put on the back burner.

I want to thank Express Type & Graphics for their support in including our membership application in the Galt Chamber newsletter

this month. Hopefully, we will get new members through the business community. Within this month's Galt Area Historical newsletter, you will be reading a Policy and Procedure about membership. Please take the time to read it closely. If you are not a Life Member (a onetime fee), your membership is renewable each January. No invoice is sent. Rhonda Smith, our membership chairperson, would appreciate it, if payments are promptly sent in by January for 2019 so she can update her records. It would also be wonderful if those members who are able, could attend several general meetings throughout the year. I am proud of all that we have accomplished and I am thankful for our members and volunteers. I hope you all have a special Thanksgiving holiday; and please reflect back to all you are thankful for in 2018.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray



2018

Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President

Ida Denier ~ Vice President

Ralph Cortez ~ 2nd Vice President

Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

**Louise Dowdell ~
Corresponding Secretary**

Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian

Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer



Policy and Procedure Review

Membership Committee

We do not send out invoices. Everyone who pays yearly, your dues are due and payable in January 2019. You can send a check to: Galt Area Historical Society, PO Box 782, Galt 95632; or pay by PayPal through our website: www.galthistory.org.

If you are not a Life Member, you might consider it. It is onetime fee.

I. Purpose

The GAHS Membership Committee assists in ensuring a viable body of members is sustained who support the Mission of the GAHS. It does this by assisting in recruiting and renewing new and existing members; maintaining an accurate list of pertinent information regarding each member; and engaging members in the shared mission of "Preserving the Irreplaceable" by keeping members informed regarding volunteering opportunities and membership events.

II. Related Documentation

- Membership Applications
- Excel Membership Master List
- Membership Packet

III. Procedure

1. Membership dues are due during the month of January of the following year, unless a membership paid close to the end of the calendar year (on or after October 1). If that is the case, renewal is due a year later. It is not the policy of the GAHS to prorate dues.
2. Dues are as follows:
 - a. Individual (I) - \$20 yearly
 - b. Family (F) - \$40 yearly
 - c. Student (S) - \$10 yearly
 - d. Individual Lifetime (IF) - \$200 one time
 - e. Family Lifetime (FL) - \$250 one time
 - f. Small Business (SB) - \$50 yearly
 - g. Honorary Life (HL) - free (must be approved by GAHS Board - see Bylaws Article 3, Section 6)

3. Most new membership applications are mailed to the Society address and then forwarded to the Membership Chairperson. Others may come through the website and PayPal. These should also be forwarded to the Membership Chairperson. Address changes or any other pertinent information regarding members should be forwarded to the "Tower Views" newsletter editor in order to keep an up-to-date mailing list.
4. Membership Chairperson shall forward dues (checks, cash, PayPal documentation) to the Treasurer with a list detailing the name of the member, check number, amount, and type of membership. Membership Chairperson will provide the member a receipt upon request.
5. Membership Chairperson shall update the Excel Membership Master List from the applications. The updated Membership Master List should be printed and given to the President on a quarterly basis.
6. Membership Chairperson shall ensure that new members are mailed/emailed a Membership Packet which can include: Membership Card, "Thank You" letter, "Welcome" letter, Release of Liability form, and a Member Interest Survey.
7. Completed applications and Release of Liability forms should be properly stored and available to the GAHS Board. Lifetime and Honorary Life applications should be kept permanently. All other "yearly" membership applications should be kept for three years and then can be shredded.

Calendar

**Saturday, November 10
8 a.m.**

Workday at the
Rae Museum Gardens

**Saturday, November 17
9 a.m.**

Workday at Liberty Cemetery

**Monday, November 26
7 p.m.**

General Meeting at Hall
550 C Street

**Saturday, December 1
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Rae House Museum
Vendors, Bake Sale, Tours

**Sunday, December 2
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Rae House Museum
Christmas Open House

**Sunday, December 2
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

McFarland House
Christmas Open House

Dates and Times are
Subject to Change



In Memoriam

We recently lost another member, Charles Stemler. We want Gloria and her children to know that we are sincerely sorry and they are in our thoughts.



Gossip from the
Galt Gazette

November 1887

Mrs. George May purchased the Stringfield residence property on Sacramento Street for \$800.



Fire broke out at Peter Planalp's. Blaze started from burning tulle.



Fight on Sunday between Charley Quiggle and some hoodlums from Stockton.



Road between Hicksville and Galt in bad shape.

Social Media

The Galt Area Historical Society now has three Facebook pages.

Just go to the search bar at the top of the page and type in Galt Area Historical Society, Snapshots of Galt History, or Rae House Museum.

