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WOMEN WHO BUILT THE BERKELEY CAMPUS

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WOMEN WHO BUILT THE BERKELEY CAMPUS

Sandra P. Epstein, Ph.D.¹

It has been a closely held secret that for more than 100 years most of the major buildings on the Berkeley campus were built by women. This is not to say that they dug the excavations, laid the bricks, or installed the sheetrock. Rather, the physical transformation of the campus was accomplished by the commitment and financial support of a small group of women who believed in the value of education and desired to bring opportunity to greater numbers of the state's citizenry. In the process they increased the eminence of the University with new programs while on a personal level they left a legacy of family names that remains in place today. Let's walk together to visit the campus that was created by these dynamic and generous women.

First Stop



We begin our stroll at the northeast side of campus at the Hearst Mining Building, endowed by Phoebe Apperson Hearst in memory of her husband. Mrs. Hearst was not only one of the earliest and most generous supporters of the young university, but she was arguably one of the most significant women of her generation. At the news of her death, University President Benjamin Ide Wheeler described Phoebe Apperson Hearst as “a good great friend”² and a look back over the

years at her generosity makes that statement seem even more valid.

Phoebe Apperson was born in 1842 in Franklin County, Missouri, some 45 miles south of St. Louis. Her family was of modest means; her father farmed and raised livestock. Phoebe attended a one room schoolhouse and eventually augmented the family income with teaching positions. At age 19, Phoebe married George Hearst, 22 years her senior, who had returned to the community to visit his ailing mother. Five months after their

¹ Sandra P. Epstein received her Ph.D. from Berkeley in 1979 and is the author of two books which focus on the history of the Berkeley campus: *Law at Berkeley: The History of Boalt Hall* (Institute of Governmental Studies Press, Berkeley 1997) and *Business at Berkeley: The History of the Haas School of Business* (Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2016). Combining her interest in higher education with both non-profit and for-profit institutions, Dr. Epstein served as a public affairs officer in the corporate office of Bank of America, administrative analyst in the Office of the President, University of California, Systemwide Administration, and research associate at the Center for Research and Development in Higher Education at the University of California, Berkeley. She later served as Administrator of the Jewish Home, a 430-bed skilled nursing facility in San Francisco. Dr. Epstein has received numerous honors, served on several advisory boards, and has an association with the Berkeley campus that goes back more than fifty years.

² Benjamin Ide Wheeler. April 13, 1919.

marriage, the couple moved to San Francisco. In 1863, Phoebe Hearst gave birth to William Randolph, their only child.

In 1891, George Hearst died of cancer and left everything to his wife, making her the sole executor of an estate worth more than \$20 million. Hearst, raised in a modest farming family, had very little education but a special interest in mines and mining. In 1850, attracted by the prospect of riches from gold, he had come to California. Lacking success in that venture, he turned to prospecting for silver and quartz in western Utah. This direction proved to be far more profitable, and Hearst eventually could claim a vast fortune from silver and mineral mines as well as extensive land holdings that spanned six Western states.



Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Hearst turned her efforts to actively using her resources for community endeavors particularly in the field of education. At the national level she contributed to the development of the kindergarten movement and in 1897 to the establishment of the National Congress of Mothers, the forerunner of the National Parent Teacher Association. She gave grants to small mining communities in South Dakota and Montana for the establishment and support of public libraries. She was a co-founder of the National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington, D.C. and donated \$10,000 to American University for construction of the

College of History building.

Upon her return to California, Mrs. Hearst quickly followed up on her interest in education and particularly young women. Motivated perhaps by the activities of Mrs. Jane Stanford who had provided a significant endowment to found Stanford University, Phoebe Hearst let it be known that she was interested in contributing to the growth and development of the state university in Berkeley. In 1891 she informed the regents of her intention to make an annual contribution of \$1500 to the University to be used for five \$300 scholarships for worthy young women. She followed with a gift of \$40,000 for construction of a hall for large scale entertaining next to her Berkeley home at Piedmont Avenue and Channing Way. In 1899 the structure, known as Hearst Hall, was moved to College Avenue, remodeled as a gymnasium with a pool and tennis courts for women students, and given to the university.³ She is credited also with providing the funds for two residential buildings for women students near the campus that became the nucleus of the women's club movement at Berkeley. In 1899 Mrs. Hearst supported university archaeological expeditions to Egypt (which she accompanied), Italy, and Peru as well as archaeological research in California. Her support was responsible for the creation on

