



June 2018



The Conklins - Auto and home, 5th & A St - Galt

From the Archives

The Conklins

In its infancy, the small town of Galt attracted people from across the country looking to make a fresh start. William A. and Lulu Conklin came from Nebraska and settled here in 1907. A jeweler by trade, William opened a general merchandise store with another newcomer, Fred Masters. Conklin and Masters were located on 4th Street next door to Brewster's which probably made for some interesting competition. The store must have done quite well as the Conklins were able to build a charming home on the corner of 5th and A Streets. When Fred Masters left the area, William Conklin turned the general merchandise store into one specializing in jewelry. While maintaining the Conklin home, Lulu also worked in the store and directed the choir at the Methodist church. The Conklins had no children. Photo from the Cleo McAllister Estate.

GAHS New Website

Check out the new Galt Area Historical Society website at www.galthistory.org created by Galt High School's 2018 Valedictorian, Steven Sharp! Preview the Events page and buy tickets to upcoming Society fundraisers. Visit the Archives page and take a peek at the Gallery of pictures from past GAHS events, read articles on the history of the Galt area, research the biographies of pioneers who lived in Galt and the surrounding small towns, catch up on news by reading past newsletters, or peruse (via a link) the historic pictures and articles that the Society's Historian has placed in the Galt Herald. If you are planning an event, check out the McFarland Living History Ranch or the Rae House Museum pages and contact the Reservation Specialist to visit the venues to see if it's right for your event. You are only a few clicks away from partaking in the history of Galt and surrounding areas. The Society would like to thank Steven for all his help putting the new website together and training volunteers to keep it updated in order to continue our mission of documenting our history!

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpreting the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonians.

Each year that you renew your membership you join us in our mission of engaging and empowering each other to make history a meaningful part of our contemporary lives. Your membership helps preserve the legacy of our ancestors, commemorate local heroes and preserve our historic architecture. Our members in GAHS help answer the Who, What, Why, Where and When questions that make historical societies important. It puts those of us in the present in touch with the people of the past who shaped our landscape, named our landmarks, and made the decisions that ultimately affect us today.

A great big thank you to all annual members who have paid their 2018 dues. Our goal is to have 100% dues paid ASAP. A reminder that dues are due in January of each year. So, if you wait to renew too long it will seem like you have paid twice! You can submit your dues through the mail, PayPal on the GAHS Website or at our monthly meeting. Also, within our membership area, we encourage you to inform us when you have a change of address. Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, guildstreetsmith@sbcglobal.net or call, 209-745-4504.

Thank You Earl Arrants

The Galt Area Historical Society wants to thank Earl Arrants for his many years as our Curator at the Rae House Museum. Earl announced at the last Board Meeting he was retiring as curator. Earl will still be helping with the roses and he wants to complete his project of identifying all the rose memorials. We wish you the very best, Earl.

New Curator

Our Executive Board has selected Julie Clark Brownfield as our new Curator at the Rae. Julie comes with many years of experience. We look forward to all the events and programs she has planned for the Rae.



A Message From The President

I have always been interested in history, especially local history and the history of my family. I was not really interested in my ancestry until I turned 50: Maybe a midlife thing. I really delved into my family's genealogy, almost rabid about finding my ancestors. It is very time consuming and addictive. At some point you just have to set it down for a while. I tell you this because I have a great inclination to understand about the Liberty Township and the town of Liberty, the people who crossed the country to settle here, the businesses they started, and why Liberty "lost" its town. To my knowledge, there are no pictures of the town of Liberty. We have to assume that Liberty Road received its name as did the Liberty Township because the founders came from Liberty, Missouri. I am trying to construct in my mind what this town of 70 plus people would have looked like. We know there was a school house because that same building sits today on 4th Street as a little red and white building just north of Brewster's Restaurant. There were two churches. One was brought to Galt as the Galt Christian Church. It sits on B & 7th Street today with a modification from its former days. In the 1850s, Liberty boasted a school, 2 churches, The Liberty Hotel, a stagecoach stop, 3 stores, 2 blacksmiths and wagon shop, a shoemaker, a dentist, a livery stable, a post office, and homes. Liberty began in 1852 and lasted until 1868 when the railroad decided to lay their tracks where Galt is today. Probably the politics of those days persuaded the railroad to settle where it did. Buildings were taken down and moved to Galt. All that was left of Liberty was a cemetery. Eventually the Christian Church deeded the Liberty Cemetery to the Galt Area Historical Society. In 1954 when the state built Highway 99, 19 graves were dug up and moved to the existing cemetery. There are about 470 graves at Liberty, many are unmarked or their headstones have been damaged by vandals. It caused me to reflect on the town of Liberty and its people when we were putting flags on the graves of the Civil War veterans prior