Stay in touch and enjoy your Galt Area Historical Society. Be sure to "Like" and "Follow" all three pages to stay informed of Historical Society news.



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Making of a Galt Historian

What's a historian? Nobody asks me that question, but I do see a lot of blank stares when I tell people what I do for the Historical Society. I enjoy the subject and the stories from the past. I was that kid in school who was listening intently while the teacher was lecturing on California or American History. I was also that kid who tried to sit alone so I could concentrate on what was being said and then finding other people sitting next to me on test day. I don't know why I enjoy history, but I know that I'm part of a select few who does. There are no books of fiction in my library. Everything is history with a concentration on smaller parts of America's

past. It has become a passion for me, and I didn't realize this until I went back to school to get my history degree. A few years ago, I got involved with the Galt Area Historical Society, and my first job was helping to organize the Society's photos. I soon realized that those photos could be a great book for me to put together. I learned a lot about Galt history while compiling the information and photos to accomplish such a feat. Since that time, I was asked to be the Historian of the organization, and I take that job seriously. I do more than cutting out articles and pasting them in a book. I love it when people ask for Galt information that isn't on record. That means I get to do research and learn more about Galt history. I want to know every part of the story that develops from my research. While looking through old newspapers for information on one subject, I run across something else that catches my eye. The more research I do, the more I can put together Galt's history. There are wonderful stories that would be pleasing to most people, but then there are those tales that people would just as soon forget. I want all those stories. History is everything both good and bad, and I'm always looking for the whole story.

Historian

Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

Eccentrics

Galt has had its' share of eccentrics. Who remembers "Hairy Spring Hairy"? He had a tiny little building; by tiny I mean 10 foot by 10 foot, right along the street where Galt Historical Society Hall sits today. It stood on blocks about 4 inches x 4 inches. He also had seven or eight Guinea Pigs. They would scurry under the building when someone walked by. He had a thick, bushy black beard with hair to match. He always wore a black suit. There was a VERY small window beside a door but no sign or anything. I was always curious, but no one ever told me anything. I was about five years old.

There was another man who was large, red haired that walked the streets carrying a long pointed stick which he used as a walking stick. He was frightening to many who didn't know him. He was over six foot tall and as he walked he would point the stick and shout "CHARGE". He did yard work and talked to himself. He was really a pitiful old fellow. He had made a great deal of money and then two men convinced him to invest in a large building along the highway about half way between Galt and Sacramento. They managed to cut him out and he had nothing left.

He was an Irish man and expected to retire and go home to Ireland. As he worked he could be heard beating himself. "Serves you right; you should have known better."

New Contracts

The Policy & Procedure committee, headed by Maria Spannath, is working on revamping the contracts for rental of the McFarland Living History Ranch, the Rae House Museum grounds, and the Hall on C St. We are looking to stream-line the contract; as well as possibly increasing the prices.

SPECIAL EVENTS *at the* RANCH

Civil War Re-Enactment

The contract is in the process of being signed between the Galt Area Historical Society and the National Civil War Association for rental of the McFarland Living History Ranch for Civil War Days: A Re-Enactment of Civil War battles between the Union and Confederates. They will begin on April 12, 2019 by hosting area school children who will come and visit the camps. The children will arrive on busses from 9 am to 2 pm and have a teaching experience about the Civil War. On Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, the public can attend from 9 am to 5 pm, with battle times from 1-4 pm on Saturday and on Sunday, the public can attend from 9 am to 3 pm, with Church-call at 9:30 am and battle times from 11 am-2pm. Previous to this weekend,



the group intends to visit and possibly camp at the Liberty Cemetery where we have some Civil War veterans buried; and have a ceremony at the Liberty. They have already gotten in touch with some people who will help get headstones for those veterans

of the Civil War who no longer have headstones at the Liberty Cemetery. This group reached out to me for the names of those veterans. Thanks to member and author, Barbara Filbin, I was able to give the names.



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Bits & Pieces

Annual Yard Sale

Thanks to LaVonne Riddlesperger, who chaired our annual yard and estate sale at the Hall. We raised over \$1400 thanks to her efforts and all the volunteers who helped her. Thanks to the many people who donated items for this sale.

Fruit Trees

We have secured some fruit trees to be planted at the McFarland in the garden area west of the house thanks to Amber Veselka. It will be a great addition to the area when the children till the soil for Pioneer Days.

Pioneer Days

If you or anyone you know would like to help Ida Denier during Pioneer Days

for the school children, please contact Ida. She can tell you the criteria and give the training for this task.

