Something to Crow About

Fair Oaks Historical Society

Preserving the History and Heritage of Fair Oaks CA

Est.1975

Winter 2026 Issue 155

Quarterly General Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 27th Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse - 7997 California Ave

Bring a salad, main dish or dessert to share

We will see you there!

Our guest speaker will be **Kim Huggett**.

See page 6 for more details about Kim.

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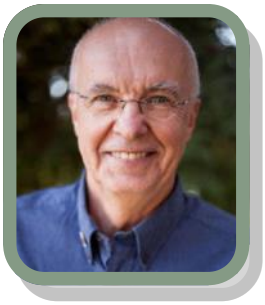
LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

By Claudia Thorn, President & Pete Schroeder, Vice President



Raffle Donations Needed ASAP!

SOUP Night - Saturday, February 7, 2026

At Faith Lutheran, Fair Oaks

SOUP NIGHT IS COMING

Our 19th Annual Soup Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th at Faith Lutheran Church. Tickets are selling quickly; we have sold about 125 tickets so far. We are not providing hard copy tickets as we have in past years. Tickets can be purchased online, like we did for the 50th celebration, or at the history center. Tickets are $40 per person.

DONATIONS, DONATIONS, DONATIONS PLEASE! We are looking for new or VERY gently used vintage items. There are lots of after Christmas sales so please think about purchasing something to donate. {For items that show wear and tear please donate to your favorite charity.} Bob Vogel has generously offered to allow us to store the donations in his garage.

A HUG and thank you to Bob.

Please bring your donations to the history center and complete a donation slip. Be sure you include your address, phone number and email address when completing the form. The history center is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10-2. We also have a member of our committee who has offered to pick-up donations if you need assistance: Her name is Carolyn Bramsom and her number is 530-306-2852. Feel free to call or text.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE YOUR PRESIDENT

It has been an honor to be your president for the last three years. As a board, we have made significant efforts to improve access to the trove of historical information in our center. We've upgraded our financial status, made improvements to the center, updated our newsletter, created the Patricia Vogel Education Fund and so much more. I will be passing the baton to Bud Beebe in January and know you will be in very capable hands. I will still be very involved with the Historical Society and hope you will continue to do the same. We have a very special community and it's worth fighting for.

Hoping we all have a Happy, Healthy New Year.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE HISTORY CENTER

By Steve West, Builder, and Barbara Roper, Inspiration

To me it's a bird house, to Barb it's an art project in its early design. It started as an elaborate bird house. Barb had some interesting ideas that she wanted to add to it. In my mind I saw a building of a miniature front façade of the old Fair Oaks Fruit Co. building.

Barb had some other businesses that she wanted to represent on this structure, so between the two of us, we created this building which showcased Campoy's Motor Sales, Nardinelli's Oaks Hardware Store and the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse . Each displaying photos of old cars and great historical pictures like the Fair Oaks Bridge, miniature hardware and goods in the front of Nardinelli's, movie show posters at the Clubhouse and of course, the Fair Oaks Fruit Co. all on one little ol' bird house. The reason why I call it a bird house is because it actually has a functioning bird nesting area with all these other things going on around it!.

I like the detail! I used Plexiglas in the windows for looks and to keep wasps from taking over the nesting areas. There's a hatch that hinges down on the floor to clean the nesting area. If you look at the front of the Fair Oaks Fruit Co., there's a hole (1-1/4") for a Tit mouse size inhabitant. The compartment for nesting is contained to a 4" by 4" (roughly). I made all the window frames, the exterior trim and siding all from old wood.

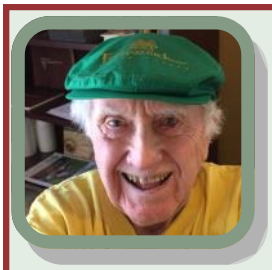
Hopefully the bird house will never see any kind of wet weather. It should hold up fine, but like all wood it will rot in time if left outside Barb found all the miniature things and provided all the great photos and created the signage you see everywhere! We added small LED lights around the porches and roof lines which gave it some drama! It was fun to build, because I'm a builder of things. Barb had a vision and together we made it happen.

The History Center THANKS Steve and Barb for sharing!

