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CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

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A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



Feature: Ardenwood and Its Founder

CHCF Celebrates 25 Years

What a party! For those of you unable to join us at our silver anniversary celebration on October 21, you missed a great event. It was wonderful to see and visit with so many longtime CHC members, volunteers and staff. An elegant "Taste of California" buffet dinner showcasing five ethnic cuisines, accompanied by a benefit drawing, was just the beginning.

The real fun started once we adjourned to the Trianon for some reminiscing with past CHC directors Walt Warren, Seonaid McArthur and Jim Williams, and cut the ribbon on *Silver Anniversary Golden Opportunity*, the exhibit celebrating our 25-year history. For the "old-timers" it brought back delightful memories, and for many of our newer members and friends, it was the first opportunity to see and hear about the restoration of the building, the evolving partnership between the foundation and the college, and the fun adventures of the early years!

One very important announcement made that evening that you, as our members and friends need to know, is about the establishment of a new scholarship program by the CHCF Board of Trustees, to be instituted during the 1995-96 academic year. The first scholarship in the program will be the "Directors' Scholarship," a \$500 award in honor of the hard work and dedication the California History Center directors have given this organization. Walt, Seonaid, Jim and I will

work with the board during the coming months to develop the selection criteria for the De Anza students applying for this annual scholarship.

We have already set up a restricted budget account, and over the next several years hope to raise sufficient money for a scholarship endowment to fund our program. And of course we want to give our members the opportunity to be among the first to donate to this special endowment.

To that end, in the center of this magazine you will find a card which enables you to make your first contribution to the scholarship program, (or any other end-of-the-year donation you wish to make.) Of course any donations over and above your membership are fully tax deductible.

I cannot emphasize enough how much we count on and appreciate not only your continuing membership in the California History Center Foundation, but also those additional contributions that help support the quality of programming we feel we offer here at the center. We are indeed grateful.

If you haven't already seen the exhibit, I hope you drop by soon for a visit, or join us for some other activities this year. To you and yours, a happy holiday season, and on to new visions and exciting possibilities in 1995!

Kathleen Peregrin



Cover Photo: Arden Station, ca. 1890. This South Pacific Coast Railroad depot near Ardenwood's mansion in southern Alameda County was granted by a district court judge as partial compensation for the railroad's right-of-way through George Patterson's land. Ardenwood was named after a forested area "Arden" in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Courtesy The Society of California Pioneers.

Left: California History Center members and their guests enjoyed ethnic foods at a "Taste of California" on October 21 at the 25th anniversary party of the CHCF.

CALENDAR

CHC will be closed from December 19 through January 2. Best wishes for the holidays!

1/3 De Anza College classes begin. CHC opens to the public. Current exhibit on the 25 years of the CHCF entitled, *Silver Anniversary Golden Opportunity*. History center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; closed from noon to 1 p.m.

1/16 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed. De Anza College and CHC closed.

1/18

Drawing for 15 pairs of tickets to hear Ken Burns, Jesse Jackson, or Colin Powell (see article on membership drive, page 13).

2/17-2/20

Lincoln and Washington's birthdays observed. De Anza College and CHC closed.

2/24

Ken Burns at the Flint Center — Special reception at the history center.

3/27

Jesse Jackson at the Flint Center. Winter quarter ends.

Of Interest to Members

Japanese-American Museum

A new museum focusing on life in San Jose's Japantown has opened at 565 N. Fifth Street. Current displays depict the history of Japantown, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and an all-Japanese U.S. Army unit in World War II.

Open Monday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission but donations are welcome. (408) 445-0109

American Art 1900-1940 A History Reconsidered

Selections from the permanent collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art are now on view at the San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market Street, San Jose.

Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. (408) 294-2787



"Little Shoppe," a fund-raiser for the CHCF was held in October, 1994.

EDUCATION

State and Regional History

The following courses will be offered winter quarter through the California History Center. Please see the California History Center class listings section of the Winter Quarter Schedule of Classes for registration information (i.e., course ID #, call #, days, dates, time and units). For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712.

Three sections - three instructors - three options: If you have often thought about taking that general survey class that gives you a comprehensive overview of California's history, now is the time to do it. The CHC is offering three sections of California History 10 during winter quarter, each taught by a different instructor.

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|------------------|------|--------------|
| 8:30-9:20 a.m. | M-TH | Ken Bruce |
| 10:30-11:20 a.m. | M-Th | Jim Williams |
| 6:20-10:00 p.m. | M | Phil Grasser |

History of Sacramento: Chatham Forbes

Indians, trappers, ranchers, Conestoga pioneers, and thousands of gold-hungry immigrants were attracted to early Sacramento by its strategic river location. Fleets of river steamers, California's first railroads, and a rich agriculture brought the town quick prominence, so that in the mid-19th century Sacramento became the state capital. Today's centralization of government has concentrated great political power in this increasingly industrialized metropolis. The class will spend a weekend experiencing significant historical sites and travel to Sacramento via railroad. Thursday evening lectures.

