

Table D-1 - Reinstein-Eisner Branch

Line 1 - No information available on parents of Reinstein children except that both were presumably born in Germany, came to U.S. and lived first in Virginia City, Nevada, and Visalia, California.

Line 2 - Jacob Bert (J. B.) Reinstein - Member of first class to graduate from University of California in Berkeley - 1873. Studied law, coached by his father. Passed bar examination, became personal attorney for Phoebe Apperson Hearst, mother of publisher William Randolph Hearst. Appointed member of U.C. Board of Regents in 1895.

Was sent to Europe by Mrs. Hearst, was influential in planning future development of U.C. campus, in starting and collecting for the Hearst art collection of paintings and statuary, and in designing the Greek Theater at U.C.

J. B.'s law partner was Milton Eisner, Sr., member of family of Bohemian immigrants. Eisner was close to Jesse Steinhart (of Steinhart Aquarium fame), romantic man-about-town.

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One of J.B.'s sisters was Mary, who--naturally!--was not permitted to attend college. She fell in love with a classmate of her brother, Charles Shainwald. Shainwald had no money and few prospects other than to manage a sheep "run" somewhere in the middle of Australia. Mary's father refused to permit the marriage until Mary announced she would marry him in any case and run off with him to Australia.

Mary and Charles--the two of them together probably weighed less than 200 pounds--went to the Australian outback, somewhere near what is now Alice Springs. The first years were unadulterated hell, with nothing but drought, crop failure, and death of the sheep. Mary used to tell us of trees without leaves, covered only by snakes. She gave birth to two children, both of whom died in fancy.

Eventually the climate improved, and sheep-raising again became profitable, but Charles and his fellow sheep-raisers felt they were being ripped off by the shipping companies that carried their mutton from Australia around the tip of Africa to England. They chartered their own freighter--apparently a dreadful, rusty bucket--and used it to make a much better profit. Later they chartered additional freighters, and their profits continued to grow.

Finally, as Mary told us, it became evident that

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it would be still better to ship the mutton from Australia to Vancouver and then ship it overland to Montreal, from where freighters could carry it quickly to London. Unfortunately, there was then no trans-Canada railroad. It was Mary's account that Charles and his partners were instrumental creating what is now the Canadian Pacific RR Co.

Charles and Mary made a packet out of all this. Eventually, they became British citizens. They maintained residences in London, Ottawa, and San Francisco. They spent many of their winters in Cairo, where they became frequent house guests of Lord and Lady Kitchener (he the hero of the Battle of Khartoum and governor-general of Egypt), and sailed with them on houseboats on the Nile.

At length they returned to San Francisco as a permanent home and took a huge suite in the Palace Hotel. They were certainly there at the time of the 1906 earthquake and fire, when renowned tenor Enrico Caruso was their neighbor in the hotel.

The Shainwalds were severely hit during and after the 1907 crash. Charles died shortly thereafter, but Mary survived until the end of World War II. She survived rather handsomely, occupying a suite on the top floor of the Fairmont Hotel. She was a feisty, fire-breathing little thing who completely terrified her relatives. She was known as a "Will-Waver;" every time one of her relatives displeased her (which was frequent), she threatened to cut the miscreant out of her will. In some instances, she carried out the threat.

Her great passion was not merely playing Mah Jongg but winning at Mah Jongg. The first time I played with her, I found she was cheating and loudly denounced her. We adored each other ever since.

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Lena Reinstein (Muzzy), born in Visalia, married her brother's law partner, Milton Eisner. Far ahead of her times, she was a teacher, a cooking expert, a cigar-smoking supporter of the arts, a close friend of such people as Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Isadora and Morris Duncan, Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn. She guided the education of her daughter, Helen. When Lena learned she was dying from cancer, she took Helen for a final visit to Europe and then across Russia and Siberia on the TransSiberian Express.

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Line 3 - Helen Eisner - lady in the charming "grande dame" tradition. Finishing school education in U.S. and Europe. Married Henry Friedman; although both had grown up in San Francisco, met for first time in Paris. Continued her mother's support of arts.