³ The building was destroyed by fire in 1922, but replaced in 1927 with a gift from William Randolph Hearst in memory of his mother.

campus in 1901 of the Department of Anthropology and the Lowie Museum of Anthropology.

To implement her desire to create a memorial to her late husband, Mrs. Hearst contributed \$200,000 to sponsor an international architectural competition to develop a master plan for the Berkeley campus. In the words of *Harper's Weekly*: "There has never been anything before in the history of education or of architecture quite like the competition which the University of California owes to the munificence of Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst."⁴ Construction soon began on the Hearst Memorial Mining Building, central to the plan, which Mrs. Hearst dedicated to her husband. The steel and granite structure was completed in 1907 at a cost of more than \$1 million and deemed the largest building in the world devoted to mining education.

With her appointment in 1897, Phoebe Apperson Hearst held the distinction of being the first woman to be appointed as a regent of the University of California on which she served with reappointments until her death in 1919. In this position she was considered one of the highest ranking female public officials in the country and one of the first to augment public policy at the state level. In referring to the extraordinary generosity of Mrs. Hearst, the Secretary of the Regents noted in the *University of California Chronicle* that "...this one good citizen has from her private purse expanded more than the vast, populous, and wealthy state of California has given to the University of California for buildings, permanent or temporary, in the fifty years since California chartered its State University."⁵

³ William Carey Jones, *Illustrated History of the University of California* (Berkeley: Students Cooperative Society, 1901) pg. 260

⁵ Victor Henderson, *University of California Chronicle* (July, 1914) p. 314.

Second Stop



Continuing our walk we come to the mini-campus of the Haas School of Business the home of business studies on the campus. By the end of the nineteenth century, the desire to establish a college devoted to the study of commercial activities became a major focus for the University's regents. They argued that advanced study in business topics

was recognized as an appropriate topic for university work, that all resources were in place on the Berkeley campus to develop these programs, and that the current and future development of the state required this new education be available. Finally, they were aware that the University of Chicago was developing a similar program and that if the Berkeley campus was to gain eminence in this area and develop its reputation as a top tier university, it needed to act quickly. On February 8, 1898, the regents passed the motion establishing the College of Commerce.

One month after the formal opening of the College, the regents received a letter from Miss Cora Jane Flood, providing for a gift of property near Menlo Park, California and stock in the company supplying water to that part of the peninsula. The gift of approximately \$463,000 (with a value of approximately \$14 million in 2018) was the largest private gift received to that time and was to be "devoted to some branch of commercial education."



Cora Jane Flood was born in San Francisco in 1855 and educated by private teachers. She never married, and two major accounts exist of her ill-fated love affair with Ulysses S. Grant Jr. It was later noted that "San Francisco was thus deprived of what would assuredly been a brilliant wedding." Upon the death of her father, James Clair Flood, in 1888, Miss Flood inherited his entire substantial estate.

James Flood, the son of a poor New York Irish family, had traveled West in 1849 and accumulated a modest amount of wealth as a miner in Yuba City. He returned East, but in 1856 returned to San Francisco where he joined with a partner to open a saloon, or miner's

lunchroom as it was euphemistically called. The partners quickly realized the benefits to be gained by helping the growing number of poor miners by advancing them money, buying off their claims, finding them customers, and entering into partnerships.

In 1858, Flood and his partner sold the saloon and established the brokerage firm of Flood and O'Brien on Montgomery Street. In 1873 the group gained control of the stock of the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company. It was in this mine that the Comstock Lode, the largest silver deposit in history, was discovered. The mine produced approximately \$12 million of silver, but questionable speculative practices combined with accusations of stock manipulation led to even greater wealth. Flood and his partners then moved on to found the Bank of Nevada. In addition to his real estate holdings in the San Francisco area, Flood established one of the early cattle empires in Southern California.