Rae House Repairs

Rae repairs of the woodpecker holes in the top of the peak and the south window repairs have been complete. The Glass Shop will be caulking those windows.

Security Cameras

Security cameras have been approved by the Board for both the Rae Museum and the McFarland Ranch. We are checking out prices now. Unfortunately, we have to protect our assets from those who may do harm to our property. There will be an update as we get close to installing them.

McFarland Restroom Updates

While we are waiting for final inspections by Sacramento County for our new restrooms at the McFarland Living History Ranch, we are now facing another critical issue of ADA and Accessibility concerning the parking spots and the lot. Lyle Lagge, Ron Jacobson, Shawn Farmer, Ida Denier and Janis Barsetti Gray met with one of the managers of the inspectors to go over this concern. It was decided that we could designate the parking to be just north of the front lawn fence. Thanks to Lyle's knowledge, we are able to use the existing sidewalks from the restroom around the gated area to the ADA parking spaces. It will cost extra in material, but a tremendous savings compared to a long sidewalk from the restrooms to our existing parking lot.

2019 Executive Board Election

Your Executive Board for 2019 are as follows:

- ✦ **President**
Janis Barsetti Gray
- ✦ **First Vice President**
Ida Denier
- ✦ **Second Vice President**
Ralph Cortez
- ✦ **Recording Secretary**
Liz Hagland
- ✦ **Corresponding Secretary**
Louise Dowdell
- ✦ **Treasurer**
Bobbi Lewis
- ✦ **Historian**
Dan Tarnasky



The McFarland Home at the McFarland Living History Ranch has been repaired and has new outside paint and trim. It looks beautiful. Thanks to J& J Hubert Painting for a beautiful job. The house will look absolutely wonderful at Christmas time with all the decorations.

Christmas Open House

The McFarland Ranch House will have a Christmas Open House on December 2nd and again on December 9th. The hours will be 12:00 - 4:00 pm. each day. If the weather permits, there will be hay rides, mulled cider on the back porch as well as cookie decorating for the children. Santa will be on the front porch and you may take pictures with him.

It takes a while to decorate the house inside and out so we would like to begin as soon as possible. If you would like to help decorate the McFarland House for Christmas please call Sue Dean at 209.745.2232 or email her at sjdean36@gmail.com.

Curator of the Rae House Museum, Julie Clark Brownfield, is also looking for volunteers to help her with the decorating of the Rae House Museum. Even though the Rae is much smaller, it still is time consuming to decorate inside and out. Contact Julie at her email: julieclarkbrownfield@gmail.com. Both houses will be beautifully and historically decorated. We hope you encourage your friends and family to come and take a tour.

This is a great opportunity for children as well as adults to see how Christmas was celebrated in the 1800's. Also, an opportunity to take pictures for your Christmas Cards on the beautiful grounds.

Galt PD Toy Drive

At our General Meeting on November 26th, please bring an unwrapped toy for ages up to 12 or 13 years for collection by the Galt Police Dept. for Christmas giving to needy children.

Lighting of the Night Parade

The City of Galt will be hosting the annual Lighting of the Night parade down C St and left onto 4th St to E St and left back to the market grounds on December 1st. More details are on the City website. On December 1, the Rae will be hosting vendors, as well as having our annual baked goods sale. Anyone who wants to contribute home baked goods for this sale, please contact Ida Denier at 209 745-1477.



Christmas Gathering

At our general meeting Monday, December 17th (yes it is early because of the holiday), we will have a brief meeting, then on to desserts and coffee, and some fun games. If you have any small gift items you would like to donate to our raffle, please let Maria Spannath know. Our holiday gathering will be at the hall at 550 C St. Hope many of you can come. If you would like to bring your favorite homemade dessert, please do so.

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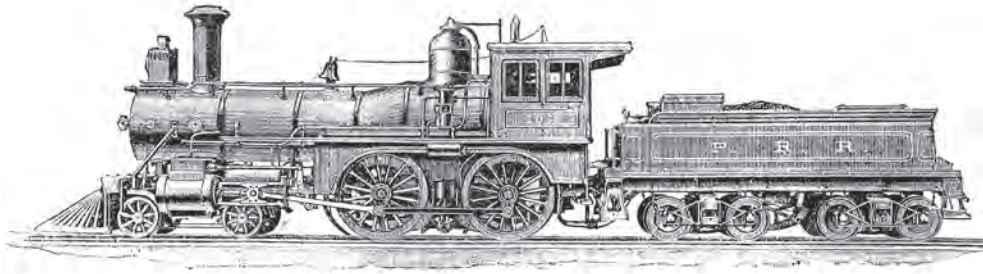
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City Plan for Railroad Display

The city of Galt has plans to put a kiosk near where the old train station stood. They plan to have pictures of the train station and railroad information. With the help of our members, Mike Greer and Shawn Farmer, the city is gathering the pictures and the information. This will be a great addition to all the improvements on 4th St in Old Town.