Film and Theaters in California's History: Chatham Forbes

This course will explore the history and development of the motion picture as both a technology and an art form; the evolution of theater design and architecture as art and economics, the place of the film palace in American cultural history; the role of music as stimulus to illusion; and the restoration and revival movement for both classic films and classic theaters. Thursday lectures and Saturday field trips to Bay Area theater sites.

Contra Costa County History: Betty Hirsch

While not as well known as San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, Contra Costa County has been a major influence in the greater Bay Area region. Its history includes being home to the world's largest train ferries; mining enough coal in the 1860s to supply San Francisco with almost half of its needs; had the fastest ship builder in the country and built more ships than any other during World War II; shipped as much grain to Europe during the 1880s; still has five operating oil refineries and a whaling station which received whales as late as the 1950s. Students will explore this diverse county through two evening lectures and two Saturday field trips.

Neighborhoods of San Francisco: Betty Hirsch

San Francisco is defined by its specific districts and neighborhoods. This class explores the evolution of such areas as Downtown, Maiden Lane, Market Street, Barbary Coast, Sutro Heights/Cliff House area, recalling important dates and events in their histories. Students will learn about significant people who shaped each area's identity, the contributions made by various ethnic groups and analyze how the geography and climate has impacted the growth and development of each area. Thursday evening lecture and Saturday field trip.



Garden Theatre entrance on Lincoln Avenue in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood, circa 1981. The one-time movie house has been reconstructed to accommodate retail businesses.

Where are we going?

The Future of the California History Center

Where California once appeared as a frontier and a margin it has now become a center of national attention and a lens through which the future, for good or ill, will be glimpsed. Where it was once viewed as a terminus, it is now recognized as an intersection — with all the vitality and contradiction distinctive of such global meeting grounds. Where it was regarded as having all the answers it now turns out to be the source of insistent questions.

A center for California Studies creates a place where these new questions can be addressed and the diverse energies of this transition expressed, where separate lines of inquiry can be sharpened and carried to their conclusions through dialogue and debate. It is a place where scholars, researchers, students, policy-makers, business people, community activists, writers and artists can enliven each other's insights, where new policy alternatives can be considered and the public agenda extended. We hope it is a place, in short, where dialogue and intellectual community equal to the state's new role and importance can be fashioned.

Jeffrey Lustig, faculty member
California State University, Sacramento

The above quote from Jeff Lustig, former director of the Center for California Studies in Sacramento and current faculty member in Government at CSU, Sacramento, captures the image of the intellectually challenging and stimulating place we hope to see the California History Center become as we adapt to a California Studies learning community: a focal point for faculty, staff, students and community to gather and study the past, discuss the present and impact the future.

It has become evident over the past several years that the California History Center needs to change its way of doing business in order to ensure our viability into the 21st century. We have experienced a fairly drastic decline in our membership, our class enrollments, and attendance at our various programs. While there are some explanations as to why this has happened, we feel it is time to step back, evaluate, and decide who and what we want to be in the future.

Part of this revamping includes our academic program. As of fall quarter, 1995, we will put our small course offerings on hold while we assess the program. We will continue to offer the general survey, History 10 class, and may offer some short classes in cooperation with other departments on campus, but we will also look at offering some fee-based courses as an alternative (for those of you with bachelor degrees or higher, this may be more cost effective).

Hopefully this hiatus will enable us to devote more time to working with the group of faculty that has been meeting since last March to develop a California Studies course of study and programming that will benefit the younger and older student both. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of linking our History 10 with a course in the Environmental Studies department, as a first step in forming what's called a learning community.

Broadly defined and "built on what is known about effective educational practice, learning communities are based on collaborative and active approaches to learning, some form of team teaching and interdisciplinary themes." We envision a learning community at the center that is flexible, constantly evolving to meet the demands/needs/interests of our students and community, and provides classes and other programs that stretch people's minds and activities.

Change is difficult but I can't help but feel that this is an exciting time at the California History Center. We are reveling in a glorious 25-year history this year, but also looking to a redefined, and hopefully revitalized, future. We invite your comments and input during these years of transition, and plan to schedule a meeting after the first of the year where CHC members and students have the opportunity to brainstorm with us about our future. When this process is finally complete our desire is to have a broader range of options for a broader range of people.

Ardenwood and Its Founder

by Keith E. Kennedy

*The following is an excerpt from the California History Center's upcoming publication **George W. Patterson and the Founding of Ardenwood** by Keith E. Kennedy. Patterson, a native of Pennsylvania and a long-time resident of Indiana, came to California during the 1849 gold rush. Having no success in the gold fields, he returned to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1851 and resorted to farming for his livelihood. At his death in 1895, he was among the wealthiest men and largest landowners in Alameda County. His ranch in Washington Township, named Ardenwood for a forested area called "Arden" in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, encompassed 3,778 acres of the richest farm land in the region. Ardenwood is presently a living history farm in Fremont.*



*Abandoned sailing vessels, San Francisco Bay, ca. 1850. Swept along by greed and the excitement, crew members often joined in the mad rush to the mines. Many ships were scuttled and converted to other uses or left to rot. Patterson's ship, **Louisa**, most likely realized this fate. Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.*



George W. Patterson, ca. 1885. Courtesy The Society of California Pioneers.

