

From the Archives
A Shady Walk



This bucolic photo of Oak Avenue dates to before 1900. Titled “A shady walk,” the image represents a time when life was unhurried, and neighbors up and down the street knew each other. Friends would congregate along the dirt walkway between the fences and trees. It does not take much to imagine horse-drawn carriages proceeding down

the dusty dirt road and children playing stickball between passing wagons. It is presumed that the name of the street came from the abundance of oak trees planted along the thoroughfare. There are only a couple of the original residences left, including the Rae House and but a handful of the original oak trees still in existence.

May 2022 Newsletter GAHS Membership Updates

We welcome new members Socorro Guzman, Darlene & Rex Alden and Cindy Bice!

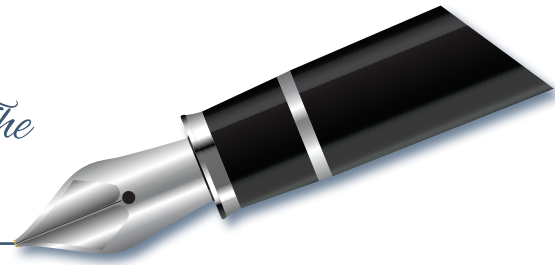
A huge thank you to those who have responded with their Annual Dues payment: Yvonne Miller King, Barbara Reece, Bobbi Lewis, Delores Gregorio, Kirk Swim.

Remember to please contact us for any address, phone or email changes that you have. We need to have updated addresses or it costs us each time a newsletter is returned for incorrect address. But more important is we want to keep everyone updated and informed of all our events and activities!

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

Or 209-745-4504.

A Message From The **President**



Dear Members,

Spring has sprung: Kind of! The last rain was welcome. We were very fortunate that we had wonderful weather and lots of wind for our annual Kite Day/Extravaganza April 9th. I want to thank Gale Webber who organized the entire event. Many of you may not know that prior to this event, Gale broke her ankle. She still "hobbled" around the entire event or was shuttled around in a golf cart driven by local, Larry Eidson. Gale is a super star event planner. There are so many volunteers to thank; but special thanks to Joan Werblun and Sammi Watson for handling the kite area, Kathleen Amos and the docents in the house, Bernice Lee at the front door of the house, Lyle Lagge and his staff for getting the ranch ready for the event, to all our volunteers, and to Annette Kunze who was dressed as the Easter Bunny all day. We estimate that over 2,000 came though out the day. The crowd enjoyed all the 70 vendors who were selling their wares, the Scouts with the games they provided for the children, a face painter, food trucks, an egg drop by Cosumnes Fire Dept.,

Old City Kites from Sacramento who brought some huge kites, CERTS & Medical Response Unit, CHP, California Dept. of Corrections, Cal Waste, a balloon man, many nonprofit booths, and Galt Rotary for providing a pie eating contest.

As I spent the day at the GAHS booth with Dan Tarnasky, I watched the excitement of the children looking for Easter eggs and flying kites. The littles ones wanted to have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. The one thing that struck me was how the kids were being kids. I saw no phones, no computers. They were being children enjoying the day at our beautiful McFarland Ranch. It reminds me of when I was a kid. The simple things of flying kites; the excitement of looking for Easter Eggs. It brought back many memories. I also know we gave these children and their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles a day to remember. I am glad the GAHS will be a part of their memories some day. Mark your calendars for April 1, 2023 for our next Kite Day/Eggstravaganza.

Janis Barsetti Gray

2022 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President
Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary
Len ReidReynoso ~ Treasurer
Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian

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Upcoming Dates

May 7:

Ladies' Tea

1pm to 3:30pm at Rae Museum

May 9:

Board Meeting

4pm at Rae Museum

May 23:

General Meeting

6pm at McFarland Barn

August 27:

Car Show

9am to 3pm

September 24:

Sip And Snack

6pm to 9pm at MAC

SAVE THE DATE! Big Day of Giving MAY 5th

Help the Galt Area Historical Society During the Big Day of Giving 2022

Big Day of Giving is the Sacramento region's annual celebration of giving to local causes that matter to donors and their loved ones. Since 2013, more than 50,000 donors have helped local nonprofits raise \$65 million through the region-wide, community-driven effort - proving that, when we give together, we make a significant impact!

Help us at the Galt Area Historical Society continue maintaining our historical resources and acquiring new ones. It's easy to do, and you can do it online.

1. Go to www.bigdayofgiving.org
2. Type in Galt Area Historical Society
3. Click the DONATE button.
4. Fill out the required information.
5. You're done!

Please share this information

When you share with your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors why you care for local nonprofits and their work, you make a difference. This fundraiser is in conjunction with our annual appeal letter. You can do either one or both if you like.

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Bits & Pieces

Kite Day/Eggstravaganza Big Hit

Thanks to all the over 2K people who attended and to our great volunteers and docents for putting on a memorable day for the children and their parents. A huge thank you to Chairperson, Gale Webber who worked tirelessly to create a successful event. We want to thank all the vendors who came, the Galt PD, CHP, Cosumnes FD, and the Scouts. A big thanks to Larry Eidson for bringing his golf cart and shuttling Gale around with her broken ankle. Next year's event is already scheduled for April 1, 2023. Gale expects it be bigger than this year.

Docents Needed

The Executive Board has voted to have the McFarland House open the first Sunday of each month in coordination with the Rae House from 1-4pm. In the past, the McFarland House was only open during events. Of course, if a wedding or event has rented the ranch, those Sundays are subject to be closed. Therefore, we are in need of more docents to help Kathleen Amos cover the house.

