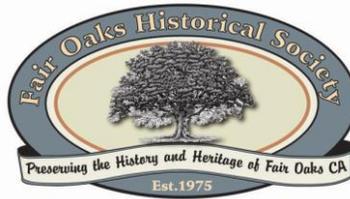


Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – April 2017

Issue Number 121

Ralph Carhart, Editor



www.fairoakshistory.org

QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Please bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share.

“Giuseppe Murer and the Murer House”

Cindy Baker. PAR Environmental Services, Inc.

President’s Message

Frank Wolfe

Spring is on its way, and some of you have been slow to renew your membership. We hope to see you April 25th to enjoy the excellent program, a delicious potluck and great friendship. Come join us, and if you haven’t already, be sure to catch up on your dues.

April 25 Program

Ron Lingren, Vice President

Cindy Baker, will give a short presentation on Folsom’s 1925 Murer House – a National Register property that is open for public tours – and its builder/owner, Giuseppe “Joe” Murer, a native of northern Italy. Cindy will share lots of interesting photographs, dating from 1905 to the present, including many of Joe’s own photographs of old Folsom.

Cindy Baker is a senior historian with PAR Environmental Services, Inc., Sacramento. A practicing historian for 25 years, Cindy is a fifth generation Californian and an alumni of Bella Vista High School. She also volunteers with the Murer House.

Photo Highlights from our January General Meeting:



Induction of 2017 Officers



A nice crowd, but room for more. Our speakers at the January meeting were Warren Truitt and George Nyberg, representing the volunteer organizations that support the American River Parkway. We encourage our members to join, participate in the activities, and/or contribute to these organizations:

- Save the American River Association (SARA) www.sarariverwatch.org/
- American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) www.arnha.org/
- American River Parkway Foundation www.arpf.org/

Memorial Day at Fair Oaks Cemetery, May 27

Lois Frazier

Mark your calendar for the 19th Annual Memorial Day Event at the Fair Oaks Cemetery — **Saturday, May 27 at 10 am.**

The cemetery's roadways will be lined with hundreds of flags to create the "Avenue of Flags." This year's theme honors the centennial anniversary of "The Great War" – the war to end all wars – World War I. Eighty six veterans of World War I are known buried in our Cemetery.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, refreshments will be served by the Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange and the Fair Oaks Historical Society.

Memorial Book -- A contribution to the Fair Oaks Historical Society is a very special way to remember those who have passed away or to honor someone for a special event or tribute. The names of those remembered or honored (stating the special event or tribute) are printed in the Memorial and Honor Book which is on permanent display at the History Center.



Recognition of each contribution also will be printed in the newsletter. The amount of the contribution will not be printed in the book or the newsletter.

You can download the recognition/contribution form from our website or pick one up at at the History Center or the quarterly general meeting. You can also contact Jim Pearce (916-961-8415 or jpearce4104@gmail.com) for the form or for assistance.

What's happening...

Jim Pearce, History Center Ops & Membership Chair

At the History Center...

We hosted the Fair Oaks Inner Wheel Club at the History Center the evening of March 13, and we gave a presentation on all the wonderful things we have there.

Also, last month I gave a presentation on Fair Oaks history at the Woman's Thursday Club general meeting. The topic was the contribution of women to Fair Oaks, focusing on the life of Rebecca Johnston Murphy. So much interesting information surfaced in the preparation for the presentation that we have posted the story on our website in the "What's New" section.



Membership...

Forty eight of our 166 memberships have not renewed yet for 2017. We need your continued support of the History Center and other activities. To check on the status of your membership, you can now log onto our website at www.fairoakshistory.org and click on the membership status button on the home page. To keep things private, we list by the first four digits of your street address and the last four digits of your phone number. Try it, and if you are not paid up through December 2017, please renew.

New on the Website: Another Fair Oaks Pioneer Discovered...

