



*From the Archives*

## Seven McEnerney Brothers



One of the early pioneer families of the Galt area was the McEnerneys of the long-gone town of Arno. Patrick McEnerney came from County Westmeath, Ireland, and settled in Stockton in 1872, where he married Bridget Flaherty, another native of Ireland (County Roscommon). They both moved to what is now called the Patrick McEnerney Ranch, northeast of Galt, in 1881. Eleven children were born to the McEnerney family, seven boys, and four girls. The seven

sons pictured left to right are Paul, Barney, Leo, Tom, Joe, Frank, and William. All of them were raised to work on the 200-plus acre farm, and Paul, Joe, and William continued to do so for the rest of their lives. Barney, Tom, and Frank went to work for the railroad, and Leo became a shopkeeper and Galt area mail carrier. The four McEnerney sisters were Susan, Gertrude, Sarah, and Mary. There are McEnerney descendants still living in the area.

July 2023  
Newsletter

## GAHS Membership

Please contact us for any address, phone or email changes.

Contact

**Liz Haglund**

with any questions about membership.

**aguire@hotmail.com**

**or (209) 327-1098**

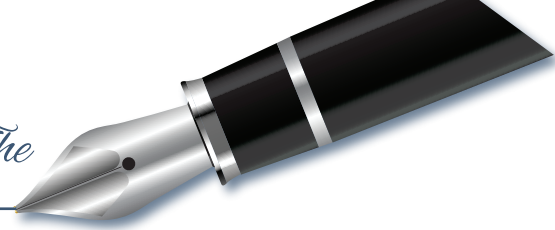
If you have received your annual dues invoice please remit payment. If not, let Liz know. She will gladly get you an invoice.

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*A Message From The*



## President

The Fourth of July makes us think of many things including BBQ's, picnics, parades, family and friends gathering, fireworks, lots of red white and blue, and supporting our troops. Most importantly is the freedom that our founding fathers declared to the world 247 years ago. On that day, 56 patriots pledged their lives and honor to defend the newly drafted United States' rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We continue to protect and defend those rights today.

Actually the Continental Congress voted in favor of our independence from Britain on July 2, 1776. Two days later, delegates from the 13 original colonies adopted the historical document as our Declaration of Independence.

In 1869 when Galt was founded as a town, our independence as a country was only 93 years old. Conceivably, some people who lived at the time of the signing of our independence could have still been alive. For those who settled in Galt, celebrating this day was similar to how others celebrated throughout the country. Perhaps not as large as in the areas that were impacted by the Revolutionary War, but all were free from the then tyrannical country overseas. Galtonians celebrated with picnics,

parades, and music. Families and friends gathered to give thanks for the freedoms they enjoyed. I am pretty sure that Galt did not see fireworks at that time. I can visualize a bandstand on Front St (now Fourth St), gatherings and festivities. I remember as a child sitting our backyard watching fireworks at Lodi Lake from a distance, wondering why Galt did not have fireworks. As time progressed, Galt now has some of the best fireworks around for a small city.

While the day of celebrations is important, let us not lose sight of its true meaning. In 1776, patriots had great struggles to free this country from Britain, to maintain ourselves as an independent country, free to pursue our life, liberty and happiness. They sacrificed much and lives were lost. When we gather with friends and family to BBQ and watch fireworks, remember who and for what got us to this point in our history. I still get a tear in my eye when I listen to the Star Spangled Banner. It makes me appreciate our founding patriots, their struggles for a new nation, and to those who forged their way to a new life in our town because of the independence we achieved as a nation.

Happy Fourth of July to all.

*- Janis Barsetti Gray*

## 2023 Historical Society Executive Board

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## Upcoming Dates

July 10:  
Executive Board Meeting  
at Barsetti Tasting Room  
4:00pm

July 24:  
General Members Meeting  
at Rae Museum Rose Garden  
6:00pm

August 6:  
Open House at the Rae  
Museum & McFarland House  
1:00pm to 4:00pm

August 14:  
Executive Board Meeting  
at Barsetti Tasting Room  
4:00pm

August 26:  
A Drive Down Memory Lane  
Car Show at McFarland Living  
History Ranch  
4:00pm

August 28:  
General Members Meeting  
at Rae Museum Rose Garden  
6:00pm

# Trip Through the Cemetery

Last month's gravestone inscription was "Hiram Chase."

Hiram Chase was born in Saratoga County, New York, in 1824. His father, Abner Chase, was a clothing manufacturer and lumber merchant. Hiram worked on the family farm and trained with his father in the lumber business. In 1852, Hiram Chase found the California Gold Rush too irresistible and made his way west. After a brief stop in Placerville, Chase became one of the first early Galt area pioneers when he leased a farm close to Dry Creek. In 1857, he went back to New York and married Amanda Frazer. Three Chase children were born in New York, Frederick, John, and Fannie. The Chase family returned to California in 1869 and purchased 160 acres from John McFarland west of Galt. In 1885, Hiram Chase discovered he was one of several heirs to a Chase family fortune worth \$800,000,000 and 400,000 acres of land in England. By the time his inheritance arrived, it was just enough to live out the rest of his days comfortably.



