



Historic Bakersfield & Kern County, California  
[www.gilbertgia.com](http://www.gilbertgia.com)

# HENRY A. JASTRO

COMMODORE OF KERN COUNTY

Biography and Kinships, 1848-1925

ver 2

by Gilbert Gia

Copyright © Gilbert Gia, 2010, Bakersfield, California

This paper is free to educators for classroom use.  
Prospective commercial users, contact Gilbert Gia,  
ggiaggia at gmail dot com.

**H**

enry Jastro characterized President Theodore Roosevelt in this way: "He is a big man, strong and fearless, and, I am convinced, absolutely honest in his convictions. He means what he says, and I look to see some radical changes for the betterment of the conditions of the country."<sup>1</sup> Bakersfield might have said the same about Jastro: He was absolutely honest in his convictions he was doing the best for Kern County. During Jastro's lifetime he was lauded and maligned, but he charted the course of Kern County, California for two decades. He was correctly called the Commodore.

In 1892, 44-year-old Henry A. Jastro ran for a seat on the Kern County Board of Supervisors,<sup>2</sup> and in November he defeated H. F. Condict by a margin of one vote.<sup>3</sup> For the next 23 years Jastro was systematically reelected. In 1903 he was

---

<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles Times, Jan 27, 1905; Jastro met President Roosevelt twice in 1905 (Los Angeles Times, Jan 27, 1905, p I11).

<sup>2</sup> J. Crusoe, manager of Haggin lands in Kern County (Kern County Californian, Jun 16, 1883, p 3), was a member of the Kern Co. Board of Supervisors 1885-90; The Daily California of July 28, 1892 recommended that Jastro be elected; Kern County Great Register of Voters, Oct 31, 1896, Precinct N1, Pt 11: Henry Alexander Jastro, 48, born in Germany, naturalized Dec 21, 1889 at Kern Co, CA

**named general manager of J. B. Haggin's recently-organized Kern County Land Company that owned 1,395,000-acres in California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Mexico. Jastro's financial acumen and energy steered Haggin's vast empire into profitability,<sup>4</sup> and the new general manager's name became recognized across the West.**

**Jastro public life is ripe with newspaper references, but the few facts about his private life have come almost entirely from the Sunset Magazine interview of 1911<sup>5</sup> and Wallace Morgan's 1914 authorized biography.<sup>6</sup> This paper presents all new research.**

---

**<sup>3</sup> Henry F. Condict charged Jastro with election fraud in District 5 voting of Nov 8, 1892. Jastro counter-charged that Condict had received illegal votes. The typed record documented that illegal votes were cast for both candidates. The judge granted 399 votes to Jastro and 398 to Condict. Condict paid court costs of \$92.25 (Kern County Superior Court, Case 1484, Jan 9, 1894).**

**<sup>4</sup> Unlike Carr and Fergusson who preceded H.A. Jastro, Jastro made the land company profitable (Morgan, op cit, pg 117).**

**<sup>5</sup> Sunset Magazine, Jun 1911, v26, p. 633; Morning Echo, Jun 3, 1911, p 8, c3-8, "Pays tribute to H.A. Jastro" (cited in William Harland Boyd notebook (v. 39), McGuire Local History Room, Beale Library, Bakersfield, CA).**

**<sup>6</sup> Wallace Melvin Morgan, History of Kern County, California. Los Angeles, CA. Historic Record Company, 1914**

**The man seemed to be everywhere at once. He served on the boards of the Western Cattlemen's Association and the California State Fair Association, and he testified before Congress on matters of agriculture and international trade.<sup>7</sup> He was an Ex-Officio Regent of the University of California. At the apex of his career, Kern County Democrats nominated him for Governor of California.<sup>8</sup> Those many obligations took him away from Bakersfield, and local newspapers noted his departures and alerted readers of his impending returns. When Jastro was absent from Board of Supervisors meetings, his fellow members tabled voting; few county projects went forward without his blessing.**

---

**<sup>7</sup> In Dec 1904 and Jan 1905 Jastro was in the East. At Washington, DC he spoke before the Forestry Congress in favor of conservation and reforestation. He also presided over several stormy National Live Stock Assoc. sessions, and he received accolades for his familiarity with parliamentary procedure. He favored reciprocal trade relations with Europe that required those markets to accept US beef. He stated that the US was also at fault owing to the deplorable condition of the meat trade in this country (Los Angeles Times, Jan 27, 1905, p I11).**

**<sup>8</sup> Los Angeles Times, Mar 27, 1910; Los Angeles Times, Apr 3, 1910: " [Jastro] was endorsed for the Governorship at a recent meeting of the Kern county [sic] Democratic central committee, but he is in Europe and there is no reason to believe that this action was anything except a graceful compliment from his friends and neighbors."**



Henry Alexander Jastro,  
Sunset Magazine, 1911 (by permission)

**At a Board of Supervisors meeting in 1909, attorney J. R. Dorsey represented two men from nearby Midway who protested the board's denial of their application for a saloon license. Dorsey argued that the ordinance was loosely worded, and for that reason his clients had no way of knowing why their application was rejected or what steps they had to take to obtain the license. Dorsey was aware that Jastro opposed his clients, and the attorney pressed the chairman for an**

**explanation. Jastro replied that he had heard from "some good citizens" that one of the applicants was a gun fighter, and a few days earlier he had challenged another man to mortal combat in the street. The ordinance, said Jastro, was intentionally worded that way so supervisors could more easily turn down anyone they thought unfit to run a saloon. The chairman added, "The board of supervisors is given arbitrary power in many instances, and I have heard it said that a man might as well try to climb straight up the side of a seven-story building as to break one of their rulings."<sup>9</sup>**

**Accounts say he was born in either Prussia or Hamburg or Berlin or Posen sometime between 1848 and 1857.<sup>10</sup> This paper supports evidence that Posen,<sup>11</sup>Poland was his birthplace. It also shows he probably came to California in 1863 with his family when he was 13.<sup>12</sup>**

---

**<sup>9</sup> Morning Echo, Mar 6, 1909**

**<sup>10</sup> The 1900 US Census of Kern County shows that Jastro was born in 1857**

**<sup>11</sup> lat 52-24N, long 16-55E**

**<sup>12</sup> The history of 19th Century Europe complicates the analysis. Historical Poland was variously occupied by Russia, Prussia, and Germany, and Posen (spelled Poznan in Polish) refers to either a geographical region or the capital city. From**

Henry Jastro's surname changed in America. In the 1930s Rush Blodget wrote that Jastro's name was originally Jastrowitz,<sup>13</sup> and that conclusion was repeated in the *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*.<sup>14</sup> The surname *Jastrowitz*,<sup>15</sup> however, is uncommon among US immigrants, and the name *Jastro* does not appear at all in on-line immigration indexes. On the other hand the surname *Jastrow* is quite common among emigrants from Prussia. In fact during Henry Alexander Jastro's lifetime, newspapers sometimes spelled his name

---

1850 to 1918, Poznan was an independent administrative unit of Prussia.

<sup>13</sup> Rush Blodget, *Little Dramas of Old Bakersfield*

<sup>14</sup> Jan 1981. That source is probably derivative of Blodget's claim.

<sup>15</sup> Prussia occupied Warsaw from 1794-1806 and during that time passed laws ordering Jews to assume fixed family names in order to expedite taxation and conscription of Jews as soldiers. In 1808 Napoleon decreed a similar requirement for Jews in the region, and Czar Alexander continued the policy in 1845. Some families created surnames by appending a suffix to their given names, such as the -witch in Ivanowitch, which in that example denotes "descendant of." Family names were also improvised from a family's place of origin, such as Jastrowitz. (*Family Legacies, Linking The Past With The Present and the Future*, Jewish Genealogical Society of Southern Nevada, Inc., vol. 6, no. 3, 2003. Isaac Goldberg, "Ashkenazic Family Names, Origin and Development"). ( [jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/FL/FL\\_6\\_3.PDF](http://jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/FL/FL_6_3.PDF) )

**Jastrow. Those facts aside, Jastro's sister said her maiden name was Jastrowitz. That will be discussed later.**



Poznan, Poland (Wikipedia)



Lubawa, Poland (Wikipedia)

**The word Jastrow has a geographical connection. Jastrowie, in today's Poland, formerly *Jastrow*,<sup>16</sup> is on the northern border of the province of Poznan, and the town appears on a Prussian**

---

<sup>16</sup>lat 53-45N, long 34-29E

map from the mid-1800s.<sup>17</sup> Jastro's immigration preceded more than a million others who came from Europe between 1870 and 1900. Among Jewish immigrants to California in the 1850s was Kaspere Cohn, whose diverse investments in Southern California included land in the San Joaquin Valley. Other Jewish settlers with connections to Kern County were the seven Jacoby brothers, one of whom, Lesser Jacoby, had an insurance office and owned a clothing business in Bakersfield. Still another was Leopold H. Harris. He married Henry Jastro's sister Minnik.

---

<sup>17</sup> Atlas des Deutschen Reichs, Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut (1883)



Jastro House, 1811 20th Street, Bakersfield, about 2006 (Cortez, CA)

Jastro House, 2006

**Old Landmark.**  
The frame house which is now being removed from the lot is one of the old time residences of Bakersfield. Mr. Jastro built it 25 or 40 years ago for his own home. For 14 years it was occupied by Ed Baer who raised his family there. The first paved sidewalks in Bakersfield were laid along the lot on G and Nineteenth streets. Like the old Cross home which stood on the lot where the First National Bank is now located it has given way to the expansion of business in this city. It is understood that the house is not to be razed but will be moved to Twentieth street.