Without heirs, the University became the primary beneficiary of Miss Flood's generous gifts. In 1904 the family home on the peninsula was sold for \$150,000. In 1924 she donated her mansion at 2120 Broadway in San Francisco to the regents and made the Fairmont Hotel her permanent residence. The Flood mansion was sold subsequently for \$90,000.

Cora Jane Flood died in 1933 at age 78. Ironically it was not until 1995 that the academic program that she endowed, one of the oldest and largest programs on the Berkeley campus, moved into a home of its own. The Haas School of Business was finally opened for its first students—97 years after its founding.

Third Stop



Walking a short distance south brings us to the Berkeley Law School, which was once popularly known as Boalt Hall. For President Wheeler, development of a law program on the Berkeley campus was a major priority. The leading American universities such as Harvard and Columbia had established law schools and Wheeler regarded study

of the law as essential for the academic program of a major university. The task before the president was formidable however. The University of California already had a law school, Hastings College of the Law, which had been established by state constitutional provisions and in operation since 1878.

In 1899, intent on creating a more academic study of law, the new president provided the encouragement and resources to introduce a professional law curriculum on the Berkeley campus with inclusion of courses in torts, crimes, and contracts added to studies in jurisprudence and Roman law. In 1902, a full three year professional curriculum was offered. The following year three members of the first three year class in law were graduated with the LL.B. degree. A strong academic program was now in place. What was needed, however, if Berkeley was to compete at the level of the prominent national law schools was a home of its own.



The breakthrough occurred in March, 1906, when Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt presented to the University two parcels of land in San Francisco, one on Van Ness Avenue and the other on Hyde Street. She directed the regents to sell the properties and use \$100,000 of the proceeds for construction of a building on the Berkeley campus to house the law program. The "Boalt Memorial Hall of Law" was to honor her late husband and to be used solely by the Jurisprudence department. On January 17, 1911, the law school opened for its first classes in what is now Durant Hall. In 1951, the Law School moved to a new and larger building on its present site. However, a century

after his wife's death and after careful inquiry, the University decided to remove his name from the building."

Mrs. Boalt's generosity to the law program of the University was not limited to the new building. In 1906 she created a trust to establish and endow a professorship honoring her husband. In 1911 the regents announced that Mrs. Boalt had endowed an additional \$250,000 for a deanship for the new school. That bequest was accompanied by an

endowment of \$10,000 for the law library by Mrs. Jane Sather. In 1933, income from the trust was assigned to the Department of Jurisprudence to support the salaries of two professors. The endowed chairs were appropriately named the Elizabeth Josselyn Boalt Professorship of Law and the John H. Boalt Professorship of Law.

Elizabeth Josselyn was born on June 30, 1842 in Hanover, Massachusetts. As a young woman she met John Boalt on a clipper ship bound for Europe where she planned to study music. Pursuing a similar educational plan to study abroad, John was bound for Freiberg where he intended to complete his studies as a mining engineer. John Henry Boalt was born in Norwalk, Ohio in 1837, the son of a successful lawyer and the great grandson of Robert Wolcott, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His studies were largely in the field of mining and mechanical engineering, with a few courses in law.

The couple was married on July 31, 1866 and the following year they moved to Nevada where Boalt established himself successfully in the mining business. His interests were drawn increasingly to the law, however, and he turned his energies to developing a practice. Early in his law career Boalt was chosen to fill an unexpired term as judge in the Sixth Judicial District in Nevada and subsequently he was elected on his own. After the expiration of his term in 1871, the Boalts moved to Oakland and John embarked on the practice of law in San Francisco. His practice grew quickly and he soon became a partner in one of the largest law firms in the West. John Boalt retired from practice in 1892 and died in 1901.

