

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This record also lacks 1950 federal census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Keeler, Harry Alden
1875 CA – 1953 CA



Harry Alden Keeler – Right: “San Francisco (CA) Examiner” 8 Feb 1918 p 2 (same citation for both)



California, World War I Soldier Photographs, 1917-1918 for Harry A Keeler

Kahl - Killion

Harry A. Keeler -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1784/images/32285_1220702381_0129-00065?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&queryId=44ad3b46a147e78c7af0d81ccc9097c4&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB21264&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=5446



Members of the committee having in charge the arrangements of the tenth annual picnic of San Francisco Lodge, No. 2, Knights of the Royal Arch.

Elaborate Programme Prepared for Merry Time at Shell Mound

A LONG and elaborate programme of interesting events has been prepared by the committee having in charge the arrangements for the tenth annual picnic of San Francisco Lodge, No. 2, Knights of the Royal Arch, which will take place next Monday at Shell Mound Park. This outing of the organization is planned on a bigger scale than any in past years.

As guests of the San Francisco lodge will be members of the lodges of the order from Marin county, Martinez, Emeryville, Alameda and Hayward. The affair is to be the first of several May-day gatherings when members

from cities on the shores of the bay will meet for a grand celebration.

Among the features of the day will be races, athletic contests, games, shooting and bowling. Valuable prizes will be presented to the winners. A special feature will be a guessing contest for the ladies, the lady guessing the nearest to the number of beans in a glass jar being awarded a handsome prize. Dancing to the music of a brass band will also be among the diversions.

The committee of arrangements having the festival in charge consists of E. Rolkin, I. H. Spiro, C. G. Belsdorff, J. Harry Daley, Harry A. Keeler, James Brennan, J. P. McNamara, F. Frey, M. Nielsen, Charles Heyer and N. Rel-necker Jr.

"San Francisco Chronicle" Saturday 29 Apr 1911 p 3

KEELER HENRY ALDEN		1-5548	
KEELER HARRY ALDEN		X C	449 103
Sgt Cas Co		K	428 529
2641 S Pacific Ave San Pedro		A	1 290 942
Cal			
Sa	250 546	Died 12-9-53	T 173 375
Born	8/31/78		R
Enl	12/8/17	Dis 6/13/19	CL 1 298 830
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U. S. VETERANS BUREAU		INDEX CARD	
MAIL AND RECORDS		2-12000	
Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1935			

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-D4CM-W?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPTV-XJKF>

WEDDED IN OAKLAND.

Nuptials of Miss Gertrude Davis, Formerly of Santa Cruz, and Jos. A. Peters.

One of the prettiest home weddings of the week took place Wednesday, Nov. 25th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Davis, No. 633 14th St., Oakland, Cal., the occasion being the marriage of their eldest daughter, Gertrude, an Oakland High School graduate, to Joseph Arnold Peters, Executive Special of the New York Life Insurance Co. The bride was gowned in white organdy, with lace and ribbons, carrying roses and ferns. The bride's sister, Miss Harriette L. Davis, acted as maid of honor, being also gowned in organdy, with violet trimmings, and Dr. F. C. Newton of San Francisco acted as best man. Rev. C. H. Hobart of the First Baptist Church officiated, and only the immediate friends of the families were present. The parlors were prettily decorated in green and white. The ceremony took place at 8:30 P. M. Prof. Frank Gherony played the Lohengrin wedding march as the bridal party entered. Immediately after the ceremony congratulations were extended to the young couple, and the guests then adjourned to the dining-room, which was prettily decorated with ferns and mulberry leaves sent from Fresno. A sumptuous supper was served. The bride received many valuable presents, among which were remembrances from her school-mates.

1st marriage of his wife Gertrude Maybelle Davis, to Joseph Arnold Peters, Jr. – "Santa Cruz (CA) Evening Sentinel" Wednesday 2 Dec 1896 p 3

SUICIDE OF W. H. KEELER

Shot Himself Through the Heart
With a Pistol.

Tragic Death of an Old-Time
Stockton Business Man.

Had Passed a Roving Life for the Last
Ten Years—Letters Written in Prepara-
tion for His Death.

The body of W. H. Keeler, a jeweler well known in Stockton, lies at the morgue with a bullet wound through the heart. For about two months he had been rooming and boarding at the Colonial house, at the intersection of Lindsay and El Dorado streets. He came to his breakfast as usual this morning, and went to his work at M. Friedberger's at 8 o'clock. About 9 o'clock he suddenly left the store, though there was nothing in his manner to indicate that anything was wrong, and about 9:30 he was seen to enter the Colonial and go to his room. In about ten minutes a shot was heard, and when investigation was made, he was found sitting in a rocking chair with a 44-caliber bulldog pistol on the floor by his side. There were no signs of a struggle and death had been instantaneous. He had taken off his coat and white shirt, which were upon the bed. The bullet had gone entirely through the body, struck the wall and had bounded back toward the body. Upon the table were letters for his son in Oakland, his daughter, Mrs. Harry Hulin of Angels Camp, Harry Fanning of this city, and one or two others. Coroner Clark was called at once and directed that the body be taken to the morgue, and set the time for the inquest at 4 o'clock this afternoon.



