

*From the Archives*  
**McFarland and Quiggle**



John McFarland (left) and Charles Quiggle (right) take a tour of McFarland's grape vineyard just south of the McFarland home (background). John McFarland was an early Galt pioneer who gave the town its name. Charles Quiggle was the nephew of Volaski "Lack" Quiggle of Herald. Charles came from Ohio to California to start a new life with business help from his uncle. Charles Quiggle built and ran the Arcade Saloon in downtown

Galt and later added the Arcade Livery Stable. Since McFarland built many of the early businesses in town, it is probable that he helped Quiggle build his saloon and livery stable with financial assistance from his uncle Lack Quiggle. Rumor has it that a group of church women burned the saloon down, and the livery stable went with it.

(Thanks to Rocky Roberts for the photo donation)

November 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.

Consider gifting a membership!

We make it easy at

**www.galthistory.com**

---

## 2023 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President

Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President

Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President

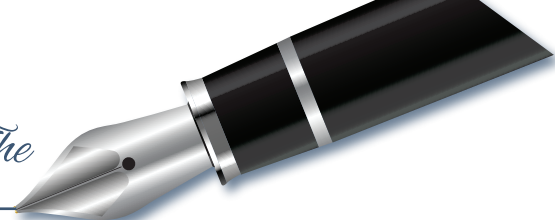
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

Tom Haglund ~ Treasurer

---

*A Message From The*

## President



Dear GAHS Members,

This last October, we celebrated 36 years as the Galt Area Historical Society. Thirty-six years as history goes does not seem like a long time. However, during the past 36 years our organization has accomplished so much. Let's review the timeline of our beginning:

In May of 1986, four people met to discuss the need to preserve and restore the history of Galt and our surrounding area. Those four people became our Founding members: Eugenia Olson, Orvell Fletcher, Beatrice Orr Smithson, and Margaret Greer. By October 1987, we had 52 Charter Members (see list included in this newsletter). In 1995, we had 513 members. While our membership is not quite as large today (we have 396 members currently), we always seek new members who share the same desire to preserve our history, perhaps their own family history, and preserve our archives for generations to come.

In April 1988, we acquired the beautiful Rae House, built in 1868. It was not so beautiful then. It had been vandalized and was in bad shape. It was scheduled to be torn down. Our members sprang into action. With the help of the City of Galt, we were able to acquire this property with the intent it would become a museum. We only had \$2500 in the bank. We raised \$192,391 with our "Save the Rae" campaign and completely restored the house and garage to the museum it is today.

Along with the Rae Museum, the Galt Area Historical Society owns and maintains the historic Liberty (1852) and Elliott (1850) Cemeteries.

We were approached by Sacramento County Park and Recreation regarding the restoration of the McFarland Ranch. November 3, 1998, we signed a 99-year lease with Sacramento County to restore the McFarland House and surrounding

buildings. Our volunteers jumped into high gear, led by Ron Jacobson, and completed the initial task of restoration. The McFarland Ranch became the McFarland Living History Ranch. We host thousands of school children each school year for our Pioneer Day educational programs and Pumpkin Patch Days. The McFarland Ranch has been a site for our fundraisers, our annual car shows, and weddings. One thing is for sure that our job at the McFarland is never complete. Our volunteers are constantly restoring and working on projects. We raised the funds to build new restrooms and a brides' room attached and we refurbished the bunk house to be used for Pioneer Days and to sub as a Grooms' room. Society volunteers work hard to raise longterm, sustainable funding necessary to meet the ongoing cost of operating McFarland Ranch year in and year out. And, of course, we have other Ranch related preservation projects in the works for the future.

As for the Rae House Museum, our Curator and Historian, Dan Tarnasky, has completely changed the inside of the museum it now tells the story of our local history and of the people of our area. He has accumulated memorabilia from families and placed them on display. The Rae is a work in progress. We have our Tea at the Rae each year in the rose gardens.

These are just samples of all the work we do to maintain the history of Galt and our area. Our volunteers today have the same passion as our founders and charter members: To preserve the irreplaceable for generations to come. Today we honor those women and men who in 1987, saw the importance of our history, and wanted to make sure our story would be told correctly for all those who came after them.

