

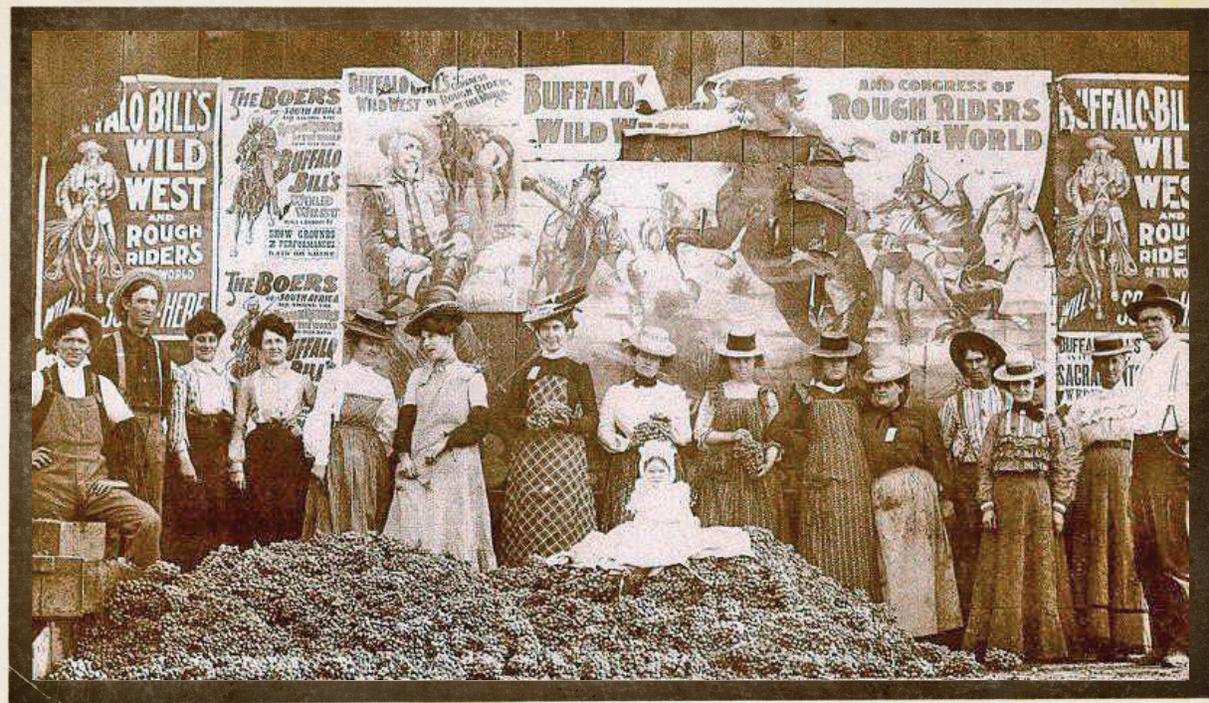
TOWER VIEWS

Galt Area Historical Society, Inc.

Arno • Clay • Colony • Elliott • Galt • Herald • Hicksville • Liberty • Thornton

July 2022

From the Archives
March 24, 2021



This group of Galt friends posed for a photo on October 4, 1902, at the Thomas Swift Ferguson Lumber Yard next to A Street's tracks. In front of them is a load of Zinfandel grapes ready to be shipped from Ferguson's loading dock. During harvest, farmers used all available loading docks to get their crops to market. The rail yard

between A and F Streets bristled with activity in the fall. A couple of famous Galt faces appear in the photo in the form of Charlie Pritchard (second from left) and Maude "Bunty" Quiggle (sixth from left). Behind the group are advertisements for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show appearing in Sacramento.

July 2022 Newsletter GAHS Membership Updates

Complementary Membership Status Changes were made at the May 2022 Membership Meeting and new bylaws were passed which eliminate Complementary memberships. Last month those members listed as Complementary were mailed an invoice to maintain their membership.

Also, Life Time Memberships as defined by the newly adopted Bylaws. To clarify, if you are a current Life Time Individual or Life Time Family, your membership status remains the same: You are “grandfathered” in. The new membership in the bylaws states there will no longer be Life time membership. We will only have yearly dues for individuals, family, businesses, and students. Current Life Time members remain unchanged. If you have any questions, please contact us at 209-730-3127.