The suicide had been in good spirits until day before yesterday. He was accustomed to play croquet every evening, Harry Fanning joining in the game, and they conversed together often. Day before yesterday Mr. Fanning noticed that Keeler looked downcast. Last evening his taciturn manner was so pronounced that Mrs. Fanning, who sat opposite him at table, remarked:

"You are not very talkative this evening, Mr. Keeler."

"No," he answered, "I don't feel very much like talking."

He had evidently made up his mind to commit the deed, and the letters he penned must have been written last night, as he did not have time to write them after returning to his room this morning. One addressed to Mrs. Higgins, who conducts the Colonial house, requested her to send for Harry Fanning at once.

When Mr. Fanning arrived he found the following note, scrawled in pencil: "If Jory is here in business have him take care of my remains. KEELER."

A sealed letter was then handed Mr. Fanning. It was done up in a parcel, and read as follows:

Friend Fanning—Will you be so kind as to take charge of this little parcel and give it to my son Harry when he arrives, or at a suitable time? I am going to ask you to see he is notified at the earliest possible moment. He boards at 1572 Tenth street, Oakland, and works in the Division Superintendent's office at Oakland pier. Please give this matter your personal attention and oblige. Also notify Lennie at Angels Camp. Yours truly,

W. H. KEELER.

The letter was written in ink. Above it were the words, "Get Harry at the 'phone."

A telephone message was sent to Oakland pier by Mr. Fanning, and the suicide's son replied that he would arrive here this evening.

Mr. Keeler was in business in Stockton about twenty years, keeping a jewelry store where C. E. Owen's store now is. About ten years ago he sold out to Mr. Owen, at which time he was supposed to have quite a little money ahead. He traveled a good deal after that, visiting various cities in Oregon and Washington in search of a new location, and at last returned to this city, where he stopped with his son, who was rooming at the home of Mr. Augusta Bennett on Miner avenue. In a few days he was taken ill, and for some time he was dangerously sick. At times he was delirious, which gave rise to a report that he was sent to the State Hospital, but Will Bennett, who took

care of him part of the time during his sickness, says there is no truth in the report.

After he had recovered from his illness he traveled again, and for several years led a roving life, not seeming to be satisfied with any place that he visited, though as he was an excellent workman he always secured good positions. About a year ago he started to Alaska, and when in the Cape Nome country the barge on which his outfit was capsized and all his effects were lost. He worked his way back on a schooner, and after a short stay in Red Bluff he came to Stockton about two months ago.

Last week he went to San Francisco, having told a fellow workman that he had borrowed some money on his life insurance policy when he started to Alaska, and that there was a difference of \$5 between himself and the company in the settlement of the transaction. He returned in good spirits, however, and spoke of having had a pleasant trip and of the prosperity of his son. Yesterday morning he came down to the store to wind the watches, as was his usual custom, and remarked in response to a casual question, "I feel rather blue today," but gave no reason.

This morning when he left the store, he simply said, "I'm going out now," and added a word or two which was not clearly understood.

Suicide of his father William Henry Keeler, with frequent references to his son Harry Keeler – "Stockton (CA) Evening Mail" Monday 14 Aug 1899 p 8

Estate of W. H. Keeler.
Harry A. Keeler applied yesterday for letters of administration on the estate of his father, W. H. Keeler, who committed suicide in this city recently. The estate consists of a life-insurance policy for \$750.

Suicide of his father William Henry "Stockton (CA) Evening Mail" Wednesday 30 Aug 1899 p 6

SERVICE No.	RETURN TO CALIFORNIA WAR HISTORY COMMITTEE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE STATE CAPITOL SACRAMENTO, CAL.			
				38-2
Harry A. Keeler (Name in full)			(County)	
HOME ADDRESS:	440 Arguello Blvd. (No.)	(Street)	San Francisco (Town)	
BIRTH:	Aug. 31, 1875. (Date)	San Francisco (Place)	White (Color)	41 (Years in California)
William H. Keeler (Father's name)		New York (Place of birth)	OCCUPATION OF REGISTRANT Manager	
Susan A. Keeler (Mother's maiden name)		Wisconsin (Place of birth)		
(Wife's maiden name)		(Date of marriage)	(Children)	
Mrs. H. V. Hulin, (Nearest relative)		910 H St. Sacramento, Cal. (Address)	Sister (Relationship)	
LOCAL BOARD WHERE REGISTERED		Engineers (Branch of service entered)		
(County)	(Division No.)			
Enlisted Dec. 5, 1917 (Date registered)	250546 (Serial No.)	20th Engrs. Camp American Un. (Order No.)	Washington, D. C. (Place or camp assigned to)	

California, U.S., World War I Soldier Service Cards and Photos, 1917-1918 for Harry A Keeler

World War I Soldier Service Cards > Kahl - Kynoch

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1701/images/32277_1220702381_0064-00076?treeid=57385786&personid=182064827952&usePUB=true&phsrc=hFB21268&phstart=sucessSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=4737

March 9, 1918

Today I went to Winchester and I ate much food. Harry Keeler lent me 5 shillings and 3 pence. We drank milk and had ham & eggs, apples etc. A fine day.

From the wartime dairy of fellow survivor, Harry Alan Keeler

KEELER—In Oakland, January 22, 1953. Gertrude M. Keeler, beloved wife of Harry A. Keeler; loving mother of Arnold D. Peters of Oakland; grandmother of Robert D. and Valerie Ann Peters, A native of St. Johns, New Brunswick. Services were held Saturday, January 24, in the chapel of Albert Brown Mortuary, Oakland. San Pedro, California papers please copy.

