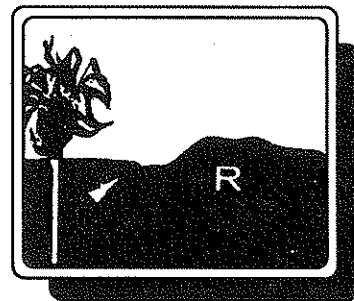


REDLANDS CHRONICLES



November, 2008

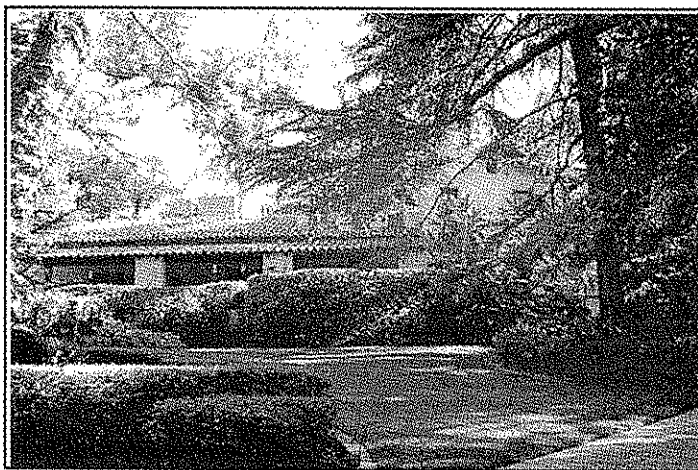
Old House Group Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 7pm

104 Garden Hill Drive

Winner of a 2007 Heritage Home Award, the Dr. Hubert and Dixie Watkins Family home is located at the top a hill in south Redlands on approximately 3 acres and is one of what the *Redlands Daily Facts* calls "one of the few true adobe homes in Redlands".

Originally identified as custom Lot 2 of the Garden Court Subdivision (1913-14), the property was issued a building permit in 1927. The home, which reportedly cost \$20,000.00, was completed by owner-builder Cecil W. Brashears (of Texas) and his wife Margaret (of Kansas) in 1928. The 1930 census lists Cecil and Margaret as living in the home along with a son, Cecil W., Jr., and domestic help (Velma Littlefield). Occupying the homes on the same street at the time were the Moores (101), the Cartlidges (105), the Humphreys (107), and the Smiths (121). Cecil Brashears is listed in the 1927 city directory as an orange grower.

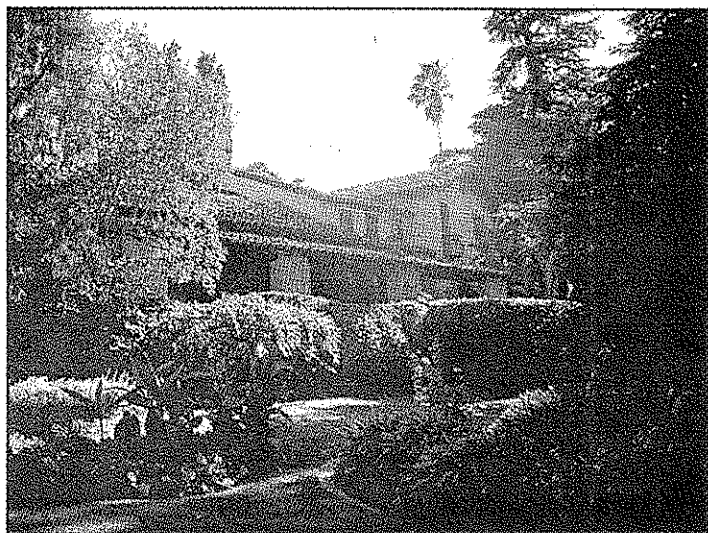


In 1933, not long after the house was completed by the Brashears, it became the property of Richard

Burke (Pure Gold). A few years later in 1936, the house was bought by Harold and Jeanette Harris (general manager of the Harris Company), and it remained the Harris home until 1970. Harold Harris processed 9 building permits between 1949 and 1969 ranging from a carport addition to various plumbing/appliance/termite repairs and improvements.

Located in a City of Redlands Historic District, the Watkins family home is a two-story Spanish Revival-style house built of adobe made on the premises from material acquired by excavation for the the cellar. Both the raised adobe foundations and 18-inch-thick walls were reportedly constructed by a local expert who served his apprenticeship in Mexico.