Happy Thanksgiving to All

*- Janis Barsetti-Gray*

## Upcoming Dates

November 5:

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

November 13:

Executive Board Meeting  
at Barsetti Tasting Room  
4:00pm

November 27:

General Members Meeting with Guest  
Speaker at the McFarland Barn  
6:00pm

December 3:

Christmas Open House at the Rae  
Museum & McFarland House  
(refreshments & Santa Claus)  
1:00pm to 4:00pm

December 3 & 4:

McFarland House Christmas Lights  
(refreshments)  
6:00pm to 9:00pm

December 11:

Executive Board Meeting  
at Barsetti Tasting Room  
4:00pm

December 18:

General Members Meeting &  
Christmas Gathering at the Galt  
Police Department Community Room  
6:00pm



GR

GALT  
ROCK

209.745.1925

www.GALTROCK.com

BARKS • DECORATIVE ROCK  
SOILS • SAND & GRAVEL  
U-TOW CONCRETE & READY MIX TRUCKS

# Trip Through the Cemetery

Last month's gravestone inscription was "James W. Larrick."

James Wilkinson Larrick was born in Middletown, Frederick County, Virginia, in 1856. His father Jacob was an innkeeper. In 1881, Larrick was appointed postmaster in Middletown. In 1886, James married Ann Virginia Kirkpatrick.

Over the next fourteen years, the Larricks had eight children: Frank, William, Paul, Payne, Elizabeth, Susie, Nellie, and Grace. In 1905, the Larrick family moved to Galt and purchased the Willis Wright House on Oak Avenue. For several years, James was a laborer for a local well driller while also speculating in real estate. In 1917, he took over the Wells Fargo Express Agency at the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. James Larrick met an untimely end when he was struck by a car at the intersection of 5th and B Streets.



*for next month's newsletter...*



*"Who was  
Gardner  
Randolph"*



BARSETTI  
FAMILY OWNED  
CELEBRATING  
111 YEARS

WINE-TASTING BOUTIQUE

JOIN OUR MONTHLY EVENTS:

Floral / Bunco / Painting

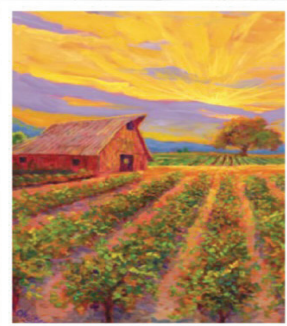
Live Music Twice Monthly  
on Selected Fridays

- Follow us on Facebook for Event Information -

209.744.6062

Old Town Galt | 400 4th St. | Suite 150

OPEN FR. - SUN., NOON - 5PM



MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE  
TWO COMPLIMENTARY TASTINGS AND  
FIVE DOLLARS OFF A BOTTLE OF WINE!



ricjan@barsettivineyards.com | www.barsettivineyards.com



# Bits & Pieces



## 2024 Board Elections

At our Charter Night Dinner the 2024 Executive Board was selected: Janis Barsetti Gray, President, Lye Lagge, First VP, Dan Tarnasky, Second VP, Liz Haglund, Recording Secretary, and Tom Haglund, Treasurer. The Board will be sworn in at our December Meeting.

## Charter Night Dinner

Thanks to all of you who attended our Charter Night Dinner at the McFarland Ranch. This dinner with its Fall theme is always a pleaser. Thanks to Joan Werblun and all those who helped her organize and cook the dinner. Thanks to Sami and Arlene for putting together some of the gifts for drawings.

## Volunteers of the Year

Each year we select a person or persons that we deem as exceptional in their volunteerism. So many of our members support our organization each year, but these two have been superstars. Thanks so much to Bernice Lee and Samie Watson. Not only do they donate their time at the McFarland Ranch, Rae Museum, at some of our booths, but they have monetarily purchased items as gifts to the GAHS. Congratulations. Without people like you, we would not have accomplished our mission.

## Emails Needed

We have many emails of our members currently. We understand that some may not use email. However, with rising costs and limited funding the time may come that we consider whether our newsletters may become digital and sent via email. This will be a matter that the Board will carefully consider as we weigh the best opportunities to continue the newsletter and also meet our obligations at the Rae House Museum, McFarland Ranch and schoolchildren programming. Your ideas are welcome, please share them. In the meantime, we would like to gather emails as an added opportunity to communicate important information with members. Please email your ideas and email address to the Society at [GAHS@galthistory.com](mailto:GAHS@galthistory.com).