Obituary of his wife Gertrude Maybelle Davis Peters Keeler – “Oakland (CA) Tribune” Saturday 24 Jan 1953 p 19

KEELER	Harry Alden	8-31 1876	18	29	Rem'd to Woodlawn Cem.	C-15,419	12-9-53
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Harry Alden Keeler

California, Oakland, Mountain View Cemetery Records, 1857-1973

Apparently originally buried in Mountain View Cemetery & moved to Woodlawn – columns: surname: Keeler – first names; Harry Alden – date of birth 31 Aug 1876, book 18, page 29, disposition: removed to Woodlawn Cem., our number C-15, 419, date of death 9 Dec 1953

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS54-HL87?cc=3161361&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AwwwGX-G82M>

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the Superior Court of the County of San Joaquin, State of California.

In the matter of the estate of W. H. Keeler, deceased.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Harry A. Keeler, administrator of the estate of W. H. Keeler, deceased, to the creditors of and all persons having claims against said deceased, to exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to said administrator, at the office of Plummer & Dunlap, rooms 226 and 227, Yosemite theater building, city of Stockton, county of San Joaquin, state of California, the same being the place designated for the transaction of the business of said estate.

Date of first publication, September 13th, 1899.

HARRY A. KEELER,

Administrator.

PLUMMER & DUNLAP, Attorneys
for Administrator.

"Stockton (CA) Daily Evening Record" Saturday 23 Sep 1899 p 2

SEALED LIQUOR TRADE HIT BY NEW MEASURE

**Supervisors' Police Committee
Frames Measure to Check
Evil at Presidio.**

If an ordinance recommended yesterday, by the supervisors' police committee becomes a law, no grocery store or delicatessen will be able to sell liquor after 7 p. m. except on Saturday night, and then will have to remain closed on Sunday. The proposed ordinance, it is believed, will do away with the sealed-package evil, which the military authorities at the Presidio say is one of the worst obstacles they have to face.

After an argument that lasted several hours the supervisors composing the police committee, consisting of Lahaney, Hocks and Deasy, voted unanimously to recommend the passage of an ordinance that will make very material changes in the present law. The first of these changes will

give the Board of Police Commissioners the discretion to issue permits to sell liquor in sealed packages. At present the ordinance says they "must" issue such permits.

The second provision is that no place where liquor is sold, except saloons, which pay a special license tax, may sell liquor after 7 p. m., except on Saturday until 9 p. m., and shall remain closed until Monday morning. This provision will either divorce the grocery and liquor business or the groceries will have to close all day Sunday.

GROCERS FAVOR MOVE.

The arguments made yesterday were mostly against the latter provision. The Retail Grocers' Association, headed by Fred W. Meyers, John M. Sullivan, Harry Ingram, Henry Wiseman and others said that if it was deemed necessary to pass it to meet the situation they were in favor of it.

Major L. C. Brown, representing the military authorities, appeared before the committee and stated emphatically that it was the sale of liquor after 7 o'clock around the Baker-street entrance to the Presidio that makes most of the trouble.

The beer bottlers, represented by Attorneys Louis F. Byington and C. F. Hansen, claimed that all the power necessary to regulate the evil was given the Police Commission in the discretionary power to issue a "sealed package" license.

EARLY CLOSE URGED.

Attorney Colonel Choynski appeared with Harry A. Keeler as the representatives of the California Wet Federation, and urged that the early closing clause was essential if the supervisors wished to do something toward the illicit sale of liquor in other parts of the city besides the Presidio.

Royal Arch Secretary Aboard Lost Transport

Harry A. Keeler, secretary of the Royal Arch, who enlisted December 5, is one of the survivors of the transport Tuscania. Keeler is a cousin of Lyle Pedlar, 440 Arguello boulevard.

"San Francisco Examiner" 8 Feb 1918 p 3

S. F. BOY TELLS OF TUSCANIA SINKING

Men on Life Raft Battle All
Night to Keep Afloat and to
Prevent Crash Upon Rocks

Coolness and Heroism of Com- rades Are Praised; Only Eight Get Ashore of 52 in One Boat

A *THRILLING* account of the sinking of the *Tuscania*, complete in detail and vivid in its picturization of that night of horror, has just been received in this city from Private Harry A. Keeler, 440 Arguello boulevard, now with Company E, Sixth Battalion, Twentieth Engineers, A. E. F. Private Keeler, a well-known young San Franciscan, enlisted here December 5. The narrative of his personal experience is not only intensely interesting, but, through the fact that it is the most comprehensive account yet to come from any of the survivors, it has a genuine historical value.

BY HARRY A. KEELER.

THE steamer *Tuscania* was torpedoed on the night of Tuesday, February 5, at 5:40 o'clock. At this time I had just returned from supper and was sitting on the edge of my berth talking to a chap named Rains. I, with 20 other Company E men, had been lucky enough at the start of the voyage to be detailed as waiters and were accordingly assigned to staterooms in the second class cabin. We had not been required to work, as there were men enough without us, so we had had it very easy all the way across.

