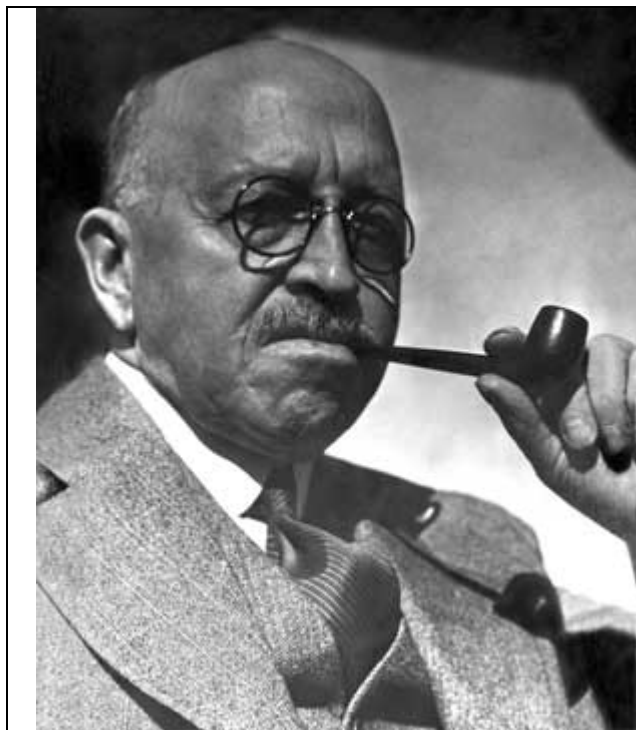


LINCOLN HUTCHINSON & JAMES SATHER HUTCHINSON

The Hutchinson brothers, to whose memory Hutchinson Lodge is dedicated, were born in San Francisco of pioneer parents: Lincoln in 1866, James in 1867.



Lincoln Hutchinson



James Hutchinson

Lincoln attended the University of California in Berkeley, and later Harvard, where he earned two degrees. At different periods he served as Dean of the College of Letters and Science at Berkeley, as an attaché in consulates in South America and Europe, as director of relief under Herbert Hoover in Eastern Europe after World War I, and as a technical advisor in the government of the new Czech nation. He assisted Jan Masaryk in writing the constitution of that nation.

James, after studying at the University of California, Berkeley, and at Harvard, took his law degree at Hasting College of Law, in San Francisco. He practiced law for sixty years in that city. He spent summers exploring the then virtually unknown High Sierra. James Hutchinson and two friends, Joseph N. LeConte and James K. Moffitt, made an ascent of the North Palisade in 1903. In 1908, with Joseph LeConte and Duncan McDuffie, he made the trip to Tuolumne, through Evolution Basin, Muir Pass, LeConte Canyon, Middle Fork of the Kings, to Knowyer's Camp, covering 228 miles in 27 days. James was a charter member of the Sierra Club, a Director in 1903 – 1907, and twice Editor of the Bulletin. He was elected honorary Vice President in 1958.

In the early twenties the two brothers gathered a group of friends, all lovers of the Sierra Nevada, for winter outings on skis or snowshoes. After rather unsatisfactory experiences in hotels at Donner Summit, Cisco, and Hobart Mills, the group decided to build a lodge on the fine property at Norden that Lincoln had purchased. The architect was Walter H. Ratcliff, a member of the group. They adopted the name: *Sierra Ski Club*. The lodge was built by the members themselves in the summers of 1924 and 1925.

Highway 40 was closed by snow for many weeks during the early years; access was by a night train, discharging them in the dark of early morning. They ate breakfast with railroad men at "the Chinaman's" under the snow sheds. The lodge was used in the summer as well as in the winter. James (know as "Jimmy" to his friends) opened it through July and served as host to members and their families.

Members of the Sierra Ski Club included such active members of the Sierra Club as William E. Colby, Joseph N. LeConte, Duncan McDuffie, Walter A. Starr, Harold C. Bradley, and Joel H. Hildebrand. When the last-named member proposed that the Sierra Club should build its own lodge, it was not difficult to obtain the backing of the influential group.

Lincoln, President and leading spirit in the club, died in 1940, but the traditions of the Club were carried on by James until 1950, the last year the lodge was opened in the summer. All the living members were by then elderly, and James proposed that the club be disbanded and that the lodge and the land holdings be given to the Sierra Club. He received the unanimous consent of the members, most of whom had long been members of the Sierra Club, and the transfer was made in 1955.

James, who climbed Mt. Whitney at the age of 79, continued the active practice of law (appearing in court on his ninetieth birthday), built a week-end home in Jackson from which he could see the crest of the Sierra and where he could entertain his friends. He died suddenly and without previous illness in 1959, just before his ninety-second birthday.