This Bird House is currently on display at the History Center.
These pictures do not due it justice. Come and see it in person.

THE DOCENT CORNER

By Bob Sours, Retired Docent



Hello my friends from our Docent Corner. Our Docents represent the best of the best, all keeping up the coming and going of information, about the Center, the Village, the businesses, and progress of the Society changes and additions.

NEW AS CAN BE, AND SO PROUD EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE with the looks and usefulness of the remodeled Community Clubhouse to the coveted Village Proper. Just WOW is the very best we can say from our RIVER to the URBAN masses.

LET US TRED THE WATER A LITTLE MORE, and marvel about our History Center Board during the construction transition from old and doable to Grand and efficient. These folks, along with the Park Center Staff and Construction Teams all brought together a Village true to behold.

LOOKING FORWARD, TAKING ADVANTAGE, DOING OUR PART SHARING WITH NEIGHBORS now becomes our future mission and or building on our long stressed mission of the past. Headlights for thoughts reaching past our physical barriers might include sharing our thoughts with in-house groups, setting up committees, places to meet, expanding to "more of" government joining and participation and so on.

OUR PATH INWARD via our historical pathways, local groups, cities outside our guide posts and cities just beyond, as well as States beyond can add ideas to our group. (example - I have been a member of the S. Lake Tahoe HC for several years and have picked up lots of ideas.)

ENOUGH !! Why am I thinking of adding to, building to, and not just making ours better. WELL, at least for History's sake, and our own saving and preserving what our forefathers put together for us and we have followed those bedrocks up to now. It seems we all need to put our groups together and remember our duties to the past: our constitution, American flag, rule of law. Pretty much everyone is finding fault with now. SO, take heed to all our fellow folks, neighbors, by not only participating but passing our feeling on to folks beyond our doors.

Overall the above is a mouthful, I know. But it's time to Stop, and Listen, Listen, Listen ---- and act accordingly.

Our path this year of 2026 should be FOR THE Country, and FOR the People.

FOOD FOR Thoughts my good neighbors and friends. Thanks for reading. Let's see our flags flying. PEACE TO ALL.

Volunteers Needed!

The **History Center** is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Facebook Administrator

What: Oversee the FOHS Facebook page, keeping it up to date with events and managing Friend requests.

When: as needed. You can work from home!

Collection Manager Assistant

What: Helping with the ongoing tracking of the location of our collection. Some work might need to done at the History Center and some might be able to be done at home. There will be some fine tuning as we go.

When: A few hours each month

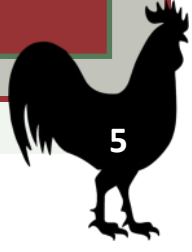
Marketing Manager

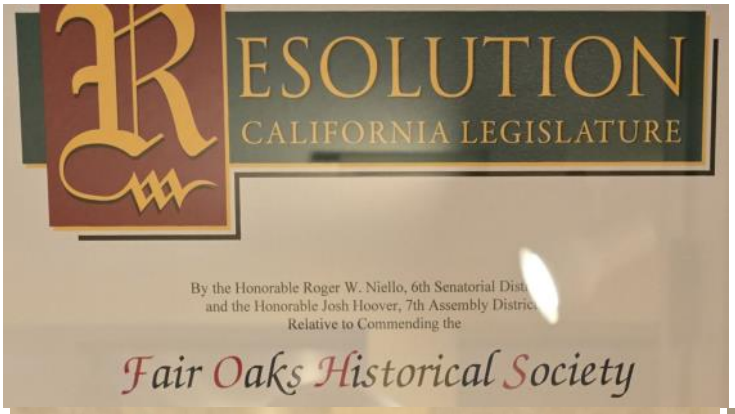
What: To oversee Fair Oaks Historical Society merchandise for sale or for advertising.

When: As needed.