Continued, page 2



A Letter from your President...

We ended the month doing two historic walking tours of Hillside Memorial Cemetery. A women's group was unable to attend the Saturday tour and we accommodated them with a Thursday tour at 3:00 p.m. Nature provided some dramatic winds towards the end of the tour giving the cemetery a touch of Fall. The second tour had a wheel chair patron and with some careful reworking of the tour all was well. Each turn of the old section, known as Block 4, reveals the names of the early history of Redlands in biography form.

This past Saturday my father, Roy Atchley, had me seek out the name Daniel Gerster in the cemetery. Daniel Gerster, Sr. died in 1933. He bought 400 acres in San Timoteo Canyon in 1913 and built a series of lakes now known as Fisherman's Retreat. My dad had a chance to buy the property in 1946 from Dan Gerster, Jr. but ended up declining the offer. The \$50,000 price seemed beyond his limited means at the end of World War II. My father bicycled from Colton regularly to sell red-worms to the fishermen and Dan Gerster. The Hammand slaughter house in Colton had a pasture area rich in red-worms and provided my dad with extra money in Depression-era Colton. Red worms were also abundant on the Haskell Cattle Ranch and Singleton Ranch, just east of Fisherman's Retreat.

One of our historical society members, Janet Cosgrove, was recognized by the *California Historian* in the summer/fall edition. This magazine is published by the Conference of California Historical Societies. Janet received a Preservation Award for restoring two historic houses, the Hanna House in Colton and the Morey Mansion in Redlands. Wilson Hanna bought the 1880s Eastlake Queen Anne Victorian in 1923. Hanna's bird egg collection is housed in the second story of the San Bernardino County Museum.

Janet has also spent thousands of hours and much treasure on the Morey House in Redlands. Janet is a member of the Colton Historical Society and a board member of the Redlands Area Historical Society. We all congratulate Janet for this recognition and agree it is well deserved.

Architect Clare Day did a thorough presentation at the regular meeting on October 27th. He shared some 140 slides describing commercial buildings, schools, and residences. His intended plan and the final results were not always the same. A number of the current home owners came to the meeting to meet Mr. Day. Retired teacher Wally Powell lives in one of the first Clare Day homes to have architectural recognition. Mr. Day's 15,000 slide collection would certainly add to the 1950s to 1980s slide collection of Smiley Library. His draft sketches are artistic and worthy of framing.

Your President, Tom Atchley

Old House Group, continued

Dual staircases approach a traditional Spanish-style open veranda of exposed rafters and Spanish pavers with basement ventilation detailing. The single-arched and planked front door is of solid aged wood with unique custom iron hardware. The veranda wall sconces feature amber mica shades. A Gothic-inspired, fixed-center pointed window faces the street on the east with chimneys on either end of the structure.

Overlooking the patio area is a sweeping exterior staircase with wrought-iron railing, wooden posts, and paver stair treads leading to the second floor. A single-level pool house is behind the main house and is built in the same Spanish style with exposed mortar. The large rectangular pool, added in 1938, was one of the first private exterior pools in Redlands and initially was drained and refilled on a

regular short-term basis before pumps and filters were developed/installed. Next to the pool is a concrete badminton court. The main house has a garage and full-height finished basement and a detached carport. The current owners added a guest house on the west side.

This is a beautiful, lovingly-maintained house and garden. Come join us to celebrate the conservation and preservation of this extraordinary sample of a very southwestern style of construction.

Newsletter Deadline

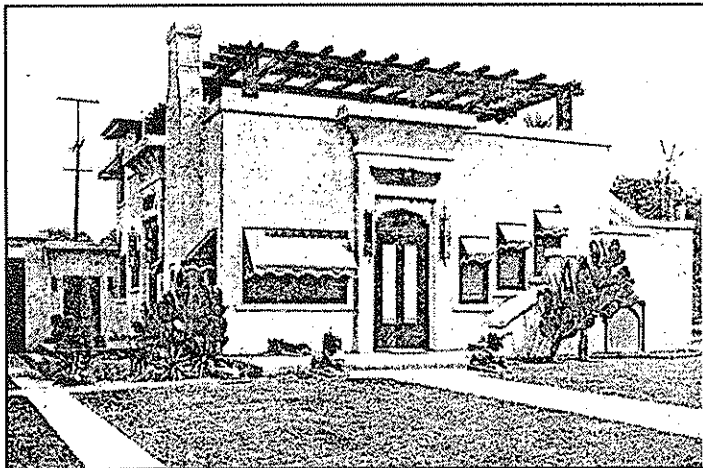
All RAHS members are encouraged to submit articles for the *Redlands Chronicles* to Nathan Gonzales at ngonzales@akspl.org by the 1st of each month.

