



January 2012

Redlands' Civil War Veterans

Monday, January 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Assembly Room, A.K. Smiley Public Library

On May 31, 1943 the *Redlands Daily Facts* announced that 325 heroes of six wars would be honored in Memorial Day ceremonies. Each of the graves in our Hillside cemetery would be marked with a flag. 151 of the heroes were veterans of the Civil War. One does not usually associate Redlands and other similar communities founded in the late 1880's as having connections with Civil War.

Several months ago the genealogical group of the Historical Society began researching the personal histories of each of the Civil War veterans. The goal of the group is to post their findings on the memorials posted on the Findagrave.com website. A similar project is being undertaken by the Orange County Genealogical Society where they are researching each of the 1,000 Civil War veterans buried in Orange County.

Ron Running and members of the genealogy group will be presenting their preliminary findings highlighting many of the Civil War soldiers who lived and died in Redlands. The group is soliciting help from family and members of the community who might have additional information and pictures that might be shared.

The Grand Army of the Republic marker, at right, indicates the grave of a Civil War veteran.



Beverly Ranch, below, will host the Old House Group this month.. Built in 1890 for John P. Fisk, the home received a Heritage Award in 1975.



Old House Group

Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Fisk-Burgess House
923 W. Fern Avenue

The January meeting of the Old House Group will be held on Wednesday the 25th, at the home of Char and Larry Burgess.

The Fisk-Burgess house, also known as Beverly Ranch, was listed on the National Register in 2004 (#04000018). This home is considered a significant example of architecture representing the period of 1875 through 1899 and 1900 through 1924.

The house is set back from the street on a large property and is surrounded by trees including citrus and ornamentals. Designed by Corydon B. Bishop and Daniel M. Donald in the Queen Anne style its historic function is listed as agricultural fields under irrigation.

Our tour will begin at 6:30 and end by 8:00p.m. Please join us in our celebration of this Redlands treasure. For questions or comments please contact - Leslie Irish (951) 201-5742.

A Letter from your President...

I am hopeful that each member had a wonderful holiday season and that the New Year will bring happiness to you and your entire family.

On December 14th the Society held its annual holiday party at the home of Jerry and Maureen Fairchild. Their restored 1901 Victorian home was built by prominent Redlands builder D.M. Donald. The home has many upgraded features true to the period, while still maintaining the original pocket doors, woodwork, built-ins and hardware. The Fairchilds are great stewards of this Redlands treasure. On behalf of all of our members I would like to give a big thank you to the Fairchilds for hosting our event.

During the holiday season I had the opportunity to drive through Redlands' many historic neighborhoods with my family looking at the Christmas light displays which uniquely demonstrates each homeowner's celebration of the season. The following historic homes and neighborhoods deserve mentioning. The first neighborhood is Cajon Street, one block below Kingsbury School. On December 24th that entire block is lined with luminaries and many of the historic homes do a fantastic job decorating their homes. The special neighborhood of Cypress Circle has several homes that are nicely decorated, and even one home that has a light display choreographed to holiday music! The Burrage Mansion added to their already impressive light display from the previous years and several of the historic homes on Olive Avenue and Highland Avenue also had impressive displays of lights and holiday decorations. It is always nice to see how our very special community celebrates the Season.

For 2012 we will have a full schedule of Old House Group Meetings that are held each month at a Redlands home and on the fourth Monday of each month the Society will also hold their monthly General Membership meetings. The meetings are held at the Assembly Room of the A.K. Smiley Public Library featuring a guest speaker who will cover a timely subject. In addition, we have planned for you in the month of February two walking tours on Cajon Street. The first tour will be held on Saturday, February 11th at 9:00 a.m. and will start on the corner of West Highland Avenue and Cajon Street. The second tour will be held on Saturday, February 18th at 9:00 a.m. and will begin at Cypress Avenue and Cajon Street and will end at Citrus Avenue. Both tours will be led by Tom Atchley, past president of the Society and will cost \$10.00 per person. For additional information about our upcoming events please look for the specific write ups in each of our monthly newsletters.

Please take a moment to respond to the enclosed dues notification. I hope you all will have a happy and prosperous 2012 and will look forward to seeing you at one of the many events that we have planned for you in the coming months.

Bill Blankenship

Redlands Area Historical Society welcomes the following individuals and families as new members:

Mary Abbott
Elaine Alexandres
John & Kristi Andersen
Ross Conkey & Joanna Bieri
Ann & Darryl Brandt
Stephanie Bruce
Rick & Trisha Cornez
Don & Margie Gifford
Stephen & Melissa Gregorius
Gene & Carolyn Melcher
Scott & Melodee Seccombe
Bill & Alice Todd
David & Caroline Van Norman

ORDER YOUR DVD VIDEO

All of our monthly programs and Heritage Awards ceremonies are dutifully recorded by Ger and Linda Brassfield of **Blue Eagle Video**.