As a passenger on one of nearly 700 ships to pass through the Golden Gate in 1849, George Washington Patterson saw from *Louisa's* deck a waterfront that looked like an eerie, crowded graveyard for sailing ships; their bare masts poked skyward as if to mark their final resting places. Indeed, many crews scuttled and abandoned their vessels in a mad rush to the gold mines. Patterson sailed on *Louisa's* last voyage; she, too, joined many other ships left to rot in the bay.

We can only imagine the impression San Francisco made upon Patterson, but he probably found it every bit as raucous, dirty, and busy as other Argonauts reported. Patterson and the others might have remained a day or two in the city to recover from their difficult journey and to buy additional provisions, but they probably got down to business rather quickly. The Hoosiers first divided among themselves the supplies that they had ordered and shipped from New York. Since their company had dissolved nearly three months before, members were free to go wherever and with whomever they chose. The *Americus* [those from *Americus*, Indiana] contingent had remained together throughout the ordeal; hence, this group — reduced to five by Jeremiah Starr's death — stayed together now. John Fisher, Dr. Garrett, Nelson Littleton, and Z. B. Richardson joined Patterson in going initially to the American River mines.

Patterson and his four friends arrived in the mining camps just in time for the harsh fall and winter weather. They worked initially near Mormon Island, where the north and south forks of the American River converge. Their living conditions mirrored that of most other Argonauts along the American River; the foul, wet weather, bad food, and overwork took their toll. The back-breaking work, in particular, is difficult to imagine from the perspective of our twentieth-century work environments. Pick-axing and shoveling tons of dirt and separating gold from the ore required, according to one forty-niner, "the various arts of canal-digging, ditching, laying stone walls, ploughing [*sic*], and hoeing potatoes — and adding to this life in the wilds of the mountains, living upon poor provisions, continually exposed to the burning rays of the sun or the heavy dews at night, and the occupation becomes anything but a pleasant one." Without a doubt, Patterson's work and living conditions differed little from this description, a situation that contributed to his eventual abandonment of mining forever.

The five friends experienced different degrees of mining success. Dr. Garrett abandoned all hope early, returning to Indiana by June 1850. Fisher gave up in October 1850 and returned to Indiana through Panama in 1851. Littleton and Richardson presumably left California discouraged, although their dates of departure are unknown.

Patterson, however, combined a resolute spirit and a measure of mining skill and luck to stay with the plan. He found enough gold to grubstake another season of prospecting. On March 13,

1850, exactly one year after his departure from Indiana, he sent twenty ounces of gold back to his family and, thrilled with his luck, he asked that his brother Henry come out to join him. During the year his profits permitted him to lend money to at least three individuals. One loan totaled three hundred dollars, a significant sum when the average daily wage in 1850 California — before expenses — was ten dollars.

Though Patterson asked that nineteen-year-old Henry come to California, the Indiana Pattersons vetoed his request and substituted George's other brother Andrew, then about twenty-one years old. They gave two reasons for doing so. First, Henry hesitated going because of his prospering wagon freight enterprise. He felt this business demanded his attention. Second, they hoped that a change in Andy's life would be beneficial in correcting some bad habits into which he had slipped. Specifically, Andy gambled too much and worked too little. Due to an apathetic attitude toward work, he had not held a steady job since George's departure, and any money that he earned he quickly gambled away. Andy leaped at the opportunity. He also believed that a change would be propitious. The family warned, however, that Andy required constant supervision and an occasional pep talk. A part of the gold that George had sent back helped pay his brother's travel expenses. Andy probably left Indiana soon after George's March 13 letter arrived, but his route and arrival in California are unknown.

Despite George's initial success, his luck started faltering. Like most Argonauts, he abandoned one claim as soon as he heard a rumor of a promising strike elsewhere. Perhaps after brother Andy joined him, he moved his operations further north to the Trinity River region. He found no new fortune there, but ill health continued to plague him. Eventually his expenses exceeded the gold sales, and he finally returned to the San Francisco Bay Area late in 1850, broken financially and physically.

Andy remained at the diggings and headed to Union Valley on the Feather River. Unfortunately, he also reverted to gambling. George, too, returned to a former occupation, but one that proved far more lucrative and less a gamble than a throw of the dice. Lacking funds even to pay for a return trip to Indiana, he turned to the one skill he had that was much in demand and could provide quick earnings — farm labor. He also turned for help to probably the only person he knew in the Bay Area — his old friend E. L. Beard.



Mission San José as depicted by Edwin Deakin's painting of an 1852 photograph.

Beard had left Lafayette, Indiana just a few weeks before Patterson, but his journey took considerably less time. He had also gone through New Orleans, but from there he went to Matamoras, Mexico, and then to Mazatlan where he boarded the *Edith* and arrived in San Francisco on May 29, 1849. Starting earlier and avoiding Texas's cholera problems reduced his trip to half the time Patterson's.