For more information, call **Chris Highsmith** at the History Center at **(916) 844-7103** on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10am - 2:00pm,** or send him an email at:

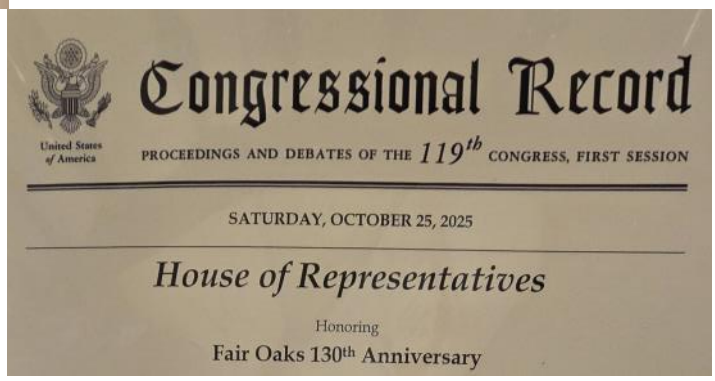
Fairoakshistorycenter @gmail.com





More to See at the History Center

These three Resolution/Proclamations related to the FOHS 50th Anniversary and the 130th Anniversary of Fair Oaks are on display. What you see here is just the top part of each document. Another good reason for a visit.



Our Speaker at the FOHS General Meeting January 27th, 2026

We are excited to have Kim Huggett, longtime F.O. resident, share his presentation at our next quarterly meeting. Kim served as the last managing editor of The *San Juan Record*, Fair Oaks' newspaper for 47 years.

Kim and his family moved to Fair Oaks in 1965. His parents owned the property at the corner where the original general store and post office was located in 1895 and lived there for 51 years and were active in the Historical Society.

Kim will share how his love for the town morphed into becoming editor of the *San Juan Record,* flagship of the county-wide 153,000-circulation Sacramento Suburban Newspapers, also known as "The Green Sheet." The San Juan Record was published from 1933-1980.

He later was a sportswriter for *The Sacramento Bee* and crime reporter for The *Sacramento Union* before moving to Hayward, where he successively worked for two colleges and then headed the chamber of commerce before retiring.

With a background like that, it promises to be a very entertaining and informative presentation.

Please save the date!
We'll see you at the Clubhouse at 6:00pm.

FOHS at the Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting event returned to the (newly renovated) Village Park; it was a terrific evening – cool, but not too cold, with hardly a breeze. The Historical Society had their pop-up tent positioned in a prime location, very close to Santa's position, where kids lined up to do … well, to do what kids do when they get close to Santa: They let Santa know what they'd like to receive on Christmas morning.

There was a huge crowd in attendance. The FOHS gave candy canes and coloring kits to kids of all ages until the supplies were gone. Coincidently, the adjacent FOVEC tent ran out of hot chocolate at about the same time and they brought 250 cups! We had a good number of volunteers helping out. There were flyers and brochures to pass out, and calendars, mugs, glasses and water bottles to sell. Of course, applications were on hand and we signed up several folks who readily joined the Society.

Thanks to all who helped
before, during and after the Celebration!

Fair Oaks Park & Rec EVENT

What: Laurel & Hardy Film Fest- Theatre Organ Showcase

When: Friday, January 30th at 6:30PM

Where: The Historic Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

Why: FOHS is a Preferred Partner with the Fair Oaks Recreation and Parks District. As such, we get a substantial discount on our Clubhouse rentals. Within the Clubhouse is an historic, over 100 year old Theatre Pipe Organ owned by Sierra Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (also a Preferred Partner and a Supporting member of FOHS). The silent movies that will be shown are almost a hundred years old as well.

These events typically sell out. Purchase your tickets here: Tickets

Step back into the early days of Hollywood and experience silent comedy the way it was meant to be seen—on the big screen with live theatre organ accompaniment. Join us for a laugh-filled evening celebrating the iconic duo Laurel & Hardy, with Dave Moreno bringing each moment to life through masterful live performance, presented in partnership with American Theatre Organ Society. Enjoy four beloved shorts from the golden age of slapstick: Putting Pants on Philip (1927) The Finishing Touch (1928) Liberty (1929) Big Business (1929). From chaotic carpentry to runaway trousers, goat-chasing chaos to holiday disaster—each film is packed with perfectly timed gags and timeless humor that still shines nearly 100 years later. A nostalgic night of laughter, live music, and classic film magic for audiences of all ages.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Chris Highsmith, History Center Operation Manager

Charles Henry Howard

This article is on Charles Henry Howard, one of the owners of Howard and Wilson Publishers. The publishing company started colonies in the early 1890s and by 1895 they had six in total in various phases: One in Florida, one in North Carolina, one in Louisiana, and three in California. The Sunset Colony, one of the three in California, **later known as Fair Oaks,** was one of them. The events leading to the start of the Fair Oaks will be covered in a future article.