A number of wealthy Fair Oaks pioneers named their properties poetically— Straithmore, Kingswold, Rosewood, Glenmerle (Hodge). A photo in a four-page 1925 Fair Oaks real estate brochure shows a home named “Rowan Brae.” I’ve paged past it a number of times and wondered where it was, but I never took the time to investigate.

A few days ago I noticed it again and decided to read the property description in the brochure. It turns out that the property was two 20-acre parcels on the northwest corner of Sunset and Illinois. On the 1910 assessor’s maps the owner is listed as the estate of Edward Galvin. The house does not currently exist.

You’ve probably never heard of Edward Galvin, and he’s not on anyone’s short list of prominent Fair Oaks pioneers, but he was very important to Fair Oaks history. He was a real estate and insurance broker in Chicago and he is listed as one of the original investors in Fair Oaks. He was also on the first excursion train to Fair Oaks in November 1895.



“Rowan Brae”—See Description Above

Presumably, he came out soon after and built his home, but he kept a downtown Sacramento home as his legal residence and business address. He served on several State agriculture boards and is listed as primarily interested in growing the Pomelo fruit (also known as grapefruit). When Fair Oaks opened its second post office in eastern Fair Oaks in 1899, it was located on his property and known as the Pomelo Post Office.

So, why do we put Ed Galvin in the same category as Straith, Hodge, King, and other important Fair Oaks pioneers? Galvin was one of the first of the excursionists to build a

home in Fair Oaks— probably in 1897— and begin a life as an orchardist. He was fairly old, born in 1838. Galvin died in 1909 and is buried in the Fair Oaks Cemetery.

In 1899 the Chicago–Fair Oaks Association sent a letter, from Chicago, to Mr. Galvin that read in part,

“...the undersigned, citizens of Chicago and owners of property at Fair Oaks... have read the recent publications in the Sacramento papers relative to public improvements in that section of the county, in which both, as property owners and as prospective residents, we have an especial interest; and as you are upon the ground we would ask you to make the necessary and proper representations upon our behalf to the Board of Supervisors or such other officials as may have jurisdiction of the matter.”

“Most important of all is a good strong safe bridge over the American River... connecting... Fair Oaks to the railroad station at Salisbury.”

The letter is signed by Cash, Lademord, Ruggles, Bramhall, King, Straith, Vanderworker, Hodge, Ingalis, Vehmeyer, Barry, Patterson, Clapp, Howard, Beaton, Wilcox, Hargis, Midler, and Craig. So it seems that all of the Chicago investment group put their faith in Galvin to represent their interests. The entire letter along with an accompanying newspaper article is on the website under “Galvin Papers.”

It's My Park Day

Lynn Steen, Park District Liaison

Saturday, May 13th from 8–11am is **"It's My Park Day"** at Fair Oaks Park. Come out and help the Fair Oaks Historical Society maintain its "A" rating with the Park District. Fair Oaks Park is at Fair Oaks Blvd and Madison Avenue. Each participant will receive a free T-shirt, and there will be a complimentary BBQ lunch from 11am—noon.

The Park District requires each volunteer to fill out FORPD Volunteer Application. You can do this by going to www.fairoakspark.org and clicking the “REGISTER NOW” button. Also, I ask that you let me know of your planned participation so that the Historical Society will get credit. Call me, Lynn, at 916-967-7135

Soup Night 2017

Claudia Thorn, Chair

Yes, it's a ways off— Friday, November 3, 2017— But, it's not too soon to start thinking about donations for the 2017 Soup Night raffle, silent auction and live auction. Remember this is our primary way of funding the operation and enhancement of our History Center. Quality live-auction items are often elusive, so give that some early thought. Commit now to volunteering for any of the many tasks involved with planning and accomplishing this important event.

Board Meeting Highlights* March 22, 2017

Pat Neufeld, Board Secretary

In attendance: Frank Wolfe, Ken and Lynn Steen, Ron Lingren, Bob Vogel, Ralph Carhart, Jim Pearce, Warren and Judy Blomquist, Joe Dobrowolski and Pat Neufeld— a quorum.