The explosion sounded as though a gigantic bottle full of liquid had been fired into with a pistol. The lights went out and Rains disappeared. I never saw him again. I learned since he was killed jumping into a boat. I was of course fully dressed, and, picking up my hat with one hand and my life belt with the other, I started for my boat station, which was on the deck above and toward the stern on the right hand side. I took a short cut I had marked out beforehand to the upper deck. The corridors were full of men, of course, but about every other man was calling out to keep cool and not hurry.

LITTLE EXCITEMENT.

The upper corridors were the same and I found a number of men trying to break down the door out to the upper deck. I had examined this door previously and knew that it opened inward, so I got through to the door by yelling that I could open it. I turned the handle and of course it opened easily and I shot out on deck. I made my way to my station and found a number of others there all standing quietly awaiting orders.

LITTLE EXCITEMENT.

There was some confusion resulting from men going to their stations, but very little excitement. Our boat was a large life raft, No. 13A, built like the ordinary life boat but not so high out of the water and with folding canvas sides. On top of it was a life boat, No. 13, and we had to wait until that had been launched before we could touch ours. A number of the boat's crew were supposed to direct the lowering, but, as no one approached, the boys attached to No. 13 started to launch. Ten men detailed as oarsmen were in her and she had got down about ten feet when in some way the rope on one end got away and that end dropped, spilling all those in her into the water. The other end was quickly lowered, but when she righted she was half full of water and was, I think, abandoned.

TERRIBLE EXPERIENCES.

As soon as No. 13 had cleared, we at once set to work to get our raft clear. It was held down by two heavy steel bars and we had a terrible time getting them loose. Some time previous to this, I should have said, the storage batteries had been turned on and we had plenty of light to work by. After some twenty minutes strenuous work, all was clear and the raft swung out. Our lieutenant and sergeant had to fight continuously to keep men out of the boat who did not belong there but succeeded and then there were only the ten detailed as oarsmen in her when she started to lower. I was one of the ten and was standing up in the bow with a chap named Roberts.

DIVES UNDER WRECKAGE.

We had gone down about five feet and everything was going nicely but all of a sudden I thought the world had come to an end. The bow dropped about fifteen feet to the water and I was thrown violently to my knees and against the side of the boat and into the water. Roberts fell on top of me and every loose board and plank in the boat on top of us. I tried to fight my way clear but could not succeed, so dove down and took a few strokes under the water. I came up free about ten feet away from the boat and a few more strokes took me to it. Some of the boys dragged me in.

The other end had been lowered and she was riding now on an even keel but nearly full of water. We took the oars and fended her off from the side of the ship while men were coming down the tackles and dropping in like flies. We were supposed to carry 50, but soon saw that due to the water we could not take any more, so we pulled away as quickly as we could. There were only five oars, as one was lost when the boat fell. The cause of that accident, it turned out, was the breaking of the swivel pin in the pulley block. We discovered this next day, finding the block in the boat.

It was a terrible sight we looked

back upon. Flares were being burned and rockets sent up from the doomed ship. We could see boat after boat being lowered, only to get part way down and then crash to the water, throwing out the men in them. British destroyers darted hither and thither through the murky darkness.

OFFICERS SICK.

We rowed steadily and, aided by the wind, soon left the Tuscania behind. Men were set to bailing and then we discovered that the plugs were gone and water was coming in at two large holes. We plugged these up with hats and handkerchiefs and then we counted noses. There were 32 men aboard, including two officers, a member of the crew (who was a poor old steward, crippled and helpless and whom we had pulled out of the water), and above all the gunner's mate who had been in charge of the 4.7 gun on the stern of the Tuscania. Both of our officers were sick and helpless so they turned charge of the boat over to the gunner. This fellow was a dandy. I can hear his cheery voice ringing out through all the long black night even yet.

To the north we could see three lighthouses and we headed for one about six miles away that had a revolving light. The wind and sea had increased and our boat was half full of water all the time. Waves breaking over required constant bailing, as the rotten canvas along the sides had long since burst in many places. We had to stand up on the seats to row and it took two or three men on each oar. Everybody was soaking wet the whole time. Just as a fellow had by constant puffing on the oars, gotten himself somewhat warm and begun to kid himself that he was getting dry, along would come a big wave and sweep over the boat and soak him again.

TERRIFIC BATTLE.

Along about 10 o'clock we sighted land ahead, but it was a mass of rocks and the waves were crashing against them so that it seemed the height of folly to attempt to land. The gunner and the majority ruled against it.

Then began the most terrific battle against wind and wave that a band of men ever put up. By this time I was thoroughly exhausted. I had taken in a gulp or two of salt water when I was knocked overboard and I became sick, but after relieving myself I felt some better. I lay down for a while and rested and then went to bailing. After bailing a while, I would take a turn at the oars, and having rowed until I became so tired that I was a detriment instead of a help, I would be forced to rest again. Then I would repeat the schedule.

Several times all hands had to jump to the oars and pull for our lives to keep off the rocks. On more than one occasion certain death loomed not more than twenty feet away, but the men in that boat simply would not be denied and would not give up. Once we pulled steadily for over an hour, and never gained a foot, but finally a lull came and we were able to get far enough away to be in comparative safety. Try as we would, in the darkness, we could not see a suitable place to land. The only thing to do was to keep out from shore as far as we could until daylight.

SAFETY AT LAST.

All night long we battled on until about 4 o'clock, when the call came for all hands to the oars. I was taking a rest at the time, and, dragging myself to my feet, set my teeth and went at it once more. This time, it seemed, there was no hope for us, as rocks suddenly appeared all around us.