Jastro House Moved, Bakersfield Californian, July 17, 1917

**The Bancroft Reference Letters Collection, University of California, has a pencil-written interview of Henry Jastro.<sup>18</sup> Research Librarian David Kessler transcribed the 1887 document prepared by Edwin W. Fowler, General Representative for California for historian Hubert Howe Bancroft. Kessler wrote:**

**At the top is an ink scrawl, the rest is in pencil. "Ans. 12.31.87" [noted at the bottom suggesting it was answered, or returned completed, to Kessler on December 31, 1887.] The document is on a "History Co. Publishers, San Francisco, Cal." stationery with the banner "The historical works of Hubert Howe Bancroft" spread across the top and followed by "Edwin W. Fowler General representative for California". The stationary also has a space for "Los Angeles, California., \_\_\_\_188\_ " but this is not filled in in any way.<sup>19</sup>**

**[Quoting from document]: "Harry A. Jastro, Bak's. [Bakersfield is clearly intended as the place, not sure**

---

<sup>18</sup> UC Berkeley, Bancroft BANC MSS C-D 810:219, system no. 008917691

<sup>19</sup> Email from David Kessler to the author

what the little symbol means after it.] J. born Germany 13 May '48 has had a very hard pioneer experience in the freighting and teaming bus. & then to K. Co., it is now worth a very large fortune. J's Co.[??] \$75,000. J. married in Bakersfield, has a handsome home,<sup>20</sup> and is enthused over the part he took in the removal of the Co. seat from Havilah to Bakersfield & has been & is prominently identified with all the improvements of Bakersfield.<sup>21</sup> He is now the treasurer & sec. of the new Hotel association

---

<sup>20</sup> That interview was with Henry Jastro. His only son, Herman Alverson Jastro known as Harry, was then only 10 years-old. About 1877 Henry Jastro built a house at the NE corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and G, but set back on the lot according to email from Lynn Hay Rudy to the author in May 2010. In 1917, in anticipation of construction of the Jastro office building on the same block (know today as the Standard Oil Building), Jastro's house was turned 180 degrees to face north. Its new address was 1811-20<sup>th</sup> although the house was still in the same block (Bakersfield Californian, Apr 2, 1966; City of Bakersfield, Cultural Resources Survey, June 1984. Prepared by Office of City Manager and Brewer's Historical Consultants).

<sup>21</sup> Jastro lived in the house until 1895. The first renter was E. I. Rockell (Lynn Hay Rudy private database of Bakersfield newspapers, Sep 28, 1895). In Feb 2006 the author interviewed Glen R. Boroughs, then owner of the Jastro house. He said the Bakersfield Californian of Jul 17, 1917 said that Jastro built the house about 1877 and that its lot then extended between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. According to Boroughs, Jastro built the house at ground level to demonstrate his faith that Bakersfield was safe from flooding. Jastro owned five other lots on the block. Boroughs said the decorative woodwork on house

**which is to build a new \$75,000 Hotel at Bakersfield. J. owns property in Los Angeles and SF. J. <sup>22</sup>**

**Details in the Fowler interview mirror comments Jastro once made when he said he been a cowboy and did "whatever I could." The "very large fortune" Fowler mentioned was, at the end of Jastro's life, an estate equivalent to about \$10,500,000 today.**

**Some accounts claim Jastro immigrated to the US "with his family," or "with his father," or "with his brother-in-law." The Fowler interview helps distill that because Jastro gave his birth date as May 13, 1848, and that makes significant an entry in the *Gale Research Passenger and Immigration List*.<sup>23</sup> On December 12, 1859, ship *Simoda* arrived at New York from Antwerp, Belgium. Among the immigrant passengers on the Beiana Deck were three men traveling as a family group:**

---

**was later removed and sold.**

**<sup>22</sup> Jastro's son, Herman Alverson Jastro, was born in 1875 and known as Harry.**

**<sup>23</sup> Microfilm Roll 197, List 1205, Line 9**

**"Ludomir Jestero," age 53; "H. a.", age 11; and "T. Cest...", age 7.<sup>24</sup> Eleven year-old "H.a." would have been born about 1848, which corresponds to the Fowler interview and the birthdate in the *Sunset* interview. Traveling in the Jestero group were two unnamed females who occupied a cabin section.<sup>25</sup> Below on the manifest is "L. Adler," age 44. The name Leopold Adler was later important in Jastro's family history. That will be discussed in another section.**

**In an interview in 1892 Jastro said he immigrated to the US when he was 15 and lived in Los Angeles for several years.<sup>26</sup> Brown-haired, brown-eyed Henry Jastro, 5-ft-7-in, worked for Phineas Banning as a drover and freighter of livestock between Los Angeles and Catalina Island.<sup>27</sup> According to an interview in**

---

<sup>24</sup> **Perhaps a phonetic spelling of "T. Jastrow"**

<sup>25</sup> **Later histories show that at least two of Jastro's sisters came to the US.**

<sup>26</sup> **Daily Californian, Apr 9, 1892. The article contains several direct quotes, which suggest that the reporter obtained his information first-hand.**

<sup>27</sup> **Banning and Jastro are connected via Maurice H. Newmark, who born Jul 5, 1834 in the same location as Jastro: Loebau, West Prussia. In 1853 when Newmark was 19 he crossed from Godthedorg [Gotteborg ?] , Sweden, to Hull, England. At New York he sailed to the Isthmus, crossed, and caught a vessel at San Juan del Sur for San Francisco. In 1865 Newmark**

**1902, Jastro said he became a trail boss on cattle drives to the San Joaquin Valley, Arizona, and Nevada.<sup>28</sup> In 1911 he told *Sunset Magazine* much the same: As a youth he transported cattle and sheep between Wilmington and Catalina and freighted them to Arizona.<sup>29</sup>**

**During this period a Jastro relative in Los Angeles died, and Henry Jastro took his division of the estate in livestock.<sup>30</sup> Bakersfield businessman Alphonse Weill recalled meeting Jastro in Tehachapi in the late 1860s when Jastro was a traveling merchant. A newspaper ad from 1870 shows that**

---

**associated himself with Phineas Banning in a wholesale grocery concern. Newmark was also a Mason and a member of Pentalpha Lodge, No. 42.(Los Angeles Times, Apr 27, 1912).**

**<sup>28</sup> Daily Californian, May 13, 1902. "When Jastro Bossed Gage. Mr. Jastro was then about 19 years old, Mr. Gage some three or four years his junior. The former was superintendent of Arizona teams, and the later was corral boss under him. The two young fellows became well acquainted while working together, and the friendship formed at the time has continued uninterruptedly ever since." Henry T. Gage was Governor of California, 1899-1903.**

**<sup>29</sup> Sunset Magazine, Jun 1911, v26, p. 633**

**<sup>30</sup> Jastro's obituary (Bakersfield Californian, Apr 15, 1925, pg 1, 5)**

**Jastro had by then settled in Bakersfield and formed a partnership in a brewery with Col. Thomas A. Baker.<sup>31</sup>**

**Col. Baker was stricken with typhoid fever and died November 4, 1872. Six months later Henry A. Jastro married Mary Whalen, Baker's 17-year-old stepdaughter.<sup>32</sup> Probably shortly after that Jastro built a house on 18<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**Jastro was then raising sheep and selling wool. About 1874 JB Haggin & William B. Carr hired him to manage their sheep, but months later Jastro quit to partner in a sheep business with Gustav Saenger.<sup>33</sup> That venture ended after financial mismanagement, and it later resulted in a civil lawsuit.<sup>34</sup>**

---

<sup>31</sup> **Jastro's first advertisement for beer appeared in the Kern Co Weekly Courier on Mar 22, 1872. In the *Sunset Magazine* interview he said he came to Bakersfield in 1871 and started with Haggin & Carr in 1874.**

<sup>32</sup> **May 13, 1873**

<sup>33</sup> **1870 US Census, Aug 22, 1870, Kern County Township 5, pg 359A. Gustave Sanger [sic], 38, stock raiser from Prussia**

<sup>34</sup> **16th Judicial court of Kern County, Case DC 398, Oct 12, 1881, Jastro vs Saenger. The single-spaced, 75-page typed testimony quoted Jastro as stating that on Nov 10, 1877 he formed a partnership with Saenger to buy sheep, raise them, and sell wool. Jastro also said he spent several weeks or months in the mountains attending to the bands, not as a sheep herder but as a supervisor. This was in the summer of 1878. Jastro was also the mountains in the fall of 1880 with the sheep. Jastro trusted Saenger to take care of the money side of**

**In 1876 Jastro bought the William Baker Farm south of Bakersfield.<sup>35</sup> Jastro's problems with Saenger had been valuable lessons for the 28 year-old because Haggin & Carr correspondence at this time characterized Jastro as a wily independent who was often several steps ahead of Carr's ranch bosses. On March 19, 1883, WB Carr wrote,**

**One of those smart fellows is Jastro. He always knows what I am going to do a day or two ahead of time --I got to San Emidio on Monday and he was there on Saturday.**

---

**the business, but Jastro disagreed with some entries in the books. On Jan 24, 1882 the case was settled out of court. In the transcript, Jastro stated the spring of 1879 -1880 was a great year for grass, but the winter of 1879 was a dry. Jastro said he did not run sheep after fall 1880. In fall 1881 he rented a dipping operation from the Carr and Haggin people. Jastro's testimony indicates he had complete command of the English language and used conversational expressions, such as " ...hold on," as well as more formal usage, such as " ... so singular."**