Beard spent about a month touring the gold fields and quickly realized that either he was not cut out to be a miner, or panning for gold was not going to be the paying proposition most men expected. He recognized, as few others did, that a man could get rich selling provisions to other miners. Seizing the opportunity, he opened a general store near Mission San José in Alameda County, a strategic location for serving miners headed to the southern diggings. Reinvesting his profits, he purchased twenty-eight acres of fruit trees and buildings remaining of Mission San José from businessman Thomas O. Larkin, the former American consul to Mexican California. In July 1850, Beard's wife, two step-children, and a young son joined him from Indiana. In the 1850-51 period, the ambitious and venturesome Beard constructed and operated a flour mill and commenced a large land acquisition. He combined his financial resources with two Horner brothers (John Horner had been in Alameda growing and selling produce since 1846). Together they bought for \$60,000 — using some borrowed money — over 30,000 acres of the Mission San José land grant owned by Juan Alvarado, former governor of Mexican California and one of the largest Mexican land grant

beneficiaries. This purchase illustrates Beard's courage. Obtaining title to Mexican land grants was uncertain at best, and improving the land would require huge sums of capital.

Patterson returned to a Bay Area dramatically different from the one that he had seen in August 1849. In the year before the gold discovery, a few hundred inhabitants lived in San Francisco (then called Yerba Buena). By the end of 1848, the population had grown to about 2,000. In August of 1849, the month that Patterson arrived, the city contained a permanent population of 6,000, and of about 20,000 by the end of that momentous year. When Patterson passed through in late 1850, the city's population neared 30,000 residents. In 1860, San Francisco ranked as the fifteenth largest city in the United States and claimed 57,000 citizens. At the dawn of the century's last decade, nearly 300,000 people lived in the city.

Patterson could not know it at the time, but the city's burgeoning population represented one of three key elements that formed the foundations of his farming success. As one of the fastest growing cities in the world from the mid-to-late nineteenth century, San Francisco provided an ideal market for suppliers of foodstuffs. Alameda County's proximity to this market insured a fair opportunity. E. L. Beard embodied the second ingredient. Patterson's friendship with Beard provided the steppingstone that enabled him to get his feet back on the ground and to gain entry into the lucrative business of supplying the city's food requirements. Patterson himself formed the final ingredient; his indefatigable spirit and conservative business practices propelled him to levels of economic success that surely exceeded his wildest gold rush dreams.

By early January 1851, Patterson recovered his health and commenced working for Beard and Horner, who needed plenty of help to farm the vast acreage that they had just purchased. He worked initially for wages, and according to William Halley, a contemporary observer and author in 1876 of *The Centennial Year Book of Alameda County*, he probably earned the market wage for farm workers — about four dollars a day. Compared to Patterson's peak earnings in gold mining, this constituted a sizable pay cut, but he proved himself willing to start again at the bottom. Thanks to his fortuitous friendship with Beard, he had a steady job when he needed it most.

Patterson cultivated other important relationships in his first few years in Alameda County. He made friends with James Hawley, who many years later became his father-in-law. Hawley



Clara Patterson, ca. 1895.
Courtesy The Society of
California Pioneers.

was born in England on September 12, 1822; his wife, Hettie Munn, was born November 7, 1821. They married in Newark, New Jersey, on May 21, 1845. Hawley joined the Argonauts who went around Cape Horn, but the degree of his mining success is unknown. In 1850 he constructed and operated the Red Hotel in Mission San José. In addition to the hotel, he worked also as a carpenter and contracted with José Jesus Vallejo, brother of

Mariano Vallejo of Bear Flag Revolt fame, to rebuild the grist mill on Alameda Creek in 1851. Mrs. Hawley and two daughters joined him in 1852. The Hawleys' third daughter and George's future wife, Clara, was born on February 20, 1853.

Patterson worked for Beard and Horner for three years. The work was hard, of course, and it was also humbling and frustrating for a man with greater aspirations. He saved what money he could and tried also to collect on the loans he had made to mining friends in 1850. It is unclear whether he ever recovered these debts, because he was still trying to collect on one as late as 1855. George's ambitions, however, did not yet include California. Through 1852 and into 1853, he sorely missed Indiana and planned to return and farm with Henry.