What happened here can only be laid to the intervening hand of a Divine Providence. You must remember that our craft was very unwieldy, with no steering gear of any kind, and three oars on one side and two on the other. No sooner would we dodge one rock than another would loom up out of the darkness to menace us. For the next hour this continued until suddenly there appeared a light ahead, being waved as a signal, and the clouds overhead broke away, and it lightened sufficiently so we could see quiet water ahead toward the light. We put all our remaining strength into a few more strokes of the oars and glided into smooth water and out of the wind. We knew we were safe.

After resting a few moments we started toward the light again. We came out of the calm and into the storm again, and soon saw that there was a wharf and buildings where the light was and several men.

BLOWN BACK.

Right here a comical thing happened. We pulled up within ten feet of the dock. Then everybody started to talk about it and congratulate each other. The wind caught us, and before we came to we were 100 yards away again.

Another weary pull, but this time we could not make it, so the man ashore with the light ran down the shore a short distance and we pulled in there to quiet waters and a shelving rock. The boat grounded in a foot of water and we jumped overboard and waded ashore.

We found that we were in a small village and they took us up to the hotel, where we were supplied with dry clothing and a hot meal and then went to bed. It seemed that we could not sleep, for everybody was up by noon and around the town.

We were at Port Ellen on the Island of Isley, off the coast of Scotland, a typical Scotch village and Scotch people. Nothing could be more beautiful than the way they treated us. They could not do enough for us. They would not take our money, and even the barber shaved such of the boys as went to his shop free. I had always heard that the Scotch were a close people, but I know that they can be as generous as any race on earth. Owing to the banging up I got when the boat fell, I was hardly able to walk when I got up, but that afternoon I hobbled out looking for a drug store, so I could get some liniment. I got into the bakery by mistake and found some of the boys there buying scones. The lady whose son ran the shop came in, and, seeing my battered condition, took me and all the others into her parlor, where her daughter fed us on tea and scones while she doctored my injuries, bandaged up my left hand, which was badly swollen and bruised, and generally made me feel like a new man.

The above is only the barest outline of what happened. Some day I may be able to tell you more about it. Before I close this narrative, I want to pay a tribute to some of the men in that boat, some of them my pals, and all of them my friends who exhibited a courage and determination in the face of danger that has seldom been equaled. Men of iron will and marvelous physique and strength, who remained at those oars all the night long without rest or respite, and through their effort made our safe landing possible.

SISTER OF SURVIVOR HERE.

Mrs. H. B. Hulin, an attache of the State Motor Vehicle Department, is a sister of Private Harry A. Keeler, of the 20th Engineers, who was one of the Tuscania survivors. He was listed as saved with the first list sent out. He enlisted from San Francisco.

"Sacramento (CA) Bee" 9 Feb 1918 p 16

**BROTHER OF SACRAMENTO
WOMAN IN FIRST LIST OF
TUSCANIA SURVIVORS**

Mrs. H. V. Hulin, employed in the state motor vehicle department, was the happiest woman in Sacramento Thursday when she read in the noon edition of The Star the name of her brother, Harry A. Keeler, in the list of 30 survivors of the torpedoed transport Tuscania.

Mrs. Hulin was almost frantic with worry over the safety of her brother, and she shouted for joy when she saw in The Star that her brother was among the American boys saved.

Keeler, whose home is in San Francisco, is a member of the twentieth engineers, which made up part of the troops being transported on the Tuscania.

"Sacramento (CA) Star" 8 Feb 1918 p 1

Harry A. Keeler, formerly secretary of the California Wet Federation, enlisted in the Twentieth Engineers December 5, and was one of the San Francisco men whose names

appeared in the first lists of survivors.

Keeler lived at 440 First avenue, and was a member of the Indoor Yacht Club. He was not married. When he enlisted he gave the name of Lyle H. Pullen of 440 First avenue as his nearest friend. Keeler is 39 years old. He has a married sister in this city.

His next-of-kin was his cousin Lyle Pedlar – "San Francisco Chronicle" Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 3

212 More of 20th Engineers Return

Men Who Were on Tor- Torpedoed Ship Arrive

More men from the 20th Engineers, the forestry regiment with the A. E. F., which was assigned the task of supplying General Pershing with all the lumber needed, came home yesterday for discharge. There were 212 men from the 6th and 7th battalions, 20th Engineers, together with 128 casuals, all sent to the Presidio from Camp Merritt.

Some of the men who came home yesterday were on the torpedoed transport *Tuscania* and had a thrilling story to tell of their rescue at sea. There were 208 soldiers lost, more than 100 of them being from the 6th and 7th battalions.

As the largest regiment in the world, having an authorized strength of 48,000 men, the 26th Engineers were a unique organization. They tackled the timber in the French forests and turned it into every conceivable kind of lumber, of which millions of feet were needed in the gigantic task of barrack building, trench and "bomb-proof" building and railroad construction.

Major Henry A. Maas commanded the detachment. The men were met at the ferry by the Municipal band and William F. Benedict, secretary to the Mayor, and the Red Cross canteen workers, with the usual ribbons, cigarettes and candy.