**<sup>35</sup> This property was probably owned by Haggin and Carr interests. Hall of Records, Bk 1, pg 92, Feb 28, 1877. Lis Pendens [lawsuit]. Kern Valley Bank vs Henry A Jastro et al. Included with Jastro are SJ Lemming, C Brower, CC Wible, S Jewett, GB Chester, GF Thompson, J Chester, J Frank, JT Anderson, PD Jewett, JF Block [?], Robert Withington, CA Bayley. Suit to foreclose on mortgage made on April 28, 1875 between H.A. Jastro and William Baker, noted in BK 2, of Mortgages, pg 143, 144, 145. On NWQ of W 1/2 of NEQ; and the NEQ of SW 1/4 of Sec 31 in Twn 29S, R28E MDB, amt. of 280 acres and all ditches and rights.**

**His sheep are in 10/21 --splendid feed -- If he is on our land I'll sue him!**

**Carr wrote again on March 22, 1883,**

**Jastro came to see me. Wants to sell his sheep and will run our sheep department for \$200/mo for one year. Has the name of being tricky and not perfectly reliable. If he would do as well for us as he has done for himself, he would fill the bill. Can beat any man in Kern County stealing sheep feed!**

**Jastro's success in locating grass that Carr chose to hire him rather than compete with him. Jastro was employed by the Haggin interests on April 27. <sup>36</sup>**

**Each operation on the Haggin & Carr books was seen as an independent entity. Each was a separate part of the larger whole, which included among many other activities, canal operations, machine-shops, dairy and cheese production, beef and sheep rearing, and butchering. Ranches shared men and equipment,<sup>37</sup> but competition among managers was also expected. In October, Carr wrote to ranch manager Conner**

---

<sup>36</sup> J. Stoddard Atwood. Kern County Land Co (1966 monograph), pg 8.

<sup>37</sup> Conner letters, Jan 28, 1886. Beale Local History Vault

advising him to keep a eye on H.A. Jastro: "Jastro has his men cutting cockle burs with scythes, but I think a mower would be cheaper for our fields."<sup>38</sup>

In 1890 Haggin and his partners Tevis and Carr were experiencing business, family, and personal health problems.<sup>39</sup> Those factors precipitated formation of the Kern County Land Company. In 1893 William S. Tevis, youngest son of Lloyd Tevis, became vice-president of the new company, and in 1895 William B. Carr, who had been general manger since 1874, was forced out.

Jastro accomplished much since he arrived in Kern County in the late 1860s. From 1886 to 1887 he was Worshipful Master of Free & Accepted Masons, Bakersfield Lodge 224.<sup>40</sup> In 1888 he was on the board of directors of the Southern Hotel

---

<sup>38</sup> Conner Letters, Oct 18, 1885. Kern County Memorial Library, McGuire Local History Vault

<sup>39</sup> "Late in 1890, Haggin and Tevis, for reasons not completely revealed, but presumably heavily weighted by personal considerations, formed a corporation, Kern County Land Company." (J. Stoddard Atwood, *Kern County Land Company*, pg 9. 1966 Monograph, Beale Library, Local History.)

<sup>40</sup> The senior officer of a Masonic Lodge is the Master, normally addressed and referred to as the 'Worshipful Master'. In 1892 Jastro again served the lodge in that capacity.

**Association, and that year he organized the Bloomfield Association.<sup>41</sup>**

**In 1890, Bakersfield Building & Loan Association was organized with Jastro as president.<sup>42</sup> In 1892 he was elected to the Kern County Board of Supervisors,<sup>43</sup> and in 1899 he was President and principal owner of Bakersfield Gas & Electric Company at 20<sup>th</sup> and G.<sup>44</sup> In 1901 Jastro was on the board of**

---

**<sup>41</sup> The Kern Co Land Company's efforts to sell small parcels had been unsuccessful, and land sales were discontinued. Upon recommendation of Alphonse Weill, in 1887 L. Slessinger [Schlessinger?] and associates of San Francisco bought Charles Kerr's 2,700-acre ranch located south of Bakersfield and on the north side of Kern Lake. It was renamed Bloomfield Ranch and plans were made to drain it and sell small tracts. (Kern County Californian, Jul 30, 1887 and Feb 18, 1888 [legal notice, H.A. Jastro, Secretary]; Jastro and investors might have acquired Bloomfield ranch at a bargain price [see !!!]. In 1925 Jastro owned a 3,000-acre ranch that adjoined Greenfield Ranch, which before that was called Union Ave Colony (Bakersfield Californian, Apr 15, 1925, pp 1, 5, 14).**

**<sup>42</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Apr 15, 1925, pg 1**

**<sup>43</sup> Los Angeles Times, Nov 1, 1895: "Grand Jury report scorches many present and past county officials. Indictments brought against some." In a closely typed 120 page report, Supervisor Jastro and 13 other county official were indicted for misfeasance. See also Daily Californian Oct 31, 1895. Jastro was later exonerated.**

**directors of the new, four-story Producers' Bank at 19th and H.<sup>45</sup>**

**Lynn Hay Rudy wrote, "H. A. Jastro, with the aid of strong fraternal associates, and others, was building a powerful local political machine, and it was he who eventually replaced Carr."<sup>46</sup> Jastro's early successes laid the foundation for his appointment in 1903 as general manager of the Kern County Land Company.**

---

<sup>44</sup> **Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly, Jan 1981, v13, p 171; Lynn Hay Rudy, *Granddad, Hugh A. Blodget in Early Bakersfield*. Jenner, CA (1999, privately printed), pg 117**

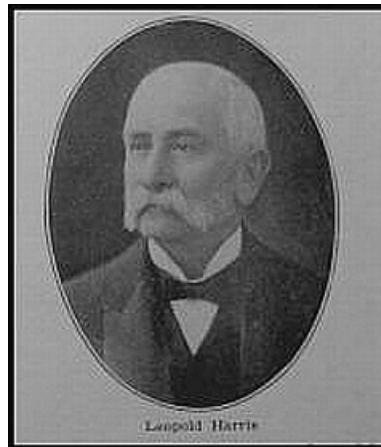
<sup>45</sup> **Land was the former Cross property (Los Angeles Times, Jul 19, 1901)**

<sup>46</sup> **J. Stoddard Atwood, Kern County Land Company. Monograph, 1966, pg 10. Jastro replaced W.B. Carr, known in the state as a skillful Republican Party politician who reputedly handled all patronage in the state when Grant was president. "He [Carr] was close to the Big Four and served on the Southern Pacific Board."**

## Jastro's Kinships



Jastro's sister Minnik Harris, about 1870



Minnik's husband, Leopold H. Harris, about 1905  
Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly, Jan 1981

**J** Jastro's kinships were established in his will and the will of Leopold H. Harris, founder of Harris & Frank of Los Angeles. Both identified Jastro's sisters and both show that Leopold H. Harris married Jastro's sister Minnik.

**Leopold H. Harris<sup>47</sup> was born in Prussia in 1836, came to the US in 1854, and sailed to San Francisco via the Isthmus.<sup>48</sup> He settled in Los Angeles in 1855. In 1869 Harris returned to Europe and married Minnik Jastrowitz. Minnik's maiden name was not in either the Jastro will or the Harris will, but it did appear in a book printed in 1916, ten years before her death. In it she was identified as a Jastrowitz.<sup>49</sup> Because the book was a subscription printing, Minnik Harris must have approved the biography.**

**In 1882, Harris and partners owned the Quincy Hall Clothing House at Temple and Spring Streets in Los Angeles. When**

---

<sup>47</sup> nee, Lewin Hirschkowitz

<sup>48</sup> Max Vorspan and Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews of Los Angeles*. Jewish Publication Society of America, Los Angeles, 1970.

<sup>49</sup> Martin A. Meyer, *Western Jewry, An Account of the Achievements of the Jews and Judaism in California*. San Francisco, 1916. [archive.org/stream/westernjewryacco00meyer/westernjewryacco00meyer\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/westernjewryacco00meyer/westernjewryacco00meyer_djvu.txt). Minnik "Minna" Jastrowitz Harris died in Sep 1926. The following publications, among others, do not document primary sources when they state that Minnik's surname was Jastrowitz: James Miller Guinn, *History of California And An Extended History of Los Angeles*, v2, p371. Historic Records Co, 1913 (Google Books, <http://books.google.com/books>); *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*: 7:3:231, April 1975; 9:1:79 Oct 1976; 26:3:277 April 1984. (Los Angeles Public Library).

**Harris died in 1910, he left an estate equivalent to about \$19M in today's dollars. How much of Leopold Harris' wealth and influence benefited Henry Jastro is not known.**

**Minnik's children were Alfred, Rosa, and Sarah Harris. Rosa and Sarah married their father's partners, and Alfred joined his father's firm. Alfred and his brothers-in-law were active in Los Angeles business, civic, and fraternal circles.**

**Herman W. Frank moved to Los Angeles in 1887, and in 1888 he joined the L. Harrison Company, which was the Harris firm that became Harris & Frank, and later Harris & Frank Retail Clothing. Frank married Sarah Harris the same year he joined her father's business.<sup>50</sup> They had a daughter, Martha. She married Alfred Stern.<sup>51</sup> Henry Jastro's connection to wealthy California families was expanding.**

**Jastro's niece Rosa Harris married Melville Adler, and the Jastro and Adler families became close. Living in the Adler home in 1900 were two servants, two young Adler sons, and a**

---

<sup>50</sup> In 1896 Frank was vice president of Los Angeles B'nai B'rith.

<sup>51</sup> Stiern, born in Germany, was in 1914 president of Wholesale Wines, formerly Charles Stern & Sons Distillers, his father's business.

cousin named Louise A. Jastro.<sup>52</sup> After May Emiline Jastro's death, her daughters boarded at Mrs. Caswell's Marlborough School in Los Angeles,<sup>53</sup> but May and Louise probably spent much time with the Adlers.<sup>54</sup>

The estates of Henry A. Jastro and Leopold Harris identified a Jastro sister named Bertha. She married H.M. Cohn<sup>55</sup> who operated a kosher butchering business and later became a Los Angeles pawn broker. The probate of Jastro's will in 1925 transferred funds to four Cohn children then living in Germany.

