

TOWER VIEWS

Galt Area Historical Society, Inc.

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August 2022

From the Archives



In a photo taken around 1910, Amadeo and Giuditta Lippi are at work in their small winery on the Lippi property at the south end of 3rd Street. Amadeo, a native of Lucca, Toscana, Italy, married Guiditta Marengo, a native of Genoa, Italy, in 1886. First leasing the Galt property for a few years, Lippi purchased the land and built a small

home. Amadeo maintained the winery with his wife and children (George, Clara, Sylvia, Rose, and Pio) until prohibition. The winery was later reopened and named the Galt Winery. Besides the winery, the Lippi family operated a truck farm, growing several types of vegetables to sell at market.

August 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 Janis Barsetti 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

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

A Message From The President



Greetings Members,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and looking forward to the fall and the weather it brings, along with the holidays. We still have lots of activities going on this year. Our largest fundraising events will be coming up soon: Our annual car show and Sip & Snack at the MAC. We can certainly use more volunteers for both events. It could be as a docent in the McFarland House, or volunteering for activities on the grounds. Contact me and we will find a place for you to help. Also, if you or someone you know has a new item to donate for our raffles for either event, please contact Maria Spannath.

We also have several fall weddings to occur yet this year; and weddings/events booked for 2023. All of our fundraisers and funds from weddings help us maintain the McFarland Ranch and also to help us preserve the history and archives of our area for future generations. We also have schools contacting us again to start up Pioneer Days. We could really use some help with this activity. If you are interested in helping, contact me or John Durand to sign up.

We always seem like we have lots of "irons in the fire: Involved in many projects to help preserve our history,

such as the Liberty School House and the extensive archives that Dan has worked on. Galt celebrates its 153 years as a town this year. That is a lot of history to preserve; A very large responsibility so that our ancestors have the true picture of the evolution of our town and its people. Every member, their family, and their friends should take a tour of the Rae Museum and the McFarland House during the monthly open houses. Dan has done such a tremendous job so that those coming into both museums can read the history undisturbed and get a better understanding of our history. Our docents are standing by for any questions. You will be able to appreciate all the work that has gone into this preservation. You can, too, tell others about our town and area's history. What better advocates to get others to join our society, but our members? Membership applications are on our website or inside both museums.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I leave you with this quote from Marcus Garvey: "A people without knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots."

Janis Barsetti Gray

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Upcoming Dates

August 15:
Executive Board Meeting
4pm at Barsetti Tasting Room

August 22:
General Meeting
6pm at McFarland Barn

August 27:
Drive Down Memory Lane
Car Show
*9am to 2pm at
McFarland Ranch*

September 4:
Open House
*1pm to 4pm at
McFarland & Rae*

September 12:
Executive Board Meeting
4pm location TBA

September 24:
Sip And Snack
*6pm to 9pm at
McFarland Ranch*

September 26:
General Meeting
6pm at Rae Rose Garden

7th Annual Galt Drive Down Memory Lane

Car Show

Saturday, August 27, 2022

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Bits & Pieces

Weddings at the MAC

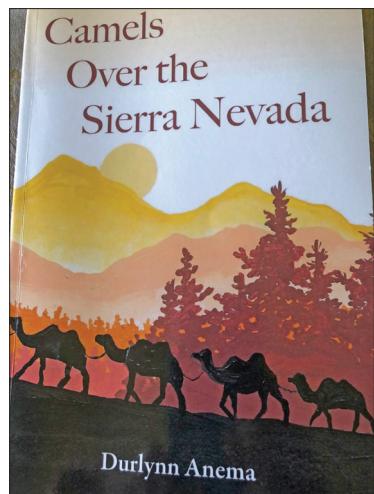
Joan Werblun, our Wedding Reservationist, reports that she is showing the Ranch almost every day and we have received not only bookings for the remainder of this year, but bookings for next year. It is important that the Ranch is in Five Star shape. The MAC Girls and Lyle's Men have all worked very hard to keep the ranch beautiful for tours and eventual bookings, and then the weddings/events. Every one of them is proud of the ranch and we are proud of you.

MAC Cleanup

Lyle and his crew have been trimming all the trees in the nature area and along the road coming into the Ranch. They are constantly working to improve the ranches' appeal and working on cleaning up areas that could be considered unsightly. Most of our members do not realize how much work it takes to keep up this ranch. All of our people are volunteers and do this because they love the ranch and they want to make a difference. Thank you all for all that you do for the GAHS.

Guest Speaker at Meeting

We are excited that one of our members, Durlynn Anema, who just wrote her latest book, "Camels Over the Sierra Nevada," will be speaking about her book at our August 22 meeting. This is a wonderful book. I just finished the book and had no idea that camels were used as pack animals in the Sierras. Durlynn will bring books to sell. She is donating some of the money from her book sales back to the GAHS. Please join us at 6 pm for the meeting and then Durlynn's talk.