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,

It is hard to believe that half of 2022 is past us. Perhaps due to the previous lockdowns, we are living at a faster pace: Trying to do all we can and “make up for lost time.” However, is that what we should be doing? What happened to “stop and smell the roses?” Why not enjoy each day at a slower pace? The other day during an event, I had the opportunity to spend some time inside the Rae House Museum. As I walked around reading the descriptions with each picture, knowing it was about 103 degrees outside, I thought how did our ancestors work so hard under the same conditions with no truck with air conditioning, no house with AC: Only the shade trees and maybe a nearby creek to cool off in. What a different and difficult life that must have been. However, they forged ahead and created our town and the little areas near our town. As I continued walking around the Rae Museum, looking at the displays, it is obvious that we need to honor these people who came before us. Times were hard; work was hard; but what they accomplished was worth it, especially for us today. That is what

Dan’s displays in the Rae are about: Honoring all those people who created our town.

How they must have enjoyed Independence Day, picnicking under the Valley Oak Trees, the children playing games, the adults talking about the weather and the crops, eating homemade apple pie and preserves. Time off from some work was a treat. However, farmers know that work is never done. Many of our ancestors came from far states and other countries. They knew they had opportunities here for a better life, but it would take hard work. They were free to make their living, to worship as they choose, and to feel the liberty we enjoy today. Celebrate the 4th Of July with your family and friends; but remember why and how we are able to enjoy this time.

You probably will be reading this after Independence Day. The celebration is not only one day out of a year, our freedoms and liberty are something to celebrate and cherish every day throughout the year.

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

July 3:

Open House

1pm to 4pm at

*McFarland House &
Rae Museum*

July 11:

Executive Board Meeting

4pm location TBD

July 25:

General Meeting

6pm at Rae Museum

in the Rose Garden

August 7:

Open House

1pm to 4pm at

*McFarland House &
Rae Museum*

August 8:

Executive Board Meeting

4pm location TBD

August 22:

General Meeting

6pm at Rae Museum

in the Rose Garden

August 27:

Drive Down Memory Lane

Car Show

9am to 2pm at

McFarland Ranch

September 24:

Sip And Snack

6pm to 9pm at MAC

News from McFarland Ranch and the Liberty Schoolhouse

We have been working on the garden area, it has been disked, rototilled, fortified and rototilled again. We started planting in early June.

For everyone that has been to the Ranch you may have noticed that we have put down a lot of gravel. It is important to maintain the 10 mph to help reduce wear and tear on the road; the faster we drive on the road the faster it wears out.

On Monday, May 30th we delivered the window frames for the Liberty school house onsite. We are planning to start installing the in the near future. The Schoolhouse has two walls that need to be secured before we install the window frames.

Once the window frames are installed we will install Plexiglas. We decided to use Plexiglas because it is 100 times stronger than glass. After the Plexiglas is installed we will add the molding. We will be adding siding to finish the walls.



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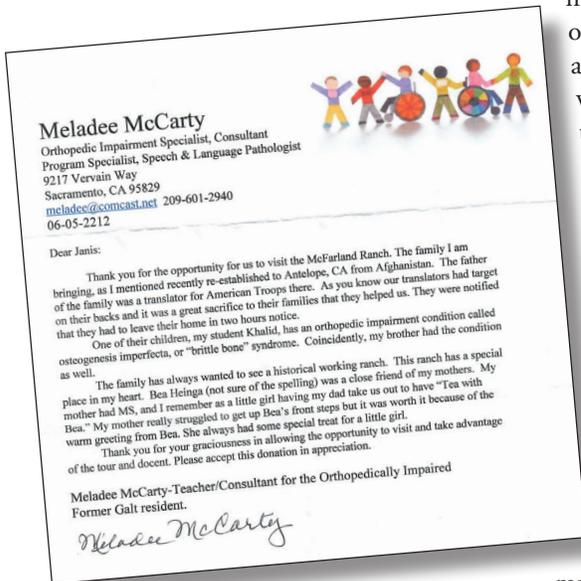
Bits & Pieces

Fireworks Booth

You may be reading this after the 4th of July, but I wanted to thank everyone who worked as a volunteer in the GAHS Fireworks booth. This is one of our big fundraisers this year. Thanks to Gale Webber for Chairing this fundraiser. So many people stepped up to help. It is greatly appreciated. Next newsletter we should have information on what we made.

