



### Who was Margaret Jacks?

Lately, I have been hearing a lot about Margaret Jacks Hall and wondered who Margaret Jacks was? Usually, a Google search will uncover information, or I go to the Director of Heritage Services, Dr. Laura Jones and she will have a story or two. But on Ms. Jacks, I struck out on both sources. (Although, Laura did say that Margaret looked like fun based on her portrait, hanging in the lobby of Margaret Jacks Hall.) Zone D Manager, Steve Clarkson, was also intrigued and found a reference to her on the website [books.google.com](https://books.google.com) in the book, *Paul Robert Hanna: A Life of Expanding Communities* by Jared Stallones. (Paul and Jean Hanna worked with Frank Lloyd Wright to design and build the Hanna House, their residence on campus for many years. Margaret Jacks was mentioned in the book and excerpts were used for this article.)

Paul Hanna's reputation as an educational leader at home and abroad rendered his fund-raising efforts on behalf of Stanford more fruitful. Soon after their arrival on the Stanford campus, the Hannas joined the Stanford Associates organization in its fund-raising efforts. They were asked to cultivate two sisters, Margaret Jacks and Mary Jacks Thomas. The Hannas escorted them to numerous Stanford events, lectures, dramatic and musical performances and commencements. An especially close friendship developed between the Hannas and Margaret Jacks. She visited the Hanna House on birthdays and holidays, and they were frequent guests at her homes in Palo Alto and Monterey. She and Jean Hanna took an extended trip together to visit Jacks' mother's birthplace in Oaxaca, Mexico.

In 1957 the Jacks sisters drew funds from the estate of their sister, Lee L. Jacks, to endow two professorships in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford. Professor W.H. Cowley was the first David Jacks Professor of Higher Education, an endowed appointment named for their father, and Paul

Hanna became the first professor to hold the Lee L. Jacks Chair of Child Education. Margaret Jacks later gave additional funds to enlarge both endowments. These endowments are still active today.

Margaret Jacks (1875-1962) attended Radcliffe College to prepare for a career in teaching. But instead, her family persuaded her to manage their extensive land holdings on the Monterey Peninsula and in Salinas Valley. She was very successful as an entrepreneur on the Jacks estates. When Margaret Jacks died, she willed Stanford, through the Wells Fargo Trust, more than \$6 million. At the time, it was the largest gift to the school since the original Stanford family grant. Some of the bequest was used to rebuild the old physiology building, now Margaret Jacks Hall, and some of the funds endowed four more Jacks chairs in the Graduate School of Education.

I should have been a researcher. I found this last interesting part of the Jacks family legacy in Wikipedia. David Jack (18 April 1822 – 11 January 1909), also known as David Jacks, was a powerful Californian landowner, developer, and businessman. Born in Scotland, he immigrated to California during the 1849 Gold Rush, and soon acquired several thousand acres in and around Monterey, shaping the history of Monterey County. He is also credited as being the first to market and popularize Monterey Jack Cheese.