Barn Update

We have recently worked out some items with the county and the fire department on the plans and it looks like we are moving ahead. Once it is approved, we expect to move ahead swiftly with the upgrades on the barn. More to come.

October Officer Elections

We have included in this newsletter the form for anyone who wants to run for an office. Please read it carefully, as our Nominating Chairman, Shaun Farrell, has laid out the process and the deadline.

Car Show Coming Soon

August 27th is just around the corner. We are getting quite a few applications. As usual, we will get many who register at the door that day. If any of you are participating or know someone who wants to register, please do so in advance. In this way, we have all your paperwork and funds collected. There will be no waiting at the gate, except to get your car number. Applications are on our website: www.galhistory.com. We will have vendors and food trucks. Cost to come for the public is \$5.00 per car (not per person). Cost to enter your cars is \$20 per car. The house will be open for tours also. Maria will have lots of raffle items so bring your money. We will be taking credit cards also.

Sip & Snack at the MAC

We are in the process of getting all the wineries, breweries and food businesses signed up for our annual Sip & Snack at the MAC September 24th. There will be live music by Phil & da Pinots from 7p-10p. Lots of raffle items beautifully displayed. There will be tours of the McFarland House. If any of you have a favorite business who you would like to see participate, please let them know or contact myself or Gale Webber and we

will send them a participation form. Both the annual car show and Sip & Snack are the biggest fundraisers for the GAHS. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite or tickets will be available at Barsetti Vineyards or L'Chyme (Checks or cash only).

Pioneer Days

We are beginning to get requests from schools to participate in our Pioneer Days. We had to suspend this popular school children's activity. John Durand is doing some of these but he is trying to retire. If anyone wants to help with this activity, or knows someone who would like to help, please contact me. We would like to get this program up and running again. The teachers and some parents from these schools are trained and would just need the support from us to keep things going with the children.

Girls of the MAC

We are so lucky to have Rita Martin, Sammi Watson, Bernice Lee, and Joan Werblun working on many projects around the house, brides' room, grooms' room, and garden. It seems like not job is too big for these ladies. They have redone the brides' room and now working on a grooms' room. Rita keeps the garden around the house in excellent condition. As you can see from the picture included, Sammi is on the ladder pressure washing the arbor that brides are requesting to have their vows under. Rita making sure the ladder is sturdy. Bernice not only helps at the MAC, but she mans our booth at the monthly Galt Farmers Market, as well as helping docent. These ladies are remarkable and we are so fortunate to have them.

Thanks to all of you.



Thanks John

A great deal of gratitude goes to the family of John Melhoff. The longtime Galtonian passed away last December. His family decided to donate a lifetime of his memories to share for those who come to the Rae House Museum. He kept his memorabilia from his days at Galt High School, the VFW, and as a driver at the sego Milk Plant. His photo/scrapbook albums will go into the archives. Some items will go on display while others will go into storage for future presentations.



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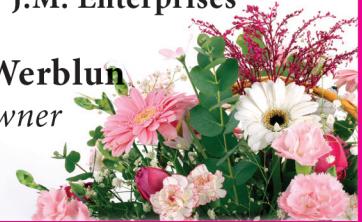
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Arthur Thornton's Romantic Trek

Here is an article from our archives on Thornton's history written 25 years ago by Jane Bilello...

Can You Imagine leaving your native Scotland to come to the United States in 1852 at 14 to settle in Iowa, only to cross the plains to California two years later?... Carrying horses to Fort Lane, Oregon, for the cavalry while employed by the U.S. Government and then managing to settle in New Hope (no Thornton) by the time you were 17 years old? No, it's not a script out of a romantic Hollywood Western. Our very own Arthur Thornton did just this!

Did you know that by the time Arthur Thornton was 38, he had a general dry goods store under A. Borland? As if this was not enough, he engaged in farming and blacksmithing. A little excitement in his life? You bet! Arthur was embroiled in a lawsuit with John Thompson over some swampy land in Union Township. However, I do not know the outcome of the suit. Maybe someone out there has the inside scoop. In between all of this, Arthur Thornton married Emma Graves in 1878. Their five girls must have also kept them both plenty busy.

Piecing together the information about Alexander Borland, Arthur's partner, also took on an interesting twist. Borland and Thornton were born in the same town — Ayshire, Scotland. Borland was older than his partner by four years. Thornton came to California in 1852. It seems that Borland came directly to California in 1853. I am only guessing, but it would seem that these two fellows pre-arranged their partnership across a continent and an ocean. Like

Thornton, Borland also successfully farmed some 80 acres in New Hope. So, what did the town of Thornton look like in the latter part of the 1800s?