Sergeant E. R. Abbott, brother of William M. Abbott, general counsel for the United Railroads, was in the party, as was Corporal Stephen Bechtel, son of W. A. Bechtel, a railroad contractor. Sergeant Harry A. Keeler of 449 Arguello boulevard brought home a wound stripe as a result of the Tuscania incident.

Received a "wound stripe" due to Tuscania - "San Francisco Chronicle" Wednesday 11 Jun 1919 p

DONATE \$250,000 TO THE EXPOSITION

f Knights of Royal Arch Set Aside Large Sum to Aid Exhibits Here in 1915.

n Special Dispatch to the "Chronicle."

v LOS ANGELES, May 15.—At the
d opening session of the tenth annual
e convention of the Knights of the
n Royal Arch of the Pacific Coast this
y morning a resolution was unanimously
- adopted appropriating \$250,000 as a
- donation to the Panama-Pacific Expo-
sition. F. L. Wagner, Harry A. Keeler
l and L. H. Spiro, a Police Commissioner
l of San Francisco, appeared before the
c convention as a committee to advo-
- cate the contribution, and Spiro, who
- is assistant grand recorder and had
v prepared the resolution, presented the
y subject so forcefully that approval was
i immediate and enthusiastic.

Two hundred and eighty delegates,
many of them accompanied by their
wives and families, were in attend-
ance. The convention will last four
days, closing on Thursday night with
a banquet.

By the resolution of Spiro, May day
of each year is set aside as the offi-
cial picnic and barbecue time, and the
Sunday picnic feature, which has met
with objection from both inside and
outside abolished.

Much time will be devoted to sight-
seeing, especially by the women of the
party, who were taken to Casa Ver-
dugo for a luncheon today.

In the 1910 census, Harry boards with L.H. Spiro- "San Francisco (CA) Chronicle" Tuesday 16 May 1911 p 8

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Keeler and Mr. Keeler's sister left last Friday for Camp Nelson, in Sequoia National park. Fire broke out in the camp the day after their arrival and burned up their camping equipment and baggage. Mr. Keeler is purchasing agent at the Bethlehem shipyard.

"San Pedro (CA) News-Pilot" Saturday 20 Aug 1927 p 9

Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Keeler of 669 Thirty-third street, have as their house guests Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Pinkham and daughter, Evelyn, of Atherton, near San Francisco, the Keelers and the Athertons being friends of many years' standing.

As a week-end diversion, Mr. and Mrs. Keeler took their guests to Catalina, where they enjoyed the cool breezes of that island resort. Dr. and Mrs. Pinkham will remain in the Southland until Friday, and plan to spend part of that time in Los Angeles, where they have a wide friendship. For twenty years Dr. Pinkham has served as secretary of the State Medical Board.

"San Pedro (CA) News-Pilot" Tuesday 15 Jul 1930 p 6

Mrs. Harry Keeler of 669 Thirty-third street, had as her guest for two weeks, her son, Arnold D. Peters of San Francisco, who spent part of his vacation period in enjoying the Olympic games.

"San Pedro (CA) News-Pilot" Tuesday 30 Aug 1932 p 5

MRS. MARY HULIN
 Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Hulín, who died Saturday, will be held at 4 P. M. tomorrow in the Miller & Skelton Funeral Home. Cremation will follow.
 Mrs. Hulín was a native of Dutch Flat. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Anita Clark of Sacramento, and by a brother, Harry Keeler of San Pedro.

Obituary of his sister Mary Louise Keeler Hulín – "Sacramento (CA) Bee" Monday 27 Nov 1944 p 20

STATE OF TEXAS 057-21-2 05-204 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 1919 STATE FILE NO. 42255

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Dallas		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, if institution; residence before admission) a. STATE California b. COUNTY Fresno	
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Dallas		c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Fresno	
d. NAME OF (If not in hospital, give street address) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION DOA Presbyterian Hospital		d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 1425 N. Farris Ave.	
e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES ☒ NO ☐		f. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES ☒ NO ☐ g. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES ☐ NO ☒	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) a. First Arnold b. Middle Davis c. Last Peters		4. DATE OF DEATH June 6, 1979	
5. SEX Male	6. COLOR OF RACE White	7. Marital Status Married ☐ Never Married ☐ Widowed ☒ Divorced ☐	8. DATE OF BIRTH December 23, 1904
9. AGE (In years, last birthday) 74		10. IF UNDER 1 YEAR: Months 6 Days 14 Hours 0 Minutes 0	
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Oakland, California		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA	
13. FATHER'S NAME Joseph Arnold Peters		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Gertrude Mae Davis	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) no (If yes, give war or dates of service) -----		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 546-07-4922	
17. INFORMANT Valerie White, by tm Valerie White		18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).) PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Carcinoma of brain Condition, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last: DUE TO (b) _____ DUE TO (c) _____ PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a) _____	
19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES ☐ NO ☒		20. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE 20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED: (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.)	
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REC'D JUL 16 1979 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS			
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from _____ to _____ and last saw the deceased alive on _____ at _____ on the date stated above, and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.		22. ADDRESS 9502 Cedar Chapel	
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL, ETC. Cremation		23b. DATE June 8, 1979	
23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Restland Crematory		24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE William B. Burlock 4439	
25a. REGISTRATION FILE NO. 4319		25b. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR JUN 7 - 1979	
26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Johnnie P. Willis		27. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Johnnie P. Willis	