Elizabeth Boalt, an accomplished pianist in her younger days, turned again to her music after the death of her husband. At 60 years of age, she enrolled in Vienna as a student of a celebrated pianist. She added Italian to her knowledge of German and French with study in Rome and Florence. She continued to travel extensively and found her greatest satisfaction in the company of artists, writers, and musicians. Elizabeth Boalt died on February 10, 1917. There was no surviving family since the Boalt's daughter, and only child, passed away as a young woman, a loss which remained with them their entire lives.

Fourth Stop



Crossing Gayley Road and climbing up the hill beside the stadium we reach Bowles Hall, recently renovated and reorganized, but with long ties to the Berkeley campus. In its first year of operation in 1869 the University of California enrolled 40 young men at its single site in Oakland, but by 1900 undergraduate and graduate enrollment at Berkeley totaled

almost two thousand students. Undergraduate enrollment alone by 1920 reached almost 10,000 students. Not surprisingly, providing housing for students near the campus was a significant concern. From earliest days the state assumed no responsibility for providing dormitory housing and the only hope was that resources could be raised from private sources.

By 1923, a period of prosperity and greater calm ensued for the Berkeley campus, and the new president, William Wallace Campbell, set about finding sources of private support for university sponsored student housing. Much to his delight, early in 1927, Mary McNear Bowles announced her decision to memorialize her husband with a gift of \$250,000 to be used for the construction of a dormitory for 204 male students. The building was to provide for the “spiritual and physical welfare of students registered in the University of California.” Bowles Hall was dedicated in 1929 and became California’s first state-owned dormitory. Built in the style of Oxford and Cambridge, it also was the first residential college constructed in the United States.⁶ Mrs. Bowles subsequently contributed an additional \$100,000 bringing her gift to \$350,000 to cover the unanticipated costs of construction and furnishings.

Mary A. McNear was born in 1860 in Petaluma, California, the daughter of George McNair who had prospered in the grain and shipping business. She was a graduate of UC Berkeley, class of 1882 and likely met her husband during this time. Mary McNear and Philip Bowles were married in 1883 and had four children.

⁶ The English college model was organized with students living in the residence for their entire undergraduate career. Their meals, academic counseling, organized activities, and social events were centered at the college. Over time, Bowles Hall gradually reverted to the traditional residential model for student housing.

Philip Ernest Bowles was born in 1859 in Arcata, California, the son of a pioneer Humboldt county family. After earning his Berkeley undergraduate degree and working for a time with his father-in-law, he entered the banking business. By 1893, he was affiliated with the First National Bank of Oakland and not long after was elected its president. Ten years later he established the American National Bank of San Francisco, the predecessor of the American Trust Company. In 1911, Bowles was appointed to the UC Board of Regents on which he served until his retirement in 1922. Philip Bowles died in 1926 at the age of 67. Mrs. Bowles died in 1935 and was survived by two sons. In 2017, it was announced that Bowles Hall would no longer be run by the University but was renovated and reopened as a co-ed facility run by a private foundation.

Fifth Stop



Nearby on the hill and near the Greek Theater, we come to Stern Hall, university housing for women endowed by Rosalie Meyer Stern. Mrs Stern is described as a civic and social leader of San Francisco, but that description only hints at the full breath of her involvements. Her extensive variety of activities included (in part) the president of the San Francisco Playground Commission, founder of the San Francisco Opera Association and the San Francisco

Symphony Association, board positions on the Associated Jewish Charities, Community Chest, War Relief Fund, and National Recreation Association. Her further dedication to San Francisco and to her husband was displayed in 1931 when Mrs. Stern purchased a 30 acre tract of land slated for urban development and gave it to the city to be used as a memorial to her late husband. She then formed a committee to underwrite the free summer concerts that continue to be held in Sigmund Stern Grove.

Rosalie Meyer was born in Los Angeles in 1869. Her mother was an Englishwoman who had traveled to California by way of the Horn; her father was from Strasbourg, France. Rosalie was 12 years old when she and her seven siblings relocated to San Francisco where her father accepted a position at the London, Paris and American Bank. In 1892, she married Sigmund Stern, a nephew of Levi Strauss who had been brought into the family business. Sigmund died in 1928 after a successful business career and a life full of civic and philanthropic participation.