---

<sup>52</sup> 1900 US Census for Los Angeles. Two servants also were in the home.

<sup>53</sup> Los Angeles Times, Nov 1, 1895, p 9; The Marlborough school, founded in the late 1880s, was relocated in 1890 to the " ... empty Marlborough Hotel at the corner of 23rd and Scarff Streets, near the newly established University of Southern California." ("History and Tradition," marlboroughschool.org/); "A select school for sixteen girls, giving the comforts of a refined home. Advanced work in English, History, Literature, Art History, Latin, etc. Native teachers in modern languages, \$500 per year. Day pupils \$100. For circulars address Mrs. G.A. Caswell, Principal." (Los Angeles Times, Aug 18, 1894); The annual cost was about the same as \$18,000 today.

<sup>54</sup> In summer 1894-5 Jastro and his two daughters vacationed for several days on Catalina Island with wealthy Californians (Los Angeles Times, Aug 16, 1894, Aug 4, 1895).

<sup>55</sup> HM Cohn might have been a relative of Kaspare Cohn, who was born in "Loebau, West Prussia" and came to California about 1850 (Los Angeles Times, Nov 20, 1916). In 1862 he and Leopold Harris owned K. Cohn & Company, hide and wool

The two wills also identified a third Jastro sister, Louise Sonnenberg of "Lobeau, West Prussia."<sup>56</sup>

**"Possessed of rare unselfishness ... "**

**I**n January 1881 May Emiline Jastro was 25, and the Jastros then had three children: Herman Alverson (known as Harry), 4 years-old; Mary Emiline (known as May), 9 months-old; and Carolyn Louise (known as Carolyn), one month.<sup>57</sup>

merchants, Main St., Los Angeles. Henry A. Jastro's immigration to the US in 1859, and his appearance in California as a stock-handler corresponds to the period when Harris & Cohn engaged in the livestock business. Cohn was later a major stock holder in San Joaquin Light & Power that employed Henry Jastro's son, Harry.

<sup>56</sup> Lobeau does not appear on maps of the mid-1920s, but it is in Atlas des Deutschen Reichs, Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut (1883) as Löbau (lat 53-45N, long 17-62E), about 100 mi SE of the Baltic port of Gdansk. Today Löbau is called Lubawa and is in Poland. The German city of Posen mentioned in Jastro biographies is now Poznan near the border of Germany. After the revolutions of 1848 the region of Poznań lost its autonomy and became part of the Prussian Province of Posen. With the unification of German states in 1871, Posen became part of the German Empire.

<sup>57</sup> First born was Harriet (Feb 6, 1874-Nov 16, 1874). Born after Herman was Edward H. Jastro (Dec 24, 1876-Apr 18, 1877) [Baker Family Album, Beale Library Microform Rm,

**May Emiline Jastro died on May 24, 1894 at Bakersfield.<sup>58</sup> That day, 19 year-old Harry was still in school in Germany,<sup>59</sup> and May's daughters Mary Emiline, 15, and Carolyn Louise, 14, were probably at school in Bakersfield. Mrs. Jastro had retired to her room to rest, and when her husband checked on her five minutes later he found her face down on the bed. The next day the Californian wrote,**

**Possessed of rare unselfishness, abounding in tender solicitude for the welfare of others, blessed with a sunny and even temperament, she has walked through life a constant giver of blessings, a treasure to her friends, a queen in her home.<sup>60</sup>**

---

**Drawer 00]; In 1890 when Mary Emiline was 34 she had Edna. Edna lived one month: "Aug 28, 1893, Edna Jastro, one month, of Colitus" [*Death Book*, Kern County (Beale Library, McGuire Local History Vault)].**

**<sup>58</sup> Died May 24, 1894. Daily Californian, May 25, 1894: Mrs. M.E. Jastrow, 36, of parallisis [sic].**

**<sup>59</sup> Lynn Hay Rudy private database of Bakersfield newspapers: May 25, 1894**

**<sup>60</sup> On March 23, 1901 Harry Jastro was appointed administrator of his mother's probate, and on Oct 10, 1903 he had settled her accounts. The probate showed that Mary [sic] Jastro was survived by her 51-year-old husband Henry; daughter Luisa A. Chadburn [sic], age 24, residing at Long Beach; Mrs. Mary E. Green [sic], age 22, at Los Angeles, and**

**Eastern Star<sup>61</sup> conducted May's funeral. Three weeks later her daughters left to spend the summer in Los Angeles.<sup>62</sup>**

### **Who Was Benno Jastrowitz?**

**I**n 1933 Herman W. Frank published an autobiography entitled *Scrapbook of a Western Pioneer*.<sup>63</sup> He wrote that the Harris family was in Germany about 1883, and when they prepared to return to America, Sarah Harris stayed behind in the household of her mother's oldest brother.<sup>64</sup> That uncle, unidentified, was Henry Jastro's brother. The autobiography also mentioned a second Jastro brother.

According to Frank, in 1887 while he was in charge of the

**Harry A., 24, of Bakersfield. Harry's misspellings of his sisters' names suggests he saw them infrequently. [Kern County Probate No. 599 (final), Jun 23, 1920]**

<sup>61</sup> **The fraternal order of the Eastern Star is based on teachings from the Bible. In general, female members must be related to Masons.**

<sup>62</sup> **“Louisa and May Jastro have gone to Santa Monica for the summer.” [Daily Californian, Jul 8, 1893]**

<sup>63</sup> **Herman W. Frank, *Scrapbook of a Western Pioneer*, Times-Mirror Press, 1934**

<sup>64</sup> **Frank said he first met Sarah about 1887.**

**Leopold Harris Los Angeles warehouse, Frank had to fire an incompetent manager. Frank identified him as his wife's uncle<sup>65</sup> and added that the uncle came to America when he was 19. His name was not mentioned.**

**The SS Hohenzollern steerage manifest dated October 28, 1874 lists Benna [sic] Jastrowitz, a 24 year-old merchant clerk traveling from Bremen to New York.<sup>66</sup> In the 1880 US Census for Los Angeles a 27 year-old store clerk named Benno Jastrowitz boarded with Minnik Harris, her husband Leopold Harris, and their children, Sarah, Rose, Harry, and Martha.**

**The name B. Jastrow is in a list of unclaimed mail published in 1882 in the Los Angeles Times,<sup>67</sup> and a B. Jastrowitz is shown in the Los Angeles Times of 1883 as a traveling salesman or "commercial traveler. " <sup>68</sup> An Los Angeles city**

---

**<sup>65</sup> That man also would have been Leopold Harris's brother-in-law.**

**<sup>66</sup> Email to the author from Linda Deneroff.  
[immigrantships.net/1800/hohenzollern741028.html](http://immigrantships.net/1800/hohenzollern741028.html)**

**<sup>67</sup> Los Angeles Times, Jul 16, 1882, pg. 3**

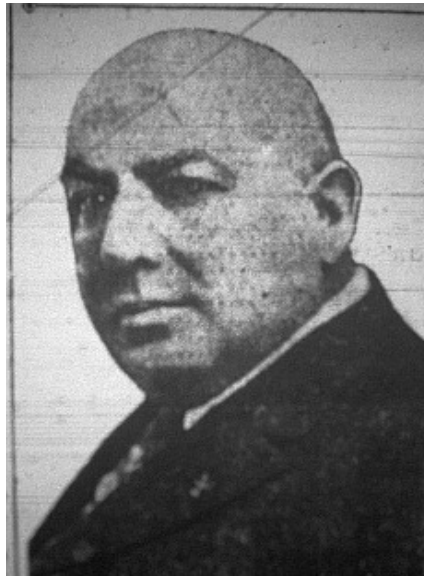
**<sup>68</sup> Los Angeles Times, Mar 17, 1883, pg 4: "B Jastrowitz" of Los Angeles was among about 50 other passengers who passed Fresno last night will arrive in Los Angeles this morning at 7:55"**

directory of 1888-90 lists Leopold Harris and Benno Jastrowitz at 104-1/2 - 106 North Los Angeles Street, both employed with Leopold Harris & Company. The 1880 Census and the Los Angeles city directory listing suggest that Benno Jastrowitz was either Henry A. Jastro's brother or his cousin.

### Rabbi Mordecai Jastrow

**D**r. Mordecai Marcus Jastrow was a distinguished Talmudic scholar who lived in Henry Jastro's time. On April 26, 1925, shortly after Jastro's death, the *Oakland Tribune* published *Some Other Jastrows*, which claimed that Henry A. Jastro " ... and his brother Marcus Jastrow arrived in New York 50 years ago." Fifty years prior to 1925 was 1875, and in that year H.A. Jastro was married and living in Bakersfield. The *Tribune* also wrote that the two Jastrows came to the US in 1866, but Henry A. Jastro's time line shows he was a drover in California then.

Still, their personal histories have some connection. Dr. Jastrow was born in Ragosen, Prussian Poland,<sup>69</sup> which is about 200 miles west of Jastro's *Posen*. With regard to the men's ages, in 1866 Dr. Jastrow was 42 and Henry Jastro about 18. The difference makes it possible that they were brothers, but unlikely. Rabbi Jastrow's sons, Maurice and Joseph Jastrow, scholars like their father, have no connection to Henry A. Jastro.



Jastro's son, Harry

---

<sup>69</sup> Probably *Ragösen* at lat 51-58N, long 12-16E; *Washington Post*, Oct 14, 1903. He was born in 1829.