## Pioneer Days and Pumpkin Patch at the McFarland Ranch

The McFarland Living History Ranch provides California approved educational programming to schools from several area school districts. We are working to expand our reach to include more districts from the greater Sacramento and Stockton areas. Thanks to Lyle Lagge and his crew for rebuilding the hay wagon so the children can now have hayrides again. They did a great job! Also, John Durand, our longtime partner from the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, will be retiring and his district replacement is Bill Beckett. John will still be with us for a while. Bill will be working with more schools to increase the number of students coming to our Pioneer Days held throughout the school year. Anyone who wants to learn about Pioneer Days and volunteer to help, please let Janis Barsetti Gray know so your names can be passed along to Bill. He will schedule training for volunteers, parents of students, and teachers who have not been trained yet. Welcome, Bill!

## Specials Painting Projects

The Board has been reviewing bids to paint the Rae House Museum and the caretakers house at the McFarland Ranch. Also, bids are being submitted for associated repairs prior to painting. Repairs and painting will be completed before winter sets in.

## Membership Drive

The Society is always looking for new members. If you know a friend or family member who is interested in history and preserving it, you may want to gift a year of GAHS membership to them. All new memberships purchased during October to December, are valid through December 31, 2024. All existing member renewals will be due January 1, 2024. See the membership form included in this newsletter.

## Thanks for your Donations

We are so appreciative to our members and friends of our organization. Daryl Claire recently gave us a very generous monetary donation. Daryl, we are so appreciative for this donation, and all that you have done for the GAHS. We were in need of two refrigerators and up stepped Samie Watson and LaVonne Riddlesperger, who had good used refrigerators. They donated them to us. One of our newer members, Arlene Hanzark, has paid for items to help make our raffle baskets. She, Samie and others have worked to keep ahead of our raffle items for future events. Anyone who has items to donate to go into raffle baskets, please contact us at [GAHS@galthistory.com](mailto:GAHS@galthistory.com). Thanks to all who donate time, energy, and financially to the Society.

## November Meeting and Guest Speaker

At our November 27th meeting at McFarland Ranch, we will have Peggy Ward Engh as our guest speaker. Peggy's family is from the Elliott Township area and Lockeford. She is a historian and writer. We are looking forward to her talk. If everyone could bring a dessert that feeds 6-8 people, we can add a bit of fun and camaraderie to our evening. The Society will provide the coffee.



# Bits & Pieces

## December Christmas Gathering

Our last general meeting of the year will be held Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6pm at the Galt Police Department Community Room, 455 Industrial Dr. After a short meeting and the swearing in of the 2024 Board, we will adjourn to appetizers and desserts; and then onto Bingo. We ask everyone to bring either a dessert or an appetizer. Also, each year participants bring a bingo prize(s) as a fun tradition for those who win a Bingo game. All prizes are appreciated and if possible wrapped or in gift bags. We will resume our general meetings in March after our two-month annual winter hiatus.

## Halloween Night

Thanks to Darlene Alden and Lisa Haug for passing out treats at the Rae Museum and watching over the property; and to the Clampers and Eric Schneider for keeping guard at the Liberty and Elliott Cemeteries.

## In Memory

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Bernice Lee in the passing of Doug Rhodes. Bernice always had to "twist" Doug's arm to play Santa at the MAC. But he was always a good sport.

Cyndee Soriano reports that her husband, Steve, passed away in August. Cyndee, we are sincerely sorry for your loss.

## Original Charter Members

I have included here the original names of our Charter Members from 1987. These people need to be recognized and honored, as well as our Founders for creating the organization that we are today.

## Galt Area Historical Society, Inc. Founded 1987

### Our Founders

Orvell K. Fletcher  
Margaret Greer

Beatrice Orr Smithson  
Eugenia Olson

### Charter Members

Ambrogio, Edward J.  
Amundson, Carl JR  
Barber, Alberta  
Coppola, Richard J.  
Dietderich, Rhona  
Dougherty, Tom  
Dowdell, Louise  
Fletcher, Orvell K.  
Fox, Della  
Freeman, Charles  
Greer, Joyce  
Greer, Margaret  
Greer, Michael  
Greer, Timothy  
Gulbranson, Shirley  
Hagen, Edith I.  
Hagen, Paul  
Henke, Judge James P.  
Jamieson, Forrest  
Johnson, Dixie