After her husband's death, Rosalie Stern became even more active in civic activities. In 1929, she combined her interest in public recreation in San Francisco with support for the Berkeley campus and contributed \$1000 to the Economics department for a survey of public recreation. She added \$3000 in 1933 to support a curriculum for the training of recreation workers, and in 1935 gave \$1000 for an emergency loan fund for men. In 1938, learning through her friendship with Professor Jessica Peixotto of the need of housing for students at Berkeley, Mrs. Stern contributed \$250,000 for the building of the first university-owned residence hall for women. She stipulated that the building be named in honor of her husband, Sigmund Stern, a graduate of the University of California in 1879. In 1942, Stern Hall was opened for 137 women students.

Rosalie Stern passed away in 1956, but her involvement in community affairs and her support of the University continues undiminished through the Haas and Goldman family lines.

Sixth Stop



Walking down the hill and continuing our stroll south and onto the campus we reach the two most iconic structures on the Berkeley campus—the Sather Gate and the Campanile. These structures, together with endowed professorships in history and in classics as well as book funds in classics and in law, were the gifts of Jane Krom Sather, whose bequests to the University of California

totaled over half a million dollars.

Jane Krom was born in 1824 in Brooklyn, New York. Following the death of her first husband, Jane in 1882 married Peder Sather, also a widower and 32 years her senior. Peder died four years later leaving Jane with a substantial fortune and no direct heirs.

Peder Sather had emigrated from Norway to New York in 1832 and became associated with the banking house of Francis Drexel, the leading financier at the time. In 1850, lured by opportunities presented by the gold rush, Sather and a colleague, Edward W. Church traveled to San Francisco to set up a branch of the Drexel firm. In 1857, the two bankers established a partnership which became highly successful, making Sather one of the wealthiest men of the time. In recognition of his public prominence, the trustees of the College of California, the predecessor of the University of California, elected Sather to its board. Upon his death, the firm of Sather and Church was absorbed into the Bank of California

In 1900 Jane Sather met with Benjamin Ide Wheeler, the new young president of the University. Together they worked out a financial plan whereby Mrs. Sather would turn over the management of her financial affairs to the University in exchange for guaranteed income for the rest of her life. Upon her death the University would receive the remainder of her estate. Within a year, the president was able to announce receipt of a gift of \$100,000 from Mrs. Sather for the endowment of two chairs, in Classical Literature and in History, along with establishment of the Jane K. Sather Law and Library Fund. In 1991 it was announced that the Sather funds could now support the endowment of a third chair to be established as the Peder Sather Chair in History.



In 1911 Jane Sather next chose to memorialize her husband with a physical presence and endowed a gift of \$40,000 to create an appropriate entrance to the growing university.

The Sather Gate and bridge, completed in 1913 of concrete, granite, and bronze, was named for Peder Sather and designed by campus architect John Galen Howard.



In her will, Jane Sather instructed that funds be used for construction of a tower on the campus soon after her death. With nostalgia for her early days in New York she recalled standing on Broadway at the head of Wall Street and being fascinated by the chimes of Old Trinity church. “Think of the melody and music of the bells as it floats through the vales and arches of Berkeley” she wrote in a letter accompanying the gift.⁷ The Campanile was designed by John Galen Howard and modeled after the famous tower in St Mark’s Square in Venice, Italy. The 307 foot tower constructed of steel and granite was completed in 1914, and dedicated on Charter Day 1918. The cost of the project was \$250,000, of which

\$200,000 was endowed by the Sather Trust. Her generosity to the University was then memorialized by naming it the Jane K. Sather Campanile.

Mrs Sather died in 1911, her legacy assured by three endowed chairs, several funds, and two splendid physical structures. President Wheeler was later to note that “cool judgment and practical sense dominated all her choices.”⁸

⁷ Jane K. Sather to Victor Henderson, February 1, 1910, Regents’ records. University Archives. As quoted in J.R..K. Kantor, “Cora Jane and Phoebe: Fin-De-Siecle Philanthropy”, *Chronicle of the University of California*, Fall, 1998, p.5.

