News of the Society

MRS. CHARLES H. JANIN


Mrs. Janin’s mother, née Elizabeth Dunbar, will be remembered as Mrs. William S. Jewett, wife of the California artist who achieved fame as a portrait painter during the 1850’s and 1860’s and whose death occurred in Massachusetts on December 3, 1873. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Jewett returned to California with her small, sculptor-to-be son William Dunbar Jewett, and her marriage to J. Howard Smith, San Francisco attorney, took place in 1876. Both of the Smiths’ children, Erwina and Howard D. Smith, were born in the ornamentally-planted residential area of Berkeley known as Claremont. Erwina attended Miss Anna Head’s School in Berkeley, studied music with local teachers, and, after a year as a special student at the University of California, she traveled in Europe with her mother. In 1908 came her marriage to Mr. Janin, mining engineer, whose work often took him abroad, but whose permanent office was in San Francisco. Mr. Janin died in Piedmont in 1937.

Among the organizations in whose affairs Mrs. Janin had taken an active part was the Latham Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education, Latham Square Building, Oakland. It was founded in 1918 by two of Mr. Janin’s cousins, Edith and Milton Latham, niece and nephew of former Sen. Milton S. Latham, and at the time of her death Mrs. Janin was serving as one of the directors. She was a member also of the Holly Branch of the Children’s Hospital of the East Bay, the Berkeley Piano Club, the Fortnightly Club of San Francisco, and the Auxiliary of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. She became a member of the California Historical Society in June 1952, and the Society is indebted to Mrs. Janin for adding to its collection William Dunbar Jewett’s representation of an “Ideal Head.”


Elliott Evans

HENRY HAWLEY PATTERSON

At the old home on the famous Patterson Ranch, located between Newark and Alviso in Alameda County, occurred the death of Henry Hawley Patterson on November 11, 1955. One of two sons born to George W. Patterson and Clara Hawley Patterson (a native daughter of California) on April 7, 1878, he died in the same house in which he was born.

Since pioneer days the Patterson family has materially contributed to the development of Alameda County. George W. Patterson, born in 1822 at East Berlin,
Pennsylvania, like many other children of pioneer families moved west to Ohio and thence to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, where the family settled on a farm in 1832. Early in 1849, Patterson joined a party headed for California. They traveled by steamer via New Orleans to Port Lavaca in Texas, and from there they traveled overland with teams and pack horses via San Antonio and Durango to a Pacific port in Mazatlan, which was reached after many hardships and sickness from cholera. The party took passage to San Francisco on the brig *Louisa*, arriving there on August 29, 1849. After more than a year of placer mining on the American River and later in the Trinity mines, Patterson located on a ranch near Mission San Jose. He acquired farming land over the years, until his farm contained over three thousand acres of what was originally part of a Spanish grant known as Rancho Potrero de los Cerritos—Grazing Land of the Little Hills (Coyote Hills) — owned by Tomas Pacheco and Augstin Alviso. Here, between Newark and Alviso, Patterson built his home, which still stands surrounded by giant oaks grown from acorns planted by him which he had brought from Indiana. There he died in 1895. Since they became of age, soon after their father's death, Henry and his brother, William D. Patterson, have managed the varied interests of the farm, and also a cattle ranch of some ten thousand acres in the Livermore hills.

Henry Hawley Patterson graduated from the University of California in the class of 1900. He married Sarah Morgan in 1913, a graduate of the University of California, class of 1909. Among her varied interests and activities she has devoted herself to creating and maintaining the beauty of the old home and its surroundings. For many years the ponds east of the Coyote Hills on the Patterson ranch were famous for duck shooting, and during the “duck season” friends of Henry and Will assembled there on weekends to enjoy good hunting and good fellowship. The pleasant memories of those days remain with them.

Henry, who had been a member of the California Historical Society since 1943, is survived by two daughters — Marjorie, who lives with her mother, and Sally, the wife of Dr. John E. Adams of Piedmont.

WALTER A. STARR

MRS. SIGMUND STERN

The death of Rosalie Meyer Stern on February 8, 1956, brought before the minds of her friends and beneficiaries vivid memories of an extraordinary and influential personality, and of long service in the interests of northern California's cultural and civic life. Mrs. Stern, whose birthplace was Los Angeles, was eighty-six years old when she died at her home, 1998 Pacific Avenue in San Francisco.*

The parents of Mrs. Stern were Eugene Meyer from Strasbourg, and Harriet

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*Mrs. Stern became a member of the California Historical Society in January 1928, and had been a sustaining member for the last eight years.