to Memorial Day. All that was left of Liberty, its people, and their dreams of a better life was this cemetery. I have driven by this cemetery a million times in my life. Walking through the cemetery and seeing the names on the headstones made these people real to me. If only we could repair some of the headstones and give these souls the dignity they deserve. It is a large task and would require a great deal of effort and time. We have members in our organization who have family and friends buried at Liberty. If you can imagine the sun setting, the United States flag flying high on its pole, the sound of nearby traffic, the beautiful oak trees nestled among the graves and some very historic statuesque headstones. Those who are buried here were our pioneers and explorers. They were Galt's settlers. Take the time to go to the cemetery and take a walk and see the history and reflect on a time when this land was new and the people from Liberty, Missouri found their new home and our beginning as a community. If anyone would like to be on the Liberty or Elliott Historic Cemetery committees, please let Gary Berreth, Eric Schneider, or myself know.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray



2018 Historical Society Executive Board

- Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
- Ida Denier ~ Vice President
- Ralph Cortez ~ 2nd Vice President
- Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary
- Louise Dowdell ~
Corresponding Secretary
- Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian
- Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer



Policy and Procedure Review

Marian Lawrence / Marie Olson Children's Fund

At both the Board and Membership meetings, the Society Treasurer always reports on the balance of the Marian Lawrence/Marie Olson Children's Fund. This fund was established by David and Eugenia Olson to offer financial assistance to the school field trip program at the McFarland Living History Ranch (MLHR). Marie Olson created the first Kindergarten for the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, and her daughter, Marian Lawrence taught students in the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, so it is a fitting tribute to these two wonderful ladies that financial donations be placed in a children's fund that is connected to education. Therefore, the funds donated for the Marian Lawrence/Marie Olson Children's Fund at the MLHR are to be used to provide equipment for the school children's field trips to the ranch.

In order to use the funds from the account, a written request must be submitted to the GAHS Board designating the amount requested and the proposed use of the funds. Use of the funds is limited to equipment used for the children's field trips to the ranch. Three quotes for the equipment must be attached to the written request. The GAHS Board shall review the request and can either deny it, request that it be modified and resubmitted, or move to submit it to the Olson's committee for final approval. If approved by the Olson's committee, it should be funded within thirty days.

Remember ...

We have two Facebook pages. Just go to the search bar at the top of the page and type in Galt Area Historical Society or Snapshots of Galt History. Stay in touch and enjoy your Galt Area Historical Society.



Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

When I was a little girl I remember going swimming in Laguna Creek and my Dad always said if you go under you only have three chances and then you don't come up anymore. So when I was swimming with friends I went under and I thought I only have three chances. I could touch the bottom but it was over my head so I pushed up from the bottom and yelled HELP before I went under again. The second time I surfaced I yelled HELP and then under I went again. On the third time as I yelled HELP, Otto Kohnke was there and he grabbed me and so I'm here today almost a 100 years young.

Louise has been feeling a little under the weather but would enjoy a visit with you at Golden Living in Galt.