⁸ Benjamin Ide Wheeler, December 17, 1911. Ceremony following death of Mrs. Jane K. Sather.

Seventh Stop



Let's now cross the Campanile grounds to enter the north entrance of the Main Library and rest from our walk in the beautiful and opulent room to the right, the Morrison Reading Room. It is impossible to know how many marriages took place between classmates who met at Berkeley, but one of the most prominent gifts to the campus grew out of a

college romance. Mary Benton Treat, one of the earliest women to attend the University, and Alexander F. Morrison graduated together with the Class of 1878. On April 27, 1893, they became husband and wife.

May Treat, a native San Franciscan, was the daughter of George Treat, a pioneer Californian. *Blue and Gold*, the handbook of the University of California, noted in December 1886 that May Treat had received a degree in Literature from Berkeley and was working in San Francisco as a teacher of literature, art, and German. Following her marriage, Mrs. Morrison maintained an active association with a number of women's organizations, particularly the American Association of University Women which she served as president from 1911-1914.

Alexander Morrison came to San Francisco with his family as a child and followed his graduation from Berkeley with a degree in 1881 from Hastings College of the Law. With this degree, Mr. Morrison initiated a highly successful career in the practice of law in San Francisco, eventually becoming a founding partner of the firm of Morrison, Dunne & Brobeck. Alexander Morrison died in 1921 while on a trip to Singapore with his wife. The couple had no children.

The period of the early 1920s was a time of notable growth and development for American universities and particularly for the Berkeley campus. Private gifts increased significantly and the types of buildings on campuses took on a new dimension. President Campbell noted at the dedication of the Morrison Library on February 5, 1928, that "there has developed in our universities and colleges a strong and definite desire for special libraries, in special rooms, where students may freely go and see the best books on all important subjects, take the books off the shelves and leaf through them; where

they may carry the books to comfortable chairs, in beautiful surrounds, and, at their leisure and in tranquility of spirit, commune with the master minds of the past.”

The Morrises had maintained strong associations with the campus over the years so that the opportunity presented to Mrs. Morrison to memorialize her husband and to contribute to the development of the university was a perfect combination. In addition, Mr. Morrison had been a collector of a wide range of books and amassed a personal library of nearly 15,000 volumes. The Morrison Library was to be “a gift to the students.” The location was chosen as one of the more accessible parts of the main library building and furnished with elegant furniture given by Mrs. Morrison.

The Morrison Reading Room was a highly valued addition to the campus, but Mrs. Morrison also provided \$1.5 million in her will for the University, one of the largest single gifts of this early period. The money was to be held in trust and the income used subsequently to endow both the A.F. and May T. Morrison Professorship of History and the A.F. and May T. Morrison Professorship of Municipal Law. Mrs. Morrison was awarded an honorary degree at Charter Day 1938. She passed away the following year.



In 1958 the university utilized the funds in the Morrison trust together with a state appropriation to construct a permanent home for the Music department. The structure, connected by a covered walkway to the Hertz Hall of Music, was comprised of a concert hall, office space, practice facilities, classroom space and a music library. In acknowledgment of her generosity, the building was dedicated as the Mary Treat Morrison Memorial Music Building.

Eighth Stop



It is a short walk south and west to Haviland Hall, dedicated in 1925 and endowed by Hannah Stoddard Haviland. The Cornwall Historical Society in Cornwall, Connecticut, compiled a list of eight women whom it designated as “Cornwall Women of this Era.” The

era referred to was 1818 to 1867, and the criteria for selection were community residents who had moved west, successfully handled the ruggedness of frontier life, and “established themselves in new lands while staying in close contact with family who remained here.” Included in the list were Hannah Stoddard and her sister Elizabeth.

