

## Who's Who in Jack's World<sup>1</sup>

**Applegarth, Edward ("Ted")** (1876-1964) – Ted and Jack met in a debate club and through Ted, Jack met Ted's sister, **Mabel**. Ted and Mabel belonged to an upper-middle class family and exposed Jack to a wealthier lifestyle and the arts. Mabel became Jack's love interest and he modeled "Ruth" in *Martin Eden* after her. Charmian refers to her as "Lily Maid" in her biography of Jack.

**Atherton, Frank Irving** - childhood friend of Jack's who wrote the book, *Jack London in Boyhood Adventures*. They met at Cole School in Oakland around the age of nine. Jack initially moved in with Frank and his family when he left Bess.

**Austin, Mary Hunter** (1868 – 1934) nature writer about the southwest who advocated for social and environmental issues. She studied and wrote about indigenous peoples. Friends with Jack and George Sterling, she joined Sterling's Bohemian community in Carmel.

**\*Ayres, Daniel Sydney** – Jack's film industry agent.

**\*Bamford, Frederick Irons** – Oakland librarian and friend/mentor to Jack. Frederick founded the Ruskin Club (a group of Oakland intellectuals, mostly socialists) of which Jack was a charter member. Frederick's wife, **Georgia Loring Bamford**, wrote the book, *The Mystery of Jack London*.

**Bierce, Ambrose** (1842- 1914) – a short story writer and journalist, Bierce was a contemporary of Jack's and his sometime critic. Bierce is probably best known for his short story, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*, and for taking on the railroad tycoons. Known for his dark humor and biting criticism, he was often called "Bitter Bierce." He wrote *The Devil's Dictionary*, with definitions like "Alone: bad company." Bierce did not approve of Jack's influence over Bierce's protégé, George Sterling. However, Jack and Ambrose seemed to bury the hatchet over drinks one night at the Bohemian Club. Ambrose disappeared in Mexico in 1914 and his last known correspondence was to his former love-interest, Blanche Partington.

**\*Bierce, Carlton** – Ambrose Bierce's brother.

**Bond, Judge Hiram Gilbert, Louis, Marshall** – Judge Hiram Gilbert Bond was a wealthy California rancher in Santa Clara. His two sons, Louis and Marshall, met Jack when he and Fred Thompson set up camp near their cabin in Dawson City during Jack's time in the Yukon. The Bond brothers had a St. Bernard/Scot shepherd named "Jack." Jack modeled "Buck" in *Call of the Wild* after their dog, Jack.

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<sup>1</sup> This list continues to be updated.

**Brett, George** – President of Jack’s publishing company, Macmillan. Macmillan released more than forty of Jack’s books. Brett paid Jack a mere \$2,000 for *Call of the Wild*, with no royalties. The book earned Macmillan millions of dollars but Jack held no grudge because of the extensive promotional campaign and publicity generated for Jack; it launched his career. Jack severed ties with Macmillan for a short time and went with Doubleday, Page & Co., but then returned to Macmillan.

**Burbank, Luther** – Sonoma County friend and horticulturist who shared farming ideas with Jack. Jack visited with Luther at his farm in Santa Rosa but Luther did not visit the ranch.

**\*Byrne, Ida and Jack** – Jack’s step-sister, Ida (a.k.a. “**Ida London Miller** 1892-1914), was married to **Jack Byrne** and Jack Byrne worked as Jack’s secretary. Ida had a son, Johnny Miller, with her former spouse, F.H. Miller, who Flora helped raise. Ida and Jack Byrne had a daughter they named Charmian (nicknamed “Tommy.”) Ida was admitted to an East Bay sanitarium in 1912 and died there in 1914. Jack Byrne and Tommy moved to the ranch in 1914. Eliza helped raise Tommy.

**Chaney, William** – Jack’s putative biological father. (See “Chaney” write up on Volunteer Resources for more information.)

**Chauvet, Joshua** – Glen Ellen resident who helped to develop a water system and a brickyard; he established one of the first wineries in the region. Together with other Glen Ellen neighbors, he filed a lawsuit against Jack claiming Jack was improperly diverting water. (See Water Rights Lawsuit in Volunteer Resources for more information.)

**Cheechakos** – those newly arrived in the Yukon mining areas during the Klondike Gold Rush - “greenhorns.” (Cf., “Sourdoughs” – seasoned miners.)

**Coolbrith, Ina** – (1841-1928) Oakland librarian who mentored young Jack. They stayed lifelong friends and Ina went on to become the first California Poet Laureate. Jack met Ina at the Oakland Library when he was a youngster and he referred to her as his “literary mother.” Jack said of her: “[n]o woman has so affected me to the extent you did.” Ina was involved with the Overland Monthly and knew many of the key figures of the day including Mark Twain, Bret Harte, and Ambrose Bierce. A published poet, she also held literary salons in her home and was the first honorary female member of the Bohemian Club.

**Cowan, Hazen** (1890-1972) – ranch hand in charge of shire horses, also helped with building of Wolf House. <https://californiarevealed.org/do/557fb7e8-bf57-459a-8da5-108df5f3cef3>

**Coxey, Jacob S.** – was an Ohio businessman who in 1892 introduced a bill in Congress to fund putting unemployed men to work on public works projects like better roads. “Coxey’s Army” was a protest march by unemployed workers on Washington in 1894, the second year of a four-year economic depression. (The official name was “Army of the Commonwealth in Christ.”) Charles T. Kelly was the leader of the West Coast contingent of Coxey’s Army. Jack joined the west contingent of Coxey’s Army but in Missouri became disillusioned so parted ways, eventually making his own way to Niagara Falls where he was arrested for vagrancy.