## **Harry, May, and Carolyne**

**H**arry attended local schools until he was 14 and from about 1889 to 1894 studied business and engineering in Europe.<sup>70</sup> Harry's energy matched his father's. After Europe, Harry worked in Kern County and then was two years in San Francisco as a consulting engineer for the Power Development Company and the San Francisco Gas & Electric Company. For another three years he was a consultant with the Edison Electric Light Company of Los Angeles, the firm that constructed an eight-mile concrete tunnel in Kern Canyon. In 1906-7 Harry worked at the engineering and business departments of the Colorado Power Company, Boulder, Colorado. In 1910, when Harry was 35, he married Edna M. Crooks of Boston. The US Census that year shows they lived at Taft, and Harry managed the electric company.<sup>71</sup>

**Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jastro had been married more than ten years when Harry suffered a heart attack. They moved to**

---

<sup>70</sup> Harry Alverson Jastro, 20, Civil Engineer, is in the Kern Co. Great Register of Voters, Oct 31, 1896, Precinct N1, Pt 11.

<sup>71</sup> This was probably the Power Transit & Light Company of Bakersfield, of which his father was a major stockholder.

**Bakersfield and then to San Francisco. In April 1922, Harry was admitted to St. Luke's hospital. He died a month later with his father and sisters by his side. Harry and Edna had no children.<sup>72</sup>**

**In early 1900 William Hugh Greer built a fine house on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles,<sup>73</sup> and in spring he married Henry Jastro's daughter May at a private ceremony in Los Angeles at the home of May's cousin Sarah Harris Frank. The union was deemed of "unusual importance in Jewish circles."<sup>74</sup>**

**By 1903 Mr. and Mrs. William Greer resided at Deming, New Mexico, where Greer directed the phone company and managed Victoria Land and Cattle Company of Patagonia, Arizona.<sup>75</sup> In 1905 the Greers sold their home in Deming and resettled at Los Angeles.<sup>76</sup>**

---

<sup>72</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, May 31, 1922**

<sup>73</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Feb 9, 1900**

<sup>74</sup> **Los Angeles Times, May 14, 1900**

<sup>75</sup> **The Kern County Land Company owned Victoria Land and Cattle. Henry A. Jastro was a director; The Polk's Arizona and New Mexico Pictorial State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1912-1913, pg 163, shows that Henry A. Jastro of Bakersfield, CA, was general manager of the Boquillas Land and Cattle Company, Fairbanks, Arizona.**

<sup>76</sup> **Chuck Hornung, *Fullerton's Rangers: a history of the New Mexico Territorial Mounted Police*, (Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland**

In January 1910, Henry Jastro and May Greer visited relatives in Germany. In June, Jastro was back in Bakersfield, but May Greer stayed behind in Berlin and in summer 1910 toured Italy.<sup>77</sup> According to author Chuck Hornung, 38 year-old William Greer died in Southern California in late September 1910.<sup>78</sup> In September, May Greer was living in Bakersfield with her father at 2229-19th Street.<sup>79</sup> The September 29, 1910 Bakersfield Californian did not mention William Greer's death, but it did note that a Mrs. Samuel T. A. Loftis [sic Loftus] of Chicago had been staying for the last several weeks on "West Nineteenth" street with Mrs. May Greer.<sup>80</sup> A week later the Californian wrote, "Mrs. May Greer has gone to San Francisco & Co., 2005), p 31; "Mrs. May Greer has returned from S.F. restored to health" (Bakersfield Californian, Jun 17, 1909).

<sup>77</sup> Los Angeles Times, Mar 5, 1910; "Jastro Going to Europe," Bakersfield Californian, May 30, 1910

<sup>78</sup> Chuck Hornung, *Fullerton's Rangers: a history of the New Mexico Territorial Mounted Police*, (Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland & Co., 2005), p 31. This author's search of the ProQuest Los Angeles Times historical database returned no reference to Greer's death. On Sep 11, 1910 Henry Jastro was at the Van Nuys Hotel in Los Angeles (Los Angeles Times, Sep 12, 1910).

<sup>79</sup> Bakersfield City directories of 1913-23 show Henry Jastro at 2229-19th Street.

<sup>80</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Sep 29, 1910. The author was unable to verify the date of Greer's death.

for a week's visit with friends."<sup>81</sup> Again there was no mention of Mr. Greer. The sequence of events suggests that the Greers were probalby estranged after 1905.

### **May Greer and Max Kosland**

May was in Bakersfield through 1911,<sup>82</sup> but in January 1912 she prepared for an ocean voyage. The Californian wrote,

**Mrs. May Greer is planning to leave on February sixth for New York, where she will join a party of eastern friends and make a tour of the world. Their journeys will extend over about four or six months and will include**

---

<sup>81</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Oct 10, 1910. Samuel Loftus of Loftus Brothers of Chicago was a long-time friend of Henry Jastro. Loftus had telegraphed Jastro in September instructing him to secure the best possible counsel for the defense of J.C. Loftus, a recently-hired Kern County Land Company employee who was in jail on charges of murdering Joseph Lafferty (Chicago Daily Tribune, Sep 8, 1910). Mrs. Loftus was no doubt in Bakersfield to monitor the trial.**

<sup>82</sup> **Morgan's History of Kern County (1914): "HA Jastro lives here with his widowed daughter, Mrs. May Greer."**

**Italy, Greece, Egypt, and a tour of the Orient. Mrs. Greer is anticipating a delightful trip.<sup>83</sup>**

**May Greer spent the summer of 1913 in San Francisco, but in September she returned to Bakersfield.<sup>84</sup> Alfred Harrell, owner of the Bakersfield Californian and his close friend H.A. Jastro might have talked about May Greer's summer in San Francisco, but if Harrell knew anything he would not have printed it. At 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 4, 1914 at the Nineteenth and B Street home of H.A. Jastro, May Greer married Max I. Koshland, a "wealthy San Francisco broker" and son of San Francisco wool merchant Marcus Simon Koshland.<sup>85</sup> The Californian wrote,**

**It was a simple ceremony, performed by Superior Judge Howard A. Peairs, Mr. Jastro giving his daughter away. The bride and groom were unattended, only relatives witnessing the wedding. The newly married couple left on**

---

**<sup>83</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Jan 26, 1912. Jastro accompanied his daughter to San Francisco. May would depart on Feb 6 (Bakersfield Californian, Feb 2, 1912).**

**<sup>84</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Sep 22, 1913**

**<sup>85</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Jan 5, 1914; Kern Co Marriages, p. 116, Jan 5 [sic], 1914**

**an early afternoon train for a wedding trip, and after spending a fortnight at Del Monte and other coast points, they will make San Francisco their home.<sup>86</sup>**

**On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Jastro took the train to a national cattle raisers' meeting in Tucson, Arizona.<sup>87</sup>**

**The newly-wed Max Koshlands were notable in San Francisco social and business circles. They were founding members of the San Francisco Opera, and in 1922 they lived at the opulent Palace Hotel.<sup>88</sup> In 1928 Max Koshland was Chairman of the San Francisco Stock Exchange, and the same year the Koshlands made a one day, round-trip airplane flight from San Francisco to the new Taft airfield.<sup>89</sup>**

---

<sup>86</sup> **Ibid.**

<sup>87</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Jan 6, 1914**

<sup>88</sup> ***Who's Who Among The Women Of California*, p 487 (1922). The Palace Hotel was built in 1875 and was considered the largest, most luxurious and costly hotel in the world. It was the American manifestation of the grand hotels of Europe. The Palace burned during the San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906. Re-opened in 1909.**

<sup>89</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Oct 13, 1928. The Koshlands had oil investments in Kern County. They stayed at the Padre Hotel in 1933 (Bakersfield Californian, Feb 11, 1933).**

**In summer 1937, investment broker Max I. Koshland, 66, died suddenly of a heart attack at Santa Barbara. "Mrs. Koshland, the former May Jastro, daughter of the late H.A. Jastro, was at his bedside when death came."<sup>90</sup> May spent much time after that at Montecito with her sister Carolyn Louise.<sup>91</sup>**

**Carolyn Louise's story is a longer one. In October 1900 Henry Jastro took the train to Los Angeles,<sup>92</sup> and on the afternoon of the seventeenth he attended a private wedding at the home of his niece Sarah Harris Frank. There the Reverend Warren F. Day solemnized the union of Carolyn Louise Jastro and Merriam Otis Chadbourne.<sup>93</sup> Notice in the *Daily Californian* mistakenly identified Chadbourne as "Melvin Chadwin" of Los Angeles, but the rest of the information was correct. He was a long-time Southern California resident and a "wealthy mining man with**

---

<sup>90</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jun 23, 1937. Max Koshland was buried at Santa Barbara.**

<sup>91</sup> **May Koshland, 81, died on July 11, 1963 after an extended illness at Santa Barbara. Private services were held at Bakersfield, and interment was at the Jastro family mausoleum in Union Cemetery (Bakersfield Californian, Jul 13, 1963).**

<sup>92</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Oct 16, 1900**

<sup>93</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Oct 18, 1900, p I5**

large interests in New Mexico and Arizona."<sup>94</sup> But their marriage had ongoing problems. By December 1915 Merriam O. Chadbourne and Carolyn Louise were divorced.

While the Chadbournes were in New Mexico in 1909, they had a daughter, Carolyn. She never married and lived out most of her life at Montecito with her mother at their Arroyico Lane home. Carolyn Louise Jastro Chadbourne died at Montecito in 1954,<sup>95</sup> and Carolyn Chadbourne died in Santa Barbara in 1994.<sup>96</sup>



*Jack Chadbourne and his plane.*

**Jastro's grandson Jack. (Pied Cow, Summer 1997)**

---

<sup>94</sup> Not mentioned was Chadbourne's father, F.S. Chadbourne, owner of F.S. Chadbourne & Company Furniture and Bedding of San Francisco.

