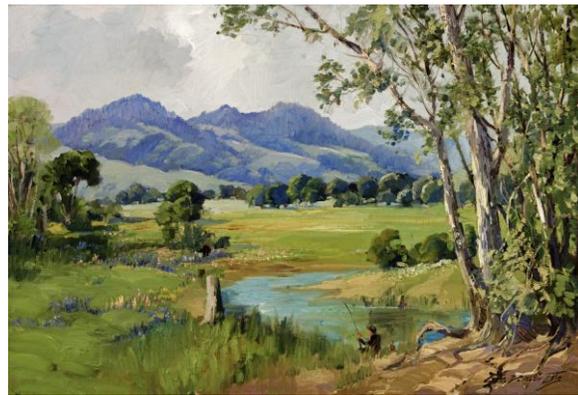


Kentfield Greenbrae Historical Society **Historian**

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As we come to the end of 2020, we have a lot to be thankful for. We live in a beautiful community with Mt. Tam watching over us. The sun is out, and we are doing our best to stay connected with family and friends over the holidays while not straying too far afield. We will have even more to be thankful for next year!

We had a very successful Zoom Webinar in November with the video presentation, *Visions of Marin: George Demont Otis, American Impressionist*, produced by Marin filmmaker Rebecca Sylla, with narration by KGHS Board Member Mary Gilardi. It was bittersweet because the pivotal person in our connection with the art of George Demont Otis had passed several weeks before. Mary Gilardi has written a moving tribute to Jessie Hartley below.

As Covid 19 surges in Marin County, we are all staying close to home, hopeful that the vaccines will reach us soon and that we can move our lives forward. The Board continues to plan for future activities on Zoom and beyond. Your continued support is always welcome.

We wish you good health, a safe holiday season and a hopeful 2021.

Marilee Rogers
Co-President, 2019-2020

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Susan Morrow, Co-President; Marilee Rogers, Co-President, Heather McPhail Sridharan, Co-President, Tamara Hull Arnold, Lorelei Evans, Sarah Fletcher, Mary Gilardi, Julie Gondak, Ross McKenna, Sydney Park, Paul Smith, Richard Torney
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Jessie Hartley and Family at Opening of George Demont Otis Exhibit at COM 2014

Jessie Hartley passed away on October 26, 2020 at the age of 73.

Without Jessie Hartley we would not have known about George Demont Otis and we would not have had the opportunity to see his beautiful visions of Marin County the way it used to be.

Jessie Hartley was our connection to her great uncle Artist George Demont Otis. She was his grandniece and she devoted much of her time and energy in recent years paying tribute to him and to her aunt Clara, who was also an artist. Jessie had a large collection of artifacts, papers and paintings and was constantly working on trying to put all of the bits and pieces together to locate and catalogue all of the art.

Up until the end of her life she was busy doing what she was always doing finding out something new and interesting about Otis and she was packing up boxes in preparation for donating items to the Ann T Kent California Room at the Marin County Civic Center Library. Jessie wanted his items to be someplace where they could be preserved and treasured.

Jessie remembered fondly the days she went with her mother and siblings to visit the home of her aunt and uncle on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Kentfield. When that house was torn down Jessie kept many items from it in her own home; including a large fireplace mantle with lions on the sides, a carved wooden staircase, sections of the picket fence which her uncle had hand carved and a carved wooden sign with a palette and paint brushes welcoming visitors to his studio.

Jessie was a kind and gentle woman and all of us at KGHS enjoyed getting to know her and hear the stories about her uncle. Because of her generosity we were able to use Otis' work for the covers of our books and through her efforts we have all had the wonderful privilege of meeting her great uncle George Demont Otis.

I know that Jessie would be very pleased and excited to know that we continue to share the life of her uncle with the community by showing the video we created in 2016 about his life and his art.