*for next month's  
newsletter...*

*"Who was  
Oscar Wiles?"*



## Can You Help Us?

These photos come from a collection of unidentified images from Genie Olson. Can anyone identify the school or schools? Does anyone know any of the students?



# Bits & Pieces

## Fireworks Booth

Thanks to everyone who volunteered your time to work in our fireworks booth. Many of you worked multiple shifts. This is our largest fundraising activity of the year and helps pay our bills. Next month, after we have completed the relevant accounting, we will provide a report out on the fundraising effort.



## Roof Repairs at the MAC

As we said in a previous newsletter, our insurance company sent out an inspector to inspect all buildings at the McFarland Ranch. This was a very thorough inspection. We must comply with the findings and those items they said needs repairing. If not, we could lose our insurance. We have already had the repairs to the electrical system completed. The next repair will be to the roofs of buildings with old cedar shake roofs. The roof repairs will cost approximately \$30K. These repairs will occur in July when we have no weddings or other activities going on. After the repairs to the roof, there will be some painting before completion of the inspection findings. Painting will probably occur once the weather cools in the fall.

## Email and Communication with Members

I realize that some of you do not have emails, but if you do, it is important that we have that on file. For example, when I sent out a reminder recently about the June BBQ. Unfortunately, if I did not have an email for you, I was not able to reach out to you. So if you did not get that email from me about the BBQ, it means I do not have an email for you. However, I did get four members whose email was returned. If the following people could contact me and send me an accurate email, that would be great: Laurie Stover, John Maggy, Jean Moersch, and Judy Castle. My email address is: ricjan@barsettivineyards.com. There are times after the newsletter for the month have gone out, when we need to make a contact with members for reminders or updates.

## Liberty School House and Rae House Museum Repairs

We do have a couple of contractors who are donating their time to restore the Liberty School House. The work is continuing. We hope that in October when we celebrate our Charter Night, the school house will be complete. Lyle and his crew have been working on windows and repurposing wood out at the McFarland Ranch wood-shop for the school house. Lyle also repaired the front steps at the Rae Museum.

## August Car Show

We currently have 25 cars signed up for our car show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane" August 26th. We know that about 75% of the cars sign up the day of the show. Unfortunately, that makes it difficult when planning volunteer staff. However, that seems to be the norm for the car show in past years. If you are planning to sign up or you have friends with a car, truck, camper, motorcycle, muscle car, etc that is a 1970 model or older, please join us. We usually have 80-90 cars attend; but would like to hit the 100 mark this year. A participation flyer is included in this newsletter. A flyer is also on our website: [www.galthistory.com](http://www.galthistory.com)

## June Meeting & BBQ

Thanks to everyone who attended our June meeting and who brought food for our potluck. This is always a fun time to take a minute to sit back, talk, and enjoy the beauty of the Rae House Museum grounds and the roses in the garden.

## FLORAL DESIGNS

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# McFarland Bunk House and Groom's Room

For months, Joan Werblun, Samie Watson, Rita Martin and Bernice Lee have been cleaning and fixing the bunk house to be used for Pioneer Days as the replica bunk house and also sub as a groom's room for weddings. They have done a beautiful job. Not only has the room been cleaned out, but decorated to maintain the old west theme. I hope at some event; you all get a chance to see the inside of the bunk house.



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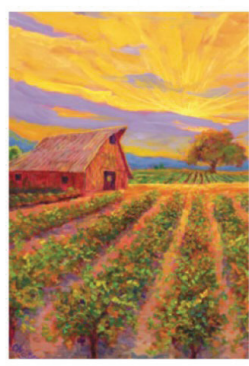
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# Galt Firsts *Part 1*

Have you ever wondered what church was the first in Galt or who the first mayor was? I've always liked lists of facts (the facts nerd I am) and have read *The Book of Lists* by David Wallechinsky. The book contains hundreds of lists, many accompanied by explanations. Here is a list of Galt's firsts and a short description in no particular order.

## First Church

When the town of Galt was created in 1869, the little town of Liberty, just south of Galt, began moving its buildings into the new town. In 1878, the Christian Church was placed just at the corner of the original grid, now 7th and B Streets. There were no earlier churches for lack of a population to start a congregation. The Christian Church came with its own.

## First General Store

Once the streets of Galt were laid out, businesses began to build shops. Most occupied the 4th Street corridor. John McFarland built a wooden structure on the corner of 4th and B Streets. Andrew Whitaker and Don Ray leased the building, becoming the first store in town. They moved to their new building down 4th Street a few months later, and John Brewster bought the building and opened his store.

## First Postmaster

Speaking of John Brewster, he became the first postmaster four months after Galt's founding in the store he had just purchased. He held that position until 1875. Brewster would become postmaster again between 1897 and 1905.