The years that he toiled as a farm laborer were not wasted because they provided an invaluable apprenticeship period. He learned firsthand about dealing with commission merchants, San Francisco's volatile market prices, supply and demand cycles for various crops, and other uniquely California farming problems. Pioneers such as Beard, Horner, and Patterson learned as they went along and responded to events rather than managed them. Their difficulties cannot be underestimated. Halley described the conditions:

Everything they [the settlers] required was enormously high, and the markets were uncertain. What was a remunerative crop one year would be ruinous the next. Those who rented land gave up one-half of its yield in payment. Wheat, potatoes, barley and onions were the most profitable. The nature of the soil not being well known, the proper mode of cultivation was not always pursued. Some who lost by their agricultural ventures repaired to the mines to make good their reverses. Those who planted barley the first years made well . . . The first year the blackbirds were so destructive that some gave up in despair and sold out . . . Squirrels and grasshoppers were annoying. Mills had to be provided, agricultural implements purchased, and houses built. Those who planted potatoes in 1852 made fortunes, and those who planted them in 1853 lost fortunes. The first year potatoes realized a thousand dollars an acre. John M. Horner raised immense quantities both years. The second year they did not pay for sacking, and were allowed to rot on the ground. The second crop of wheat, that of 1853, compensated for the loss of the potatoes . . . Many of the settlers had to pay twice for their land [due to the Mexican land grant litigation]. There was a good deal of trouble about cattle-stealing, and several persons convicted a la vigilante, were summarily dealt with and hung.

These circumstances served as a reminder that being a pioneer has its risks as well as its rewards. Furthermore, the lack of societal infrastructures doubled and trebled the costs, worry, and work of the settlers. Patterson probably benefited from being primarily an observer in these first difficult years. His years as a farm laborer provided valuable on-the-job training from a low-risk vantage point.

Patterson learned some valuable lessons from Beard. Without a doubt, Beard was a man of vision and courage, but he proved also to be an occupational dilettante who never learned that his financial well-being depended upon sticking with and mastering a few jobs. His career pursuits were wide and varied, and he moved rapidly from one grand opportunity to the next. Born in 1816 as the son of a building contractor, Beard's business interests during his lifetime included naval contracting, pork packing, stone quarrying, grain milling, lumber milling, merchandising, farming (which included growing grain, vegetables, fruit trees, and grapes), government contracting in the Civil War, oil drilling, gold mining, and stock speculating. His interests, however, sometimes exceeded his abilities. He also relied excessively upon credit, and whenever the economy or circumstances turned against him, his losses multiplied. He made and lost fortunes, with each financial reversal followed by a new scheme for recovering it all.

Social, political, and civic affairs also distracted him. He hobnobbed with financiers and counted powerful politicians among his friends, including John C. Fremont. He lavishly entertained Fremont and banker friends in his palatial estate at Mission San José, and during the Civil War, Fremont hired Beard as a government contractor to build defense works in St. Louis. Beard spread himself even thinner with civic responsibilities, serving as the first president of the California State Agricultural Society in 1854 and as a founding trustee for local Washington College in 1871. These diversions, in combination with his dreaming and scheming, ultimately worked against his own best interests. He died nearly penniless in 1880.

Patterson witnessed his old friend's excesses, and Beard's model provided a real-life testimonial to the hazards of removing one's nose from the grindstone. This lesson supplemented Patterson's conservative business instincts, and together they forged some fundamental business principles that formed hallmarks of Patterson's farming success. Patterson nearly always bought land for cash and zealously tended to the one business he knew best — farming.

In 1854, Patterson ceased working for wages and leased some acreage from Beard. In August, Patterson harvested the first of the many dollars that he would earn as a California farmer. Having witnessed and learned the lessons of an 1853 potato glut, he sold a diversified crop of potatoes, cabbage, onions, oats, and carrots to San Francisco commission merchants Hathaway and Miller. According to his lease agreement, he split with Beard one half of the net proceeds of \$999.58. In the following months he sold the same items, but added tomatoes, corn, turnips, beets, eggs, and chickens. In October he split with Beard over \$2,500 in net proceeds. In December he leased the same land plus some additional acreage — totaling 250 acres — for six dollars an acre for one year. He rented this land from Thomas Cary, Jr., of San Francisco, who had purchased the land from Beard. By the end of the year Patterson owned \$3,000 worth of personal property.

His emerging prosperity continued into 1855. No longer having to split his earnings with Beard, he increased his net income in September to over \$1,500, the amount that he paid for renting his land for the entire year. Also, his commission merchants, Hathaway and Co., paid him two percent per month for the surplus funds that he left on deposit. Clearly, Patterson's first, tentative steps into farming were successful. He did not know or plan it, but he would devote the next twenty-two years to a



Ardenwood's mansion after the completion of the Queen Anne addition, ca. 1890. Courtesy The Society of California Pioneers.

single-minded pursuit of building a farming empire.

The news of Patterson's farming success traveled back to Indiana. Benjamin Tea, the fellow who had loaned the money that enabled Patterson to go to California, claimed that one-half of all the money that Patterson earned was his according to the agreement he and Patterson made in February 1849. Patterson took the threat seriously because he asked his brother Jeremiah to consult a Lafayette attorney about the dispute. The lawyer, however, advised Jeremiah that Tea did not have a legitimate claim; the agreement clearly stated that Tea owned one-half of one share in the Lafayette-California Mercantile and Mining Company, which no longer existed. Tea foolishly maintained that he owned one-half of all that Patterson earned for the rest of his life. Ironically, the attorney believed that Patterson had a reasonable claim against Tea, for an Iowa land investment that Tea had made with George's money in the 1849 promissory note exchange. The matter was subsequently dropped, probably due to Tea's weak position and the distance between claimants.

