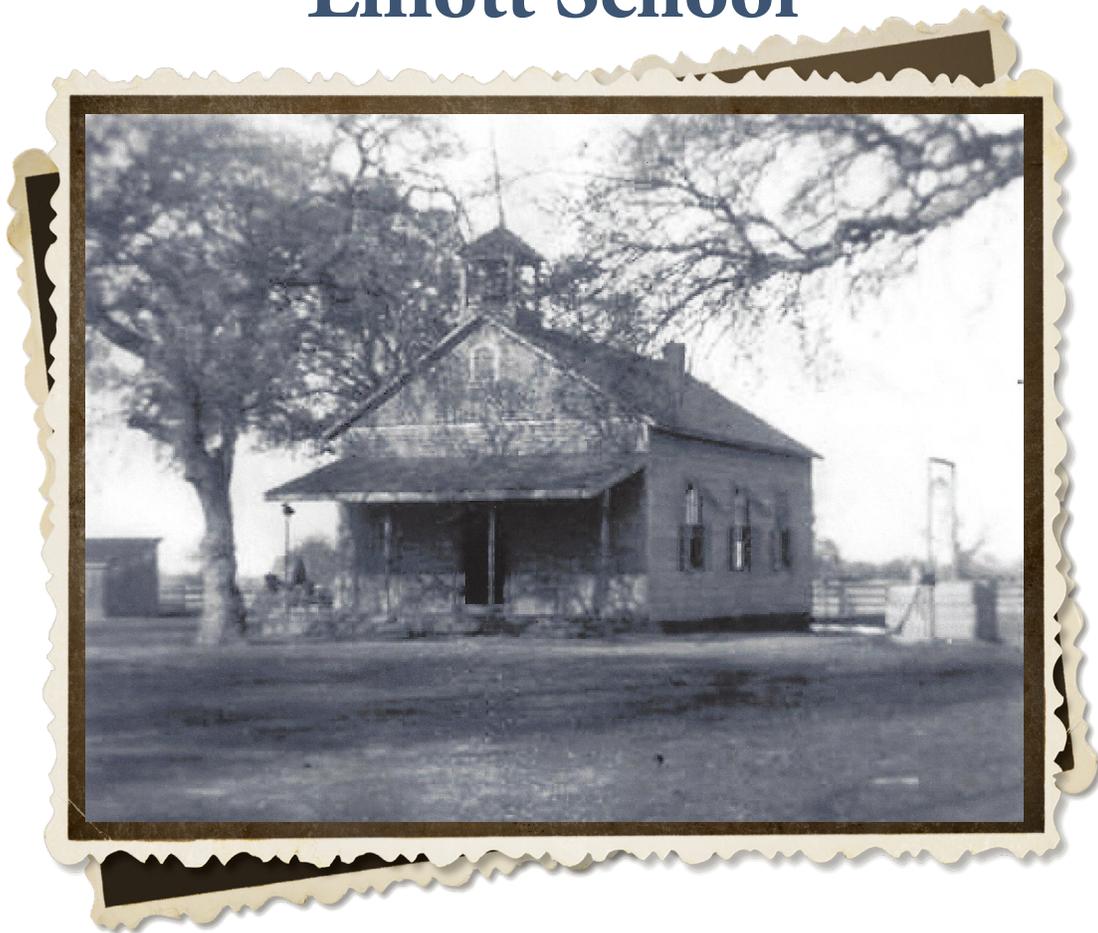




April 2021

From the Archives
Elliott School



There were several small towns established during California's Gold Rush that have come and gone. One of those started with a general store located at what is now the intersection of Elliott and Liberty Roads. Originally called Hawk's Corners, the town became Elliott, named after Dr. George Elliott, who had established a small town two miles north of the intersection. As the town grew, a school was needed. According

to Historians, there was a school in Elliott as early as 1858 but the first officially recognized school was built in 1870. In the 1875 and 1890 censuses, Elliott School had average attendance, between twenty-five and thirty-five students. As surrounding towns grew, Elliott's population dwindled until the school closed and the students were absorbed into the new Oak View Union School District in 1929.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to these members who have paid their dues this year: Gary & Ida Hoff, Galt Chamber of Commerce, and Mark King. And we welcome new members: Sarah McFadyen and James & Susan Connick. We now have 310 members on our roster.

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.



2021 Historical Society Executive Board

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



Contact the Historian

- If you need or have Galt area historic information (includes Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Hicksville, Clay Station, Arno, Elliott, Colony, and Arno).
- If you have historic Galt area or family photos for us to scan and return.
- If you have area historical artifacts to display at the Rae House Museum.