Hannah Stoddard was born in 1826. As a young woman she traveled west to Sacramento to reunite with her sister who had married Collis Huntington. Soon after her arrival in 1851, Hannah married Daniel Hammond, Collis Huntington’s partner in the San Francisco hardware business of Huntington, Hammond, & Co. The partnership was dissolved after several years and Huntington then teamed up with Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, and Mark Hopkins to found the Central Pacific Railroad connecting the east and west coasts of the country. Hannah’s husband, Daniel Hammond, was an active participant in this enterprise. He passed away in 1868 leaving his entire estate to his wife.

In 1872, Hannah married John Haviland, a prominent San Francisco merchant. The Pine Street firm of Haviland, Hooper, and Co. was importers and retailers of crockery, glassware, and cutlery. John Haviland was also active in the banking community of the city.

Hannah Haviland died in 1919 at the age of 94 with no direct heirs. Her only child had drowned at the age of 16 at the site of one of Huntington’s railroad projects. In her will Haviland bequeathed \$250,000 to the University of California for the construction of a building to house the School of Education. Haviland Hall, named for Mrs. Haviland, was formally dedicated in 1925 with speeches by University president Campbell, the state superintendent of public instruction, and leaders of the local education community. It was one of the final buildings designed by John Galen Howard on the Berkeley campus. Since 1963 Haviland Hall has been occupied by the School of Social Welfare.

Ninth Stop



It is a short walk to the Valley Life Sciences Building and the home of the world renowned Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and the Museum of Paleontology created by gifts from Annie Montague Alexander.

Annie Alexander's roots are traced to her grandparents, who had set sail in 1831 from Massachusetts as part of a company of missionaries sent to proselytize among the natives of the Hawaiian Islands. Her father

Samuel, the Reverend's third son, initially prepared himself to teach at the missionary school, but within a few years, he accepted a position as operations manager of a sugar plantation. Annie Montague, born in 1867 was the second of their five children.

Samuel Alexander together with a partner soon purchased barren land in north central Maui and designed a plan to capture water from the wet, windward side of Haleakala (a volcano) to his dry lands below. The Hamakua ditch project became one of the most successful water projects in Hawaii's history and served as a model for later irrigation projects. The irrigated lands now became rich areas of sugar cane production and the partners thrived economically.

In 1883, the Alexander family moved to Oakland, a move prompted by family health



concerns, but also by the prospect of more favorable business opportunities by being on the mainland. In 1896, the sugar mill was established as the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company (C&H Sugar Company), the largest sugar producer in Hawaii.

Annie Alexander's long association with the University of California began in 1900 when she availed herself of programs on the Berkeley campus and attended lectures in paleontology given by Professor John C. Merriam. Soon after attending these lectures, Annie Alexander began personally participating in field expeditions under his tutelage. In 1901 to 1903, she joined in field trips to the Fossil Lake region of Oregon as well as to Shasta County. She also paid the salaries of the research staff, purchased the equipment, and paid the transportation of

large quantities of fossils back to the university.

Following these trips, Miss Alexander and President Wheeler worked out an unprecedented sharing arrangement for paleontology research on the campus. Wheeler

would personally raise \$1000 yearly if Alexander would contribute an equal amount. The arrangement continued until Wheeler's retirement in 1919. Alexander's financial acumen became legend at both the campus level as well as with the regents. She is remembered for having chided University controller (later president) Robert Gordon Sproul about a low return on university investments; hers, she said, were doing much better.⁹

The death of Alexander's father in 1904 strengthened Annie's resolve to establish a natural history museum and to provide additional support for the paleontology program on the campus. The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology was opened in 1908 at a total cost of \$15,000, of which Alexander's gift made up for the shortfall of state appropriations. In addition, her personal collection of nearly 3500 specimens formed the nucleus for the new museum. In 1921, Alexander's support was responsible for the formation of the Museum of Paleontology as a separate unit independent of the geology department. She then supplemented the gift with a separate endowment fund in 1934. It is estimated that over the course of her lifetime, Annie Alexander contributed approximately a million and a half dollars to the support and endowment of the teaching and research programs of the two museums.

Alexander continued to finance and participate in field expeditions throughout her life, celebrating her 80th birthday while on a trip to the Sierra de la Laguna mountains. She died in 1950 and was buried at her childhood home in Hawaii.