Lawrence, Marian O.  
Lindberg, Nora Dale  
Loll, Carl P.  
Loring, Philip  
Johnson, Oscar F.  
Maestretti, Rosellen  
Marengo, Irene  
McEnerney, Clare  
McEnerney, Thomas  
Nimmo, Sandra  
Nottoli, Don W.  
Nunez, Anthony  
Nunez, Eugene  
Nunez, Mark David  
Nunez, Vesta Sartini  
Olson, A. David  
Eugenia Olson M.  
Paige, Lockie Wilder  
Pearson, Dorothy  
M.Piepho, Louise Johnson

Pratton, Beverley  
Rouppet, John  
Sanford, Harry  
Sanford, Inez Sawyer  
Schmidt, Dorothy Schauer  
Smithson, Beatrice Orr  
Smithson, Otto H  
Spaans, Sharon Beth  
Walters, Charlene Orr  
Ward, Bill  
Ward, Virginia  
Yenokida, Michye

# Drive Down Memory Lane Car Show

The Society's annual car show fundraiser for 2023 was very successful with 97 paid entries. The cars were positioned on the grounds at McFarland Ranch. Our raffle with donated items was also successful, generating \$2,340. Society docents provided tours of the house and received \$366 in donations. The nominal public parking fee generated \$569, and the car entries brought in \$2,525 for a grand total of approximately \$5,800. Through careful planning the Society was able to significantly limit expenses for this event. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for working to set up this event and to work all day to make the car show a success. Our dedicated and period dressed docents provided attendees the royal treatment and introduced many to the very existence of the historic ranch house. Many people spoke of enjoying the house tour and this was reflected in the spontaneous donations provided. Thanks to Gale Webber for all her work on the event and for staffing the public entrance; thanks to the volunteers at the car show entrance gate, Darlene Alden and Lisa Haug. They helped make the process easy. Thanks to all those who helped park the car show entries. A very special thank you to Delores Gregorio, Rhonda Smith, and all those helping at the raffle table and for putting all the prizes together. I know Maria Spannuth is proud of all you did in her absence. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this another successful car show and important fundraising opportunity for the Society to meet its mission of *preserving the irreplaceable*. Next year the car show will be held on Saturday, August 24th, the fourth Saturday of the month.

# The Iler Mansion

Yes, you read that right. You're thinking to yourself, the title doesn't match the photo. I've looked at the image several times, with the title being the Sunny South Boarding House, as I'm sure you have too. Both names are correct. Here is the story of Joseph Iler and the Iler Mansion.

Joseph W. Iler was born on a farm in Ohio in 1829 but grew up in Illinois. As a young man, he learned the blacksmith and wagon-making trades. In 1850, he married Rebecca Walker and moved to a farm in Montebello, Illinois. Between 1853 and 1873, the Ilers had seven children: George, Rachel, Frank, John, May, Clarence, and James. Like most early Galt pioneers, the Iler family migrated to California, first arriving in Yuba City in 1868, where he set up a blacksmith shop. 1875 Joseph Iler purchased a farm along the Cosumnes River in Sheldon, where he ran another blacksmith shop. No one knows why, but Iler sold his 520-acre farm and purchased a lot in Galt on the northwest corner of 6th and C Streets in 1880. J.W. Iler and Son was born.

In 1880, Galt was barely ten years old. The population was around 500 residents, but it was growing steadily. When Joseph Iler arrived, there were two blacksmiths/wagonmakers in town. Theophilus Hatch conducted business on 5th Street between B and C and Alden Thayer "AT" Ames on C Street between 4th and 5th. To make his business work, Iler had to be good.

J.W. Iler and Son created an impressive business. Although he had five sons, only Frank joined the company. Iler divided the property up into separate buildings with an experienced craftsman. The structures included a blacksmith shop (Iler), woodshop (Webster Lange), paint shop (Oliver Bartlett), wagon shop (Iler), and horseshoer (R.D. Mills). The blacksmith shop made and repaired farm equipment gate hinges, windmill parts, etc. The wagon shop made and repaired eastern top buggies, Petaluma carts, buckboards, and two seated carriages.

Around the same time, Iler purchased property southeast of the Southern Pacific



*Iler Mansion*

Railroad and F Street. Two large orchards of peaches and apricots were planted that Iler sold and gave as gifts. That parcel of land would be sold after his death and become the Iler Tract. Another purchase was an interest in a gold mine in Shasta County. Iler would leave for weeks on end to visit the progress in the mine.