The end of the article will share some information on his son Dr. Bert Foster Howard and grandson Richard Foster Howard.

Charles Henry Howard sometime during the 1860s.

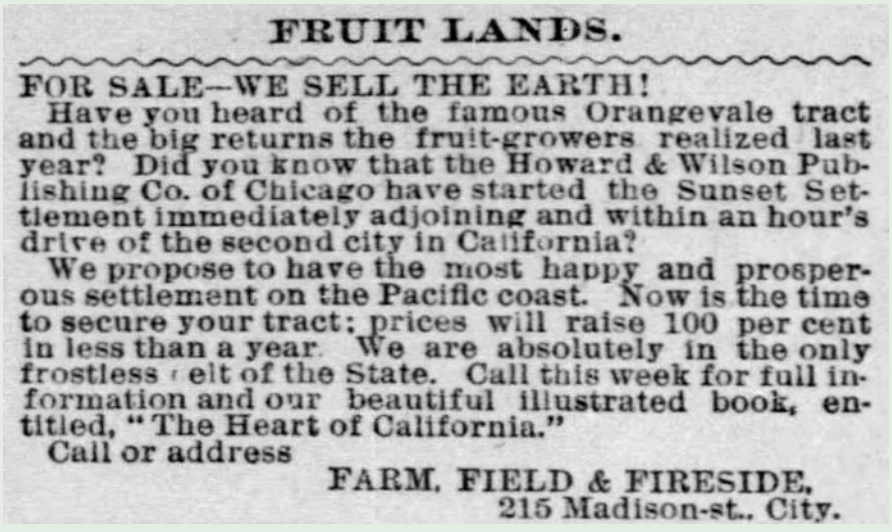
Charles Henry Howard was born on October 28, 1838, in the small town of Leeds, Maine; he was the third son of Rowland and Eliza Howard. His father Rowland Howard died and Eliza married John Gilmore (No connection to the Gilmores of Fair Oaks). At age 9 Charles started at Kents Hill School originally called Maine Wesleyan. During the years he was at Kents Hill, he accepted Christianity; this decision would affect the rest of his life. He entered Bowdoin College in the fall of 1855 as his two brothers had done before him. While at Bowdoin, he started writing and giving his own sermons. His brother Oliver Howard invited Charles to be a mathematics tutor at West Point. During Charles time, there, he often gave sermons at a local church when the pastor was away. In the spring of 1861 believing in a higher calling, he enters Banger Theological Seminary.

Some months later in June, he felt that he needed to enlist in the 3rd Maine of the Union Army alongside his brother Oliver Howard, a West Point Grad. Oliver was made colonel. In November 1861, Charles was assigned to newly promoted Brigadier General Oliver Howard's staff in the 61st regiment of New York. Charles spent most of the war in a staff capacity under his brother. During the Peninsula Campaign on June 1, 1862, at the Battle of Fair Oaks in Virginia, David K. Thomson in his book "We Are in His Hands Whether We Live or Die" wrote "As an officer in the 61st, Charles found himself detached from his staff duties and in the center of this brutal assault and as he struggled to shore up the line, Charles fell wounded, bullet piercing his upper thigh." The wound to Charles occurred shortly after his horse (borrowed from Oliver) had been shot from beneath him. In the same battle General Oliver Howard was to have his right arm amputated from his wounds. Charles went back to Leeds, Maine, to recover. After he recovered, he was involved in more battles on the Eastern

Theater. Then in the fall of 1863, the Howards and XI Corps were transferred to the Western Theater under General Sherman. Charles Howard took part in General Sherman's march to the Sea. He missed out on the capture of Savannah because he was accepting an appointment as a Colonel of the newly forming United States 128th Color Troop regiment in Beaufort, South Carolina.