Patterson's improving financial condition allowed him to make some loans to his family. He advanced money to his sister Sarah on at least two occasions, once in 1852 and again in 1854. Jeremiah also asked for financial assistance. In 1854 he needed help in meeting their mother's expenses, and in 1855 he solicited George's financial aid to help with some of his property investments. George presumably cooperated each time. He probably assisted on other occasions, too, because many letters to him hinted at "tight" financial conditions for the Hoosier Pattersons. His generosity, however, extended only to family members. He

had suffered losses before by advancing money to comrades, and there are no records to suggest he ever again loaned money to friends.

In 1856, Patterson entered into his first land purchase agreement. After accumulating profits from another year of tenant farming, on December 1 he bought 291 acres for \$9,748 from A. F. Branda, a San Francisco resident. He paid cash for this property, a custom that he followed for nearly all of his land purchases. It is unclear whether this acquisition in-

cluded the same acreage that he had been renting since 1854, but this land constituted the genesis of Patterson's wealth. He never sold it, and, once he built his home, it also formed the literal and figurative center of his life. Patterson's first land acquisition reveals something about his business acumen. The land was very fertile, ideally situated for obtaining irrigable water from Alameda Creek, and strategically located for transporting produce by water to San Francisco. He had been attentive and observant during his apprenticeship years.

George devoted the next couple of years to consolidating and improving his farm operations. Tools and implements were purchased and fences, barns, and roads constructed. His first decade in California concluded in 1859, and his achievements have to be considered remarkable. According to the property tax assessor's roll, he was among the top two dozen wealthiest individuals in the county, whose population exceeded eight thousand. Assessed at \$17,320, his property consisted of the 291 acres valued at \$5,820, improvements appraised at \$2,500, and personal property totaled \$9,000. His tax bill was \$251.14. The hyperkinetic, wheeling and dealing E. L. Beard had his property valued at just \$9,000 more. Patterson's diligence and hard work were beginning to pay handsome dividends.

Author Keith Kennedy began his research on Patterson while taking a history class at Cal State Hayward and visiting Ardenwood on a field trip in 1989. Today he resides in Quinton, Virginia, where he is pursuing doctoral studies at the College of William and Mary.

PIONEER PROFILE

Faces of the Foundation (part two)

*The following is part two in a series of three articles appearing in **The Californian** during the 25th anniversary year of the California History Center Foundation. Some of the people who have been instrumental in the growth of the organization and its programs are highlighted here.*

Shirley Clements served as librarian while the center was still operating out of the adobe building adjacent to the Trianon. She recalled when the total pamphlet file collection of the Stockmeir Library was contained in two folders. When one glances at the familiar folders lining the walls of the library today, the progress is obvious. Shirley encouraged the late Instructor Dave Ward to spend time in the library, and he laid the foundation for the media portion of the collection. Shirley also built a good working relationship with the staff of the Learning Center before she became a librarian for the Sunnyvale Public Library where she works today.

Lisa Christiansen, a library volunteer when Shirley was still at the history center, was hired to take over. The Stockmeir Library has been carefully tended and nourished by Lisa and its pamphlet/clipping collection, as Jim Williams noted, has few rivals in California. Each year photographs, books and audio-

visual resources have also been added and made accessible to students and the community. Volunteers uniformly note Lisa's style of stewardship as a major factor encouraging them to give their time working in the library.

David Rickman, an artist by profession, worked at the California History Center from 1978 until 1983. He participated in the restoration of the Trianon and on several exhibits. He also authored and illustrated one of the history center's most popular publications, *The World of Fort Ross* (1984). David visited the history center to attend the CHCF's 25th Anniversary party in October and enjoyed reminiscing with former staff members and volunteers. Presently he is living in Delaware and is a free-lance artist doing contract work for the National Park Service, among others.

Helen Kikoshima began her eight years at the history center helping Seonaid McArthur. Her tasks grew to include all manner of secretarial work for the center and she became an integral part of the history center team. Helen fondly recalled the unique people that she felt participated in history center classes and programs, including student workers, volunteers and community members. In 1992 Helen took a position at Foothill College where she works today administering placement tests in the testing office.



Shirley Clements



Lisa Christiansen



David Rickman



Helen Kikoshima

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Ardenwood Historic Farm

Ardenwood Historic Farm is a 205-acre living history farm located in Fremont, California. Its vintage structures and equipment allow visitors a hands-on experience of a turn-of-the-century California farm with everything from harvesting crops to cooking with historic utensils.

The property belonged to George and Clara Patterson in the last quarter of the 19th century. Patterson had come to California from Indiana seeking his fortune in the gold rush, but eventually found success farming in southern Alameda County. The Patterson heirs actively farmed the land until the 1970s.