Order a keepsake video at \$20 each. Contact Linda at: (909) 882-2003 or email: blueeaglevideo@aol.com.

Cajon Street Walking Tours in February

Redlands Area Historical Society will conduct two walking tours of Cajon Street in February. The first tour will begin February 11th at 9:00 a.m. on the corner of West Highland and Cajon and will end at the intersection of Cypress Avenue. The second half of the Cajon tour will take place Saturday February 18th at 9:00 a.m. beginning at Cypress Avenue and Cajon Street ending at Cajon and Citrus Avenue. Past president of the Historical Society, Tom Atchley, will lead both tours. A \$10 fee is collected for the Society's preservation fund.

Cajon Street was named on the first map of Redlands drawn by Frank Brown. North-South Streets followed a "Spanish" theme with Cajon, Alvarado, California, San Jacinto and San Mateo.

Cajon is Spanish for "box." North Cajon points directly to Cajon Pass in the distance. When Brown named the street his intention was for a dead end just south of East Crescent. Redlands Colony plans called for a dam built across the arroyo near Summit and the entrance to Prospect Park. This plan was scrapped favoring a large reservoir in what is now the "dog park" in Ford Park. Cajon did dead end at Citrus Avenue and Orange Street forming the downtown triangle.

Cajon was strategic for south side Redlands irrigation. Located near East Crescent and Cajon the main weir box allows for gravity flow piped water to irrigate the orange groves.

Leaving downtown Redlands Cajon Street became the transportation artery to residential neighborhoods and later Redlands Heights. A move to rename Cajon to "Country Club" began in the 1940's but ended swiftly. The Redlands Railway began mule drawn service in 1888. This service was expanded in 1898 by the Redlands Electric trolley.

Kingsbury Grammar School was constructed in 1887 on Cajon and Cypress giving the Redlands School District its first modern brick school house. Churches gravitated to Cajon with first the Congregational Church, then the Baptists and later in 1902 the Methodists completed the "Lord's Corner." Other churches have sprouted on Cajon since.

Dr. Meredith Beaver was not the first physician to see the merits of Cajon Street. Many private doctors practiced medicine from their Cajon Street homes since trolley service conveniently brought patients to them.

James S. Edwards built his 1890 home on Cajon Street and had a citrus nursery there as well. Edwards built his home in the middle of a ten-acre orange grove that is Plymouth Village today. His home was moved in two halves to the present location near the San Bernardino County Museum in the 1970's.

Cajon Street was not part of the Judson-Brown 1881 Redlands subdivision. They did own the land and later sold blocks to other enterprising entrepreneurs. Dr. Benjamin F. Watrous, a Civil War veteran, bought the land from Cajon

along East Olive and began the Watrous subdivision in 1888. Land was carved out for building lots, churches and mortuaries.

Cajon Street had the first white line separating traffic as it curves to become Orange Street. Redlands YMCA built a substantial brick building where the old City Hall now stands in 1893. When the first City Hall burned the replacement site was Cajon and Vine. Fox Theatre also chose Cajon Street following the Masonic Lodge by a decade.

Redlanders constructed the City Flag Pole in 1895 at Cajon and Vine signifying the central location to the community. During World War II the Victory Drive shack built atop the triangle demonstrated Redlands resolve to win the war.

Cajon Street personifies Redlands with Victorian, California Bungalow, Craftsman, Classic box and Spanish Revival architecture decorated with 1892 palms, cut stone curbs, and stone walls. The street has fine examples of adaptive reuse with many businesses taking advantage of the residences the street offers.

Cajon Street also offers a challenge to Redlands. How far should the commercial development extend south on Cajon? How does the current amount of traffic impact the residential neighborhoods? What impact have apartment complexes had on the street? Will the planned Redlands History Museum fit comfortably in old City Hall?



-by Tom Atchley

A Sneak Peak at February's Program

Our February program will be a walk through memory lane for many of our members who have grown up in Redlands. A distinguished panel of "experts" will be assembled who will reminisce what it was like to grow up in Redlands during the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's and 1950's.

Everyone is encouraged to attend, bring pictures and other memorabilia that will help us all remember what the good old days were like. Extra points will be given to those members who wear some of the fashion of the day during their high school years!

Newsletter Deadline

All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for the *Redlands Chronicles* to Marie Reynolds at scmarie@yahoo.com by the 1st of each month.