Historic Cemeteries

Most of you know that we own both the Elliott and the Liberty Cemeteries. These cemeteries are historic and those buried there date back many years. They include soldiers from the Civil War era. We do hold work days at each cemetery throughout the year, but we need to be more proactive in keeping the grass down when weather permits. Now would be a good time to spray weed killer on the grass. Yes we know it will rain and it will return, but we have to keep on it year round. Dead trees need to be cut and removed and branches trimmed. We want to keep what headstones that are there, clean and the burial plots weed free. If you can help Eric Schneider at the Elliott Cemetery (his email is: vintagelimosine@att.net) or Gary Berreth (his email is: gpberreth865@comcast.net) at the Liberty Cemetery, please contact them. It would be great if they each had a group they could always count on.

Rae House Spooktacular

Curator, Julie Clark Brownfield organized a wonderful community and children's event on Friday October 26th at the Rae House Museum. The outside of the house was decorated for Halloween with the house lite up with purple and an orange glow. She had a dance floor set up with a covered canopy thanks to Lyle Lagge and Earl Frey, in the parking lot. The children danced all night. There was cookie decorating, pumpkin and scarecrow contests, and lots of family fun. Thanks to TJ Guidotti from Galt PD for stopping by and passing out candy for us. There was also tours of the house and food for sale. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the event a success. More people who live near the Rae Museum and those people in town are getting to really spend more time looking at our history. Julie has more fun and educational events planned for 2019.

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There are those still “living” at the Rae House

There are those in our membership who believe in the paranormal and those who don't (judging by some of the snickering or was that nervous squirming at the last meeting). I wasn't sure until I experienced it personally. On a trip to South Carolina, I purposely stayed at a bed and breakfast that supposed to be haunted and even stayed in a room that had the most activity. I wasn't disappointed. Before I went to bed, I closed all the blinds including a small set on the door. I awoke in the middle of the night seeing half of those blinds open and the small ones on the door slowly opening and closing. I became a believer.

From my experience, I asked a paranormal investigator (with the blessing of the Board) to come to the Rae House and see if we had spirits still occupying the rooms where Alice Rae had lived thirty years prior. Ryan Privee, a Modesto resident and experienced “ghost hunter” brought all his investigating instruments and proceeded to scour the lower rooms of the house while I observed. It didn't take long before we heard

voices of a woman, a small child, and a man. Ryan asked the woman if she liked the way the house was restored, and she replied that it was “wonderful.” We couldn't make out what the child was saying, but the man was quite emphatic with a few curse words. Was it John Rae not liking that we were there? I couldn't resist the temptation to use the video application on my cell phone. I pointed it into one of the dark rooms and within a few minutes, captured orbs moving across the room. After a couple of hours and a few more “events,” Ryan left and was quite impressed with what he found.

If you would like to see some of the videos, go online to YouTube and type in Ryan Privee. Scroll down, and you will find the topic “Rae House spirit ghost investigation paranormal.” Experience for yourself. Some of the noise you hear is a “spirit box” that makes white noise or loud noises so that the spirits can communicate. Whether you believe or not, it was interesting to experience another form of Galt History.

Historian



We're Still Looking for Archival Materials

There is still a lot of Galt History out there that Galtonians or former Galtonians have stashed in boxes in closets, basements, and attics. Whether you donate items to us or let us "scan and return," please search through those boxes and collect the items listed below. You can drop them off (Barsetti Vineyards, 400 4th Street #150, Galt, Ca) or mail them to us. Many of you don't realize that what might be insignificant to you is very significant to us. The only requirement is it has to do with people and places in our Historic Area (Galt, Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony). Remember that Galt Area History is 1869 to 2018.

1. Photographs (People or Places)
2. Old Property Deeds
3. Diplomas
4. Awards
5. Newspaper or Magazine Clippings
6. Store Receipts
7. Programs from school or specials events
8. Church Programs
9. Wedding Announcements
10. Funeral Programs
11. Advertisements
12. Business Cards from any business
13. High School or any Elementary School Yearbook
14. School Report Cards from any school
15. Old Galt Herald or Galt Gazette Newspapers
16. Matchbooks
17. Calendars
18. Military Induction or Discharge Papers and Commendations
19. Tickets to any events in our Historic Area
20. Anything else printed that has to do with Galt, Thornton, Herald, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony.



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