McFarland Donation

We received a \$200 donation from Meladee Spiess McCarty for a recent tour of the McFarland House with some guests she brought. I have attached a copy of her letter.



Liberty School House Update

Lyle Lagge and his crew are in the process of putting in the new windows that they made for the Liberty Schoolhouse. We have discovered some termite damage and part of the building is pulling away from the rest of the building. This was not anticipated, but Lyle feels it can be taken care of. Unfortunately, we have so many pressing projects going that the schoolhouse is put back on the list. If anyone wants to help just on this project and you have building skills, please contact Lyle.

Activity at the Rae

On June 22nd, we were the host of the Galt Chamber of Commerce mixer at the Rae Museum. Each month a member gets the honor of hosting this business mixer. We had the house open for tours, appetizers, and drink. We saw about 35 people attend. Even though it was a warm day under the trees, everyone had an enjoyable time.

Also on June 25th, we were honored to have a community event in the rose garden at the Rae for Sgt Craig Walton, who recently retired from the Galt PD. His family wanted people to come to the Rae to visit, tell stories, and thank him. We had quite a crowd from City officials, Galt PD, community members, and Don Nottoli who presented Craig with a beautiful plaque. We thank the Walton Family for their generous donation to the Rae Museum. Thanks to Joanie Corona and Sammi Watson for docenting at the Rae on Saturday.

Reservation Specialist

Joan Werblun is our new Reservation Specialist for the McFarland Ranch. She is booking weddings and events for the McFarland. Many of you know Joan from her decorating skills at Christmas time for both houses. Joan, a nurse and florist, has had much experience handling weddings and venues. She has been doing a great job; and has been showing the ranch quite a bit.

Membership Reminder

As a reminder, if you are currently a Lifetime member, your status remains the same: You are grandfathered in. However, with the new Bylaws, we no longer offer Lifetime memberships. Also, those who had complimentary status, have

been sent invoices. We no longer have complimentary memberships. We hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter and being a member of our organization and will elect to continue with us.

Car Show

If you want to show your car or know someone who has a 1970 or older car, please go to our website and make a copy of the entrance form; mail it in as soon as possible. You can also go online to: www.galtvendor.com. You will see the participation form and can fill out online. We are hoping for 100 cars and have quite a few already. We really appreciate pre registering. That saves you time at the gate having to fill out the form.

August Newsletter

Our August newsletter will be getting to you later in the month of August. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Colony School Reunion

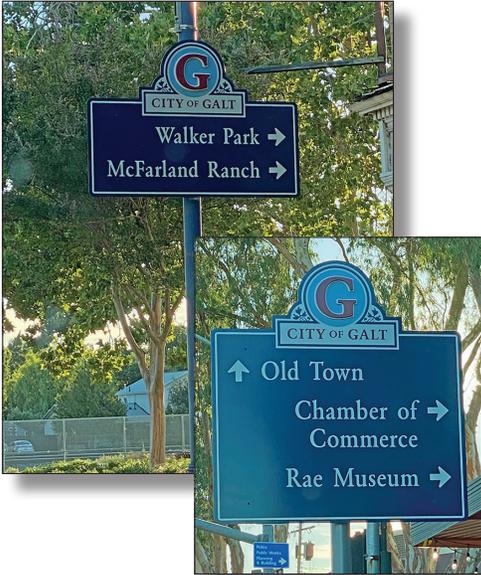
Recently 5 men who went to the Colony Grammar School had a reunion. Those present were Jack Jenkins, Ken Miller, Tom Cannon, Merle Maggy, and John Maggy. Jack has been working with Dan to get more information about this school and area that is part of the GAHS. I am sure they had a great time reminiscing. Thanks so much for helping us preserve the history of Colony.

John Maggy, Ken Miller, Tom Cannon, Jack Jenkins and Merle Maggy



New City Signage

The city has put up new signage telling the public what direction points of interest are located. We were so appreciative that the City put the McFarland Ranch and the Rae House Museum on two of these signs.