An illustration of the town as it appeared in 1879 appeared in the Illustrated History of San Joaquin County. It depicted the 15-room hotel next to the Thornton and Borland general store. This hostelry became a place where a poor transient could get a hot meal and a bed for the night. One of Arthur Thornton's five daughters, Jessie, made the hotel her home and lived there during the early 1960s.

I bet some of you remember stopping at the Thornton Tavern after work just to wet your whistle and say hello to Jessie, who operated the place while your supper got cold, and so did your wife! Ah ha! I knew it! You remember dancing on the spacious rebuilt porch in front of the house! Care to share some of those memories? I promise to keep your names anonymous!

So, what else happened in and around Thornton in those early days? Let's take a short ride north of Thornton, where we would soon reach a major crossing of the Mokelumne River called Benson's Ferry. Over there is the blacksmith's shop and to the right of it is the Gayetty House Saloon, which was originally built for John A. Benson. Would you believe that the Saloon was saved from the destruction of the great flood of 1862 because it was tied to a tree? Yep! There's more.

Benson's Ferry, now a California State Historical Landmark, changed ownership from Edward Stokes and A.M. Woods to John A. Benson in 1850, just a year after its beginning. Mr. Benson operated it for



Arthur Thornton

nine years until he was murdered by one of his employees in 1876. It was then that Edward Gayetty took ownership of the well-known Ferry. A year later, Edward married the youngest Benson daughter. Today, the Gayetty House Saloon stands on uneasy soil on a crumbling foundation on a Mokelumne River levee.

Others figured prominently in the early settlement of the New Hope Colony. Remember the story of George Housken and how he built his house from the debris from the great flood of 1862? I wonder if Housken met Thornton in Oregon? Housken owned and captained the schooner Reliance and engaged in trade along the Sacramento River and the lumber trade in Oregon from approximately 1860 to 1873. When young Thornton was delivering cavalry horses to Oregon's Fort Lane, did the two meet? Did Housken tell Thornton about New Hope? For every piece of information, so many questions remain unanswered. Do you know?

There was also George Barber, the great grandfather of the present George Barber. Great grandfather George was the justice of the peace in New Hope in the 1880s and 1890s and held some pretty interesting court sessions at Arthur Thornton's place. But that's next week's story.



**NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS
For the GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2023 OFFICERS**

Notice is hereby given of the opening of nominations for the following officers for the calendar year 2023:

Officers to be Nominated / Term

President	One-Year
First Vice President	One-Year
Second Vice-President	One-Year
Secretary	One-Year
Treasurer	One-Year

Eligibility Requirements

- Any Member whose dues are paid in full for the current year may be nominated for, and elected to, any office;

Nomination Process

- Everyone interested in running for office must send an *Acceptance of Nomination* form (see below), even if currently holding an existing officer position
- Nominations must be filed with the Nominating Committee Chair no later than **September 23, 2022**, on an *Acceptance of Nomination* form that has been dated and bears the signature of the qualified nominee. (A scanned signature will be acceptable).
- All nominees must be paid members of the Galt Area Historical Society at the time the *Acceptance of Nomination* form is filed.
- At the October general meeting, each nominee may provide a candidate statement presentation, up to five (5) minutes. Following the candidate's presentation statements, there will be a general question/answer period of the candidates collectively not to exceed a total of ten (10) minutes.
- Elections will be held at the October general meeting following the question/answer period.

Write-In Candidates

- Any Society Member who does not file an Acceptance of Nomination form by September 23, 2022, and who wants to run for office, may be nominated at the October general meeting or may be voted upon as a write-in candidate.

Acceptance of Nomination

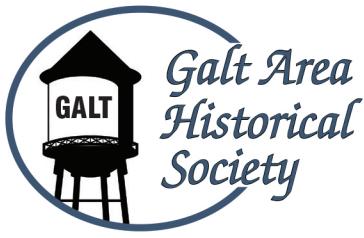
I, _____, a Member of the Galt Area Historical Society
and whose dues are paid in full for the current year, declare that I will serve in the position of
_____ if elected.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Nominated for _____

Mail/E-Mail to:

Shaun Farrell, Nominating Committee Chair
989 Elsworth Ct, Galt, CA 95632
farr2328@gmail.com



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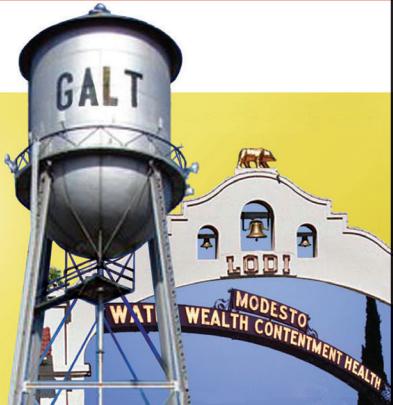
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