Dan Tarnasky
Historian/Archivist
(916) 952-2368
blckrssn@hotmail.com

A Message From The **President**



Welcome to Spring Time: A time of rejuvenation. If we ever needed a renewal, it is 2021. It seems just like yesterday that leaves were falling from the trees, shedding 2020 away from our thoughts. Our town, as well as our country, and the entire world were experiencing a “shut down” of sorts, both personally and economically. It was probably the most dismaying time in most of our lives. While it is not completely over, remember what I said in a previous column about seeing light at the end of the tunnel? I can see much brightness now. Your board and our chair persons have proceeded in making 2021 a successful year for the Galt Area Historical Society. While there have been times when we had our doubts about whether we could start planning our events, we kept positive and forged ahead. I believe 2021 will be huge for us with our fundraising events. We already have many signups for our Car Show in August and for Sip & Snack at the MAC in September. People are excited to get out, enjoy themselves, and help support our mission. I guess it could be similar to how it could have been in Galt in 1869. Whether the population were farmers, store owners, clerks, or workers, they worked hard

all year long and only took time off to enjoy holidays and special days. They looked forward to spending time with the family and their neighbors on a day when work was minimal. In today’s world we are on the go all the time. The lock down was more of a problem today than in 1869 because they did not have so much time and activities as we have today. To have a day of celebration was very special in 1869. That is why there are similarities between 1869 and 2021. Most people have been “locked down” and not able to do much. They are anxious to get out and enjoy themselves. We believe our events will be well attended this year. We will need the help of our members to volunteer more to make these events memorable and to also help us make up for some of the revenue losses from 2020. Please contact me if you want to help for Kite Day, the Car Show, Sip & Snack, or the Antique Faire. I will direct you to the chair persons for those events.

Stay safe. Stay healthy and have a special Easter Holiday.

Janis Barsetti Gray

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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 | Phone: (916) 952-2368



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Joan Werblun
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Calendar of Events

This calendar has not been approved by the board, but will be at our next meeting. Please look over the calendar and let any board member know if you see something that needs correction or added.

- April 11 Kite Day - MAC - 9am-3pm
- April 12 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- April 16 Yard Sale - Hall - 8am-2pm
- April 17 Yard Sale - Hall - 8am-2pm
- April 26 General Meeting - 6pm - *Tentative*
- May 2 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- May 8 Ladies' Tea at the Rae
- May 10 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- May 24 General Meeting - 6pm - *Tentative*
- June 6 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- June 14 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- June 28 General Meeting - 6pm - *Tentative*
- July 3 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- July 12 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- July 26 General Meeting - 6pm
- Aug 1 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Aug 9 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Aug 23 General Meeting - 6pm
- Aug 28 Car Show at McFarland Ranch
- Sept 5 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Sept 13 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Sept 25 Sip & Snack at the MAC
- Sept 27 General Meeting - 6pm
- Oct 3 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Oct 11 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Oct 25 General Meeting - 6pm
- Nov 7 Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Nov 8 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Nov 22 General Meeting - 6pm
- Dec 5 Rae Museum Christmas Open House - 1-4pm
- Dec 5 MAC Christmas Open House - 12-3pm
- Dec 13 Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Dec 20 General Meeting and Christmas - 6pm

Thank you

The Galt Area Historical Society would like to recognize the following individuals for their generous donations during our Annual Appeal.

- Dorothy Merkins
- Janis Barsetti Gray
- Rosemarie Giuseponi
- Maria Spannath
- Elaine Archer
- Twila Aschieris
- Joycelyn Simonet
- Ralph Cortez
- Shaun & Michelyn Farrell
- Sue Dean
- Raynette Steele
- Ed Shallenbarger
- Eugenia Luna
- JoAnn A Smith
- Stephanie Cook
- Walter & Traci Dowdell
- Jack Jenkins
- Nez & Elizabeth Lourence
- Linda Burge
- Lee & Shirley Sing
- Susan Nelson
- Janis & Cletus Roth
- Bernice Lee
- Sue Cory
- Velvet Grill - Kirk Smith
- LaVonne Riddlesperger
- Linda Stroh
- Warren & Rhonda Smith
- Carol Fosse
- Durlynn Anema
- Thomas Walters
- Judith & William Castle
- Wimmiam & Carol Bland
- Wayne & Jenny Rasmussen
- Jeffrey & Cheryl Jennings

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Bits & Pieces

Yard Sale Coming Soon

LaVonne Riddlespurger is looking for 3 people to volunteer for both Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17 and work 2 hours each day. Please call her at 209 200-2203. LaVonne and Sue Dean and their helpers have been organizing the hall with all the items that have been donated. LaVonne is hoping to have some of the Teen Center young men and young ladies to help on the day also.