In September 1884, work was started on the Iler Mansion. Local contractor/house mover John Sawyer was responsible for building one of Galt's largest and most opulent residences. It still stands on the northeast corner of 6th and C Streets. Iler's blacksmith/wagon shop once stood where the Methodist Church stands today. It was easy for Joe Iler to go home for lunch, just a walk across the street.

A series of events sent the business in a circle. A fire in October 1885 reduced the J.W. Iler blacksmith complex to a pile of rubble, causing Joe Iler to move into a shop down the street owned by Obed Harvey. The following month, J.W. Iler

and Son sold to D. K. Stringfield and retired, but not for long. In January 1886, J.W. Iler and Son rebuilt on the old site with brand-new tools and continued the business for another five years.

The day after Christmas 1891, Joseph W. Iler died from complications of pneumonia. Two sons, John and Frank, continued the business until closing it up for good around 1894. Joe Iler's widow Rebecca sold the blacksmith property to the Methodist Church in April 1895. The church conducted services in one of the shop buildings until they could erect a new sanctuary.

The stately Iler Mansion was sold to John Farris in April 1907, who then turned it into the Sunny South Boarding House. The Mansion is still in its glory, with a few renovations inside. It's probably more than you wanted to know, but that's the origin of the Sunny South Boarding House.

- Historian



**TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES**

**GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**  
**Arno • Clay • Colony • Herald • Hicksville • Liberty • Thornton**

If paying by check, print this form and mail with check  
Attention: Membership Chairman P.O. Box 782, Galt, CA 95632 (209) 747-3861  
<http://www.galthistory.com>

**My Annual Renewal Dues:**

*Individual \$30.00*  
*Family (two individuals within same household) \$50.00*  
*Business or Corp \$75.00*

*Membership Dues are tax deductible!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

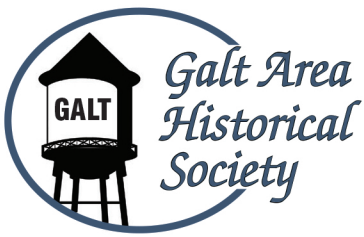
Purchase a gift membership now for your friends and family and receive a 13-month membership through December, 2024

**LAW OFFICE OF  
LEN REIDREYNOSO**  
TRUSTS • WILLS • PROBATES  
CONTRACTS • BANKRUPTCY • BUSINESS  
WE ARE A DEBT RELIEF AGENCY  
**908 C STREET  
GALT, CA  
209-745-4411**  
IN GALT SINCE 2002  
MEMBER OF  
GALT BUSINESS BUILDERS  
WWW.GALTBUSINESSBUILDERS.COM



# 2024 Membership Dues

With January around the corner you can get a head start on the year by filling out and sending in your 2024 membership dues, or gift a membership to your family and friends!



P.O. Box 782  
Galt, California 95632

Non Profit PRST  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 17  
Galt, CA 95632

First Last  
Address  
City State Zip

## FLORAL DESIGNS

Weddings • Quinceañeras  
Corporate Events

**209.745.0726**

J.M. Enterprises

Joan Werblun  
Owner

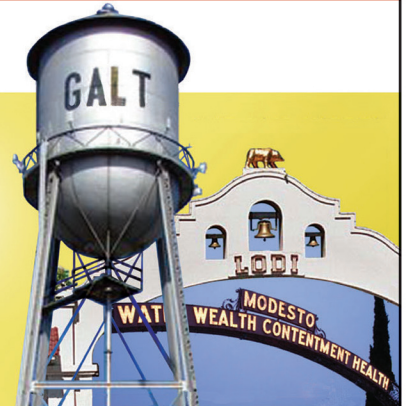


## Super Premium Ice Cream Made Every Day

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

**VELVET & GRILL**  
**CREAMERY**

**400 4th Street • Galt**  
**209-744-1413**



**ANN ULLRICH**  
REALTOR®

DRE Lic. # 01706199

**PARKER REALTY**  
UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL

- 209.481.5489
- Ann@ParkerRealtyGalt.com
- www.ParkerRealtyGalt.com
- 545 Industrial Drive #105  
Galt, California 95632



## Missing Your Local Craft Show?

*Come to L'Chayim  
for handmade items & crafts.*

**Sidewalk Sale Every Tuesday & Thursday**

Visit us online at  
[www.LChayimofGalt.net](http://www.LChayimofGalt.net)

**209-744-1143**

440 D Street #160  
Galt, CA 95632

*Located on 4th Street  
(between D & E Streets)*

