



March 2020



From the Archives **Road Trip**

What's more interesting than a group of guys going on a road trip without their wives or girlfriends? Pictured in the photo are Bill Fawcett, Buzz Bottimore, Bob Bottimore, and Jack Fawcett on their way to the Gold Discovery Centennial in Henry Need's Locomobile in 1948. The Centennial celebrated the 1848 discovery of gold in the millrace of John Sutter's sawmill under construction on the American River at Coloma. Bill Fawcett remembers that they met up with Herald resident Don Monseth at Coloma and they all spent the night in the Locomobile. Don stretched out on the front seat for the night, leaving the others to share the back seat. The Car they were driving was an older model as the Locomobile had stopped production in 1929. Don't know how reliable the car was or comfortable the ride was, but it must have been a fun trip. The photo was taken at the time by Kate Bottimore Georgi. Robert Fawcett donated the photo.

Annual Appeal Letter

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to thank all of you who donated to our annual appeal letter. We have received so far, \$6632. A large part of this came from the Galt High School Class of 1968, some from 1969, and from Sandy and Lyle Nimmo. Those funds were approximately \$3200. These funds are greatly appreciated. If you have not sent in a check yet and have been thinking about, please do so. Thanks also to Toni Gerling, our Corresponding Secretary, for the beautiful Appeal Letter she sent out. It was informative and explained all that we do for Galt History.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to welcome our new members to the Historical Society that joined recently: Mark King, Amber Veselka & Roger Watson. We look forward to meeting you in person!

Dues for the 2020 calendar year have been trickling in. We have made a resolution to be fully paid by March 1. You should receive an email reminder or a notice in the mail for dues to be paid by March 1, 2020. Thank you to these members who have already paid this year: Matt Barsetti, Charles Carver, Myron Dause, EDGE & TA, Peter & Mary Hall, Dave Hamilton, Rev. Maurice O'Brien, Twila Aschieris, Lyle Lagge, Debbie Martinez, Dennis Sartini, Robert Scott and Judy Shipley.

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 (rhonda@galtsmiths.com) with any concerns about membership.

2020 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President
Harry Souders ~ 2nd Vice President
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary
Toni Gerling ~ Corresponding Secretary
Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer
Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian



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It is starting to look like spring in Galt; but do not be fooled. We should still have some March weather bringing us back to reality. However, as long as it lasts, this is a great time for the GAHS to work on chores that we, otherwise, could not do this time of year. The McFarland has lots of projects going on right now under the supervision of Lyle and Ron. We have the opportunity to do "spring cleaning" a little early too. The foundation for the Liberty School House will be poured soon. The old saying, "make hay while the sun shines," is very appropriate now. We have to get things done that usually would have to wait until it gets too hot. If you want to give a hand at the McFarland, contact Lyle. If you want to help Dan clean up inside the Rae House, please contact him. Lyle recently sprayed the weeds around the headstones at the Liberty Cemetery so that the mowing will be much easier. Eric Schneider has been doing the same at the Elliott. The Clampers will help us at the Liberty when they are able. Both cemeteries will be ready for Memorial Day in May.

On another topic, how many of our members visit the old town and downtown area of Galt? How many shop local? Some of our stores actually display photos of Galt and photos of historical significance of Galt. These shops value owning a business in the old districts of Galt. The owners, by

having these pieces of our history on their walls, shows how much Galt means to them. We all have choices where to shop, but it is also rewarding to shop within our town and support local businesses. Some local businesses are owned by people whose family has lived in Galt for years. Not only do they display the history of Galt on their walls, but they have stories to tell: Some from firsthand knowledge; other stories passed down to them. When time permits, take a stroll down C St or 4th St in Galt. If you need a GAHS Walking Tour guide, you can get them from us, the Coffee Shop & Bakery or Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room, or go to our website and download one. This is a perfect time to start at the Rae House Museum, walk thru some of the areas where old buildings still stand, and then go into old town. It is also a good time to take the younger generation with you too. Even if you do not know the story of Galt's history, our tour guide and books published by our members, can give you all the knowledge you need. I think once you do this, you will be taking friends on this trek too. It would be nice if we could get a GAHS group together to make this walk weekly or monthly. You would not only be learning but you would be getting great exercise. Does anyone want to spearhead this walk? Let me know. Until next month, Happy March.