McFarland Nature Area

Lyle Lagge and his volunteer crew, Earl, Jim, Ernie, and Eliud, cleared away the dry grass in the nature area at the



McFarland. This was a difficult task in the heat. Thanks to all of you for your hard work. The concern is always fire. The county also disked a 30 ft strip around the ranch fence from their side.

Memorial

We recently lost another member, Myron Dause. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to his sister, Lavonne Riddlespurger and to Myron's family. Lavonne said how Myron enjoyed reading our newsletter.

Membership Meeting and BBQ

Our June membership meeting and BBQ was attended by approximately 30 people. Thanks to everyone who brought some food for the potluck. The Board supplied the hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, and drinks. We had a short meeting and then enjoyed the nice breeze in the back yard at the Rae Museum.

The Galt Area Historical Society presents our 11th Annual Wine, Beer & Food Event



Sip & Snack At The Mac
Saturday, September 24th
6pm-10pm

\$40 in advance
\$50 at the door
 Tickets available at EventBrite.com or
 by calling 209-730-3127
 Email: GAHS@galthistory.com

Wine, Beer and Food Tasting 6pm-9pm
 Live music by Phil & da Pinots 7pm-10pm
 Tours of the McFarland House
 Raffle

No one under 21 years of age admitted.
 All proceeds to support the Galt Area Historical Society
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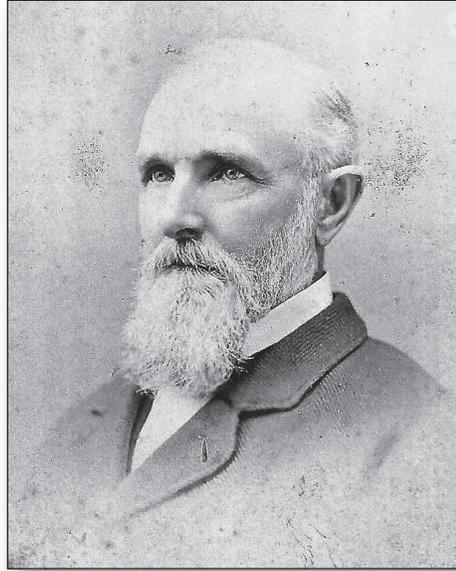


Dr. Obed Harvey

Nothing can be of greater interest regarding the historical narrative of Sacramento County than a page from the life history of those who have contributed so largely to its growth and development. One such person was Dr. Obed Harvey

Dr. Harvey was born in Wayne County, near Lake Ontario, New York, on September 7, 1825. He was the son of David Harvey, a farmer, and Abigail Kilbourn "Nabby" Ainsworth Harvey, a native of Wilbraham, Massachusetts. Obed's mother was of Welsh ancestry, while his father's ancestors came from Scotland. It is a matter of family history that both his great-grandfather and one of his sons died on a prison ship while serving their country during the Revolutionary War. A portion of Dr. Harvey's boyhood was spent in Gilbertsville, Otsego County, New York, where he attended an academy and began studying medicine under Dr. Roderick. Later, he went to St. Charles, Illinois, where his parents resided, and continued his studies under Prof. G. W. Richards. Harvey graduated with honors from the Rock Island Medical Institute, which became the University of Iowa, in 1848.

After practicing his profession for two years in Genoa and Elgin, Illinois, the discovery of gold in California attracted his attention. He became one of the pioneers who braved the difficulties and dangers of a trip overland arriving with his party at Hangtown (now Placerville) in El Dorado County on August 3, 1850. There he practiced his profession with Dr. Asa Clark and was put in charge of the El Dorado County Hospital. Dr. Harvey was also associated with Dr. Keen, a prominent physician and politician of that county. During his residency there, he was interested in mining and many public service enterprises. In 1859, he was a delegate and active member of that county



Dr. Obed Harvey

to the first railroad convention ever held in this State. It was held in San Francisco and was one of the developing movements establishing a railroad across the continent. His affiliation with the convention would be a significant factor in Galt's founding.