Calendar

Executive Board Meetings - 2 p.m.
2nd Thursday of each month
Historical Society Hall

June 25 - 6 p.m.
Membership Meeting and BBQ
MAC Barn
\$15 per person

July 21 - 8 a.m.
Workday at McFarland Ranch

July 21 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Open House at the Rae

July 13 - 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Friday Night at the Rae Museum

July 28 - 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sip 'n Snack at McFarland Ranch

August 5 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Ice Cream Social at Rae House

August 11 - 8 a.m.
Workday at the Rae House Garden

September 1 - 8 a.m.
Workday at Liberty Cemetery

September 2 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Open House at the Rae Museum

September 15 - 8 a.m.
Workday at McFarland Ranch

September 22
Car Show at McFarland Ranch

September 24 - 7 p.m.
General Meeting at the Hall

October 13 - 9 a.m.
Workday at Liberty Cemetery

October 12 & 13
Yard Sale at the Hall

October 27 - 8 a.m.
Workday at Elliott Cemetery

November 10 - 8 a.m.
Workday at the Rae House Garden

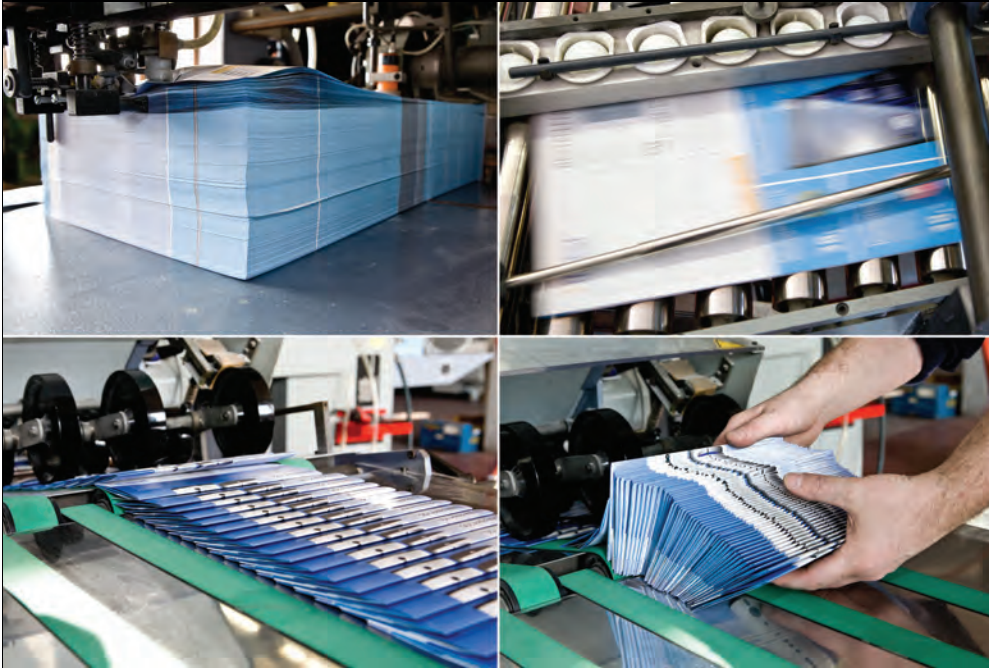
November 17 - 9 a.m.
Workday at Liberty Cemetery

December 2 - Christmas Open House
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Rae House
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - McFarland Ranch

December 9 - Christmas Open House
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Rae House
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - McFarland Ranch

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

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New Rae House Curator Julie Clark Brownfield

I am very excited and deeply honored to be asked to assume the curator duties at the Rae House Museum. California history holds a special place in my heart. My paternal line has been in California since the 1840's. My great-great-great grandfather Joel Clayton was an alderman in San Francisco in 1852 and was the founder of the town of Clayton. His brother Charles Clayton was a Congressman.

I was born and raised in Sacramento, and attended St. Francis High School. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology from UC Davis. I spent several years engaged as a field Archaeologist, working on various projects in California and Nevada. I spent approximately two years on the Sutter Hospital project in downtown Sacramento. My partner and I discovered an intact pioneer burial at the intersection of L and 28th Streets. During that project I had the opportunity to develop an interactive archaeology exhibit for kids at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. I also wrote the educational pamphlet about the exhibit which was printed by the State and distributed to the park visitors.