<sup>95</sup> Dec 29, 1954, age 74

<sup>96</sup> Feb 9, 1994, age 84

**In 1907 at Albuquerque, New Mexico Carolyn Louise and Merriam O. Chadbourne had a son. Henry Jastro Chadbourne,<sup>97</sup> Jack, as he was known, attended Columbia and Princeton Universities, but readers of the *Los Angeles Times* might have inferred that he was not graduate of either institution.<sup>98</sup> In 1928 Jack founded a flying service at the Carpenteria, California airfield. In 1933, 26 year-old Jack Chadbourne was president of Aircraft Sales Company and co-partner in Donze Air Space Services.<sup>99</sup> His financial adviser was Max I. Koshland.<sup>100</sup>**

**Jack married several times. His first was in 1927<sup>101</sup> to Eunice Putnam, daughter of Israel Putnam of Putnam Publishing, New York. Jack and Eunice had a son, born in 1928 in Santa Barbara.<sup>102</sup> In July 1929 Jack and Eunice divorced, and Eunice**

<sup>97</sup> **Born May 27, 1907**

<sup>98</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Jan 12, 1933**

<sup>99</sup> ***Pied Cow*, Summer 1997, ISSN 0741-0360, Vol. 14, No. 2, Issue 29, a publication of the Chadbourne Association, HCR 77, Box 8350, Chadbourne's Ridge, North Waterborough, MN 04061. <http://chadbourne.org/piedcows>**

<sup>100</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Sep 30, 1928**

<sup>101</sup> **Jan 18, 1927**

<sup>102</sup> **Feb 10, 1928**

was awarded custody of their son, who was Henry A. Jastro's only great-grandchild.<sup>103</sup>

At a midnight in June 1940, "Captain A.J. [sic] Chadbourne, Santa Barbara sportsman" was at his home when he was affected by a "nervous condition" brought on by an air crash two years earlier when he was flying for the Chinese Government in Asia. Hours after being taken to hospital, a fire broke out upstairs in the Chadbourne home, and a firefighter looking under a bed found the body of Jack's 25-year-old wife, Patricia. She had been smoking, and a jar of sleeping pills was nearby.<sup>104</sup>

Jack Chadbourne had earned \$1,500 a month flying for the Chinese air force. He later piloted warplanes for the Loyalists in Spain,<sup>105</sup> but an auto accident in California that injured his back

---

<sup>103</sup> In 1933 Jack married Margaret Reeve Morrow of New York. The marriage lasted a few months. A year later Jack married Patricia C. Cram, also of New York.

<sup>104</sup> *Los Angeles Times*, Jun 29, 1940

<sup>105</sup> *Bakersfield Californian*, Jan 6, 1937: "San Francisco, Jan. 6.- Enlistment of 100 fighting men to join the Spanish loyalist forces in their battle against insurgent armies was under way in San Francisco today. ... The group will join 500 volunteers in New York, known as the Debs Brigade. These in turn will join the International Brigade in Spain..."

made it impossible for him to fly. In 1942 Jack was a \$21 a month private in the US Army. Chadbourne was quoted as saying, "I fought in the other wars for money, but I'm fighting in this one simply because I want to see the American way of life continued."<sup>106</sup>

His name appeared two more times in newspapers: In 1950 when sports columnist Braven Dyer spoke with the 43-year-old Santa Barbaran on the topic of the best quarterback in professional football,<sup>107</sup> and again in late 1954 when Jack's mother died.<sup>108</sup> A newspaper account suggests that Jack was living in 1963 when when his aunt died.<sup>109</sup> Nothing further is known about what happened to Captain Henry Jastro "Jack" Chadbourne.

---

<sup>106</sup> Salt Lake City Tribune, Apr 30, 1942 (by AP wire from Merced, CA Apr 29, 1942)

<sup>107</sup> Los Angeles Times, Nov 7, 1950

<sup>108</sup> Dec 29, 1954. Carolyn Louise Chadbourne's obituary said Jack and Carolyn had been living with her at her home in Montecito. Jack's name did not appear in the probate of Carolyn Louise Chadbourne's estate (Letter to the author from Helen Rydell, Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society).

<sup>109</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Jul 13, 1963

**Jack Chadbourne and Eunice Putnam divorced in 1929. A researcher with the Chadbourne Family Association located the name of an "H.A. Chadborn," 2 years, in the 1930 US Census of Manhattan. Listed with "H.A." was a Frank Putnam, who could have been either Eunice Putnam's brother or her uncle. After Eunice's divorce she married two more times. Her second husband was Alfred Valentine Leaman III and her third was Harry Van Faust Brower. The probate of Carolyn Jastro Chadbourne's estate in 1954 listed her brother's son, whose surname had been changed to Brower. The probate indicated that "H.A." by then had two sons of his own.<sup>110</sup>**

## **Henry Jastro and Reform**

The fact that Mr. Jastro is a staunch Democrat has made no difference to the people in their solicitude to secure his public services. Republicans have displayed as much enthusiasm for him as supervisor as have the Democrats and during the great Roosevelt landslide in 1904, when the county gave a great Republican majority, he received a flattering majority for supervisor on the Democratic ticket. In fact, the people have divorced politics from public service in their desire for his able assistance in public affairs and in this respect they resemble Mr. Jastro himself, for one of his hobbies is the divorcing of trade relations and civic progress from politics. Five times elected

Wallace Melvin Morgan, History of Kern County, California, 1914

---

<sup>110</sup> **Letter to the author from Santa Barbara Genealogical Society. Names of the sons were intentionally omitted from this paper.**

**B**ut reform was on the march, and by 1912 Henry Jastro's influence over Kern County government was in decline.<sup>111</sup> J.A. Waltman, a Democratic aspirant for the Board of Supervisors, assailed the Kern County Land Company for its domination over Kern County politics. "Windy," as the *Californian* called him, also charged Supervisor Jastro of being "the Czar and the equalizer of Land Company taxes for the last 20 years." A group of Jastro supporters facing Windy on the sidewalk harangued him and sent him packing.<sup>112</sup>

Another public challenge arose when H.A. Ingalls accused Jastro of using his " ... great and almost unlimited power of wealth and official position to prevent the development of this county." Ingalls had had an uncomfortable run-in with the chairman:

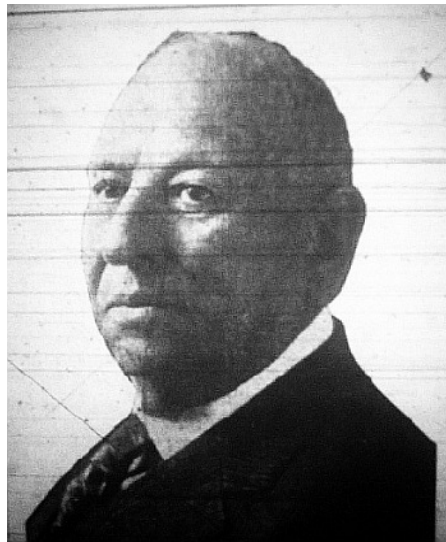
"Nearly a year ago I went to the Board of Supervisors. Their representative, Mr. Jastro, was not present, and the rest of the board advised me to see him first. I approached his 'majesty' as he entered the courthouse, told him the desire of the

---

<sup>111</sup> In 1912 a large oil painting of Jastro was hung in the new Kern County courthouse (*Morning Echo*, Feb 28, 1912, p 34).

<sup>112</sup> *Morning Echo*, Jul 31, 1912, p. 1, col 3

**suffering settlers for a road, and, reminding him of several former petitions having failed, the time had come when the road was a necessity, etc. He turned upon me with that wise, patronizing manner of his, stating that he knew all about the matter, and the settlers would get a road when he got ready to let them have it, or when it suited the interests of the Land Company."<sup>113</sup>**



H.A. Jastro About 1918

**Jastro was reelected, but agitation continued. In response to criticism of the old guard, Alfred Harrell wrote in 1913,**

---

<sup>113</sup> Morning Echo, Aug 21, 1912, p 4, col 3-4

**But as Mr. Jastro well says, the work of the county government is appreciated by the major number of citizens. That is attested by popular approval whenever the people have opportunity to express themselves at the polls, and despite daily misrepresentation, we have not the slightest doubt that the petty partisans will this year find that they have appealed in vain to a partisan spirit that does not exist.<sup>114</sup>**

**In 1915 the Board of Supervisors moved to reelect Jastro chairman of the board. Before they called for the vote, Jastro, 55, stated,**

**I want to say that my health now is not the best. As you know, I have been prevented from attending a number of meetings in the past, and my ill health may interfere in the future. However, if you think that I can serve you under these conditions, I shall interpose no objection.<sup>115</sup>**

---

<sup>114</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Dec 6, 1913**

<sup>115</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jan 4, 1915, p 8; City directories of 1913-23 show that Henry Jastro resided at 2229-19th Street.**  
**www.gilbertgia.com pg 46 of 65**

**The board reelected him. He responded,**

**I want to thank you very sincerely. Not many men have been honored with an office for as many terms as I have held the chairmanship of this board. This, I believe, is my twenty-first year as chairman of the board of supervisors of this county. I have tried to be absolutely fair. Many unjust assaults have been made against this board, but the pendulum is swinging back now, and people are coming to see that these attacks have not been made in good faith. As to the future, I promise that I shall do the best in my power for the interests of the county. Any mistakes that I may make will be of the head and not the heart. <sup>116</sup>**