Minutes of the December 2016 board meeting were approved as distributed via email. January general meeting minutes were approved by committee.

Treasurer Bob Vogel reported total assets of \$39,432.43. \$8,000 was moved to a new CD at 8% interest. \$1,370 in earnings by the Bella Vista Interact Club are being held in reserve for their directed use. \$1,300 in dues collected to date are short of the budgeted \$2,500. Facility rental for Soup Night was \$1,100.

Discussion of ways to encourage payment of membership dues.

Discussion of upcoming program and History Minute.

Discussion of possible purchase of raffle prizes and possible advance drop-off places for donated raffle items.

Discussion of newsletter deadline, articles and mailing list. Will discontinue mailing to other organizations unless reciprocal or requested.

Lynn Steen reported that May 13 is “It’s My Park Day” in which our work gives us community partner status with the Park District and discounted facility rental rates. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

Jim Pearce reported on the History Center. Purchased a fire extinguisher and a remote hard drive on which he’s backed up all our documents. We’ve retrieved papers stored at Matsuoka’s and still need two move two storage cases. Folsom Historical Society would like to borrow the cases and they still have some of our vintage clothing on loan. Fair Oaks Water District still has water-related history panels. Treasurer will ensure that our \$1 annual rental is paid.

Park District has requested an historical presentation at their May 31 senior group. Jim Pearce will handle.

Ralph Carhart discussed possible use by Bella Vista Interact Club of their funds, which we hold, to support a Fair Oaks history essay award for graduating seniors.

Joe reported on cost estimate to make History Center restroom ADA accessible. At \$55,000 that is not considered reasonably feasible and will not be pursued. Center’s restroom will remain strictly non-public.

** Summary of draft minutes only. Contact Secretary for full, official, approved minutes.*

Old Homes of Fair Oaks

Sally Dunbar

The Dewey Home

4720 Dewey Orchard Court

While this column highlights the old homes of Fair Oaks, it is rare we find one that is still occupied by the original family. Almost beyond odds, the Dewey home at 4720 Dewey Orchard Court is not only still occupied by the Dewey family, but has continually been occupied by a “Harry Dewey,” nearly since it was built. After three generations of Harry Deweys living in the home, Harry H. Dewey’s daughter, Eileen Dewey Thomas, now lives there with her husband, historian John Thomas.



The family history is fascinating, as Eileen's great and great-great grandfathers are both foundations of the Dewey legacy. Great-great grandfather, Jacob Heintz, came to California with his wife Julia from Louisiana in 1870. Living in the south during the Civil War, Jacob, a Yankee by birth, had feared conscription into the Confederate Army, so he paid a fellow \$48 to take his place. Landing in Sacramento, Jacob eventually purchased 200 acres in Fair Oaks—roughly bounded by what is now Dewey Drive, Palm Avenue, Winding Way and Zelinda Drive. Eileen is not sure if a poker game was involved in the purchase, but it is possible, she says. Jacob built their farmhouse their saltbox-style home in 1874.

Meanwhile, great grandfather Harry Dewey was born in Grass Valley in 1864. He and his three brothers were left at an orphanage when their mother died, and their musician father was unable to care for them. Harry was taken in by a pioneer rancher who expected very hard labor from young Harry. His was not a carefree and happy childhood. However, young Harry learned to work hard. By age 25 Harry was married to Bertha Heinz and worked on Bertha's family farm in Fair Oaks. There, in partnership with Jacob, they cultivated up to 4,000 acres of land, planted in wheat, barley, hay, and later cherries, peaches, walnuts, olives and, most notably, almonds. After Jacob's death in 1896, Harry worked the farm in partnership with Julia. By 1901, Harry took over completely.



In 1901 a family room was added, and in 1910 the home was significantly altered with the addition of the grand wrap-around porch, which added a huge outdoor living space and transformed the character of the home. Built by Fair Oaks pioneer, Joseph Broadley, the porch was twenty feet at its widest, and spanned sixty feet along one side of the home. The Broadley family, too, becomes a part of this Dewey story, as Eileen's grandmother is a Broadley.