South Buena Vista Street Walking Tour

The Redlands Area Historical Society will have a walking tour of this beautiful oak-lined street Saturday, November 22nd at 10:00 a.m. The tour will begin at South Buena Vista and West Palm Avenue and proceed north on the west side of the street to West Olive Avenue and then return on the east side of Buena Vista back to West Palm. A fee of \$10 per person is charged. No reservations are necessary. The tour should take about two hours. Tom Atchley, president of the Historical Society, will lead this tour.

Architecture featured on this tour will include Victorian, Spanish Revival, Mission Revival, Classic Box, Egyptian, English Cottage, Dutch Colonial, California Bungalow, and Italian Villa. Homes on South Buena Vista range from the late 1890s to early 1930s. Traveling south on Buena Vista, the homes are older near West Olive and newer near West Palm.

Garrett Huizing was the principal builder on the street. He began constructing homes in Redlands after recovering from Tuberculosis in 1904. He designed the 500 to 700 blocks of the street with oaks and alley access, and would not sell a home until he completed the landscaping. Huizing won a Smiley Award for his landscaped backyard on East Central in 1903. He built on 31 of the 41 lots of upper Buena Vista.



Huizing's King Tut house at 637 South Buena Vista in 1924.

The most famous home on the street is the King Tut residence built by Huizing as a wedding gift for his daughter in 1923. Henri Hicks, a Los Angeles architect, began to build Pompeian, Italian, Spanish, Babylonian, and Egyptian-style homes after Tut's grave was unearthed in 1922. The Egyptian style was the sensation in Southern California for five years.

Egyptian architecture by Huizing included a manicured yard with luxuriant foliage, a roof garden, roof aviary, roof-fireplace, crocodile pool, papyrus plantings, entrance sphinxes, winged serpents, and lotus blossoms.

Buena Vista was originally called "Angelica Street," named for the first subdivision just south of Brookside Avenue. The street name changed in the early 1900s as development spread from West Olive Avenue south.

Historical Society "Christmas ornaments" will also be on sale near the end of the tour.

JOS. J. THAMANN

TOBACCONIST

SMOKE HOUSE
POOL ROOMS



220 Orange St.

REDLANDS

Future Historical Society Events

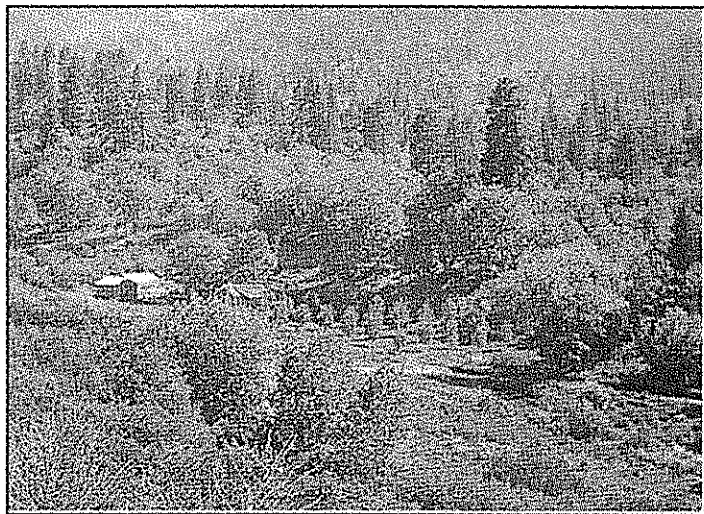
Wednesday, November 19	Old House Group
Saturday, November 22	Buena Vista Street Tour
Tuesday, December 9	Holiday Party
Wednesday, January 21	Old House Group
Monday, January 26	RAHS Meeting
Wednesday, February 18	Old House Group
Monday, February 23	RAHS Meeting
Wednesday, March 18	Old House Group
Monday, March 23	RAHS Meeting
Wednesday, April 15	Old House Group
Monday, April 27	RAHS Meeting
Wednesday, May 20	Old House Group
Wednesday, June 10	Heritage Awards

"Apples in them thar Hills"

Richard H. Stetson and Barton Flats Apples

October is the month we all think of apples. Our end of the valley has a long history of apple orchards and the annual trek to pick and purchase them. One hidden treasure spot is the Stetson-Hill Ranch in the San Bernardino Mountains, nestled on a tributary of Forsee Creek in Barton Flats.