After a year of graduate work in Archaeology, I accepted a job with Archaeological Conservancy, a non-profit archaeological preservation organization. Although I am now pursuing a different career path, I am still passionate about History and Archaeology. I am fairly new to GAHS, but I am committed to bringing life and activity back to the Rae House. I look forward to working with everyone in the Society to achieve that goal.

SIP & SNACK AT THE MAC

Mark your calendars for our Annual Sip & Snack at the Mac on July 28! Tickets will be available for purchase through PayPal on our website: www.galthistory.org. You can also purchase tickets at Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room in Old Town Galt (400 Fourth Street, Suite 150), or by calling Janis Barsetti 209-747-3861 or Ida Denier 209-745-1477.

We are currently looking for restaurants, caterers, food, wine and beer establishments that would like to participate in this year's event. We are also looking for raffle donations. If you know of any business, especially in Galt, that would like to participate in this fun event at the McFarland Living History Ranch please let Janis or Ida know.

Anyone that is interested in working at Sip & Snack, please let Ida or Janis know immediately.



Gossip from the **Galt Gazette** June 1892

Lack Quiggle building new barns and outbuildings.



Dance to be held at Miller's Hotel in Hicksville Friday evening June 17.



Second trial of "Larrupin Jack" for arson in the fire at the Arcade Block still underway.



Three harvesters purchased by farmers in the Arno District: Alice Valensin, McGuirk, and Mr. Hicks.

Save ~~THE~~ Date

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 13th for "Friday Night at the Rae" from 6-9:30 pm. Julie has a family friendly evening of music and food for purchase planned for the Galt Community. It is the hope that we can encourage many local residents as well as members to come and join in. It is a great opportunity for the neighbors to come and see what the Rae Museum is about. Plans are being made and more will be out in our next newsletter and in the Galt Herald.



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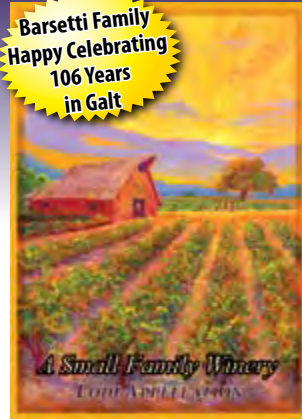
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AUGUST 11-12, 2018

5am - Noon

McFarland Living History Ranch
8899 Orr Road
Galt

Balloons Launch at Sunrise
Tethered Rides Available

Admission \$5 Per Person

Children 5 and under free

Parking is by permit only.

A limited number of parking passes will be
available and must be purchased in advance.

Parking passes are \$10 per vehicle.

Parking passes will NOT be sold at the event.
Satellite parking with shuttle buses is available
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f Galt Balloon Festival

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Weather Permitting

Bits & Pieces

1. Several days before Memorial Day, flags were placed on the graves at the Liberty Cemetery and the Elliott Cemetery in honor of the Civil War veterans and the veterans who served in other battles. The names of soldiers who we want to honor at the Liberty Cemetery are George Thomas Carr, Thomas C Ferris, Chism Cooper Fugitt (also founder of Liberty), Ralph Haskins, John McHolden, Parades Hamblin LaTourrette, John Lower, Thomas Neil, Benjamin Ritter, George Runck Wilson, and Aldrich Wilson. At the Elliott Cemetery we honored Joseph Steely. We are sure there are other names of veterans at the cemeteries, but at this time, these names are the only ones identified as soldiers. We are sorry if we missed anyone. Please let us know if you have information so that they, too, can be honored.



2. Do not forget our last general meeting and BBQ at the MAC barn June 25th. Cost is \$15 each for dinner. Please send your money and RSVP to Ida Denier, 209 745-1477. All those attending the dinner will be given a ticket for a chance to win a prize.



3. The General Meetings take a break until September, but the Executive Board continues to meet each month on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm at the Hall.