The farm includes an 1889 Victorian mansion, horse corrals, a horse-drawn railroad, eucalyptus and walnut groves, gardens, picnic areas and irrigated fields. Volunteers are clothed in Victorian-era costumes and they offer tours of the Patterson family home which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ardenwood has been open to the public since 1985 and is operated jointly by the East Bay Regional Park District, the City of Fremont, and private concessionaires. Special group tours and activities can be arranged. Last spring, our own California History Center sponsored a workshop for teachers led by Bruce MacGregor where participants experienced some tasks faced by 19th-century Chinese railroad workers.

History comes to life with a step back in time at Ardenwood Farm.

Ardenwood Historic Farm

34600 Ardenwood Blvd.

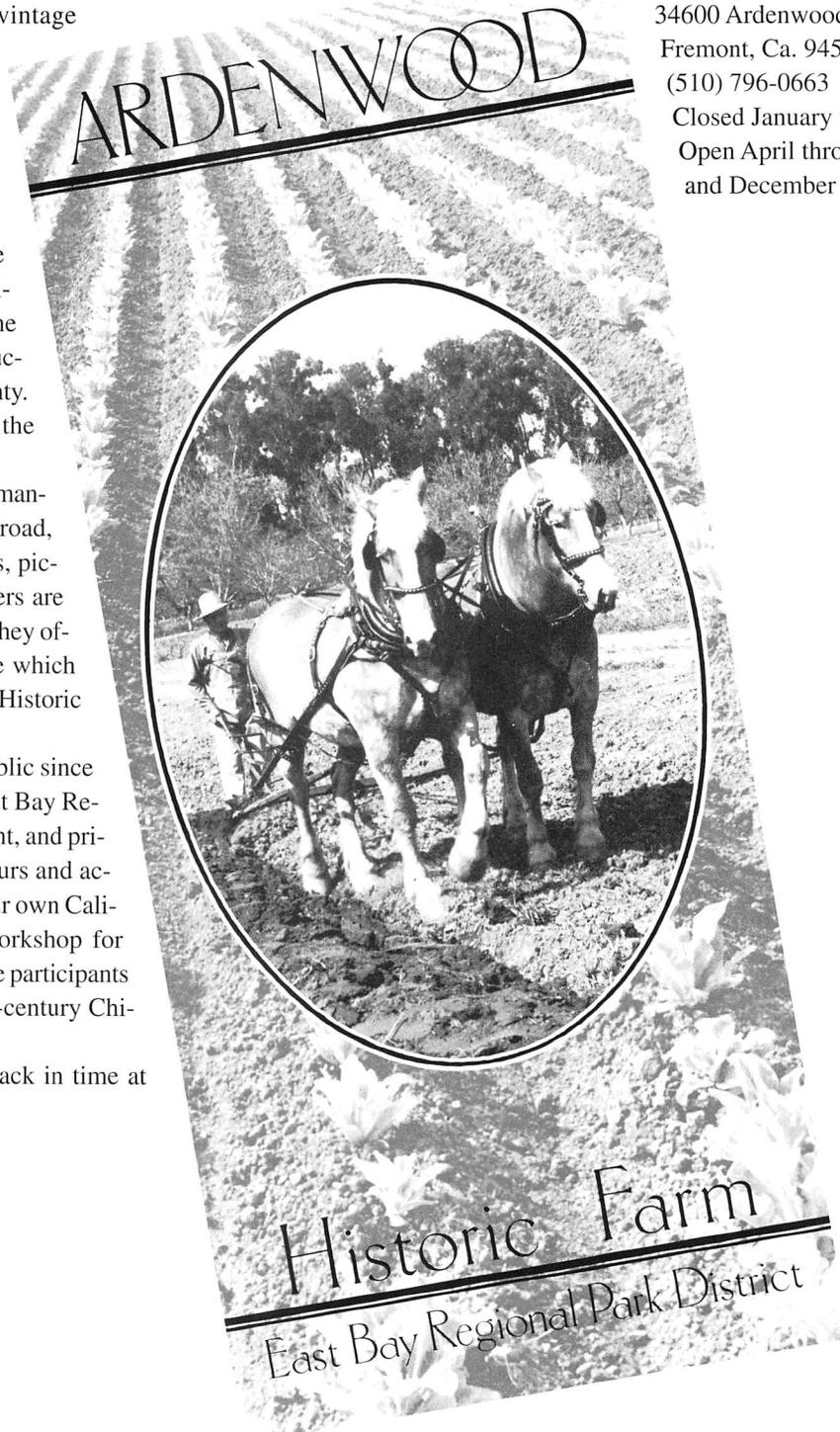
Fremont, Ca. 94555

(510) 796-0663

Closed January through March

Open April through November

and December Christmas tours



FOUNDATION NOTES

Successful Fall Events

Several major events got the Fall quarter off to a great start at the California History Center. An **author's talk** and book signing was held on Sunday, September 25, and Mary Jo Ignoffo spoke about her recently published book *Sunnyvale From the City of Destiny to the Heart of Silicon Valley*. History center members and many people from Sunnyvale came to pick up their books and have them signed and enjoyed treats from Olson's Cherry Stand and Bee Ritchies'. A taste of Libby's fruit cocktail was also provided.