The first apple grower in the east San Bernardino Valley was Peter Atticus Forsee. He settled in Mill Creek Canyon in the early 1860s just east of Mountain Home Village. His apples won awards at State fairs. Forsee was a valued member of the San Bernardino Valley Pioneer Society. In the 1890s, Redlanders camped for weeks during the hot summer



The Stetson Ranch, 1920.

months at Forceeville in the meadow around Peter Forsee's Ranch. The ranch property today is owned by the City of Redlands, which protects the "Eyes of the World Meadow" water supply from development.

Up Mountain Home Stream just south of Angelus Oaks, Samuel Armstrong planted a small orchard with apples and potatoes. Mountain Home received its name from this first resident and Armstrong Peak is just west of Angelus Oaks. A true mountain man, Armstrong sighted his single shot musket on pine trees in the area, leaving the shots to be discovered decades later.

John Skinner planted a small orchard of apples and cherries in 1887 just north of Mountain Home Village. Kate Harvey, his daughter, managed a hotel on the ranch after her father died. Today Lock Levin Church Camp occupies the Skinner homestead, located on Skinner Creek and Mountain Home Creek.

Oak Glen, or Potato Canyon as it was called in the late 1860s, had more potato ranchers than apple growers. Oak Glen was renamed in 1898 by Isaac Ford, Redlands' City Engineer, and platted for small orchards. Ford's Mile High Apple Ranch became a popular journey after the Potato Canyon Road was surveyed and built by Ford.

Real Estate developers Andrew Dike and John Logie marketed Yucaipa as the "Land Where the Big Red Apple Grows." By 1910, apple growing in Yucaipa was all the rage with a town springing up, annual apple fairs, packing houses, and a railroad connection to Redlands in the planning stages. The codling moth put an end to apple orchards in Yucaipa. The pest proved impossible to displace and forced Yucaipa to plant other deciduous fruit.

The upper Santa Ana River had a plethora of apple growers. Hiram Clark homesteaded his Deer Creek Ranch in 1887. He replaced the McHaney Gang that had settled on the property in 1884 and conducted a cattle-rustling operation. Clark left the ranch to his son-in-law Henry Goddard English. Clark's Ranch still had apple trees in the mid-1970s that bears hadn't completely stripped of their limbs. The Clark Ranch buildings were all consumed by the Bear Fire of 1970.

In 1889, E. A. Ball, Pioneer Hotel owner in Redlands, moved to his 160-acre ranch on the Santa Ana River. Ball established Hotel d'Santa Ana, boasting 40 bunk-beds, cherry trees, apple trees, and fresh trout or venison nightly. In 1908, the property became the Weeshaw Club owned by an Orange County sportsmen group. Apple trees are now mostly left on the north side of Glass Road.

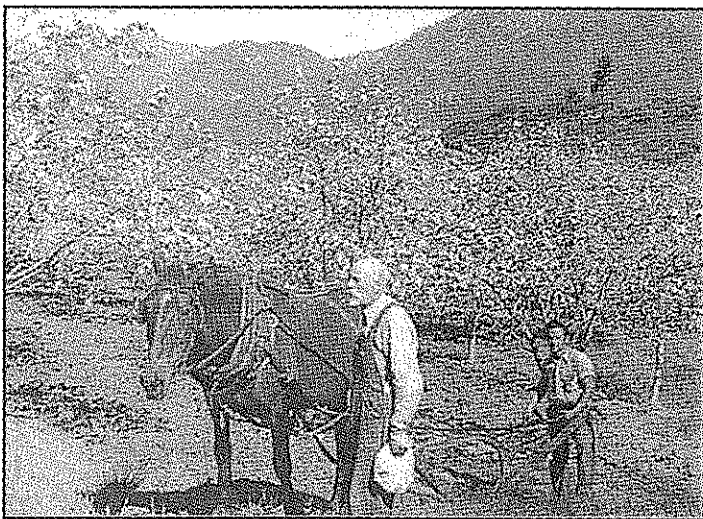
Matthew Lewis settled at Seven Oaks in 1876 and planted an apple orchard in 1883 on the south side of the river. Heavy rains and snow fell in 1884 and wiped out the orchard, which was converted to an alfalfa patch. Later the William Glass family owned Seven Oaks and planted some apple trees with little success.