Janis Barsetti Gray



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Policy and Procedure Review

Annual Form 990

I. Purpose:

- As a nonprofit created under IRS section 501 (c) (3), the Galt Area Historical Society is required to file an annual Form 990-Return of Organizations Exempt from Income Tax.
- Form 990 is due on May 15th of each year; however, if the 15th falls on a weekend or legal holiday, it is due the next business day.

II. Related Documentation:

- Financial Reports summarizing Revenue and Expenditure Categories for each Fund; Detailed Ledger showing all Revenues and Expenditures for the year; support documentation for Revenues and Expenditures

III. Procedure:

- Bookkeeper schedules appointment with Tax Preparer well in advance of the May 15th due date of Form 990.
- Bookkeeper prepares/organizes the following to be submitted to the Tax Preparer in order for them to prepare Form 990:
 - Summary of Revenues and Expenditures for each fund
 - Detailed ledgers showing all Revenues and Expenditures that were received or paid during the year for each fund
 - VISA bills and support documentation
 - List of Officers
 - Any other information requested by Tax Preparer
 - List of government agencies that give financial support to the Society including the name of agency, address, amount of financial support, and designation of how funds are to be used
- Bookkeeper is the liaison with the Tax Preparer to get any questions answered.
- Once Form 990 is prepared, Bookkeeper gets appropriate Board Member to sign and mails/electronically files the Form by the due date. If mailed, Bookkeeper obtains certified mail receipt.
- If the Tax Preparer is unable to complete Form 990 by the May 15th due date and has to file an extension, Bookkeeper notifies President of the G AHS that an extension has been filed.
- Bookkeeper maintains permanent copy of annual Form 990

Calendar

Monday | March 16 | 4pm
Executive Board Meeting
550 C Street

Monday | March 23 | 6pm
General Membership Meeting
550 C Street

Sunday | April 5 | 1-4pm
Open House at Rae

Sunday | April 5 | 9am-3pm
Kite Day at McFarland Ranch
(Rain Day if necessary - April 19)

Monday | April 13 | 4pm
Executive Board Meeting
550 C Street

Monday | April 27 | 6pm
General Membership Meeting
550 C Street

Dates and times are subject to change

Gossip from the Galt Gazette March 1890

When you want wood, coal, hay, manure,
or dirt hauled, call on Jake Haller.
He don't bar anything out.

★

Jake Ives, suspected of burglarizing the
Post Office at Elliott, has been turned loose
for lack of evidence against him.

★

A reward of \$2.50 will be paid for the
return of "Tip", a yellow dog,
the property of E.E. Wright.

★

Judge Armstrong Thursday granted
Francis Ames a divorce from
A.T. Ames, on the grounds of cruelty.



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18th Annual

KITE DAY

McFarland

Living History Ranch

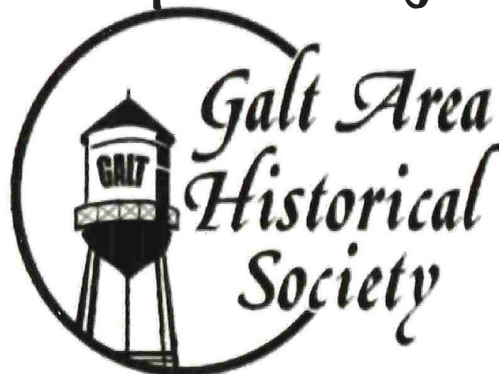
8899 Orr Road • Galt, CA

April 5 • 9am – 3pm

Rain Date April 19

Food and Drinks Available for Purchase

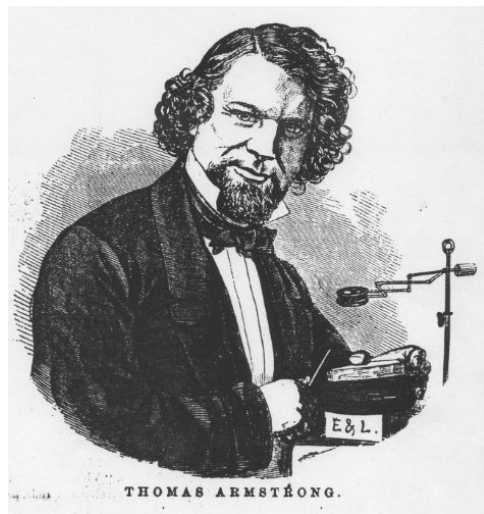
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Galt Cemetery's Oldest "Resident"