When Eileen inherited the home from her grandparents in the early 1980s, the original 200 acres already had been whittled down to 3.5 acres, providing the land for acres of Citrus Heights homes and the Harry Dewey Elementary School. Since then, Eileen and John have worked tirelessly to upgrade and renovate the home while preserving its historical charm. As they began their renovation, there was sketchy electricity, no foundation and no heat or air conditioning. Moreover, the home had sunk 11-inches in one corner.

So they built a new foundation, installed electricity throughout, installed central heat and air, reinforced the porch, and remodeled the bathroom. They added crown moldings, made doorways wider, and were able to keep and use the original doors and windows

throughout— as well as preserving the original floors. They removed the tacky kitchen remodel from the 1960's, creating a new kitchen with period feel and modern amenities.

The high kitchen cabinets are topped with historical artifacts from a century of family living— including their old butter churn, an egg measurer, grandmother's pottery, and the little blue egg-collecting basket Eileen used as a child. They even preserved the charming set of steps into the house from the old tank house, which has since been converted to a laundry room and guest room. The steps are worn down by the feet of many generations of Deweys, exposing layers of paint colors added through the years— a nostalgic reminder of those who walked before them.

In 2004, Eileen and John sold an additional 2.5 acres which have been split into ten lots. The grand Dewey home, now on just one acre, looks very much like it did in 1910, surrounded by majestic oaks and beautiful black walnut trees that have witnessed the lives of five generations of Deweys and Heintzes.



Ladies, Watch your Manners!

Eileen Dewey Thomas kindly lent us this excerpt from the 1912 Bylaws of the San Juan Social and Improvement Club:

Section 1, Any member or officer who shall neglect to perform any duty assigned to them shall be fined ten cents.

Section 2, Any person who shall be found guilty of defacing the furniture or found spitting on the floor or smoking in the meeting place or otherwise injuring the school house shall pay such damages as shall be required by the Board of Trustees.

Thank You History Center Maintenance Volunteers

2016	January	Doug Schwilk
	February	Bob Brugger
	March	Sue and Dick Easterbrook
	April	Sallie Miller/Michelle Winter
	May	Marilyn Pearce
	June	Judy and Warren Blomquist
	July	Joe Dobrowolski
	August	Joe Dobrowolski
	September	Carol and Glenn Crowther
	October	Doris and Doug Adam
	November	Eleanor and Barry Brown
	December	Terrie O'Donnell
2017	January	Sallie Miller/Lynn Steen/Michelle Winter
	February	RLee and Ralph Pettingell
	March	Bob Brugger
	April	Sallie Miller/Lynn Steen/Michelle Winter
	May	Marilyn Pearce
	June	Judy and Warren Blomquist

If you would like to help, please contact Judy/Warren Blomquist, either through email, wblom@comcast.net or by phone, 916-967-3833.

Treasurer's Report*

Bob Vogel

As of February 15, 2017, our total bank account balance was \$39,432.43. That includes \$3,651.13 in checking, \$2,519.61 in savings and \$33,261.69 in a Certificate of Deposit.

**A detailed Treasurer's Report is available on request.*

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2044
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

TO:

Dues are for the Calendar Year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues are payable on Jan. 1, and become delinquent Feb. 1.
New members joining after Oct. 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one: NEW MEMBER APPLICATION DUES PAYMENT

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership level requested:

Individual \$20 Family (2 Persons) \$25 Supporting (Business) \$50
 Single Life Member \$150 Family Life Member \$225

I am adding \$5 and request a printed newsletter by USPS \$ _____

I am including the following donation to support the History Center:

Contributor \$100 Supporter \$250 Patron \$500

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check number _____ Date of check ___/___/___

Please mail this form and check payable to:

“Fair Oaks Historical Society, Inc.” P.O. BOX 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please call Jim Pearce, 961-8415 (jpearce4104@gmail.com)