**Drake, Jack** – an alias Jack gave to police when Jack was arrested near Niagara Falls for vagrancy. It’s also how Flora addressed her May 22, 1894, letter to him in Chicago when he was tramping across the U.S.

**\*Dunn, Joseph Allan Elphinstone** (1872- 1941) was a reporter, war correspondent, a “pulp fiction” writer and member of the Bohemian Club. Dunn’s flirtation with Charmian made Jack jealous and became the plot of *Little Lady of the Big House*.<sup>2</sup>

<https://jacklondonbookstore.com/8-letters-signed-by-charmian-london/>

**Eames, Ninetta Wiley** (see Ninetta Wiley Eames Payne, *infra*.)

**Everhard, Ernest** – Jack’s cousin. Jack named his hero in *The Iron Heel* after him. Mary Everhard was Flora’s sister and Jack stayed about a month with her in Michigan when he was tramping across the U.S. in 1894. Mary liked Jack and encouraged a writing career for him. Harry Everhard, Ernest’s brother, wrote Charmian about Jack’s visit.

**\*Farr, Albert** (1871-1947) – architect of Wolf House and friend of the Londons. Among his other designs are the historic Benbow Inn, a Garberville resort in the redwoods, a house on Jackson St. in San Francisco that was the former location of the French Consulate, and several other buildings throughout the Bay Area which he designed with his firm, particularly in the San Francisco neighborhoods of Russian Hill, Pacific Heights, Sea Cliff, and St. Francis Wood. Born in Omaha, he spent his early childhood in Japan and then his family moved to Oakland where he attended high school. He liked to bring his yellow cat, Persia, to the ranch while working on Wolf House. Charmian described Persia as very affectionate and quite the mouser who had licked and intimidated their dog, Possum.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Pulp magazines were inexpensive fiction printed on cheap wood “pulp” paper. Dunn stole pajamas from Jack during one of his ranch visits and according to a June 26, 1913 newspaper article in the S.F. Call, he left town after confessing to stealing items from the homes of several of his friends. Dunn’s estranged wife accidentally killed their three-year old son in a botched suicide attempt and was convicted of manslaughter.

<sup>3</sup> According to Milo Shepard, Farr and Jack had been childhood neighbors in East Oakland.

**Flynt, Josiah** – (Jan.23,1869–Jan.20,1907) Josiah Flint/Flynt Willard (his pseudonym was Josiah Flynt), sociologist and author, wrote *Tramping with Tramps*. Jack dedicated his book, *The Road*, to him as “The Real Thing, Blowed in the Glass.” (Hobo slang for a trustworthy, upper class tramp and sometimes referred to as someone born to be a hobo.) In a December 6, 1901 letter to Cloudesley Johns, Jack described Josiah as “the tramp authority.” Flynt described the underside of tramp society in an article for a book by Havelock Ellis, which Jack had in his library. It described “prushuns,” who sexually exploited road boys. Jack also discusses this in *The Road*, and says he was never one of them. Like Jack, Josiah had tramped at a young age and had a self-described irrepressible “wonderlust.” Josiah, like Jack, was also as comfortable with the criminal classes as he was the upper class.

**Forni, Natale** (1871–1948) - the Italian stonemason hired as the foreman for construction of the Wolf House. He built several stone structures in Santa Rosa as well. He and some of his workmen camped in tents nearby while working on the Wolf House. At night he had a jug of wine and played accordion; Jack often came by to sing with them. Jack and Charmian had him over for dinner on August 24, 1913, to try to cheer him up after the destruction of Wolf House, two days earlier.

**\*Frolich, Finn Haakon** (1868-1947) originally from Norway, sculpted busts of both Charmian and Jack, and became a friend of the Londons.

<https://www.historylink.org/File/8849>

**Genthe, Arnold**<sup>4</sup> – (1869 – 1942) portrait artist and friend of Londons.

**\*Goddard, Charles** (1879-1951) – he was a Hearst syndicate employee and member of the editorial staff of the *New York Sunday American*. He authored “The Perils of Pauline” and other thrillers.

**\*Godfrey-Smith, Lawrence** – Australian pianist who was a guest at the Beauty Ranch from September 27, 1912 to January 4, 1913. “Laurie” as he was known, also accompanied the Londons on the Roamer.

**\*Goldman, Emma** (1869-1940) – “Red Emma,” as she was known, was an anarchist, feminist, and social justice advocate. In 1906 she launched the magazine, *Mother Earth*, which featured articles on politics, anarchism, free love, birth control, and feminist ideologies. Of Jack, Emma wrote: “it was not Jack London’ politics that mattered to me. It was his humanity, his understanding and his feeling with the complexities of the human heart.” <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/goldman-1869->

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<sup>4</sup> Genthe gave arguably one of the best descriptions of Jack: “Jack London had a poignantly sensitive face. His were the eyes of a dreamer, and there was an almost feminine wistfulness about him. And yet at the same time he gave the feeling of a terrible and unconquerable physical force.”

1940/ <https://wams.nyhistory.org/modernizing-america/activism-and-the-progressive-era/emma-goldman/>

**Goodman, Jim “Big Jim”** – Jack teamed up with Goodman, Fred Thompson, and Merritt Sloper on the way to the Yukon because he knew that Jim Shepard, his much older brother-in-law who had suffered a minor heart attack right before the journey, would be unable to carry his weight. “Big Jim” knew hunting and mining; he could also out pack most men. He also became the model for “Big Bill Wilson” in “Like Argus of the Ancient Times.”

**Hamed, Abu** – a drink made with gin, vermouth, Angostura, lime juice, and soda, popularized by Jack in his South Sea Tales. The drink was the legacy of British journalist, war correspondent and writer, C.W. Steevens. Jack credits Steevens with the drink in the opening lines of *The Inevitable White Man*.

**\*Hamilton, Frank Stawn** - a socialist mentor to Jack. Jack described him as a “tramp genius” and eloquent orator. Frank had been born into East Coast aristocracy, was college-educated with encyclopedic knowledge. He abandoned his aristocratic ties for his own brand of socialism and unconventional life. He introduced Jack to Anna Strunsky at a socialist lecture.

**Hargrave, W.B. (Bart)** – met Jack in the Klondike when they wintered on the Stewart River. Bart became a socialist because of Jack’s influence. He described Jack as “a prince of a good fellow to be with and had the most wonderful memory of anyone he ever saw” and also said Jack “was intrinsically kind and irrationally generous . . .”

**Harnish, Elam** (1866-1941) – whose nickname was “Burning Daylight” stayed on Split-Up Island with Jack in the Yukon and later featured as a character in his book, *Burning Daylight*. (Jack refers to him in a letter as both “William” and “Elam.”) He died in Fairbanks, AK.

**Harvey, Dr. B.F.** – he and Judge E.H. Sullivan were partners with Jack in his Henderson Creek claim. Dr. Harvey was very concerned about Jack’s scurvy and to help get him the medical attention he needed, they tore down a cabin to make the logs into a raft. As soon as the ice broke on the Yukon River, they took the raft to the town of Dawson – where Jack got food and medical attention. They sold the raft logs for \$600.00. Jack gave Dr. Harvey a bottle of whiskey he’d been saving to help perform an amputation while in the Yukon.

**Heinold, Johnny** – owner and proprietor of Heinold’s First and Last Chance Saloon in Oakland where Jack frequented as a youngster. Heinold reportedly first saw a twelve-year-old Jack around the docks, reading a tattered dictionary, and invited him to warm himself inside his saloon. Heinold then bought Jack a much larger, unabridged dictionary which he then read in Heinold’s saloon. Heinold lent Jack money and

encouraged him to get an education. Heinold and his saloon are mentioned in Jack's book, *John Barleycorn*. They stayed lifelong friends.<sup>5</sup>

**Hillside, Neuadd** - a shire horse whom the Londons referred to as the "Great Gentleman." Neuadd was a 1912 and a 1916 State Fair champion. Jack purchased him for \$2500. Neuadd died from an apparent rupture on October 22, 1916, exactly thirty days prior to Jack dying on November 22, 1916. Jack was writing a story about Neuadd when Jack died. Neuadd sired "Mountain Lad" who was born in June 1915 and whose name was used for the prize stallion in *Little Lady of the Big House*.

<https://hdl.huntington.org/digital/collection/p16003coll7/id/11515/>

**Hopper, James** – a friend of Jack's from Cole Elementary school. When Jack set sail on the Snark on April 23, 1907, he put Hopper's blue and gold Cal football sweater up the mast. Jack and Hopper met again at UCB in the Fall of 1897 when Jack was a freshman and Hopper a junior. Hopper, a writer and reporter, moved with his wife to Carmel and became part of "the Crowd."

**Houdini, Harry** (1874-1926) a magician and illusionist known for his escape acts. In 1915, Jack and Charmian saw him perform at the Orpheum in Oakland and then dined with him and his wife Bess afterwards. At the next evening's performance, Jack joined Houdini on stage. Charmian wrote in her diary that she found Houdini charming. The couples spent Thanksgiving that year together at the Houdinis' hotel. In 1918, a couple of years after Jack's death, Charmian and Houdini became romantically involved.

**\*James, George Wharton** (1858-1923) – Jack's longtime editor friend who published a reminiscence of his visit to the Ranch. Charmian said that George "charmed with his social qualities and music, and later published the most readable articles upon his visit." James also wrote an extensive article about Jack and the ranch after Jack's death in 1917, for the *Overland Monthly*, entitled "A Study of Jack London in his Prime." George was an eccentric, founding the Anti-Whispering Society which was "devoted to the suppression of (1) talking audiences, (2) peanut fiends, and (3) crying babies."

**Jensen, Emil** – met Jack along the Stewart River in the Yukon and later visited Jack at the Ranch. Emil was the model for the "Malamute Kid" in "The Son of the Wolf," and Jack considered him "noble."<sup>6</sup>

**\*Johns, Cloudesley** – Jack's friend and frequent correspondent. Cloudesley worked in a small, rural, post office, was a fellow socialist, and aspiring writer. Cloudesley wrote a treatise entitled, "Who the Hell is Cloudesley Johns."

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<sup>5</sup> Of Jack, Heinold said, "He just jumped into life with both feet in that courageous way of his, and he got romance and mystery and beauty out of it where other men could see only labor. That's genius."

<sup>6</sup> Author Dick North believes Jack's model for the Malamute Kid was Elam Harnish.

**\*Johnson, Martin (1884 - 1937) and Osa Helen Johnson (1894 - 1953)** – Martin was from Kansas and sailed on the Snark with Jack and Charmian as a cook. Later, he and his wife, Osa, became world adventurers and documentary filmmakers.

**Judge, Father William** – beloved priest who ran St. Mary's, a Catholic hospital, in Dawson where Jack was treated for scurvy. He advised Jack to leave the Yukon as soon as possible due to his scurvy. Described as an "ascetic Jesuit missionary with an El Greco face and a Henry Fielding heart," Father William had spent more than twelve years there, building a church and hospital, acting as architect, workman, cook, etc.

**Kelly, Charles T.** - was the leader of the West Coast contingent of Coxey's Army.

**Lewis, Harry Sinclair** (1885 – 1951) – author and playwright who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Works include *Elmer Gantry*, *Babbitt*, *It Can't Happen Here*. He sold plots to Jack for \$5.

**Livingston, Leon Ray (a.k.a. "A-no. 1 – tramp")** – wrote *From Coast to Coast with Jack London* about his hobo experiences with Jack.

**Loeb, Sophie Irene** – the woman Jack was rumored to have fallen in love with in New York but no evidence to support it.

**London, Charmian Kittredge** (1871-1955)<sup>7</sup> was Jack's second wife and "mate." She was born in Wilmington, CA to the poet and writer Dayelle "Daisy" Wiley (died 10/7/1877) and the Union Soldier/entrepreneur Willard "Kitt" Kittredge. After her mother died when she was 6 years old, her Aunt Ninetta, "Netta" Wiley Eames and husband Roscoe took Charmian away from her father to live with them. (Her father died when she was a young teen.) Charmian was home schooled and even though provided for and taught well, it was not a particularly loving household. She became an accomplished pianist, horseback rider, swimmer, and photographer. She was raised to believe in free love, rode like the men instead of side saddle, and was independent and adventurous. Charmian learned shorthand from Roscoe and became a secretary to the president of Mills College while taking courses there. She first met Jack in 1900 because of her aunt and uncle's association with the *Overland Monthly*. In June of 1903, Bess asked Charmian to take some things to Jack in Oakland so that he could bring them up to Wake Robin where she and their daughters were staying. Jack and Charmian had an intense conversation followed by a kiss. They carried on a secret affair and Jack eventually divorced Bess. Jack and Charmian married on November 19, 1905, in Chicago, during Jack's lecture tour. She helped type and edit his manuscripts, wrote her own books about their travels (*The Log of the Snark* and two books about Hawaii), and a two-volume biography about Jack (*The Book of Jack London*). After

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<sup>7</sup> She died at age 83 having been born on 11/27/1871 and died on 1/14/55. Some biographers incorrectly list her age at death as 84.

Jack's death, she worked with publishers, traveled abroad to promote Jack's works and to have them published in different languages. She also worked with Eliza to keep the ranch afloat. <https://london.sonoma.edu/biographies/charmian-kittredge-london>  
<https://jacklondonpark.com/charmian-kittredge-london-biography/>

**London, Joan and Becky** – Bess Maddern, Jack's first wife, and Jack had two daughters, Joan (1/15/1901 – 1/18/1971) and Becky (10/20/1902 - 3/26/1992.). <https://london.sonoma.edu/biographies/joan-london>  
<https://london.sonoma.edu/biographies/bess-becky-london-fleming> Bess would not allow their daughters to visit the Beauty Ranch after her divorce from Jack; Jack had to take the train to Oakland to visit with them. Joan grew up to become a socialist and writer. Joan's writings include a book about Cesar Chavez and the farmworkers movement (*So Shall Ye Reap*) and two books about her father (*Jack London and his Times: An Unconventional Biography*, and *Jack London and his Daughters*). Later in Becky's life, she lived with Russ and Winnie Kingman who ran the Jack London Bookstore in Glen Ellen. Becky gave talks about her father and also helped convert her father's books into braille.

**London, Flora** – see Flora Wellman

**London, John** – (1828-1897) Jack's father (likely his stepfather – see William Chaney, *supra*.) He was originally from Pennsylvania and a Civil War veteran. He had lost a lung during the war which affected his ability to work. He married Jack's mother, Flora, in September 1876, when Jack was about 9 months old, and by all accounts was a loving father to Jack. John, a widower, brought three of his eleven children with him to San Francisco. A young son, Charles, died from respiratory problems soon after he arrived. His two daughters, Ida and Eliza, were raised with Jack, and Eliza took on the role of mother for her young brother. <https://london.sonoma.edu/biographies/john-london>

**London, Joy** – Jack and Charmian's only child. Joy was born on June 19, 1910, and died 38 hours later, on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The baby's spinal cord had been mangled during a difficult delivery. ("Charmian" or "Kharmion" means "joy" in Greek.)

**Maddern (London), Elizabeth May "Bess"** (1876 – 1948) Jack's first wife. Bess had been engaged to Fred Jacobs, a reference assistant at the Oakland Library and friend of Jack's. Jacobs died in the Spanish-American War, not from battle but from a fever. Jack spent time bicycling with the grieving Bess. They married in 1900 and divorced in 1905. Bess had also been Jack's math tutor for the UC Berkeley entrance exams. Jack was not in love with Bess but thought she would make a good wife and mother. Some biographers also believe he married Bess impulsively or on the "rebound" after feeling rejected by the woman he loved, Anna Strunsky.  
<https://london.sonoma.edu/biographies/elizabeth-bess-maddern-london>

**Manyoungi** – the London's "Korean house boy" who Jack brought back from Korea with him to serve as his valet, cook, and housekeeper. Apparently fearing the long Snark voyage, the otherwise perfectly well-behaved Manyoungi became insolent prior to the voyage (referring to Jack as "God," among other things) in order to get himself discharged. Tochigi replaced him and went on the Snark trip.

**Martinez, Xavier and Elsie Whittaker Martinez** – Xavier was a Paris-trained painter who drew Jack's portrait and was part of "the Crowd." He shocked friends by marrying Jim Whittaker's daughter, Elsie, a teenager half his age. Towards the end of her life in 1969, Elsie gave an extensive oral interview with Frank Walker (author) and Willa Baum about her life and "the Crowd."<sup>8</sup> <https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/54469?v=pdf>

**Matsuyama, Frank** – worked as a cook for the Londons at the ranch.

**\*Matthews, Ernest** (1882-1920) – former in-law, neighbor, and good friend of many years (Ernest was married to Jack's first wife's (Bess Maddern's) sister.). Jack described Ernest as a hard worker and "would trust him with anything." Ernest was passionately enthusiastic about eucalyptus tree investment. He found the Roamer for Jack and sailed with him aboard the Spray in 1904. He also escorted Jack's ashes/urn from Oakland.

**Mencken, H.L.** (1880 – 1956) – controversial journalist and literary critic known for his humorous but combative opinions, particularly on the middle class. He attacked London's views on socialism in one of his essays and was a big supporter of Sinclair Lewis. "<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26483924?seq=1>

**McMurray, Lynette** (1879 - 1968) - daughter of Edward Biron Payne and life-long friend of Charmian. She was a suffragist and one of the first women in her Iowa town to ride a bicycle. Jack and Charmian initially had planned to get married at the home of the McMurrays.

**Miller, Joaquin** (1837 – 1913) – known as the "poet of the Sierras" and the "singer of the Sierras," friend of the Londons and part of "the Crowd."<sup>9</sup> Joaquin went to the Klondike around the same time as Jack but not with him.

**Miller, Johnny** – Ida's son, see Ida Byrne, *supra*.

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<sup>8</sup> Discussion about the Crowd starts on p-122 in link.

<sup>9</sup> "The Crowd" referred to a Bohemian group of artists and writers who initially began gathering at Jack's home on Wednesday evenings when he was still married to Bess and included, among others, George Sterling, Joaquin Miller, James Hopper (journalist and magazine writer), Xavier Martinez, Blanche Partington and her sister Phyllis (Phyllis, also known as Frances Peralta, acquired operatic fame), and Arnold Genthe. <https://www.paintingpiedmont.com/crowd>

**Milner, Charles** - person Bess dated after Jack.

**Mori, L.** “new boy” hired at ranch for \$6/week.

**\*Morrell, Ed** – former inmate of San Quentin State Prison who was befriended by Jack. Jack used his interviews with Ed and Ed’s claim of “astral projection” to help him stay sane during the cruelty of his incarceration, in writing *The Star Rover*. Ed reportedly wrote his own account, *The Twenty-Fifth Man*, although his ex-wife later claimed to have actually written it. Ed was eventually barred from the ranch after trying to extort money from the Londons.

**Murakami, Paul H.** – also “Murasaki” - see “Tochigi”

**Nakata, Yoshimatsu** – Jack’s long-time valet. Nakata was hired by the Londons in Hawaii to work aboard the Snark (he replaced the seasick Tochigi) and continued to work for them for 8 years. Charmian helped teach him English. He became like family to the Londons. He left their employment to marry and to attend dental school. (See interview with Nakata, SSU Special Collections.) <https://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/online/nakatas-smile-unlocking-the-diaries-of-jack-londons-valet/>

**Noel, Joseph** – author and playwright. He was editor of the San Francisco Advance, reporter and editor on the staff of many other California papers including the Sacramento Union, the S.F. Bulletin, and the Oakland Herald. He wrote the stage version of London’s *The Sea Wolf* and authored *Footloose in Arcadia*, about Jack, George Sterling, Ambrose Bierce, and others. He and Jack had a falling out over the dramatic and cinematic rights to Jack’s works, particularly *The Sea-Wolf*.

**Norris, Benjamin “Frank”** (1870-1902) A contemporary of Jack’s – an American journalist (worked for McClure’s) and novelist of the “naturalist” genre. Jack wrote a highly favorable review of Norris’s *The Octopus* (about the fight between Ca.’s wheat farmers and the railroad.) Jack corresponded with Frank’s brother, Charles, also a novelist. Frank has been criticized for the racism and antisemitism in some of his works.

**\*Orfans, Spiro** – a young immigrant from Greece who spent several weeks on the ranch painting Charmian’s portrait. He was also a carpenter and former socialist.

**\*Partington, Blanche** (1866-1951) – a former love interest of Jack’s who stayed friends with both Jack and Charmian. She was a music and theatre critic for the San Francisco Call and a lifelong Christian Scientist. She was also romantically linked to Ambrose Bierce. She interviewed Swami Vivekananda and helped relief efforts to feed the hungry in India. Blanche remained close to Nakata, Jack’s former valet, even after Jack’s death. Nakata worked for Blanche and her sister through dental college and Nakata named his first child, “Gertrude,” after Blanche’s sister.

**Payne, Ninetta Wiley Eames** – Charmian's Aunt who raised her. "Netta" as she was called, and her first husband, **Roscoe**, ran the Overland Monthly and published articles by Jack. They also owned Wake Robin Lodge where Jack went with Bess and the girls and then later lived with Charmian. Jack put Roscoe in charge of the Snark construction and hired him as the navigator for the Snark navigator. He fired Roscoe after discovering Roscoe knew little about navigating. Similarly, Jack put Netta in charge of his affairs while they voyaged on the Snark but he removed her after she doubled her salary and otherwise mismanaged his affairs. Netta and Roscoe divorced.

**Payne, Edward Biron** – Netta's second husband who had been a pastor. Edward wrote a book after Jack's death (*The Soul of Jack London*) about how Jack was communicating with him from beyond the grave. According to Payne, Jack was mostly communicating to apologize to Payne for not treating Payne better while he (Jack) was alive.<sup>10</sup> Payne became editor of the Overland Monthly. Netta's first husband, Roscoe, was the business manager.

**\*Peano, Felix Achilles** (1863/4-1948/9) from Parma, Italy, Felix immigrated to NY and then accepted a post as an art professor at U.C. Berkeley teaching sculpture. He met Jack at a lecture and they became friends. Jack moved into Peano's home, Villa La Capriccioso, in Oakland, in 1901, and although some Peano historians claim this is where Jack wrote *Call of the Wild*, it's more likely Jack wrote it at his Piedmont Bungalow.<sup>11</sup> Jack also stayed for a time in Felix's southern California home with the same arrangement: rent free if Jack provided the food. Felix also designed furs for Charmian. <https://sbhistoryblog.wordpress.com/2024/01/19/sculptor-felix-peano-created-his-masterwork-for-the-entrance-to-an-inglewood-church/>

**\*Poppe's from Glen Ellen** – Charles Poppe was the Postmaster of Glen Ellen and owned the country store. One of his daughters, Edna, wrote poetry about, among other things, the Valley of the Moon and the Londons. Charmian wrote an introduction to Edna Poppe's book of poems which was printed in 1926.

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<sup>10</sup> Payne was not alone in his psychic beliefs. Upton Sinclair did telepathic experiments with his wife and noted that a psychic correctly predicted that he was carrying a letter from Jack London in his coat pocket. Sir Author Conan Doyle, a contemporary of Jack's, similarly held such beliefs and supported Payne's posthumous communications with Jack in his book, *The Edge of the Unknown*. Jack himself had little tolerance for such things, having witnessed as a child his mother's fake seances. His friend, Houdini, worked to expose psychics as frauds or illusionists. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/for-harry-houdini-seances-and-spiritualism-were-just-an-illusion-180978944/> Towards the end of his life, however, Jack was very much taken with the work of psychologist, Carl Jung, a proponent of such theories as the collective unconscious, archetypes, and synchronicity. Jung's theory on synchronicity (basically a meaningful coincidence) which developed largely after Jack's death, has paranormal overtones.

<sup>11</sup> There's also some evidence Jack may have finished *Call of the Wild* at fellow socialist Henry Ryan's San Jose Office. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=30444>

<https://www.sonomanews.com/article/opinion/bill-lynch-the-poems-of-edna-poppe-cooper-live-on/>

**Possum** – the fox terrier the Londons acquired in Baltimore, took with them on the Dirigo and back to the ranch. Persia, Farr’s cat, intimidated Possum.

**Prentiss, Jenny** – Jack’s foster mom/wet nurse. (See Kate’s “Jenny Prentiss” article on Volunteer Resources for more information and Jack’s Fact’s #7, an abbreviated version of the same article.)

**\*Rogers, Earl Rogers** – famous criminal defense attorney. Nora (“Adela”), Earl’s daughter, wrote a book, *Final Verdict*, which includes stories about her and her father’s interactions with the Londons while visiting the Beauty Ranch.

**Sano** - their Japanese cook. He joined them with Nakata on the Roamer.

**Shimazu** – one of their cooks.

**Sekine, Tokinosuke** - Jack’s valet who took Nakata’s place towards the end of Jack’s life. (See Nakata/Sekine interview, SSU Special Collections for more information.)

**Shepard, Eliza** – (1867-1939) Eliza was Jack’s stepsister and the Ranch Superintendent. She was 8 years and 3 months older than Jack. Eliza and Jack were very close and Eliza’s management of Jack’s affairs were critical to his ability to travel, write, etc. While not an attorney, she handled many of Jack’s legal affairs.<sup>12</sup> She was also active in the Woman’s Auxiliary to the American Legion, participated in the Woman’s Labor Congress, a peace conference, and active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She married Capt. James Shepard but they later divorced. She moved onto the ranch in 1910 and the Shepard family still lives on private property next to the State Park. Following Charmian’s death, Eliza’s son, Irving, became Jack’s literary executor, followed by one of Irving’s children, Milo. Milo Shepard also worked with London scholars, biographers, and the State Park to preserve Jack’s legacy.  
<https://london.sonoma.edu/biographies/eliza-london-shepard>

**Shepard, Capt. James H.** (1843-1917) – husband of Eliza. He had been a boarder at Flora’s which is where Eliza met him. He was a Civil War veteran and a widower with three children. Eliza was 16 and he was 41 when they married. At age 60, James financed and initially accompanied Jack to the Yukon to search for gold. The conditions were too harsh for him and he gave up early on, returning home. In 1913, James showed up at the ranch and thinking that Eliza and Jack Byrne were involved in a

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<sup>12</sup> Because she handled Jack’s legal affairs as well as handling some of her husband’s pension claim law practice while he was in the Yukon, people often mistakenly refer to Eliza as an attorney. Court documents filed in Jack’s water rights case list her as “attorney in fact” – which means someone with authority to act (as with a power of attorney) but typically not an actual attorney. For example, Reesman (in *London in his own Time*, p. 41) states incorrectly that Eliza was an attorney but with no corresponding support. Jack also wrote Eliza telling her to consult an attorney regarding the grape juice contract.

romance, brandished a firearm at Byrne. Jack (London) threw him off the ranch and the couple eventually divorced in 1915.

**Sinclair, Upton** (1878-1968) – author, journalist, and fellow socialist. He’s probably best known for his book, *The Jungle*, exposing abuses in the meat-packing industry. Upton described Jack in eulogy as “open and honest as daylight” and “generous as mother nature herself.”

**Sloper, J.M. “Merritt”**<sup>13</sup> – one of Jack’s companions in the Yukon. He was 40 years old, weighed about 100 lbs, and had come directly from a South American adventure when joining Jack. Described as “cheerful and brave,” Sloper had carpentry and sailing skills which contributed to Jack’s initial Yukon team of “Big Jim” Goodman and Fred Thompson. Jack later was a witness at Sloper’s divorce trial in S.F., saying that Sloper came out broke. Like Jack’s other companions, Sloper featured in “Like Argus of the Ancient Times” as the character “Anson.” Sloper also appears under his real name in “In a Far Country.”

**Sourdoughs** – term used during the Klondike Gold Rush to describe old-timers, those who had survived multiple Yukon winters. (Cf., cheechakos – those newly arrived in the Yukon mining areas or “greenhorns”)

**Sprague, Gordon Harry** – a friend of Jack’s from San Jose with whom he corresponded. As Jack liked to sign his letters, “Yours for the revolution,” Gordon signed his, “Yours for sanity.”

**\*Spreckles, Rudolf and Alma** – Rudolf was the Spreckles sugar magnate and married the much younger Alma. Alma, 24 years younger than Rudolf and statuesque at 6 feet tall, is where the term “sugar daddy” comes from.<sup>14</sup> Alma was also a lover of the arts and persuaded her husband to donate the Ca. Palace of the Legion of Honor to the city of S.F. Architect George Applegarth, who was also a friend of Jack’s, designed the Spreckles Mansion in S.F. The Londons spent time with the Spreckles at their Napa estate in 1914. <https://www.sfgate.com/sfhistory/article/sf-socialite-alma-de-bretteville-17460847.php>  
<https://www.famsf.org/publications/big-alma-san-franciscos-alma-spreckels>

**\*Sterling, George** (1869-1926) Jack’s best friend. George dubbed Jack, “Wolf,” and Jack called him the “Greek” for his chiseled good looks. George was also a writer and poet, probably best known for his poem about San Francisco, “The Cool Grey City of Love.” George was also Ambrose Bierce’s protégé. George and his wife, Carrie, lived in a Bohemian/artist community in Carmel. Eventually, George, his mistress Nora Mae French, and his ex-wife, Carrie, each died by suicide at different times.

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<sup>13</sup> His name appears elsewhere as “Ira Merritt Sloper.”

<sup>14</sup> She was quoted as saying: “I’d rather be an old man’s darling than a young man’s slave.”

**Stevens** – (no first name found) – Jack referred to him as “a wild man who lived with a red-haired freckle-faced woman” in the Yukon near Jack’s claim.

**Stoddard, Charles Warren** (1843 – 1909) an American author and editor best known for his travel books about Polynesian life, and part of “the Crowd.”

**Strunsky, Anna** – a Russian Jewish immigrant and early love-interest of Jack’s who stayed lifelong friends with him. Jack and Anna co-authored the Kempton-Wace letters. (See the memorial she wrote about Jack under Volunteer Resources and the book, *Revolutionary Lives* by James Boylan.)

**Sullivan, (Judge) E.H.** – was a partner with Jack and Dr. Harvey in the Yukon on Jack’s Henderson Creek claim.

**Tarwater, Martin** – a former mail carrier from Mark West Springs who Jack met in the Yukon. Jack used his character (and last name) in “Like Argus of the Ancient Times.” Martin died in 1898 in the Yukon from acute asthma without striking it rich.

**Thompson, Fred** – a Yukon companion of Jack who kept a diary which gives us much of the information we know about Jack’s Klondike experience.<sup>15</sup> Fred was slender and inexperienced in the North but organized and a recorder. Jack later wrote about meeting Fred’s brother who was a deputy county clerk in Santa Rosa. Jack also wrote that he believed Fred had stayed in the Yukon. Fred became “Charles Crayton” in Jack’s “Argus” story. (Jack was the sailor, “Liverpool,” in the story.)

**Thorson, John** – floated down the mouth of the Yukon River from Dawson to St. Michaels with Jack.

**Tochigi, Paul H.** – (a.k.a. Paul H. Murakami and Murasaki) Japanese “cabin boy” on the Snark. Tochigi initially replaced the fearful Manyungi and then in Hawaii, Nakata replaced Tochigi who suffered from sea sickness. He served meals from the galley, set the table, kept things clean down below, and helped with the personal needs of Jack and Charmian. He later became an ordained Episcopalian minister. Jack described him as “brave as a lion, and as gentle as a lamb – in fact, he is the soul of gentleness.” (photo of him on p. 245 of Kingman’s *A Pictorial Life of Jack London*; <https://www.themagazineantiques.com/article/jack-london-snark/> )

**Wada** – the cook aboard the Snark.

**Wegner, Julius** – bought the land that is now Benzinger Winery in the 1800s and turned out wine and brandy in the 1870s. His place became known as “Wegnerville” or “Wegner’s Villa” after the turn of the century. Wegner’s land became a resort with a

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<sup>15</sup> The diary was published in 1980 – see “Bibliographies” under Volunteer Resources for online links (under “Misc.”)

church, dance hall and winery that remained popular up to prohibition. Wegner was no friend of Jack's. There's a plaque currently on the Benzinger property about how the two men had an instant dislike for one another, even though Jack would buy Wegner's wine. As Jack bought up the property around Wegner, Wegner vowed he'd never sell property to Jack, and never did.

**Wellman, Flora** (1843 – 1922) Jack's mother who was from Massillon, Ohio. She was stricken with typhoid as a young girl which stunted her growth, weakened her eyesight, and left her with little hair. She lived with astrologer, William Chaney, in San Francisco around 1874-75 and gave birth to Jack on January 12, 1876. She married John Lonon, a widower with children of his own, in 1877. To earn money, Flora was a seamstress, taught piano, and gave seances. Jack could not remember ever receiving a warm embrace from his mother, however, Flora did encourage his writing.

**Whittaker, Herman "Jim"** – friend and fellow socialist who also gave Jack boxing lessons. Jim's daughter, Elsie, married another mutual friend of Jack's, Xavier Martinez.

**Wiget, Werner** – ranch foreman.

**\*Winship, Ed and Ida** - Napa aristocrats who liked to drive the Londons around in their latest-model touring car. Charmian did not like Jack spending too much time with the Winships because of the heavy drinking.

**Yanagihara, Momoyo** – Nakata's cousin and fiancé who he married.

## Notes

The asterisk "\*" indicates that these people may have visited the Beauty Ranch and/or Cottage. (For other visitors, see Lou Leal's 2016 "Cottage Visitors" list in Volunteer Resources.)

Also, please see past issues of "Jack's Facts" where I've included additional information and resources about some of these people. There is also more information under "Volunteer Resources" on our web page and in the Docent binder.

## Resources

### Newspapers, Libraries, YouTube videos, Online sources

Press Democrat Newspaper, San Francisco Call, and other newspaper articles

SSU Special Collections at Sonoma State University and Sonoma County History and Genealogical Libraries as well as online collections from various libraries (Utah State University, UCB, Huntington, etc. – see last two pages of Kate's Bibliography on Vol. Res. page for links)

Crawford, Caroline, *The Jack London Story and the Beauty Ranch, An Interview with Milo Shepard* (2000), Regents of the University of California  
[https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt8p30068x&brand=calisphere&doc.view=entire\\_text](https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt8p30068x&brand=calisphere&doc.view=entire_text)

Goldstein, Ben: *Jack London Myths, Mysteries, Controversies and Contradictions: An Interview with Tarnel Abbott, Great-Granddaughter of Jack London* (11/21/2019)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzyzvD\\_oO88](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzyzvD_oO88)

Cultural Resources of JL State Historic Park  
[https://asc.sonoma.edu/sites/asc/files/jack\\_london\\_1987.pdf](https://asc.sonoma.edu/sites/asc/files/jack_london_1987.pdf)

Glen Ellen Historical Society <https://www.glenellenhistoricalsociety.org/stories>

Fred Thompson's diary (Parts 1 and 2):  
[https://ia803402.us.archive.org/4/items/bcc\\_qnl\\_v.050\\_n.02/bcc\\_qnl\\_v.050\\_n.02.pdf](https://ia803402.us.archive.org/4/items/bcc_qnl_v.050_n.02/bcc_qnl_v.050_n.02.pdf)  
[https://archive.org/details/bcc\\_qnl\\_v.050\\_n.03/page/58/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/bcc_qnl_v.050_n.03/page/58/mode/2up)

<http://santarosahistory.com/wordpress/category/londonjack/>

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<https://www.thehistoryreader.com/historical-figures/yukon/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQiriEze-24>

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London, Charmian, *The Book of Jack London* Vols. 1-2 (1921) Miami, Hard Press Publishing

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Prendergast, Catherine, *The Gilded Edge: Two Audacious Women and the Cyanide Love Triangle that Shook America* (2021) USA, Dutton/Penguin Random House

Rather, Lois, *Jack London, 1905* (1974) Oakland, Rather Press

Reesman, Jeanne Campbell, *London in his Own Time* (2020) Iowa City, Univ. of Iowa Press

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Walker, Dale & Reesman, Jeanne, *No Mentor But Myself: Jack London on Writing and Writers* (1999) 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Stanford, Stanford Press

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