

**Naming the Claremont Library in Honor of Helen Renwick**

Helen Renwick was an accomplished early philanthropist for the City of Claremont (Claremont). Ms. Renwick was a widow of a wealthy lumber mill developer and graduate of Oberlin College. As a single mother, she moved to Claremont from Iowa in 1895, to raise her son and educate him from elementary school through Pomona College. Claremont was a segregated community during Ms. Renwick’s lifetime. She was a Claremont community leader who was involved with the Women’s Union of her church, the Claremont Congregational Church, in creating a mission in Claremont’s Mexican colonies. The colonies were segregated residents of the non-white Claremont inhabitants who worked for the College Heights Citrus Association.

As an involved community member, Ms. Renwick donated money for the construction of Rembrandt Hall, the art building at Pomona College, the establishment of Pilgrim Place, and a retirement community for Christian workers. She was also responsible for the construction of Claremont’s first library building. The Claremont Library was established in 1889 but it was not until 1914 that the city successfully campaigned for a public county library branch. In 1928, Renwick donated the land behind her house for the library to be completed. This site remains the current location of the Claremont Library. When Renwick died at the age of 86, July of 1930, she bequeathed her home to Pomona College. These historic landmarks helped shape Claremont to be the community it is today.

The legacy and generosity of this Claremont philanthropist shall not be forgotten. Ms. Renwick was a resident of the Claremont community for over thirty years. Her invaluable contributions serve as a felicitous opportunity to honor the life of this extraordinary woman by naming the Claremont Library in her honor.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Instruct the County Librarian to name the County’s Claremont Library building “Claremont Helen Renwick Library” in her honor.

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_