⁹ University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, History (on-line).

Tenth Stop

It is not possible to speak about architecture and buildings on the Berkeley campus without including Julia Morgan even though she was involved with the design or construction of only a small number. Julia Morgan was born in San Francisco in 1872 into a wealthy family with strong roots in the social structure of the East coast. The family moved to Oakland when Julia was two years old and she grew up in that community. In 1890, Julia enrolled at the University of California and four years later became the first woman to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Her choice of major study was determined by opportunity since Berkeley did not have a program in architecture, her preferred topic from youngest days.



Following graduation, Morgan furthered her interests by attending the informal classes held by Bernard Maybeck in his Berkeley home where he introduced her to the possibilities presented by studying in Paris at the prestigious Ecole des Beaux-Arts. In 1898 and after two years of study and two prior rejections, Julia Morgan became the first woman admitted to the Ecole's architecture section and four years later, at the age of 30, she received the Certificat d'étude in architecture, the first woman ever to do so.

Upon her return from Paris, Julia Morgan launched her career by accepting a position with John Galen Howard, the supervising architect of the Berkeley campus. Initially, she was assigned as a draftsman for the Hearst Mining Building. The project allowed Morgan to begin developing the approach which characterized her architectural style: combining the classical elements she had learned at Ecole with the natural and man-made environment of California. Soon after Morgan began work for Howard, he was noted to boast that he had "...the best and most talented designer, whom I have to pay almost nothing, as it is a woman."¹⁰



Morgan's next assignment was as supervising architect for the Greek Theater, an essential component of the Hearst architectural plan and the first such classical open-air theater to be built in this country. She participated in the design, but more importantly was almost totally responsible for the actual construction of the structure. Her expertise in the use of reinforced concrete was a critical factor in its successful completion in 1903.

¹⁰ Cary James, *Julia Morgan* (New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990), p.50.

Buoyed with confidence with the completion of the projects on the Berkeley campus and an on-going association which had developed with Mills College, as well as frustrated with working with the authoritarian, over-bearing John Galen Howard, Julia Morgan in 1904 acquired her California architecture license and opened an office of her own. From that time she was never forgiven by Howard for this career decision and was effectively barred from any meaningful association with the Berkeley campus until his influence waned.



In 1911, Morgan was privately commissioned by the Berkeley senior women students to design a meeting place similar to Men's Hall. The simple structure, named Girton Hall after the Cambridge University women's college, has survived several moves over the years and recently been relocated to the University's Botanical Garden.

In 1927, Morgan and Maybeck designed the Hearst Memorial Gymnasium for Women which was commissioned by William Randolph Hearst as a memorial to his mother. The building became Morgan's third major structure on the Berkeley campus. In 1951, at the age of 79, Morgan closed her office in the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco. She passed away six years later.



In 1929, Julia Morgan received an honorary degree from the University of California Berkeley, which acknowledged her accomplishments as "artist and engineer" and "designer of simple dwellings and stately homes." Her national stature was confirmed in 2014 when the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects designated Julia Morgan as the recipient of its highest honor, the AIA Gold Medal Award. The award was first bestowed in 1907 and Morgan became the 70th recipient. As with many accomplishments in her life, Julia Morgan was the first woman to be honored, but unfortunately the award was given posthumously 56 years after her death.

Final Reflections

As we complete our stroll of the Berkeley campus it is clear that without the contributions of these early women, the Berkeley campus we know today would not exist. In some cases, the women were the widows of successful lawyers and businessmen whom they memorialized in the names of the buildings they endowed. In other cases, women who had inherited sizable wealth contributed to the founding and development of new departments and schools of study on the campus.

Some of the women were graduates themselves of the University and desired to create a rich environment for study and research. Others envisioned the benefits of developing a strong system of higher education in California. The backgrounds of these women were varied but they were joined together by their belief in the value of education, the power of individual initiative, and the desire to extend opportunity to others. Their names remain prominently on the Berkeley campus, both as a tribute to their generosity and to their determination to make the University of California an unparalleled community of excellence.