General Sherman sent Charles to deliver the briefing personally of Sherman's March to the Sea to President Lincoln. Charles said that there were many men waiting to meet with the president. When Lincoln heard of the nature of Charles' business, the President ushered him to the front of the line. Major Charles Howard returned to South Carolina to train the troops. He did not only train them to fight but also to read and write. The regiment never did get a chance to ever fight; the regiment was ordered to New York. The steamer that they were on caught on fire: He ordered his young troops to man the pumps and fight the flames. The ship was saved and it was able to arrive in New York. To finish the story of the Civil War, here is a passage from "Gen. Charles H. Howard – A Short Outline of a Useful Life" written by his son Otis McGaw Howard. "Returning to New York on orders to proceed to South Carolina, he found that his best plan was to take the steamer which was carrying a party of notables down to raise the flag again on Fort Sumter. Among them was General (formerly Major) Anderson, the gallant officer, who, under a heavy bombardment, had been compelled to pull down the flag at the beginning of the war. ... This occasion was an impressive patriotic ceremony which he often mentioned in his reminiscences."

After the war President Lincoln spoke with Secretary of the War, Edwin Stanton, about creating the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands with his desire of having General Oliver Howard as the commissioner. The bureau was giving relief for freedmen (former slaves) in the areas of employment, education, education, food assistance, and land support. Charles helped his brother in that bureau and also they helped start Howard University, which was named after General Otis Howard. The university was started by an order of congress to teach now freed black slaves. On December 5, 1867, he marries Katharine Foster who he first met when she was sixteen attending his bible study class at Bangor Theological Seminary. By the end of 1868, Charles accepted a position as the western secretary with American Missionary Society from 1868 to 1872. The position required him to move to Chicago. In 1872 he purchased a controlling stake in the newspaper *The Advance* and was the chief editor. He left to be an inspector of Indian Agencies for President Garfield for three years.



FRUIT LANDS.

FOR SALE—WE SELL THE EARTH!

Have you heard of the famous Orangevale tract and the big returns the fruit-growers realized last year? Did you know that the Howard & Wilson Publishing Co. of Chicago have started the Sunset Settlement immediately adjoining and within an hour's drive of the second city in California?

We propose to have the most happy and prosperous settlement on the Pacific coast. Now is the time to secure your tract; prices will raise 100 per cent in less than a year. We are absolutely in the only frostless belt of the State. Call this week for full information and our beautiful illustrated book, entitled, "The Heart of California."

Call or address

FARM, FIELD & FIRESIDE,
215 Madison-st., City.

Advertisement appearing in the August 4, 1885 "Chicago Tribune" Newspaper

Advertisement from the September 18, 1890 "The Nebraska Farmer"

In 1885 he purchased the newspaper *Farm, Field, and Stockman* in partnership with James W. Wilson. They sent out to various newspapers a sample copy, stating that it will be published weekly, beginning December 1st, 1885. Also, they were both journalists and the it was to be a champion of farmers' rights. In their promotion to the newspapers, they stated that Mr. Wilson was am experienced seedsman and with a subscription of $1.50 a year the subscribers were to receive twenty packets of new varieties of seed potatoes, seed grain and seeds of their choice. Howard and Wilson Publishing Company in 1892 changed the publication *Farm, Field, and Stockman* name to *Farm, Field, and Fireside.*

In 1899 the New Trier Township, Illinois, where Charles H. Howard was living voted to establish a township high school; he was the first president of the board. Then in July 1899, some of Charles's children started to get involved in the company. His oldest son Otis McGaw took over as Business Manager from James W. Wilson. On May 14, 1900, the Howard & Wilson Publishing Company was sold to Charles H. Howard & family and became The Howard Company. Charles's daughter Nina started writing articles for the newspaper and she started a Violet Farm with her next door neighbor. The Howards sold the paper to William A Radford on May 20, 1905.