**in April and May 1915 Jastro was in ill health and out of the county. He was back by June,<sup>117</sup> and in July he attended a board meeting to sort out allegations against J.W. Jamison of**

---

<sup>116</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jan 4, 1915, p 8**

<sup>117</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jun 7, 1915**

**extorting money from saloon men at Fellows. Ever practical, Jastro said,**

**You gentlemen of the board can do what you please with this application. I don't want to put these men in a position where they might have to do crooked work to pay the levee upon them...<sup>118</sup>**

**On the evening of March 4, 1916 the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and the Kern County Board of Trade honored the Board of Supervisors and in particular Henry A. Jastro. At the high point of the evening, Col. E. M. Roberts rose to toast Henry Jastro.**

**As Mr. Jastro stood ... the banquetters rose en masse and cheered and cheered again, nor would the applause be stilled as the official sought to make himself heard. And when later [Jastro] said, 'They may criticize us, but no man can point to a dollar that your Board has expended in your behalf for which you have not received 100 cents value,' the applause broke forth again, and when the**

---

<sup>118</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jul 9, 1915**

chairman of 20 years had finished and resumed his seat, once again the banquetters rose en mass and gave voice to their approval in prolonged applause.<sup>119</sup>



H.A. Jastro, center, about 1924

Image courtesy of Sidney Allen, grandson of AJ Crites

**A local historian observed, "The Old Guard led by H.A. Jastro, Col. Roberts, and Alfred Harrell's *Daily Californian* finally became so corrupt it was overthrown by a reform faction of opposition Republicans. The Old Guard was done in by the new**

---

<sup>119</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Mar 3, 1916

city charter of 1915.”<sup>120</sup> In 1915, State attorneys attempted to disqualify the entire Kern County Grand Jury, and in November, Superior Court Judge Farmer was replaced by Judge William H. Langdon of Stanislaus County. Voices also called for removal of Sheriff Dan Boone Newell to prevent him from drawing up a replacement Grand Jury, the charge being that Newell would choose “ ... recipients of favors from the Board of Supervisors, employees of the Kern County Land Company whose manager is H.A. Jastro, chairman of the board.” Other complained that, “ ... saloon keepers were on the list. That the proportion of the jury list that comprised their men was about 30 percent.”<sup>121</sup>

Jastro's declining health and the increasing pressure against back-room politics might have been the reason why he stepped down as chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1916.<sup>122</sup> Over the next seven years he remained as general chairman of the Kern County Land Company, but that position did not protect him from the Kern County courts. While he had been on the Board of Supervisors, that group authorized

---

<sup>120</sup> Lynn Hay Rudy, *Granddad*, p 89

<sup>121</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Nov 8, 1915, p 6

<sup>122</sup> Bakersfield Californian, Dec 30, 1916, pg 1, col 2-4  
www.gilbertgia.com pg 50 of 65

**\$12,000 of highway funds to buy road equipment. In 1917 charges were brought against Jastro in that connection for illegally benefiting the Southern Pacific Railroad. The Grand Jury took up the allegation, examined witnesses, and found Jastro not guilty.<sup>123</sup>**

**After the US entered WWI, antipathy grew against German-Americans. Jastro's accent identified him with Germans, but his history in politics, his connections with influential individuals and business groups, and his service on war-time boards erased public memory of his former associations with German-Americans.<sup>124</sup> His commitment to the US war effort was above doubt. In 1917 he accepted appointment as Kern County representative to the California Association of Practical**

---

<sup>123</sup> Kern County Superior Court, Jan 1917. Criminal Case 1737

<sup>124</sup> Petroleum consultant Charles F. von Petersdorff, with whom Jastro traveled at the turn of the century (Bakersfield Californian, May 11, 1897, as cited in Bakersfield Californian, May 11, 1937) admitted he accepted money from a German agent to investigate oil deposits in Mexico (Bakersfield Californian, Jan 14, 1918); In 1908 Jastro was a member of the singing group *Germania Maennerchor* organized by Franz Buckreus. Their program of Dec 29, 1908 is in the scrapbook entitled *Antique Bakersfield*, which is in the Jack Maguire Local History Room vault, Kern County Library, Bakersfield; In 1918 Buckreus was accused of sedition (see *Sedition in Bakersfield, 1918* by Gilbert Gia at scribd.com and at [gilbertgia.com/articlePages/civRights1.html](http://gilbertgia.com/articlePages/civRights1.html)).

**Farmers, a group created to stabilize the nation's food supply.<sup>125</sup> Honoring his pledge to the State Council of Defense to "do what was in his power," Jastro extended Land Company water privileges to farmers along the Calloway and Beardsley canals. The action resulted in an additional 20,000-tons of corn to the nation's food supply. <sup>126</sup>**

**In 1918 Henry A. Jastro appeared in court after Matthew S. Platz demanded that Jastro pay him \$351.55, the amount was based on 161 shares of stock that Jastro allegedly owned in Kern Valley Bank when it closed its doors in May 1911. Jastro denied he owned the stock and denied he had anything to do with closing the bank. The court ordered Jastro to pay Platz.<sup>127</sup>**

**Henry A. Jastro remained active in Bakersfield's business and social communities: In 1917-8 he constructed a two-story brick building at 1800-19<sup>th</sup> Street, today know as the Old Standard Oil building.<sup>128</sup>; In 1920 Roland E. Dye, Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, thanked Jastro for making possible a**

<sup>125</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jun 11, 1917**

<sup>126</sup> **Ibid.**

<sup>127</sup> **Kern County Superior Court, Civil Division. Oct 22, 1918, Folder No. 8766**

<sup>128</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jul 10, 1917**

**week-end camp at the base of China Grade bluffs.<sup>129</sup> In 1921 Jastro was elected president of the State Agriculture Board,<sup>130</sup> but later in the year he had what newspapers called a severe illness, probably heart trouble, and it kept him in San Francisco for several months.**

**In mid-April 1923 Jastro was back in Bakersfield for the cornerstone dedication of the \$240,000 Masonic building.<sup>131</sup> The strain was great, and days later Jastro had a heart attack and was admitted to Mercy Hospital.<sup>132</sup> But four months later the 71 year-old accepted a challenge from California Governor Friend Richardson to meet at the Sacramento Street Fair for a horseshoe-pitching contest.<sup>133</sup>**

---

<sup>129</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jan 10, 1920, p 4. See "A History of Kern County Boy Scouting," gilbertgia.com/hist\_articles/community/boy\_scouts\_com.pdf**

<sup>130</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Feb 11, 1921, pp 1, 3. The article explained it was a post he had held twice in the past, the first time in 1907.**

<sup>131</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Apr 14, 1923. He he spoke on the history of Masonry in Kern County.**

<sup>132</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Apr 19, 1923**

<sup>133</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Aug 28, 1923, p. 7, c 2. The article said Jastro and Gage became acquainted in the late 1860s when they worked for Phineas Banning at Los Angeles.**

**Jastro retired from the Kern County Land Company in early 1924<sup>134</sup> but he did not rest. In January he was a debate judge at Kern County Union High School when Bakersfield Junior College met the USC team.<sup>135</sup> In February a long-forgotten event in Jastro's life was resurrected when he spoke before the Kern County Realty Board and recalled making a contract for Haggin & Carr in 1887 to supply Oakland mills with 5,900 cotton bales. To develop the crop, Jastro (illegally) hired black contract laborers from the South. The outcome was Jastro was fined \$5,000 and sentenced to six months jail. Said Jastro, "I still owe my country that six months. We found out we could raise good cotton, but labor conditions made the plan a failure."<sup>136</sup>**

---

<sup>134</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Feb 17, 1924, E15. Frank G. Munzer succeeded Jastro.**

<sup>135</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Jan 30, 1924. Debate topic: "Resolved that Congress should have the power to nullify a decision of the Supreme Court by reenacting a law declared unconstitutional."**

<sup>136</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Feb 15, 1925. Under stable economic conditions, Kern County's labor force was fully employed, and workers commanded decent wages. Jastro's story recalled a time of slowing economic growth and increasing resistance against the hiring of Chinese labor. In 1884 Haggin & Carr planted 1,000 acres to cotton and in a cost-saving move in November, Jastro sent F. M. Ownbey to South Carolina to hire black workers. The white labor force was**

## **Last Day of Good Health**

**On January 27, 1925 Henry A. Jastro had a heart attack. He convalesced at San Francisco in February and March<sup>137</sup> but died on April 15 at the Palace Hotel. May Koshland was with him.**

**Jastro's obituary<sup>138</sup> noted his many accomplishments, but here is a more complete list: Mayor of Bakersfield, 1892-3;<sup>139</sup> trustee, Bakersfield Schools, 1893; chairman, Kern County Board of Supervisors, 1892-1916; member, Kern County Fair Grounds Association, 1892; member, state Democratic Central**

---

**threatened. After arrival of three trains of African-Americans, 130 families in all, "[t]he White Citizens Committee convinced the Negroes that their wages were too low," and all but 12 families left the employee of Haggin & Carr to seek work elsewhere (*Inside Historic Kern*, Kern Co Historical Society, 1982, p 123; Morgen, *History of Kern County*, p 93). Chinese picked the crop. Jastro said the Chinese were not trained to pick cotton, and they spoiled the harvest. Faced with two failures, Jastro took action. "When he [Jastro] got up against government red tape on account of this imported labor, he solved his problems by setting fire to the cotton crop and burning it in the field (*Historic Kern*, Journal of the Kern Co Historical Society, Sep 1976, as cited in *Inside Historic Kern*, 1982)**

<sup>137</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Feb 11, 1921**

<sup>138</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Apr 15, 1925, pg 1, 5**