1969 JUL 16 1979

TX death record of his stepson, Arnold Davis Peters, 23 Dec 1904 Oakland CA – 6 Jun 1979
 Dallas TX -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2272/images/33154_b063054-01751?pld=554869

Name: Harry Alden Keeler

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 17th/Co. E - private

Serial number: 250,546

Entered service from: San Francisco, San Francisco CA

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Harry Alden Keeler

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": cousin Lyle H. Pedlar, 440 - 1st Ave., San Francisco CA

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Harry A. Keeler

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: cousin Lyle H. Pedlar, 440 - 1st Ave., San Francisco CA (sgt, 17th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917):

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939 roster): 669 W. 33rd St., San Pedro CA

World War II draft registration (1942): as Harry Alden Keeler - b. 31 Aug 1878 San Francisco CA;

res: 669 – 33rd St., San Pedro, Los Angeles CA. NOK wife Mrs. H.A. Keeler, same address.

Employed by California Shipbldg. Corp., Terminal Island CA. "aa scar on abdomen" Height: 5'10" – 156 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index: as Harry Alden Keeler & Henry Alden Keeler

Enlisted 8 Dec 1917

Discharged 13 Jun 1919

Address: 2641 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro CA

Rank/unit: sergeant, Cas Co

Birth & death:

Born: 31 Aug 1875 San Francisco Co. CA (1878: WWII draft card) (31 Aug 1875: CA War History Committee: 31 Aug 1875)

Died: 9 Dec 1953 Alameda Co. CA

Find A Grave record: 87325975, presence on Tuscania noted in text

Burial location: Woodland, Yolo CA

Cemetery: Woodland

Tombstone:

Father: William Henry Keeler, 10 Sep 1838 Clarendon, Orleans Co. NY – 14 Aug 1899 Woodland, Yolo CA. Jeweler. Son of John Keeler & Selinda Boss. Committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart. Buried in Woodland Cemetery, Woodland, Yolo CA.

Find A Grave: 87325977

Mother: Susan A. Pedlar Keeler, 1841 Grant Co. WI – 27 Oct 1885 Woodland, Yolo Ca. Daughter of Jonah (Jack Pedlar) & Sarah Paul (F: 87325976).

The obituary for her father Jonah Pedlar appears in the "Sacramento (CA) Record-Union" of Wednesday 30 May 1883 p 2. H was born in Cornwall, England, 1812 & emigrated to the US in 1828.

Married Sarah Paul of PA in 1835; she died 1851. They moved in 1837 to Grant Co. WI & in 1852 to near Placerville, El Dorado Co. CA. In 1854 they moved to Yolo Co. CA. Jonah was survived by 4 sons & 2 daughters, one of them being Mrs. W.H. Keeler of Stockton CA. - Buried in Woodland Cemetery, Woodland, Yolo CA.

Find A Grave: 87325976.

Parents' marriage: 1865

Spouse: Gertrude Maybelle Davis Peters Keeler, 28 Oct 1876 Canada – 22 Jan 1953 Santa Clara Co. CA. Daughter of Abner Alfred Davis (1847-1936) & Augusta Amelia Spragg (1845-1927).

Graduate of Oakland High School.

Married 25 Nov 1896 in Oakland, Alameda Co. CA to Joseph Arnold Peters, Jr. (30 Oct 1872 CA – 26 Mar 1947 Patton Hospital, San Bernardino, San Bernardino CA). He was the son of Joseph Arnold Peters Sr. & Narcissa Elizabeth Turner. They had a son, Arnold D. Peters. The couple divorced in Jun 1918. "San Francisco Recorder" Friday 14 Jun 1918 p 1 – case 76606, Gertrude M. Peters v. Jos. A. Peters, decree of divorce, in Superior Court.

Buried in Woodland Cemetery, Woodland, Yolo CA.

Spouse Find A Grave: 87325974.

Marriage: 1929 to Harry Keeler (not verified)

Stepson: by his wife Gertrude Davis's 1st marriage, to Joseph Arnold Peters Jr.

- Arnold Davis Peters, 23 Dec 1904 Oakland, Alameda CA – 6 Jun 1979 Dallas, Dallas TX. Husband of Alice Minor Boye (1913-1977).

Siblings:

- Mary Louise Keeler Hulin, 2 Mar 1868 CA – 25 Nov 1944 Sacramento, Sacramento CA. Wife of Henry Valentine Hulin (1860-1943, F: 87284775). Buried in Woodland Cemetery, Woodland, Yolo CA. F: 87284776

Notes:

Pre-war:

"Stockton (CA) Daily Evening Herald" Saturday 5 Jun 1875 p 3 – Mrs. W.H. Keeler was elected secretary of the Ladies' Benevolent Society on 2 Jun 1875.

"Stockton (CA) Mail" Tuesday 26 Oct 1886 p 2 – the Red & White Coterie scheduled to be held at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday, 27 Oct 1886, has been postponed indefinitely due to the death of Mrs. W.H. Keeler.

"Fresno (CA) Weekly Republican" Friday 25 Jan 1889 p 5 – W.H. Keeler of Stockton spent a few days here visiting his brother-in-law Dr. A.J. Pedlar. Keeler is a prominent jeweler of Stockton CA.

1896 CA voter registration:

Harry Alden Keeler, 21 years, student, height 5' 10", dark complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair, b. CA, resident of 572 – 10th.