A few months ago, we listed the names of several Galt residents from the past but lacked the information. GAHS member John Abraham came through with information on Thomas Armstrong from Hutchins Illustrated California Magazine. All we knew about him came from old Historical Society records that named him as the oldest burial in the Galt Cemetery. Armstrong passed away in 1860, nine years before Galt's founding. There is more to the story of Galt Cemetery's oldest "resident."

Thomas Armstrong was born in Northumberland, England, in February 1818. He left home at an early age to be an apprentice engraver. Engraving is the practice of cutting a design onto a hard, flat surface by cutting grooves into it with a steel tool called a burin. Armstrong's engraving material of choice was copper, which printers used to produce pictures in various publications. Once he became accomplished at his craft, he went to



Jane Armstrong

work for the Illustrated London News and other local publications. In 1840, he married his first wife Ann and, in the next two years, welcomed a daughter Francis and son John.

In 1848, the Armstrongs moved to Paris for a few months before traveling to Australia, where Ann died. Hearing of the California Gold Rush, Thomas Armstrong took his two children and moved to San Francisco. Instead of heading for the goldfields, he found a job doing what he did best, where he produced the first-ever view of San Francisco. In 1850, Armstrong became the publisher of the short-lived Illustrated California News, the first pictorial newspaper on the Pacific Coast.

In the mid-1850s, Thomas Armstrong moved on to other ventures in the Sacramento area, where he did freelance work for other newspapers like the Placer Times and the Sacramento Union. In 1855, he married Galt area resident Jane Kelso McKinstry Howard and lived here for a brief period. Thomas and Jane produced a daughter named Jennie. Having moved back to San Francisco, Armstrong went to work for Hutchins Illustrated California Magazine. On the night of December 21, 1860, he finished his last piece called "Library of the What Cheer House." He got up from his table complaining about not feeling well and went to bed. He passed away that night.



The following part of the story is purely speculation based on cultural practices in the 1860s. Jane Armstrong brought her husband back to the area for burial in the family plot. We think the present cemetery property belonged to Jane Armstrong's family, and they had lived on the property a few years before. When the Armstrongs lived in the area, they used the post office in Liberty, a mile from the burial plot. The town of Galt didn't exist in 1860. When Jane Armstrong died in 1897, she was buried alongside her husband, Thomas. Thanks for the information John.

Historian



Armstrong print

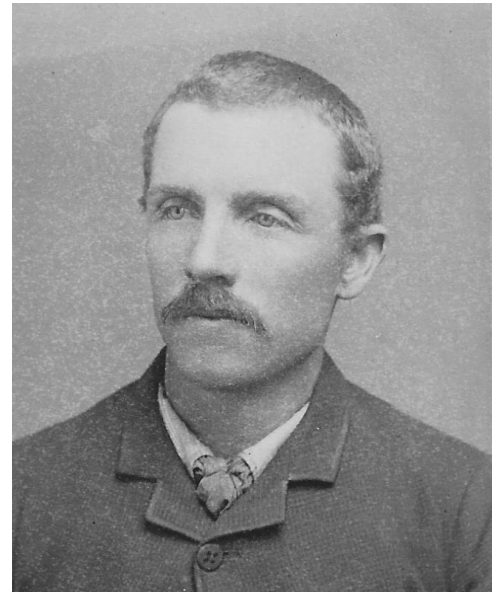
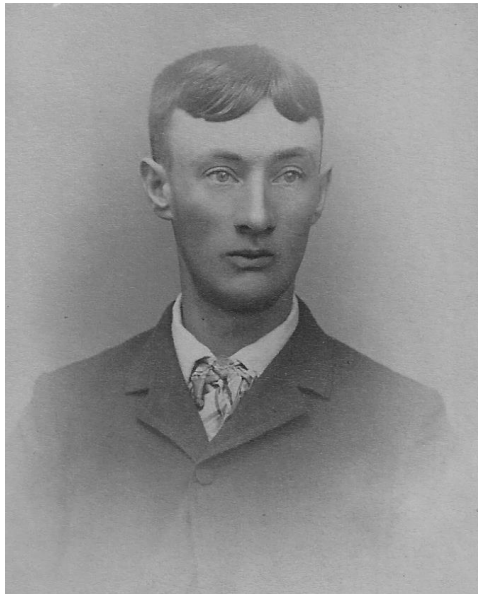
Can you help us identify these Galt area citizens?