E. H. Converse planted an orchard in 1883 on the site of Camp Radford. The Converse log cabin stands in a meadow near the camp and was later home to Matthew Lewis and renamed "The Pines" in the late 1890s.

Lester Shaw Jenks planted an orchard in Jenks' Meadow in the 1890s. His trees were scattered along the edge of the meadow and received water without irrigation. Jenks constructed Jenks Lake in the mid-1870s as a log flume pond.

Peter Kranze, Marion Faulkner, and Mattie Smallwood planted their orchard on Bee Creek. This creek was renamed Killpecker Creek after Matthew Lewis dispatched a woodpecker there with an irresponsible, well-tossed stone. John W. Edwards bought this 40-acre apple ranch seeking a climate to recover from tuberculosis. Edwards named his ranch "Harmony." John Edwards ran a grocery in Redlands until his death in 1929. He sold Harmony Ranch apples every fall.

Richard H. Stetson began planting his Forsee meadow apple orchard in 1911. Previous owners of the 35-acre meadow located on Stetson Creek were W. O. Taylor in 1865 and James McHaney in 1885. McHaney, with his brother, also settled on Clark's Ranch on the north side of the Santa Ana River on Deer Creek. Her was a cattleman and probably ran cattle on the sub-irrigated meadow. Nearby Cienega Grande, located on the square mile of Camp Taquitz, was also used for cattle and sheep grazing. Ben Barton brought his sheep there in the 1860s drought and the "Barton" name persists today for the campground, Barton Creek, and the Camp Association that uses Forest Service land around Jenks Lake Road.



Richard Stetson in the 1930s.

Stetson came to San Bernardino from Boston in March 1877. He became the leading livery stable owner with his, brother-in-law, John A. Cole. Cole and Stetson owned livery stables in Colton, San Bernardino, Redlands, Barstow, and Daggett. They owned hotels in three locations as well. Stetson ran

for County Tax Collector in 1886 and was elected by a large margin. His wife, Jennie Cole, owned extensive land in Old San Bernardino. The large Victorian Home boarded up on the south side of Redlands Blvd. between Redlands and Loma Linda is the 1890s Cole residence. The home will be moved to the Heritage Park on Mission Road.

Mary Stetson, daughter of Richard and Jennie, said that her father "moved to the mountains in 1911 after two decades as a county tax collector." "Father wanted to move away from the hustle and bustle of valley life and after decades as a honest tax collector he had few close friends."



Mary Stetson, 1914.

Stetson anticipated the Rim of the World Road construction in 1912, which would skirt the western edge of his mountain property. He built a home and planted nearly 800 apple trees. The nearly 10-acre orchard receives its water from a cienega, now called Stetson Creek, a tributary of Forsee Creek.

Stetson planted Romes, Mackintoshes, King Davids, Arkansas Blacks, Red Delicious, Winesaps, and Staymans. Nearly 70% of the trees are Romes currently. Later in the season Crabapple, Ben Davis, and Gravenstein varieties become available.

Stetson needed a packing house to market his apples. He partnered with Fred Hill, pioneer independent orange packer of Redlands. October-November are down months in the citrus industry and Fred Hill always wanted to keep his packing crews employed despite the down time. The apple market became just another fruit for Hill to pack and sell.

Hill built a summer home in 1942 on the east end of the Stetson Ranch near the cienega that

irrigated the orchard. He planted the orchard just below his cabin during World War II. All the apples were shipped by truck using the Mill Creek Control Road, since the Highway 38 connection was not completed to Barton Flats until 1951. Hill's packing house was in Crafton near the corner of Crafton Avenue and Colton. The Southern Pacific Railroad shipped Fred Hill fruit directly from the packing house.

Hill had been in the packing business since 1893. He was the owner of Prospect Park. His early years with the Bear Valley Toll Road had led him many times to hike and picnic in the Barton Flats region. Like many, he loved the mountains. His death in 1948 led to a further extension of the dirt road from the ranch to Highway 38 christened with his name.

The Verdugo Hills Boy Scout Council used the original Stetson House as their "park" headquarters for years. In 1972, the boy scouts built a one-acre lake at the east end of the old apple orchard. They also built remote bathroom and eating facilities throughout the 35-acre property. The shooting range is now used for hay storage.