Ladies Tea

Joan Werblun is, again, chairing the Ladies' Tea at the Rae Museum on May 8th. Joan is in need of volunteers to help make sandwiches and help with setting up the food. If you want to help, call Joan at 209 251-9199. More information regarding ticket prices and sales will be out soon. Email notices will be sent out. If we do not have your email, please contact Rhonda with your email address. Rhonda's email is: rhonda@galtsmiths.com. The tea in May will also be the first time the Rae Museum will be open since last year.

Kite Day

Kite Day at the McFarland Ranch will be held on April 11th from 9 am to 2 pm. Due to Covid restrictions, we had to apply with the county to have the event. We also must make sure there is social distancing. Therefore, all those coming must go to Eventbrite.com, and sign up for free tickets for one of the four, 1.5 hr. time slots. Free tickets are one per family (not each person). We can only have so many people total on the premises at one time, as that is the only way we could hold this event. There is still plenty of space for all who want to come. Masks will be required to enter the ranch gates. Masks must be worn by all to go near the food booth or any inside area. You can still bring your own canopies and picnic lunches. We have not secured a kite person to come with

displays and kites for sale.
Rae Museum

As I said previously, the Rae will open for the first time in a year on May 8th during the Ladies' Tea. Dan Tarnasky has done a wonderful job in transforming the Rae House into a museum that tells the story of Galt and our area. Everyone must come and take a look when you can.

New 2nd Vice President

We want to welcome our new 2nd VP, Gale Webber. Gale has taken over for Harry Souders. Harry's demands from his work schedule did not allow him the time to attend meetings. Harry, we appreciated all that you did during your tenure. Gale brings with her much social media and website experience, as well as working with vendors and fundraisers. Gale is in charge of L'Chyme in Old Town. Welcome, Gale.

Car Show/Antique Faire

We will be holding our annual Car Show, A Drive Down Memory Lane, August 28th. Flyers and emails have been sent out to past car show attendees. James Guthmiller is the chairman, again, for this event. This year's Car Show will be dedicated to Louise Loll Dowdell, who was instrumental in organizing our first car show; and responsible for its present name. Gale Webber is the chairperson for the Antique Faire. Both events will be held at the same time on different fields. These two events could bring much more people to the McFarland. Both events are in need of lots of volunteers. Please contact Janis (209 747-3861) if you can help for either one.

Thank You

Thanks to Lyle Lagge and Earl Frey for weed-eating and spraying at the Liberty Cemetery. They did much work. If anyone is interested in helping, contact Lyle.

Sip & Snack at the MAC

Sip is on track to be a big year. The participation forms have been sent out and many wineries/breweries/restaurants are already onboard. The band has been hired. All we have to do is wait for September 25th. More information will follow in later newsletters. Again, we will be looking for volunteers for this night.

Condolences

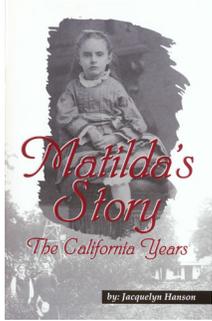
We are saddened with the passing of Tony Mello. Tony has farmed on the McFarland Ranch for many years; and always gave a generous donation to the Galt Area Historical Society to use the land. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Helen Rocha Mello and her family.



Louise Dowdell was honored with this plaque by some of her friends. This plaque will be hanging inside the Rae Museum. Louise was greatly involved in the Galt Area Historical Society actually having a museum. It is well deserved by someone that is greatly missed by all.

Local History Books

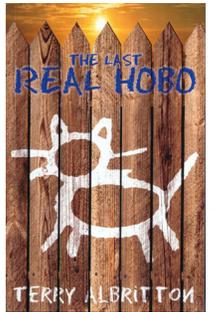
Books can be purchased at the following locations unless otherwise noted:
 Barsetti's Tasting Room, 400 4th Street
 GAHS Website: www.galthistory.org



Matilda's Story
 by Jacquelyn Hanson
 (Shellenbarger)

This story has been fictionalized, but clearly based on fact about Jacqueline's family coming to the Galt area and settling in Hicksville. It is about a farming community in south

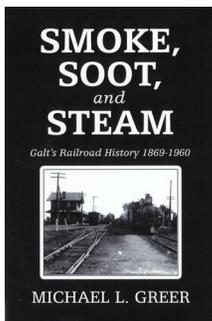
Sacramento County the last half of the 19th century.