On his way East in the fall of 1857, on the steamer Central America, he was wrecked off Cape Hatteras, being one of forty-nine passengers saved out of about 425; they were picked up by the Norwegian bark Ellen, after having floated on a piece of the wreck about nine hours. Arriving in New York, the University of New York's medical department conferred him an honorary degree. While there, he attended as a delegate from the California State Medical Society the meeting of the American Medical Association held in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, in 1858; this being the first or second occasion the State Medical Society of California was represented at a meeting of the National Association. Loud applause greeted the calling of



Genevieve Harvey

his name by the Secretary incident to his perilous voyage. The doctor received many warm complimentary expressions and congratulations upon his almost miraculous escape. He has made several other visits East during the intervening years but always returned with an increased regard for his adopted State's comfort and advantages.

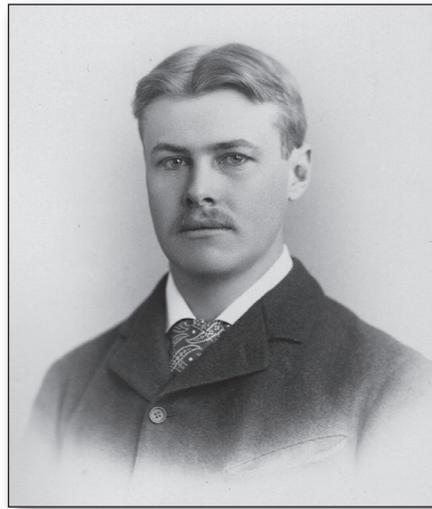
During the Civil War years, Dr. Harvey --a staunch Union Democrat --was elected state senator from El Dorado county and an acting surgeon for the 4th Regiment, California Volunteers. In 1864 he went to Washington "in the interest of the co-tenants of the Chabolla Grant. During this same trip, Dr. Harvey also visited some of the Army hospitals in Virginia; the current collection includes some official documents allowing him to pass into the war zone where these hospitals were located.

In 1869 he laid out the town of Galt on the land he'd acquired in 1852. He would get help from Charles

- Continued From Previous Page

Convention. In the same year, Dr. Harvey was largely instrumental in carrying through the South Fork Canal, described as “the life of El Dorado county,” and also assisted in constructing the Pacific Quartz mill just east of Placerville. In 1871-1872 he was a member of the State Assembly, after which he became director of the State Hospital (state asylum for the insane) in Stockton.

Having relinquished his medical practice, he devoted time to his extensive and varied farm interests. He had about 3,500 acres, primarily dedicated to dairying, grain, and stock, with a small orchard and vineyard of choice selected fruits. He had taken an active interest and the leading part in raising means for the erection of school buildings, churches, and other public improvements. In May 1868, Dr. Obed Harvey married Susan Mitchell Hall. She was a native of New Haven, Connecticut. She brought the culture and inbred refinement and educational insight from her upbringing. Following a taste for scientific pursuits, their only son



Fred Harvey



Susan Harvey

Fred completed a course of study at the Institute of Technology at Boston. In Galt, he helped bring the Sego Milk Plant to town.

In contrast, their only daughter Genevieve attended the renowned institute for young ladies near Philadelphia and became a first chair harpist for the San Francisco Symphony. Politically Dr. Harvey was a Republican. A Whig in the early days, Harvey was largely instrumental

in organizing the party in El Dorado County in 1852. During the first Lincoln campaign, he was brought forward by his friends, elected to the State Senate, served in that capacity for three years; and later served in the Assembly. Dr. Harvey served as director of the State Asylum for the Insane at Stockton for twelve years.

*From the Archives of the
Galt Area Historical Society*

Train Depot Replica Presentation

Recently the GAHS was treated to a presentation of a replica building of the former Galt Train Station that stood on C Street and 4th by Mike Greer. This building replica was made by Dennis Noble and it took about one year. Mike donated the station about 6 months ago, but asked the GAHS not to show it until he was able to attend the presentation personally.

Mike, who has written a book on the railroads in Galt, is an expert on the history of the railroad in our area. You can buy his book directly from Mike or at the Rae House Museum. Many people wondered what this box structure was inside the museum, made specifically for the train station display. Thanks so much Mike and Dennis. For those of us who remember the old train station, it was a trip back in time.





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