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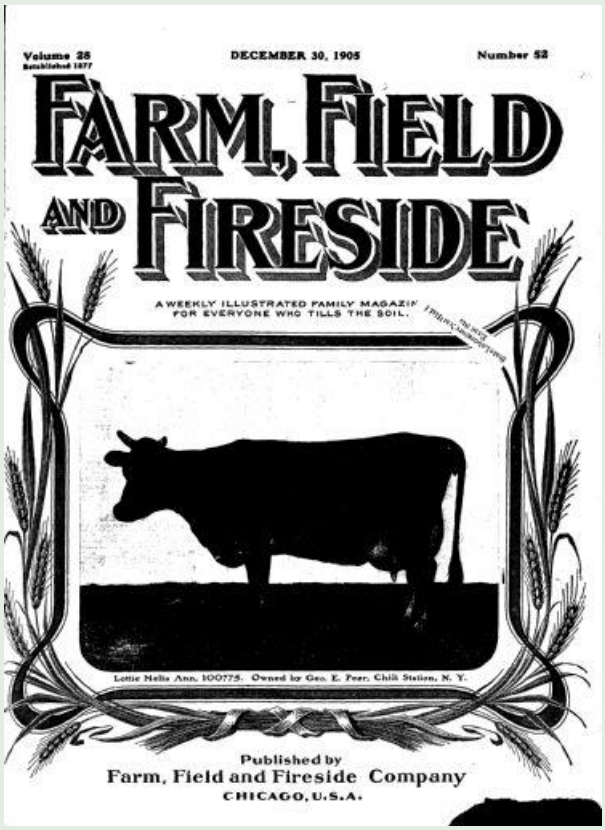
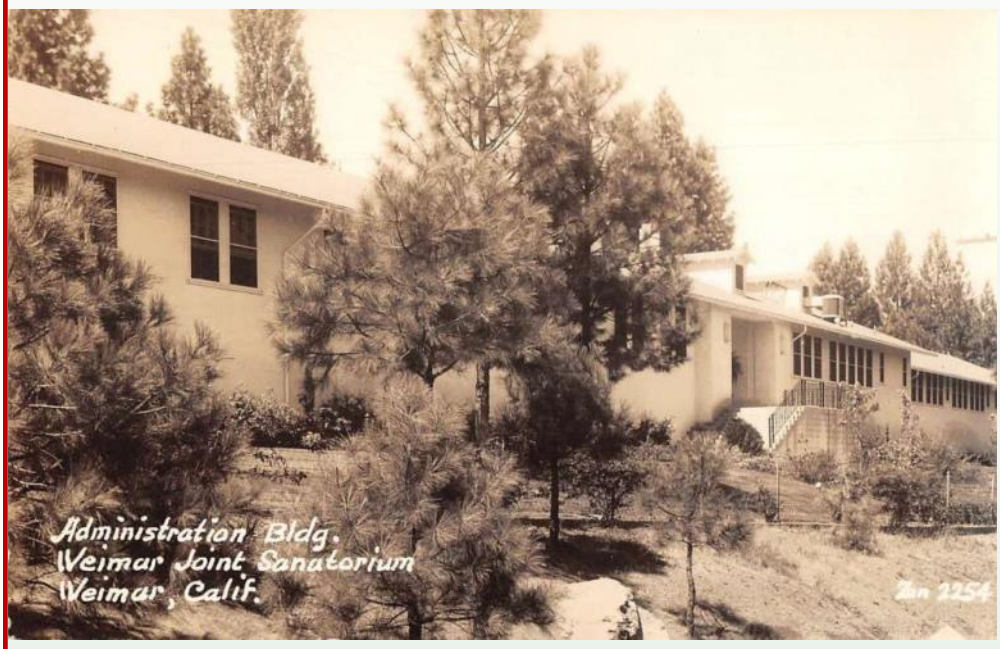


December 30th 1905 Farm, Field and Fireside cover under the ownership of William A. Radford.

Charles Howard died on January 27,1908. His son Dr. Bert F. Howard helped open Alta White Crusader Sanatorium in Alta California in 1909 to help fight against tuberculosis, sometimes referred to as the White Plague. While he was there Aviator Robert G. Fowler, trying to win $50,000 prize for flying coast to coast that was offered by William Randolph Hearst, crashed nearby in the pines as shown in the sketch to the right. Mr. Fowler was checked out by Dr. Howard and oked to continue his fight once the plane was repaired. ‘



Sketch from the September 13,1911 "The Sacramento Union" Newspaper showing the crash.