<sup>139</sup> **Daily Californian, Oct 7, 1892 and Jan 23, 1893**

**Committee; delegate, National Democratic Convention, 1900 and 1908; general manager, Kern County Land Company, 1903-24; director, Independent Oil Producers Agency, 1904; board member, McKittrick Extension Oil Company, 1905;<sup>140</sup> Bakersfield theater owner, 1904-5; controlling director, Southern Hotel Association, 1909; president, California State Board of Agriculture, 1908-10; president, National Live Stock Association, 1908-10 and 1912-4;<sup>141</sup> director and secretary, Bakersfield Sandstone Brick;<sup>142</sup> Regent Ex-officio, University of California, 1909-10 and 1921-5; president, Security Trust Bank; chairman, finance building committee for new Masonic Temple, 1922; president, California State Fair; majority owner, Street Railway and Electric Lighting Company, Albuquerque, New Mexico; chairman, California Wood Industry, US War Industries Board, 1918; president, T.J. West Company, Kern County Cotton Compress, 1924. <sup>143</sup>**

---

<sup>140</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Oct 15, 1905.**

<sup>141</sup> **Today the National Cattlemen's Beef Association**  
**beefusa.org/**

<sup>142</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Nov 28, 1966, p 4A**

<sup>143</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Sep 9, 1924, p 11**



H.A. Jastro, about 1922

**Henry Alexander Jastro's funeral was Saturday, April 18, 1925 at the Masonic Temple auditorium. Flowers had arrived from California Governor Friend W. Richardson, Captain and Mrs. W.H. McKittrick of Santa Monica, John P. McLaughlin,<sup>144</sup> Board of the Regents of the University of California, National Live Stock Association, California Cattlemen's Association, Pacific Southwest Trust and Savings Bank, Standard Oil Company, First National Bank of Los Angeles, Security Trust**

---

<sup>144</sup> Collector of Internal Revenue, San Francisco

**Company of Bakersfield, and Bakersfield and Taft Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.**

**Jastro's daughters and his grandchildren, Henry Jastro and Carolyn Chadbourne, had arrived for the funeral. Bakersfield streets were abandoned when Dr. Willis G. White of the Presbyterian Church started his eulogy. Arthur S. Crites spoke at the service and said this about Jastro's philanthropy, "His manifold deeds of kindness that are not generally known to the world are well-known to most of the lawyers in Bakersfield who had charge of probating wills of many unfortunate widows and orphans in this community."<sup>145</sup> Herman A. Spindt, principal of Kern County Union High School remarked that Jastro "always took a sincere interest in the high school activities and manifest a special interest in our agricultural and vocational departments." Leigh H. Irvine, Secretary of the Kern County Chamber of Commerce, noted that Jastro "... did all in his**

---

<sup>145</sup> **Bakersfield Californian, Apr 16, 1925; In 1898 H.A. Jastro and E.M. Roberts "started out to canvas the town to secure assistance" for the widow and orphans of the Baum family that had been burned out of its home (Daily Californian, Apr 12, 1898).**

**power to suppress factionalism,” and that had a “willingness to forgive former foes.”<sup>146</sup>**

**Masonic Grand Master David J. Reese of Ventura conducted the ritualistic ceremony.<sup>147</sup> Because Jastro also belonged to the the Elks, their members performed services and also were in the cortège. The procession to Union Cemetery was the longest in Bakersfield's history.<sup>148</sup>**

**The pallbearers were leaders of Kern County business and government: Banker Arthur S. Crites, merchant J.A. Hughes, Bakersfield Californian owner Alfred Harrell, businessman L.P. St Clair, investor William A. Howell, and contractor William J. Schultz. Honorary Pallbearers were General Manager of the Kern County Land Company F.G. Munzer, Boy Scouts Chairman Charles Paine, F.H. Hillman of the State Board of Agriculture,**

---

<sup>146</sup> **Ibid. The public might have recalled an event of 20 years earlier when Jastro pardoned Harry Burns, an employee of the KCLC who stole a horse and tack and led a posse of vaqueros on a 65 mile chase. Jastro interviewed Burns in his cell, learned he was 17, and concluded that Burns' life would be ruined if he was prosecuted. Jastro gave him another chance. Burns was from an “honorable and prosperous family” (Los Angeles Times, May 2, 1905, by special correspondence from Bakersfield, May 1).**

<sup>147</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Apr 19, 1925, pg 12**

<sup>148</sup> **Ibid.**

**Vice President of Standard Oil Robert Easton, Kern County investor and land owner L.V. Olcese, H.I. Tupman, agriculture and oil investor Charles A. Barlow,<sup>149</sup> land title expert and attorney A.T. Lightner, businessman Alphonse Weill, pipeline contractor H.J. Brandt, oilfield owner William W. Colm, and pharmacist Edward A. Baer. Jastro was laid to rest next to his wife's grave, and 12 uniformed men from the Frank S. Reynolds Post, American Legion, fired a final salute. Town flags flew at half-mast for the next 10 days.<sup>150</sup>**

**Some months earlier, Jastro enjoyed his last day of good health at his Bloomfield Ranch where he walked and rode. But the next day,**

**An old but disregarded ailment of the heart muscles manifested itself and from then on, though seemingly improved on occasions, recurring attacks so undermined his strength and sapped his vitality that within the last few days his family and close friends came to the**

---

<sup>149</sup> **Barlow succeeded Jastro as president of Bakersfield Cotton Compress Co. (Los Angeles Times, Apr 26, 1925)**

<sup>150</sup> **Los Angeles Times, Apr 17, 1925, citing Bakersfield Californian, Apr 16, 1925**

realization that he could not recover. He was here until late February. He was moved to San Francisco to see specialists. He died after ten weeks.<sup>151</sup>

Jastro's religious belief was never apparent from the newspapers, and the events surrounding his life allow no definite conclusions. He married May Emiline Whalen Baker, who was Christian; Jastro's sister Minnik married Leopold Harris and established a Jewish household in Los Angeles; In summer 1887, Jastro and his friend Alphonse Weill (who was Jewish) traveled together to San Francisco;<sup>152</sup> In the 1890s, Jastro and his daughters vacationed at Catalina with their Bakersfield friends, who were Jewish and Gentile; When Carolyn Louise Jastro was at the Marlborough School in Los Angeles she lived in the Jewish household of her cousin Rosa Adler; Carolyn Louise married a Christian, Merriam Chadbourne; In 1900 Jastro's daughter May married, first to William Greer and a second marriage in 1914 to Max Koshland. Both were Jewish; Jastro wrote in 1925 said, "I herewith

---

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> Kern County Californian, Jul 23, 1887

subscribe \$250 for the support of St. Paul's Church<sup>153</sup> and to meet the obligations of the parish for the year 1925 ..."; Jastro bequeathed \$5,000 to the Catholic Mercy Hospital of Bakersfield; and he bequeathed \$1,000 each to San Francisco Orphans' Asylum, Catholic Orphans' Asylum, Russian Orphans' Asylum, and the Hebrew Orphans' Asylum, all of San Francisco.

An academic survey of Kern County completed five years after Jastro's death said, "Since then, no political boss has been apparent. He was good for the community for 25 years. He was an iron man, but his long, personal statement about water in the 1923 newspaper shows a man who knew how to make a good case to the public and who was aware of how to set aside his distractors."<sup>154</sup> Jastro contemporary Guy Hughes said much the same thing:

On my rare visits to Bakersfield during the later years of his power, I would sometimes meet him. I was of no political significance, just a young cow man, with a few

---

<sup>153</sup> Episcopal Church, Bakersfield. This author found the note in Jastro's probate file. From the Lynn Hay Rudy private, Bakersfield newspaper database: "June 2, 1892: Bondsmen for the new Methodist Episcopal Church south are Jastro, Blodget, B. A. Hayden and O. O. Mattson."

<sup>154</sup> Bettie Daingerfield Anderson, *Survey of Kern County, California*. Columbia U., NY, 1932 [Beale Memorial Library]  
www.gilbertgia.com pg 62 of 65

**cows, striving to get ahead. H.A. Jastro would greet me by name, know my neighbors, asked as to their welfare, and how their cattle were doing. To the very last, he was a cow man, heart and soul.<sup>155</sup>**



Jastro Bandstand, Jastro Park, 2006 (Gilbert Gia)

**In accordance with Jastro's wishes, in 1927 his daughters erected a bandstand at a city park between Truxtun and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets.<sup>156</sup> Across its facade are the words "From Henry A.**

---

<sup>155</sup> H. Guy Hughes, *Lynn's Valley Tales and Others*. Hall Letter Shop, Bakersfield, California, 1976.

<sup>156</sup> *Bakersfield Californian*, Apr 23, 1927. The bandstand, designed by Charles H. Biggar and built by Henry Eissler, is faced with Indiana limestone. Speakers at the dedication of May 1 were Mayor L.K. Stoner and Alfred Harrell, who

**Jastro to the People of Bakersfield." The bandstand was a generous gift and well-known understood for many years, but as years passed, the public's memory of Henry Jastro faded.**

**In 1965 the estate of May Jastro Koshland endowed \$7.6M to the University of California in benefit of worthy students. It's title is the Henry A. Jastro Scholarship in Agriculture. The ever practical Henry Alexander Jastro certainly would have approved of that gift to posterity.**

---

**characterized himself as "a life-long friend of Jastro." The Kern Co Land Company, through Jastro, offered the land to the city for a park in 1902, but it was not developed until several years later (Los Angeles Times, May 2, 1905).**



< 0 >

**The author is indebted to Lynn Hay Rudy for her valuable suggestions and corrections to this paper. The errors that remain are my own. --Gilbert Gia**