We have several photos that are unidentified.
If you know who one of these people are, contact:

Dan Tarnasky - GAHS Historian

Email: blckrssn@hotmail.com

(916) 952-2368



Bits & Pieces

Liberty School House Update

The foundation will be laid within the next week or two. Thanks to Darryl Claire for his donation of the cement and for Jim Basinger Concrete for putting in the foundation as a donation. Once this is done, Scott Movers will come back and lower the house onto the foundation. Research will be done to make sure the historical integrity is followed in renovating this building.

Board Meeting Date Change

The March Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday March 16th at 4 pm at our Hall on C St. The meeting was moved because several members were not able to come on the 9th.

Kite Day

Kite Day is upon us April 5th. Should we get rained out, it will be rescheduled for April 19th. We will think positive that it will happen on the 5th. Chairmen of the event are Ron Jacobson and Lyle Lagge. The Stigelmayers will be in charge of the food. There will be some extra kites if anyone forgets to bring one. Gale Webber will be helping the kid's puts those kites together. It will be a great family day.

Thank You

Thank you to the Scouts who helped clean the inside of the McFarland House on February 15 under the direction of Head Docent, Rita Martin. It was a big job, but very appreciated. A thank you also to the Liberty High School FFA who came to the McFarland and helped with a cleanup day under the direction of our First VP, Lyle Lagge. Not only did all of these young people get community credits, but also valuable learning of what you can accomplish with hard work.

Membership Dues

Membership dues have been coming in. Thanks to all who renewed their memberships once they received their invoices. This money helps us pay our bills. If you do not want to be bothered every year to pay the dues, you might consider paying for Lifetime dues. Thanks to all the hard work by Rhonda Smith in keeping the membership roster up to date.

Donation

Shaun Farrell and his family have donated some items from his family's ranch to the McFarland Living History Ranch. The latest was a shed that was brought out last week. Shaun, we appreciate the items donated and will put them all to good use.

Historic Plaques

Ron Jacobson has gotten the historic plaques and will be placing them on the buildings soon: One will go on the Cameron Home in Thornton and the other on Quenell's Garage (now owned by the Spaans family). The plaque that will go on the new Railroad monument and the Liberty School House, will be placed on a later date. Once the plaques are in place, we will coordinate with the families and donors for a photo day.

Agenda Items

If you want to have an item on the agenda for the General Membership meeting, you must contact Janis at least two days before the meeting for placement on the agenda. Please keep in mind, if the agenda is already full, your item may have to wait until the next month.

Event Bookings at the MAC

The calendar is getting very full. Heather is working into 2021 also. If we had a place for inclement weather days, we could be booked almost year round. Thanks for a great job, Heather.

Event Update

To date, we already have 7 wineries signed up for Sip & Snack. We also know of others who will be participating. The change to September seems to have made a big difference. Also over 70 car show flyers were mailed out to last year's participants and several have already sent in their money. There will soon be information out about the Ladies' Tea in May and the Antique and Collectibles Faire in August.

Antique Faire

Speaking of the Antique and Collectibles Faire, if you have any items that are antique or collectible and you want to donate them to us, we would greatly appreciate it. All the money we make goes toward helping us with our continued preservation at the McFarland Ranch. Contact Toni Gerling or Sonia Tarnasky if you have questions.

February Fun

We had a fun evening at our February General Membership meeting. After our meeting, we had appetizers and desserts brought by the members. Then Maria Spannuth had a fun evening planned with some games on Galt History and prizes. Thanks Maria for all you do.

2020 Calendar

If you want to know when a meeting is or what is happening at the MAC or the Rae, if you go to our website: www.galthistory.org, find the tab at the top that says Events. Click on that and it brings you to our calendar. As a matter of fact, if you have not gone to our website in a while, you really should do some exploring and see all we have on the website. Thanks, Harry Souders for handling our website and social media.



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