4. We have received some great positive feedback about our new newsletter. Thanks to the perseverance of Toni and Dan Gerling from Express Type & Graphics. They have done a wonderful job. For those of you who are trying to figure how we can have a colorful newsletter and not pay an "arm and a leg," well the Gerling's have found sponsors to pay for the newsletter with their ads. The postage only costs us \$50 because of nonprofit postal rates. This is really a time saver. I am sure everyone takes the time to read the newsletter now. Thank you Toni and Dan.

5. Thank you to Gallo Vineyards near the McFarland Living History Ranch. They have been such great neighbors to the Galt Historical Society. When we got the new gravel for the road into the McFarland, they sent over two men and two tractors to scrape and level the road. They used their water trucks to keep the dust down. They also have assisted us in ridding the squirrels at the Liberty and Elliott Cemeteries.



6. The new roof was put on the Rae House Museum by Premier Roofing. The historic home looks great. Although we have some other major repairs to do, this was our first step. The Rae still needs all the windows checked and some need repair. Because the Rae House is on the California Historic Register, if any windows need replacing, there is criteria that must be followed strictly. There is some rot on the front steps and porch, as well as cracks in the ceiling in the center dining area. We also need to put up outside lighting on the north side of the garage where we were hit with graffiti a while ago.



7. New fire extinguishers for the McFarland will be coming shortly. We will then be in compliance in the house and in the outer buildings. Thanks to Shawn Farmer for coordinating this project. Next will be new extinguishers at the Rae Museum.

8. Speaking of the Rae Museum, we have a new Facebook Page. It is called: The Rae House Museum, Galt Area Historical Society. It is the official Facebook page where posting will done.



9. Thanks to Donna Anzelone and all her helpers for hosting the Rae Tea on May 26th. More than 50 ladies had an enjoyable day with food, music, champagne and punch. Thanks to all who donated toward making this event a success.



10. Sip & Snack tickets are selling. You can buy online on our website, at Barsetti Vineyards Tasting room in Old Town Galt, or by call Janis 209 747-3861 or Ida at 209 745-1477. There will be more participants than last year. It is shaping up to be the best Sip & Snack. Be sure to make your plans to come to this fundraising event for the McFarland Living History Ranch. It has proved to be a community event, where family and friends come to enjoy the evening and the live music.



11. Chamber of Commerce Lunch at the Rae will be June 21. Ida Denier will be serving some of her many specialties. The money made will be used for the Rae Museum.



12. A note from Docent Chair Person, Sue Dean: Please all docents, when you are working at either the Rae or the McFarland, you must also clean and organize. There is usually time in between visitors. If everyone helps, it will not take long. Thanks.



13. Update on the Event and Learning Center. Our architect/engineer has done the final drawings for the county, the area has been surveyed, we met with a landscape engineer, an electrical engineer, and a plumbing engineer. They all gave us the information of what has to be done. Everything the county has asked for is complete. The next step is to hire a contractor for the job and move forward. We continue to seek grants and donations so that this project can be started and finished without any delay.





P.O. Box 782
Galt, California 95632

We're Still Looking for Archival Materials

There is still a lot of Galt History out there that Galtonians or former Galtonians have stashed in boxes in closets, basements, and attics. Whether you donate items to us or let us "scan and return," please search through those boxes and collect the items listed below. You can drop them off (Barsetti Vineyards, 400 4th Street #150, Galt, Ca) or mail them to us. Many of you don't realize that what might be insignificant to you is very significant to us. The only requirement is it has to do with people and places in our Historic Area (Galt, Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony). Remember that Galt Area History is 1869 to 2018.

1. Photographs (People or Places)
2. Old Property Deeds
3. Diplomas
4. Awards
5. Newspaper or Magazine Clippings
6. Store Receipts
7. Programs from school or special events
8. Church Programs
9. Wedding Announcements
10. Funeral Programs
11. Advertisements
12. Business Cards from any business
13. High School or any Elementary School Yearbook
14. School Report Cards from any school
15. Old Galt Herald or Galt Gazette Newspapers
16. Matchbooks
17. Calendars
18. Military Induction or Discharge Papers and Commendations
19. Tickets to any events in our Historic Area
20. Anything else printed that has to do with Galt, Thornton, Herald, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony.

