

ICE CREAM

A frozen paste made from overcooked rice, spices and milk hardly sounds appetizing, but it is from these humble beginnings that ice cream, America's favorite dessert, sprang.

Although unappealing to today's palette, the rice-spice-milk concoction was a treat enjoyed by Chinese nobility nearly 4,000 years ago. This forerunner to ice cream apparently remained confined to the Chinese realm until the 14th century, when Marco Polo introduced the ice cream concept (at that time, milk ice and fruit ice) to Italy. During the next few centuries, ice cream recipes were closely guarded secrets, available only to the chefs of the wealthy.

Blasius Villafranca, an obscure personage at best, should stand in high regard with ice cream lovers. In the 1560s he stumbled upon a phenomenon that would revolutionize ice cream making. And so it is that we add salt to the ice water mixture surrounding the canister of cream, thus causing the cream mixture to reach the freezing point more rapidly.

Ice cream finally reached the masses as Italian immigrants relocated throughout Europe and sold the dessert from ice-cooled pushcarts.

Although ice cream recipes were no doubt brought to North America by the first colonists, it wasn't until Thomas Jefferson returned from France with a recipe that the idea began to catch on in the States. Ice cream snowballed (so to speak) from there. The first hand-crank ice cream freezer appeared in 1848; the first wholesale ice cream factory in the U.S. appeared just three years later; and by 1892 ice cream making courses were being offered at Penn State University.

Today, a longing for a bygone era or the desire for an unadulterated scoop of ice cream may motivate us to crank our own. An so, without further ado, here is Ardenwood's version of that ancient yet ever-popular frozen dessert.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 to 3 cups fruit
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups sugar (to taste)
- 2 1/2 to 3 quarts half and half
- 1 teaspoon vanilla (any flavoring can be used)

Procedure:

- Mash the fruit to a pulpy texture. Mix in the sugar and vanilla, stirring well. Pour the mixture into the canister, making sure you insert the dasher first. Add the half and half and turn the dasher a few times to mix well. Place the lid on the canister and insert it in the ice cream freezer. Attach the crank, making sure it is secure. Next, place alternating layers of ice and rock salt (3 parts salt to 8 parts ice) around the canister. While cranking, add ice and salt as needed. The ice cream should be ready in 15 to 20 minutes.

ARDENWOOD REGIONAL PRESERVE
East Bay Regional Park District
34600 Ardenwood Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94555

ARDENWOOD HISTORY TIMELINE



July 26, 1822

George Washington Patterson is born in East Berlin, Adams County, Pennsylvania.

1849

George Washington Patterson joins the Tippecanoe Company with 20 members each contributing \$500.00 to a common fund. The proceeds from this fund went towards a mining and trading venture in California.

March 13, 1849

Tippecanoe Company members leave Indiana for California. They traveled down the Mississippi River on a steamer to New Orleans and Port Lavaca, Texas. From there they traveled overland through San Antonio, Santa Rosa and Durango to Mazatlan, Mexico.

July 13, 1849

The company sails for San Francisco from Mazatlan onboard the "Louisa" out of Australia.

August 29, 1849

The Company arrives in San Francisco after 47 days at sea. It dissolves and the goods are divided up. George and four others venture eastward to the American River Mines.

1850

George relocates to the Trinity Mines, but by Year's end is almost broke physically and financially.

January 1, 1851

George leaves the mines, comes to Alameda County, and is employed on the E. L. Beard Ranch near Mission San Jose.

February 20, 1853

Clara Hawley is born in Washington Township to James Hawley and Hettie Munn Hawley. They had settled in mission San Jose in 1849, and built the first frame building in town, the Red Hotel. Clara is one of six Hawley children.

1854 - 1855

G. W. Patterson leases "The Frank Place," 250 acres from E. L. Beard for \$6.00 per acre.

1856

The Patterson House is built by James Hawley for G.W. Patterson.

1857 - 1895

G. W. Patterson accumulates and works over 6,000 acres of prime agricultural land in Fremont and Livermore. On it he raises truck crops, poultry and cattle which are sold in San Francisco and the gold fields.

1877

Clara attends school in Oakland and George (30 years her senior) begin courting her.

July 11, 1877

G. W. Patterson and Clara Hawley are married.

July 22, 1877

George and Clara leave on a delayed honeymoon. The South Pacific Coast Narrow Gauge Railroad lays tracks across their property while the couple is away.

April 7, 1878

Henry Hawley Patterson is born.

December 4, 1880

A second son, William Donald Patterson is born.

September 12, 1895

George W. Patterson dies of a stroke at the age of 73 years. On his death, his estate is valued at over \$600,000. The two sons, Henry and William, together with their mother, continue to manage the varied aspects of the farm and cattle ranch.

January 1, 1900

Clara Hawley marries Presbyterian minister, Reverend William H. Layson. They honeymoon in Egypt, Palestine, and Europe. This begins a period of nation and world wide travel in the Patterson family.

June 1, 1903

William D. Patterson marries May Bird of Yreka, California. They have three sons, William Donald, Jr., John B. and David George Patterson.

June 6, 1903

Henry travels to Alaska.

September 24, 1903

Electric lights are installed at Mansion.

December 1903

Telephone is installed in house. Other additions to the Estate include a tennis court, and swimming pool.

May 1904

William begins construction of a second house on the Ardenwood Estate.

April 18, 1906

San Francisco earthquake. Chimney falls, destroying side porch of the Mansion.

March 8, 1909

Reverend William Layson dies.

1913

Henry H. Patterson marries Sarah Morgan. They have two daughters, Marjorie and Sally.

1915

After the 1915 San Francisco Pan-American Exposition, the Pattersons buy one of the Exposition buildings, the Japanese Tea House (Japanese Commissionaire's Building). It is disassembled and reconstructed at Ardenwood in the "Tea House Field". The house burns down shortly after December 7, 1941.

May 29, 1917

Clara Hawley Patterson Layson dies.

November 11, 1955

Henry H. Patterson dies.

November 28, 1961

William Donald Patterson dies.

February 1962

The William D. Patterson House is burned under the terms in William's will, which stipulated that the house be destroyed if none of his sons wanted to live in it.

1978

The Patterson family and the City of Fremont reach a settlement whereby 46 acres of the Ardenwood-Estate, including the G. W. Patterson Mansion, is deeded by the family to the city. In addition, the Fremont Park Facilities Corporation purchases 122 acres of land to be held as a park. Newark and Fremont city boundaries are redrawn to accommodate the establishment of this new preserve.

1981

Ardenwood Forest New Town housing development is approved by the City of Fremont.

June 15, 1982

East Bay Regional Park District and the Cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City reach a joint exercise of powers agreement for the development of Ardenwood Regional Preserve.

1981 - 1985

Countless hours of volunteer and staff time are concentrated on Ardenwood by city, community, service and park groups in an effort to restore and preserve Ardenwood, its mansion and lands.

July 28, 1985

Grand opening of Ardenwood Historic Farm.