The Last Real Hobo
 by Terry Albritton

This is a historical fiction, loosely related to the history of Galt. It tells about the life of a hobo coming into town by train. Terry says that some old timers in Galt may recognize the resemblance to some towns people.

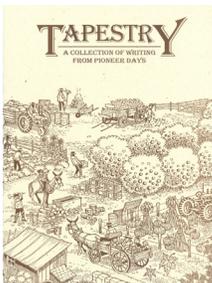
Available only through Amazon.



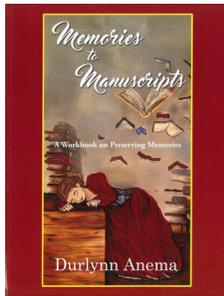
Smoke, Soot, and Steam
 by Mike Greer

Use this vivid, well-documented book as a guide to walk down Main Street and experience the sensations of smoke, soot, and steam from 1869 to 1960 in a Central

California community as it grew from a berg to an incorporated city and found its spot in the history of the golden state of California.



Tapestry
 A Collection of Writings from Pioneer Days
 Compiled by Eugenia Olson

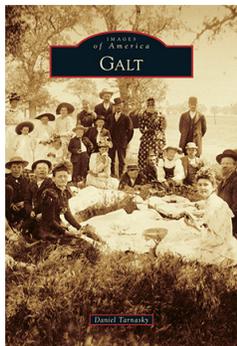


Memories to Manuscripts
 By Durlynn Anema

Memories accumulate over a lifetime to be pleasantly recalled, especially when we are older. Your memories tell a great deal about a unique time and a

unique you which needs to be preserved. This book evolved from a class Durlynn Anema taught called "Memories to Manuscripts." This book helps you go through the complete process from the simple act of writing to the final product. Learn writing techniques to turn your life into a book of memories.

Books are also available by contacting the author, Durlynn Anema at durlynnca@gmail.com.

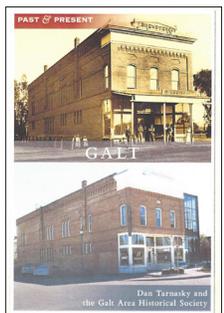


Images of America: Galt
 By Daniel Tarnasky

Contains vintage photos of Galt's past and a little history to go with it. The timeframe is 1869 to 1969. The Galt Area Historical Society is the source for the photos and

historical information. Other Galtonians shared their photos, information, and memories.

Books are also available by contacting the author, Dan Tarnasky at blckrssn@hotmail.com.

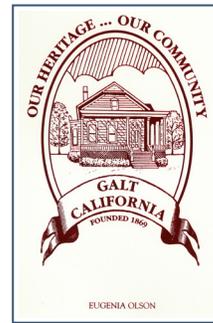


Past and Present: Galt
 By Daniel Tarnasky

Contains vintage photos of buildings from Galt's past and what the building looks like now. Some places are unchanged while others have completely

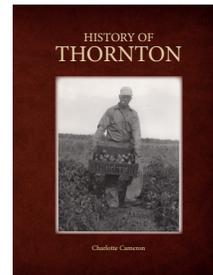
disappeared. All are still contained in the memories of those who grew up in their small town.

Books are also available by contacting the author, Dan Tarnasky at blckrssn@hotmail.com.



Our Heritage ... Our Community
 By Eugenia Olson

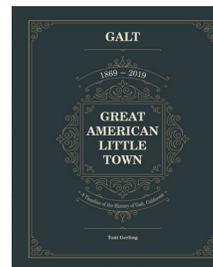
A history of Galt from the perspective of children who once lived in Galt.



History of Thornton
 By Charlotte Cameron

A rich history of Thornton from 500 A.D. to 2009.

Books are also available by contacting the author, Charlotte Cameron at 209-794-2511.



Great American Little Town
 By Toni Gerling

Wrapping up a year of celebrations, the Galt District Chamber of Commerce has published a book commemorating

Galt's sesquicentennial year. The book features a timeline of this area and includes photos and news clippings covering important milestones in local history from 1869-2019.

Books can be purchased at the following locations:

- Galt Chamber of Commerce
604 N. Lincoln Way
- Express Type & Graphics
740 Spaans Drive #2
- The Coffee Shop Bakery
239 4th Street

The Day the Circus Came to Town



Hull McClaghry

become a nervous wreck. The death of her father, Lucky Baldwin, in 1909 added more stress. The only child became an instant heiress. In 1913, Anita McClaghry had had enough and filed for divorce.

