

When I learned the other day that Garrett (Gary) Drummond had resigned from the Livermore Historic Preservation Commission, I knew that the time had come to write a column about this man who has become so involved in the history of our community. At 6 feet and 220 pounds, he has a commanding presence; during my early years in working on local history, I was in awe of him. His hair, mustache, and short beard are white now, but I can easily imagine their original red above his freckled face—that Scottish red of his ancestors who immigrated to Mississippi eight generations ago. Many of them fought for the South in the Civil War. I still hear echoes of the southern accent in his voice.

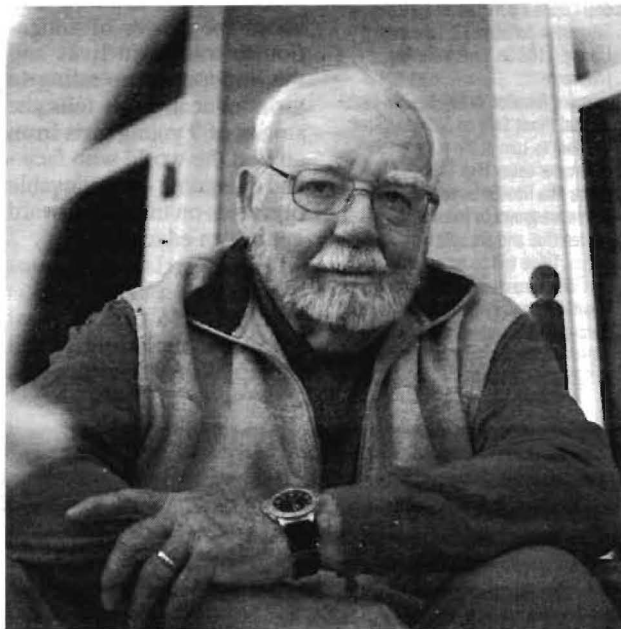
Both of Gary's parents were teachers; his father taught engineering and his mother Spanish. Because of the Depression, the family moved often, from Mississippi to Oklahoma, to Georgia, to New Mexico, and finally in 1940 to Albuquerque. Gary was born in 1929 in Mississippi. After high school graduation, Gary worked for a paper company in Albuquerque, and then in 1952 was hired by Sandia. His work for Sandia included going to the Marshall Islands for two overseas nuclear test series and managing the

## Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan  
Livermore City Historian



### Garrett B. Drummond, Livermore Valley Historian



**GARY DRUMMOND**

U.S. weapons stockpile in Maine. He married Elizabeth Hannefey in 1950. They had three daughters. When the position in Maine closed, his manager agreed to send Gary to Sandia in Livermore. He came to our city with his family in September 1959.

He worked for Sandia for 46 years, retiring in 1994. Mainly, he helped to develop their computer systems and also worked with people from around the world on developing fuel efficiency for automobiles as the Executive Committee Secretariat of

the International Energy Agency Combustion Research Agreement. Gary graduated in 1979 from St. Mary's College with a B.A. in Humanities, with a concentration in history.

The Livermore Heritage Guild, the city's history society, started in 1973. Although Gary was not a founding member, he soon became active in the organization and involved with Livermore government connected with history. He told me that in order to be a happy person, he had to live two lives—one to have something in his stomach (take care of his family) and one to have something in his heart (take care of himself). From 1975 to 2001 he was a member of the Guild's board, and sometimes served as president. From 1978 to 1981 he served on the Alameda County Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation Commission. From 2002 to 2013, he was a member of the City of Livermore Historic Preservation Commission; he was chairman in 2004 and 2005. In 2004 he was named the Livermore City Historian.

When Elizabeth gave birth to a son in Livermore, their fourth child, they needed a larger house. The house of Thomas Knox, at 567 South L Street had been vacant for two years. The Drummonds bought it. Knox had been post-

master of Livermore for 13 years and mayor for 11 years. Built in 1898, the old house needed many repairs and renovations. Gary did most of the work by himself. There are two bedrooms downstairs, a long room that had been combined from two smaller living rooms into a dining/living room, and a small study created from the original kitchen. Gary turned the stairs to the top floor so that they were safer, and made the upstairs playroom into a bedroom for his daughters. Unfortunately, Elizabeth died in 1983. Later, in 1991, he built an addition with a modern kitchen and a comfortable breakfast room with large windows that bring the outdoors inside. A pair of old doors that have "Mally's Hotel" engraved on them lead out to a balcony. Gary bought the doors from the Fankhausers, who had them in their garage for about 40 years. The house is very tastefully decorated with antiques.

Gary threw himself more and more into his "heart" activities. While working on Guild projects with Anna Siig, he told her that he would serve as the Guild president if she would be vice president. This kept them cooperating closely. Anna has a Danish background, and Gary became acquainted with the Danes of Liver-

more. He even joined the Dania Society here. One day, Gary said to Anna in Danish, "Will you marry me?" Her reply came quickly: "Where did you learn that?!" They married in 1989.

In 1976 Gary organized and managed, through the auspices of the Livermore Heritage Guild, a survey of architectural styles of heritage resources within the original city limits. He often took interested people, including me, on tours of the area. In 1987 he managed the successful nomination of the D.J. Murphy house to the National Register of Historic Places. Five years later, he managed the successful application of Wente Bros. Estate Winery for a State Historic Landmark designation.

He has been the author of six books: *Architectural Styles of the Livermore-Amador Valley*; *Recollections: Being the Early Life in the San Ramon Valley of Prof. James D. Smith, Headmaster, Livermore College; 125 Years—The History of the First Presbyterian Church*; *The Klondike News* (with Anna Siig); *The Vintner's Tale*; and *The Chinese Experience in the Livermore Valley*. Gary also taught a course in local history for the Adult Night School for ten years. In 1994 he began a program for Livermore third graders, who must learn about local history. He took their classes for an hour's tour of the downtown area. This program still continues today with other leaders.

Gary has spent much of his time lately on a book that he started long ago—it covers the early wineries in Livermore and Pleasanton before Prohibition (before 1920).

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