"Little Shoppe," a craft faire to benefit the history center was open October 6, 7, 8. The items for sale included jewelry, weavings, watercolors, greeting cards, and numerous other goodies, all of very high quality. The event was a big success, and plans for next year's "Little Shoppe" are already in the works.

The **25th Anniversary Party** for the CHCF was held on October 21 at the De Anza College Campus Center and partygoers enjoyed a selection of cuisine representing California's rich ethnic heritage: varieties of Japanese, Mexican,



Thai, Middle Eastern and European foods. Board of Trustees President Bill Lester welcomed everyone and De Anza College President Martha Kanter offered remarks appropriate to the

Bob and Marian Grimm at the 25th anniversary party.

occasion. Dolores Sandoval, President of the Foothill/De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees also offered congratulations to the Foundation on the 25th anniversary.

A benefit drawing with prizes donated by CHCF members and friends was directed by Trustee Doni Hubbard. She kept the crowd laughing with her dry wit and clever comments. Everyone adjourned to the Trianon where the three former directors of the history center, Walt Warren, Seonaid McArthur, and Jim Williams, were honored and gave their reflections on the past 25 years. A ribbon-cutting to open the new exhibit *Silver Anniversary Golden Opportunity* followed.

Each of the Fall events was a great success and lots of fun. They have set the tone for an active and productive year.

Membership Drive

Win tickets to hear

Ken Burns, Jesse Jackson, or Colin Powell!

The California History Center Foundation Board of Trustees has launched a membership drive this year and has come up with some very special incentives to join. If you become a new member or, for current members, donate a gift membership for a friend or family member between now and January 18, 1995, CHCF will enter your name in a drawing to win tickets to hear Ken Burns, Jesse Jackson, or Colin Powell. Five pairs of tickets are available for each speaker, and all three are scheduled to speak at the Flint Center at De Anza College in this year's Celebrity Forum series. A special thank you to Dick Henning and Foothill College Community Services for arranging the donation of these tickets.

Ken Burns is best known for his TV epic, *The Civil War*, and his recent special entitled, *Baseball*. Jesse Jackson, a well-known civil rights leader, has been a presidential candidate twice. Colin Powell was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a principal military advisor for two presidents. Burns is scheduled to speak on Friday, February 24, 1995; Jackson on Monday, March 27, 1995; and Powell on Friday, April 28, 1995.

The drawing will be held at the January 18 CHCF Board of Trustees' meeting. A very special reception will be held at the history center prior to the Ken Burns presentation on February 24. All new members and current members who purchase a gift membership, whether or not you win the tickets, will be invited to attend the reception.

Be on the look out for a special mailing with more information. In the meantime, you may call the CHCF office for details at: (408) 864-8712.



Those who have served as Director at the CHC gathered for the 25th anniversary party in October. Left to right: Kathi Peregrin, Walt Warren, Jim Williams, and Seonaid McArthur.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Books For Sale at the California History Center

Sunnyvale From the City of Destiny to the Heart of Silicon Valley

By Mary Jo Ignoffo

Soft cover, 128 pages, \$16.18 includes tax

Los Altos: Portrait of a Community

Edited by Paul D. Nyberg

Sponsored by *Los Altos Tomorrow*

Hard cover, \$27.06 includes tax

Pages From a Palo Alto Editor's Scrapbook

By Ward Winslow

Soft cover, \$12.99 includes tax

Palo Alto: A Centennial History

By Ward Winslow and the Palo Alto Historical Association

Hard cover, 325 pages, \$32.42 includes tax

Japanese Legacy: Farming and Community Life in California's Santa Clara Valley

By Timothy Lukes and Gary Okihiro

Soft cover, 156 pages, \$16.18 includes tax

Passing Farms, Enduring Values

California's Santa Clara Valley

By Yvonne Jacobson

Hard cover, 240 pages, \$27.06 includes tax

Rise of Silicon Valley

By James C. Williams

Soft cover, 23 pages, \$4.33 includes tax

Additional charge for shipping and handling.

Please Take Note

Groundbreaking for the De Anza College Learning Center expansion is scheduled for March or April, 1995. Since the new construction is coming out from the back of the Learning Center into most of the parking lot next to the Trianon, we are going to be quite heavily impacted over the next two years. We plan to be open and accessible during the construction, however our activities and programs may be more limited. If you have questions or concerns, please call the center.



Tribute to former CHCF directors at the 25th anniversary party.

Thank You!

Thank you to our very special donors for our Silver Anniversary Celebration! Below are the names of individuals or businesses that helped us underwrite the cost of our Silver Anniversary dinner, or made additional contributions to help us get a head start on our next 25 years!

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Cupertino National Bank
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Long time members enjoyed the opening of the fall exhibit Silver Anniversary Golden Opportunity. Left to right - Helen Riisberg, Betty Hirsch, Zee Tieger, LaVerne Prentice, Kay Peterson, Hazel Lester.



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Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive tri-annual issues of "The Californian" magazine and members who contribute at the \$45 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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