Once Hull received his divorce papers, a distrust developed between the two. Hull bought a home in his hometown of Galt on 3rd Street. While he was setting up the house, Hull took the two kids, Dextra 11 and Baldwin 9, to hide at the McClaghry Ranch four miles west of Galt. He did not want his wife to take the kids out of the country and not return. She had planned on taking the kids on a European vacation. Immediately, Anita hired the Burns Detective Agency out of San Francisco to find the children and her ex-husband. She believed he would ask for \$1 million "ransom." Both denied the allegations.

Burns detectives found the three fugitives' whereabouts and surrounded the property with motorcycles and cars full of men. Once Hull McClaghry found out about his predicament, he loaded the kids in his car and drove to his home in Galt with Burns operatives in pursuit. When the McClaghry clan made it to Galt, Hull called some of his friends to help guard the house. It became an armed standoff between the two sides. Nights were spent with the curtains drawn. Burns detectives used flashlights to look into windows. Some climbed telephone poles and trees to get a better look inside.

Wherever Hull and the kids went, Burns detectives followed. One day Galt merchant James Whitaker took Hull and the kids for a spin in his new car and were quickly followed by a car full of Burns men. One of the Burns cars struck a vehicle driven by a McClaghry friend Mert Cogswell. Moving back and forth between the McClaghry Ranch and Hull's Galt home became an ordeal. The whole story was not only a media circus but a nuisance for Galt citizens.

A conference was set up between Hull McClaghry, Justice of the Peace May, Constable James Gann, Hull's attorney Bartlett, District Attorney Eugene Wachhorst, Sheriff David Ahern, and Deputy DA Frank Atkinson. Once he had the details, Wachhorst called the Burns detectives conduct an outrage. May said conditions were intolerable. A new course of action was taken. There would only be three detectives and a car stationed at the McClaghry house by an agreement with the two sides. If there were any more of a nuisance committed, Burns Detectives would be arrested. Only one incident occurred afterward. There was a rumor that another car was full of detectives hiding behind a boxcar across the Street. Nothing came of it.



Anita Baldwin McClaghry

If you or someone you know has been involved in a divorce, you know they can be messy. One such divorce in 1913 became an almost daily newspaper story. It involved a local boy made good and his heiress wife. It became a three-ring circus with a ringmaster, lion tamer, and plenty of clowns!

As the story goes, Henry Hull McClaghry was born in Galt in 1870. After attending local schools, Hull, as he was called, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and then from the Harvard Law School. While clerking in a law firm in San Francisco, he met a young divorcee named Anita.

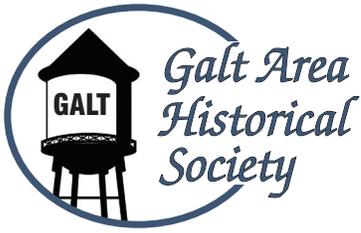
Anita Mary Baldwin was born in 1876 to a wealthy family headed by a famous west coast entrepreneur named Elias Jackson "Lucky" Baldwin. He was known for being at the "lucky" end of business dealings up and down the State of California. The Southern California cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, and Baldwin Park were all built on Baldwin's real estate ventures. He is also the founder of Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and the Baldwin Hotel and Theater in San Francisco. While living in the latter, Anita Baldwin and Hull McClaghry met. After a short courtship, the two married in Carson City, Nevada, in October 1900 and made their home in Berkeley.

In an affidavit filed later by Anita McClaghry, the marriage was a tumultuous one. She stated that Hull was verbally abusive, and they constantly argued over financial matters. At one point, Hull let the maid go and forced his wife to do the household chores. The constant bickering caused Anita to

California Superior Court Justice William Henshaw issued a writ of habeas corpus. Hull McClaghry had to bring the children to court in San Francisco and appear before Superior Court Judge Seawell. An agreement was reached, and the Burns men were called off. Henry Hull McClaghry and Anita Baldwin McClaghry would get joint custody. Dextra and Baldwin would get a European education, and Hull got them on weekends and school vacations.

The divorce became final a year later. In 1915, Anita Baldwin McClaghry petitioned to have the name McClaghry removed because she "loathed it." The divorce cost her \$275,000 and another \$300,000 went to her ex-husband.

Anita Baldwin received her inheritance and lived in social circles for the rest of her life. Hull McClaghry bought a controlling share of the Bank of Galt and became president before selling and moving to Monterey. He sold his house on 3rd Street to Albert and Angelina Steiner, owners of Steiner's Market. The house is still there.



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