The Stetson Creek Ranch was purchased by Tere and Patti Messenger in 2000, after decades of neglect. They are the new "apple wranglers" on this historic piece of mountain history.

My family was joined October 4 by Chuck and Patti Baker and their grandchild, Avelon, on our annual trip to get Stetson Ranch apples. The weather was misty, and the dirt road is still rough in spots. All 8 of us had the ranch to ourselves once there. Patti and Tere supplied the picking utensils. Avelon was mesmerized by the roaming goats and horses.

If you want to just buy apples, go to the store or Oak Glen. If you want an experience, then go to the Stetson Ranch in Barton Flats next season. For details on prices and varieties available, contact: tere@stetsoncreekcreek.com.

--By Tom Atchley

Special event!!
Join the City of Colton &
Colton Area Museum
as the Carnegie Building
Celebrates 100 Years
Saturday, November 22, 2008
10am - 2pm
380 N. La Cadena Avenue, Colton

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GENEALOGY NEWS

Hillside Cemetery Work

Our fearless leader Tom Atchley gave two walking tours of our Hillside Memorial Park this last month. The Society benefited by raising over \$500 on these events. Many thanks to Tom for his preparation and time in giving the tours.

Our work in putting pictures and burial information on the www.findagrave.com website continues. To date 9,136 memorials have been entered on the site for Hillside. This means we are approximately a third of the way towards completion of the project!

The bulk of the work has been done by one of our volunteers, Barbara LeClaire. Barbara grew up in Bloomington and has taken our project and several others under her wing. Presently, Barbara has input over 49,000 memorials. Another of our volunteers, Kym Winkler, has done over 2,700. Our other volunteers have been Sue Hurlbut, Donna Hunter, and Ron Running. These latter three have a ways to go before they approach the work that Barbara and Kym have done.

Barbara and Kym go beyond posting the picture of the gravestone along with the names, dates, and other inscriptions. They also research on the Internet for Census data, or obituary information that might be available.

The other day Barbara shared an example of the types of information that she finds for various

individuals. Charles C. Pratt died on May 19, 1944. His tombstone indicates that he was a Second Lieutenant in the 492nd Army Air Force Bomb Group in World War II. By googling the 492nd Army Air Force, Barbara was able to find that 2nd Lt. Pratt signed out of a B-24J, 44-40151. The name of the plane was GI Joe. In April 1944, the aircraft was flown to North Pickenham, England, via the southern route. Lt. Pratt flew as the aircraft commander of Crew 805 for one mission. On 19 May 1944, the Pratt Crew was involved in a bombing raid to attack a marshalling yard at Brunswick, Germany.

The 492nd was caught without fighter protection by the German Luftwaffe. After being severely hit by FW-190s, Pratt announced to his crew that they were going to bomb the target "come hell or high water!" But the spreading fire forced an order to abandon ship. Only three gunners made it out before the fire reached the bomb bay, causing the aircraft to explode into a huge fireball. The plane crashed near Linsburg, Germany.

Often the volunteers of the Findagrave.com project are asked by family members to research, locate, and photograph a gravesite of a relative. We are grateful for the hours of dedication that our team is putting forth in this effort. To volunteer, call Ron Running at 798-1289!

-- Ron Running

Another New Genealogy Website

Many of you are familiar with a popular website called www.cyndyslist.com which has over 250,000 links to various genealogical websites throughout the world. Cyndy's site has become so large that often users find it cumbersome to find the exact category for the particular website in which they might have interest. In addition, it is nearly impossible for Cyndy and her staff to make sure that all of the websites are completely functional and up-to-date.

Barbara Renick is a professional genealogist who lives in Orange County. Barbara has created a simplified website called www.Zroots.com. The Zroots.com is a basic one-page chart that lists the major websites that are current and on the cutting edge for genealogical work.

An example is Linkpendium which has over 5.8 million names in its database. A popular message board is found under GenForm. GenGateway is a book search tool that allows you to search the text in printed books online.

The American Memory site is operated by the Library of Congress which has thousands of digital photos and maps for free use. Clusty is a new search engine that clusters sites by related topics. Another search engine is all Colossus. Finally, Barbara recommends using www.About.com for finding tools for genealogical research. The site has links to maps, gazetteers and free PowerPoint templates for use.

Happy researching!!

-- Ron Running