Howard was there till he left when he was appointed as the Director of the Bureau of tuberculosis for the California State Board of Health in 1914. Though his time on the board was short, he did recommend Sacramento County to combine with 15 other counties and build the tuberculosis hospital for the poor patients. A few years later, The Joint Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Weimar was built.

Charles’ widow Katharine’s mental decline started around 1917 and in 1927 with her daughter Nina, started living with her son in Sacramento and Katharine passed away on September 5, 1927 . Nina continued to live with her brother afterwards.

His son Rev. Lawrence Howard had a son, Richard Foster Howard, who studied art history, technology of art, physics of light and color, and museum administration. In addition, he also studied chemical microscopy in connection with the analysis of paints. He later published a thesis entitled “Problems of Labelling in Art Cataloguing” as well as articles on museum security. In December of 1935, Howard was appointed Director of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. Howard remained there until he was called to active duty with the U.S. Army Field Artillery in early 1942. In 1944 his unit, the 787th Field Artillery Battalion, was sent overseas and stationed in Congleton, England. His battalion advanced through Weymouth, England, to La Havre, France, and then through Rouen to Muenchen-Gladbach, Germany.

By early 1945, they had advanced to the Elbe River, just forty-five miles outside of Berlin. He returned home to Hoboken, New Jersey for terminal leave in time for Christmas in 1945. The following January, he was contacted by the Roberts Commission and asked to return to Germany as part of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) unit. Howard accepted with the condition that his wife and children be allowed to accompany him. He arrived in Berlin in July 1946 as Deputy Chief of the MFAA Office of Military Government for Germany. A few months later, he succeeded Maj. Bancel LaFarge as Chief. In this position, Howard oversaw the activities of the collecting points and the continued restitution of millions of looted works of art and other cultural treasures to their countries of origin.

Sources that were used were:
The Sacramento Bee, The Sacramento Union, The Chicago Tribune and The Nebraska Farmer

Other sources that were used were:

We Are In His Hands Whether We Live or Die— The Letters of Brevet Brigadier General Charles Henry Howard
Edited by David K Thomson

General Charles H Howard— A Short Outline of a Useful Life
By Otis McGaw Howard

We always enjoy receiving stories about and photos pertaining to the history of the Fair Oaks area.

Attn: **Chris Highsmith**
Fair Oaks History Center
10340 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7114

New Mailing Address

Next door to the Sunflower Drive-in

fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com

Phone – **(916) 844-7103**

Regular Hours

Tuesdays	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursdays	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturdays	10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Admission is FREE

2026 Membership Renewals Start now

We make it easy for you to renew.
Use the form below and mail with your check or Pay Online.
Or just bring a check or credit card to the History Center.
Or bring a check or credit card to the next General Meeting.
Life Members do NOT need to renew!

Fair Oaks Historical Society
2026 Membership Renewal

Name:	**Phone - Cell:**
Address:	**Phone - Home:**
Email Address:	
Emergency Contact:	**Phone – Home or Cell:**

Dues are collected on an annual basis in January. **New members joining at the 2026 Chicken Festival or after October 1st shall be considered paid for 2027. Membership dues are: (circle one)**

Individual $20, Family (2 persons) $25, Supporting $50,
Patron $100, Benefactor $150, Upgrade to Life Membership $275
Add $10 to receive a printed copy of our newsletter via Mail.

Signature: **X**	**Date:**

Send this renewal form with your check to:

Fair Oaks Historical Society
10340 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7114

You may also use our secure PayPal system: https://fairoakshistory.org/join/join.htm

Thank you for your support!

Memberships at or above the Supporting level will be recognized in our quarterly Newsletter.
For questions, please contact the History Center or FOHistory1@gmail.com.

Membership Coordinator use only:

Amount paid: $
Check # or PayPal Date:
Date received:

2026 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Annual Membership Renewals by	January 31
Soup Night Planning Mtg	January 6
Executive Board Meeting	January 20
Quarterly General Meeting	January 27
FORPD Silent Movie Night	January 30
2026 Soup Night	February 7
Executive Board Meeting	February 17
Executive Board Meeting	March 17
Executive Board Meeting	April 21

Fair Oaks Historical Society
10340 Fair Oaks Blvd
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-7114

www.fairoakshistory.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: