

***THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – November 7, 2013***  
***Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society***

**WOMAN’S SUFFRAGE ACTIVIST HAD ROOTS IN ALPINE’S HISTORY**

In 1920, woman’s right to vote was guaranteed by the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The movement to secure this right was a long fought battle, beginning with the formation of the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) and the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) in 1869. Merging in 1890 to become the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the new organization continued the work of both associations by becoming the parent organization of hundreds of smaller local and state groups and by helping to pass woman suffrage legislation at the state and local levels. It was the primary promoter of woman’s right to vote.

In 1893, the California legislature voted in favor of woman’s suffrage, but the bill was vetoed by Governor Harry Markham as unconstitutional. Suffragists took the issues straight to the voters in 1906, campaigning on the premise that if women got the right to vote they could clean up politics and end child labor, prostitution, and poverty. Despite a defeat at the polls, the movement continued to gain support.

In 1906, San Francisco resident Katherine Reed Balentine founded a statewide suffrage newspaper, *The Yellow Ribbon*, in order to help meet the suffragist’s first priority—visibility. Parades, rallies and door to door canvassing took place in order to gain support and fliers were distributed in English, Spanish, German and Yiddish. The efforts were rewarded in 1911 when male voters in California voted in favor of woman’s suffrage. California became the sixth and largest state in the Union to give women the right to vote.

One hundred years ago, on March 3, 1913, there was a march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., organized by the suffragist Alice Paul for the AWSA. The march was scheduled on the day before President Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration to, as stated in the official program, “march in a spirit of protest against the present political organization of society, from which women are excluded.” The march and the attention it attracted were important in advancing woman’s suffrage in the United States.

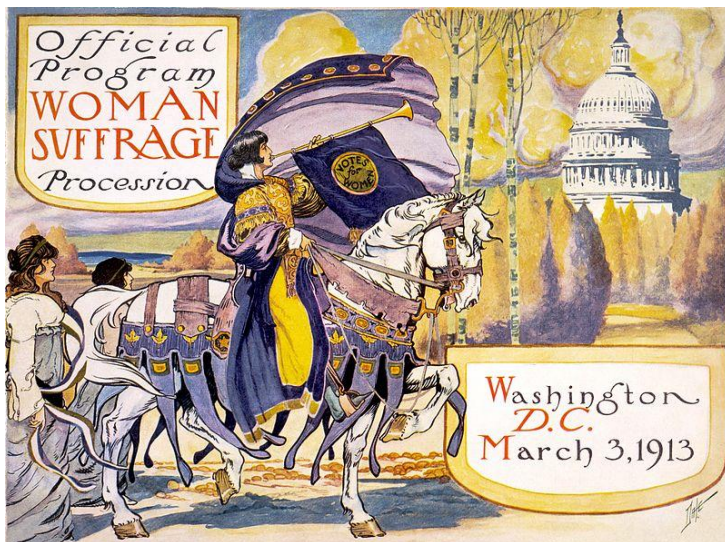
Katherine Reed Balentine was born in Maine, the daughter of Thomas B. Reed, Speaker of the 36<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> United States House of Representatives and one time presidential candidate. In 1923, Katherine and her husband Colonel Arthur Balentine purchased the old Wheeler place on Rancho del Sequan, at the south end of Tavern Road. Colonel Balentine, who was on General Pershing’s staff, had to spend time in Washington, D.C. and, with the children in school, the family lived in their San Diego home during the school year; however, they made frequent weekend trips to the ranch. The beautiful old home burned to the ground in 1950.

Chiquita, the tenant house on Rancho del Sequan, also belonged to the Balentine family. Upon her father’s death, Katherine Balentine Jenney inherited the ranch and built a small house beside the pool. Eventually she and her youngest son began to live full time on the ranch that held generations of family memories. Shortly after Mrs. Jenney’s death in 1998, Ted and Donna Christianson purchased Rancho del Sequan and planned to build custom homes on the property. Mr. Christianson contacted the Alpine Historical Society and offered to donate Chiquita to the Society rather than to tear down the historic building. Chiquita, built in 1899 and also known as

The Adam and Caroline Beaty House, was moved by Mr. Christianson (at no cost to the Society) from the ranch to its current location at 2116 Tavern Road and now serves as one of the Society's two pioneer houses.

The Balentine family left a lasting legacy to our mountain community and the family matriarch no doubt contributed significantly to a worthy cause—the right of women to vote.

*Carol Walker and her husband Paul lived in Alpine for 19 years. Carol is the webmaster and newsletter editor for the Alpine Historical Society. She can be reached at [cwalker@alpinehistory.org](mailto:cwalker@alpinehistory.org) or 619-467-7766. Be sure to check out the Society's website: [www.alpinehistory.org](http://www.alpinehistory.org).*



# The Yellow Ribbon

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

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### PROGRESS OF EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN CALIFORNIA

**MARY SIMPSON SPERRY**  
President of the California Equal Suffrage Association

As President of the California Equal Suffrage Association, I am compelled to write of the progress of equal suffrage in our State. It is a sad story, a story of delay and delay. The many women of power and influence who have labored for the cause of woman suffrage in this State, have not been able to secure the passage of the measure. It is a sad story, a story of delay and delay. The many women of power and influence who have labored for the cause of woman suffrage in this State, have not been able to secure the passage of the measure.

**MRS. MARY S. SPERRY,**  
President, California Equal Suffrage Association.

### REASONS WHY WOMEN SHOULD HAVE A VOTE

By KATHARINE BEED VALENTE

There is no man in the world who is not a man. There is no woman in the world who is not a woman. There is no man in the world who is not a man. There is no woman in the world who is not a woman. There is no man in the world who is not a man. There is no woman in the world who is not a woman.