Appeal Donations

Our annual appeal letter for donations only went out last week, and already our members have donated hundreds of dollars. We appreciate you so much. It is with these funds that we can continue our mission of preserving and restoring the history of the Galt Area. If you have not sent in a check, please consider doing so. It can be any amount. All money is appreciated and it all adds up. We received a \$1,000 donation from the A-Z Foundation. We are truly appreciative that this organization thought of us to give their donation.

Fireworks Booth

This year the Galt Area Historical will be manning a fireworks booth starting June 28th through July 4th. We are looking for volunteers to work 4 hours shifts. Contact Gale Webber if you want to help. The more we sell in this fundraiser the more we receive to help us with all our projects.

Ladies Tea at the Rae

If you have not bought your tickets to our annual Ladies Tea at the Rae on May

7th, you can go online to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com); or you can buy them at Barsetti Vineyards tasting room or from Joan Werblun. The price of the ticket is \$40. Joan, who is our Chairperson, always puts on an eloquent affair and this year is no different. If you would like to help make sandwiches on Friday the 6th or volunteer to serve, please contact Joan. This fundraiser helps us with projects at the museum. What a great way to treat Mom for Mothers' Day.

Roses in Bloom

If you have not been by the Rae Museum this week, you definitely should. All the roses are in bloom and absolutely stunning. Get your cameras out and come by this Sunday for the open house from 1-4p.

Galt Chamber of Commerce Mixer

As members of the Galt Chamber of Commerce, we are hosting the June mixer on June 22. Not only are Chamber members invited, our members are invited to come and mix with others. It starts at 5pm. We will have refreshments and appetizers. Let me know if you will be coming.

New Artifacts at the Rae House Museum



Penny scale from the old Galt Pharmacy



Door plaque from the VFW Post.



Dr. Pavitt's personalized license plate

Banner from the Arno Twin City Girls 4H Club

The Corral

Thanks to Barbara Drake, the Historical Society archives contains these photos of her family's gas station from the early 1950s. It was located on the corner of Walnut Grove Road and Franklin Boulevard. (Thornton Road) in Thornton. Her father, John Stancil, built the business that contained a station, cafe, and a bar. The bulldog in one of the photos is named Chata.





Tea at the Rae

Saturday, May 7, 2022

1:00 pm ~ 3:30 pm

Rae House Museum 204 Oak Avenue

\$40 Per Person

Tickets

Joan Werblun 209-745-0726


Barsetti Vineyard Tasting Room 400 4th Street

On Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ladies-tea-at-the-rae-tickets-297445015047>

Table sponsorships available

Please call Joan Werblun for more
information



The Legend of the Liberty Rose

The roses at the Rae House are blooming profusely this time of year. Every color imaginable is represented in both tree and bush varieties. One of the roses is the Liberty Rose, and there is a story behind it.

Within the Historical Society archives is a copy of an article written by Freda Jahant Nesbit about the Legend of the Liberty Rose. Ms. Nesbit was the granddaughter of Liberty pioneer Peter Jahant and grew up around the Liberty Cemetery and often played there with other local children. She had seen the rose bush but never thought much about it until she had a conversation with Lodi Judge John Solkmore.

As the story goes, Louis Andreas was a trapper on one of Jedediah Smith's trapping expeditions through Northern California in 1825. Andreas contracted a disease while the group traveled in the vicinity of Dry Creek and died. His devoted Negro slave buried him in what would become the Liberty Cemetery. The slave erected a crude cross and planted a rooted rose bush on the gravesite they were carrying with them. The rose was intended as a gift for friends in the Pacific Northwest before they were to head east. The rose had grown to an unimaginable height of twenty feet before it was removed during the construction of State Highway 99 in 1954. It's a great story but has some flaws.

A little research finds that Jedediah Smith had kept a diary of his expeditions, as did Harrison Rogers, a member of his party. They didn't get to Northern California until December of 1826. Smith's trapping party numbered fifteen men, but Louis Andreas was not among them. So, where did the Liberty Rose come from?

Further research brings up a man named Michel Laframboise, a French-Canadian fur trader in Oregon, led expeditions for the Hudson's Bay Company into California to trap beaver. French Camp was the



southernmost campsite. The travels began in 1827 and continued until 1843, when the fur market collapsed. Many of the fur trapping parties left no records, so it was hard to say who joined the trapping expeditions in California. At the same time, a malaria epidemic was carried with one of these expeditions and wiped out a large portion of Native Americans and several trappers. Was Louis Andreas one of the casualties? Did he own a slave? Why was he carrying a rooted rose?

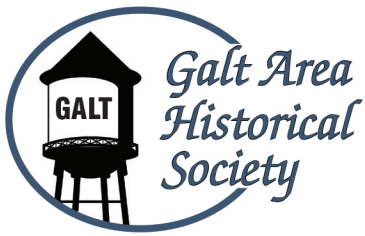
Our friends, the Tuleburg Chapter of the Clampers, have helped the Historical Society with being stewards of our two pioneer cemeteries. In 2002, they installed a historical marker in the Liberty Cemetery commemorating Louis Andreas as the first known burial

in the cemetery and backs up the same research and have him passing away in 1846.

According to the dictionary, the definition of a legend is "a traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but unauthenticated." Until more facts can be found, the Legend of the Liberty Rose is just that, a legend!

When State Highway 99 became four lanes in 1954, several gravesites had to be moved, including Louis Andreas. The Liberty Rose was to be destroyed. Freda Jahant Nesbit's daughter and son-in-law preserved several rose cuttings that grew into full-sized bushes, including one next to the bay window at the Rae House

- Dan Tarnasky



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