William Henry Keeler, 57 years, jeweler, height 5'7", dark complexion, gray eyes, gray hair, b. NY, resident of 572 – 10th.

“San Francisco Examiner” Thursday 28 May 1896 p 11 – Harry A. Keeler will appear in the senior class farce, “The Killing of Julius Dorety Caesar, President of the Class of June, ‘96” at Oakland High School in the role of Harry Cassius Keelii.

“San Francisco Examiner” Wednesday 1 Jul 1896 p 10 – the 4th Official Handicapper to be held 4 Jul 1896 includes a bicycle race. Harry A. Keeler is competing in the 220-yard hurdle race relay & the running high jump. He is a member of the Academic Athletic Club.

1910 CA voter registration

Harry Alden Keeler, age 35, resident 707 Cole, San Francisco. Republican. Clerk.

Wartime:

“Oakland (CA) Tribune” 7 Feb 1918 p 1 – among the 30 Tuscania survivors who landed at Fort [sic/Port] Ellen, Islay, Scotland is Pvt. Harry A. Keeler. The British are sending doctors, rations & clothing to them.

“Pomona (CA) Progress” Thursday 7 Feb 1918 p 3 – among the first 35 Tuscania survivors reported is Pvt. Harry A. Keeler, cousin Lyle H. Pedlar, 440 – 1st Ave., San Francisco.

“Sacramento (CA) Star” Thursday 29 May 1919 p 7 – Sgt. Harry A. Keeler, Tuscania survivor, the brother of Mrs. H.V. Hulin of Sacramento, arrived in NY from overseas.

Post-war:

“San Francisco Chronicle” Sunday 27 Jun 1920 p 8 – Harry A. Keeler is a new arrival at Harbin Hot Springs resort in San Francisco.

“San Pedro (CA) News-Pilot” Monday 67 Jun 1932 p 4 – a new constitution & bylaws for the San Pedro American Legion Post No. 65 will be presented by Harry A. Keeler, who headed the committee that worked on the project for the past few weeks.

Obituary:

Oakland High School

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA



In Memoriam

1896

57 Students in June Graduating Class

36 Students in December Graduating Class

Harry Alden Keeler

31 Aug 1875 - 9 Dec 1953

78 Years Old



John Griffith "Jack" London

Author

(J.B. McChesney, OHS principal,
signed London's application for UC Berkeley)

12 Jan 1876 - 22 Nov 1916

40 Years Old

Kidney Failure

	Yosuke Matsuoka <i>Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs during WW2</i> 1880 - 26 Jun 1946 66 Years Old
	<u>Biography</u> <u>Japan's last representative at the League of Nations, Tokyo, March, 1935</u> <u>Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs</u> <u>Address to Diet, Tokyo, Japan, January 21, 1941</u> <u>World State of Emergency, July 2, 1941</u>
	Lillian Evelyn Moller (Gilbreth) <i>Industrial Engineer, Efficiency Expert</i> <i>One of her children wrote "Cheaper by the Dozen" based on their family life</i> 24 May 1878 - 2 Jan 1972 94 Years Old
	<u>Biography</u> <u>O! Pioneer</u> <u>The Gilbreth Network</u> <u>The Gilbreths - Towards Efficiency</u>

Harry Alden Keeler, June graduate of Oakland (CA) High School & some of his famous classmates, including author Jack London -

<http://www.ohsmemorial.com/OHS/1896Wall.htm>

Social Security number: 555-20-6163

Censuses:

1880 Oakland, Alameda CA – 866 Cambal St.

W.H. Keeler, 42 NY [no occupation listed]

S.A., 38 WI, parents b. England, keeping house [wife]

M.L., 13 CA [daughter]

Harr., 5 CA [son]

1900 Oakland, Alameda CA – 776 – 13th St.

Leander Peckham, 36 RI, birth month unknown 1864, parents' birthplaces unknown, single, commercial traveler, wholesale bicycles [sic] [head of household]

John H. Rusch, 26 PA, Mar 1874, parents b. PA, single, cashier, wholesale soap factory [partner]

A.F. Cornwall, 25 CA, Mar 1875, parents' birthplaces unknown, single, real estate agent [partner]

H.A. Keeler, 22 CA, birth month unknown 1878, parents' birthplaces unknown, single, clerk, railroad company [partner]

Hattie A. Pulver, 44 IA, father b. England, mother b. PA, widow, housekeeper

1910 San Francisco, San Francisco CA – Fell St.

Harry A. Keeler, 34 CA, father b. NY, mother b. WI, single, keeper, hotel, lodger with:

Isaac H. & Amelia F. Spiro, their 2 sons, daughter & grandson

1920 San Francisco, San Francisco CA – Arguella Blvd.

Harry Keeler, 46 US, parents b. US, single, checker, iron works, boarder with:

Harry & Laura Lawton, their 2 sons, a sister-in-law, a brother-in-law & another male boarder

1930 Precinct 15, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. CA – Carolina St.

Henry A. Keeler, 51 CA, father b. NY, mother b. WI, purchasing agent, shipyard, WWI veteran

Gertrude, 50 Canada, parents b. Canada (English)

1940 Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA – 669 – same house in 1935

Harry A. Keeler, 61 CA, purchasing agent, industry not readable (met water aves?)

Gertrude M., 63 Canada (English)