## First School

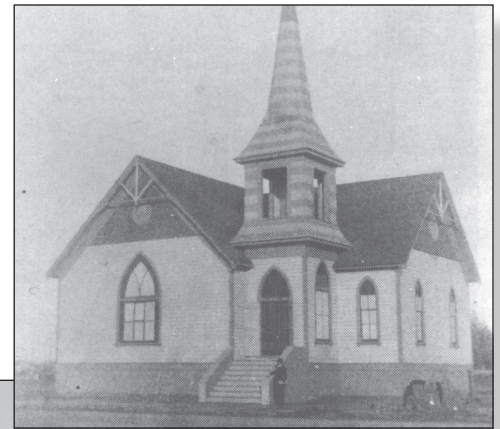
Research has established that the first school in the town of Galt was located on the west side of the railroad. This coincided with the advent of the railroad around 1869. It is difficult to "pinpoint" the exact location since three different sites were mentioned -- one in the four hundred block of 2nd Street, one in the area of Harvey Park, and the other near the old Guild Hall. The school was called the Harvey Grove School. During 1870, the town "outgrew" this school, so city leaders built a new one on B Street, between 5th and 6th Streets. This new school opened in 1878.

## First Undertaker

In the late 1800s, it was customary in



*Galt  
Christian  
Church*



*Galt House/  
Commercial  
Hotel*

a small town for the deceased's family and friends to prepare and bury a loved one. All you needed to do was clean and dress the dead, put them in a coffin, have a wake, and then bury them. This was routine in Galt until 1914 when the Don Ray Company hired Dwight Carl Comstock. The Ray Department Store had a funerary department and decided to add a trained mortician. In 1916, Comstock moved up 4th Street between A and B and opened his own parlor.

## First Fraternal Organization

The Phoenix Lodge #239 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows became Galt's first organized group of citizens. Odd Fellows promote philanthropy, the ethic of reciprocity, and charity. Galt's Oddfellows Lodge was organized in 1875.

## First Law Enforcement

The first law enforcement came not from a sheriff but from a constable. Andrew Alonzo Clough was the first from 1875 – 1876. Historically, constables in California were attached to the justice courts. In Sacramento County, constables were elected by popular vote or appointed by the county supervisors to a township to replace a death or resignation. Constables had full police powers by state law and carried out occasional patrol work in addition to serving arrest warrants and summons. All constables had other jobs, and constable was part-time. Clough was a farmer.

## First Galt High School Principal

Galt High School has had twenty-four principals over its one hundred twelve years. The first was John W. Reese from 1911 to 1913. Reese had been a teacher at Galt Grammar School the previous year. His job before the first day of school was to select teachers and courses of study. Thirty students attended the first day of school.

## First Galt High School Graduate

Only one graduate was in the first graduating class at Galt High School, Katherine Reynolds, Class of 1913. Katherine was the eldest of four children of McPherson and Hattie Reynolds. McPherson was a local farmer, but the family lived on 5th Street. Katherine Reynolds went on to become a kindergarten teacher.

## First Hotel

The first hotel in Galt was moved from the town of Liberty. The Galt House was on the northeast corner of 4th and C Streets. The Fugitt family built the hotel around 1855 in Liberty and named it the Liberty House. The hotel was moved to Galt after the town's founding and became the Galt House. Other owners called it the Commercial Hotel and Devin's Exchange.

If you have other "Firsts" that you would like to know about, contact the Historian at [historian@galthistory.com](mailto:historian@galthistory.com)

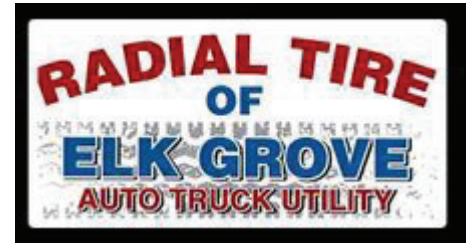
*- Historian*

# 8th Annual Galt Drive Down Memory Lane Car Show Saturday, August 26, 2023

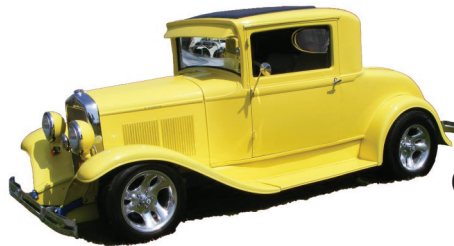


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Release of liability: I, the undersigned, entering the GAHS Car Show August 26, 2023, have my own car insurance and assumes the liability for, and shall indemnify and hold harmless Sacramento County Parks & Recreation and Open Spaces (all its officers and participants) and the Galt Area Historical Society, Inc (all its officers and members) from and against judgements whatsoever arising, directly or indirectly out of or in connection with, participation in said event. I will personally read the rules and regulations and abide by them.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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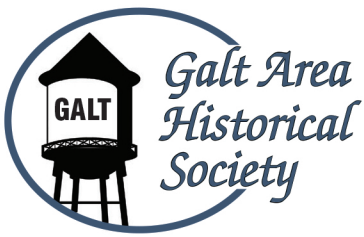
**PLEASE MAIL ENTRY FORM TO G.A.H.S., PO BOX 782, GALT, CA 95632**

For more information, please contact Galt Area Historical Society at 209-730-3127

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