



October 2011

“Historic Preservation – Is It Worth It?”

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK PANEL

Monday, October 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Mitten Building, 345 N. Fifth Street

Don't miss our panel discussion on the importance of Historic Preservation as part of our celebration of Historic Preservation Week in Redlands. On the panel will have an historic preservation officer from an Inland Empire city, a representative from the Claremont Foundation, an architect who does preservation work, and a land owner who has preserved several historic structures.

The purpose of the panel will be to explore the history of Historic Preservation efforts in Redlands and in some neighboring communities. Is Historic Preservation worth it in today's economy? Should we be doing more to further preservation efforts in Redlands? What are some incentives that other communities use to preserve their various historic resources.

Many communities in the State utilize the Mills Act as an incentive for individuals to undertake restoration of historically designated structures. What are the tax implications and incentives that can be used?

All these questions and many more will be discussed.



Kimberly Crest was built in 1897 for Cornelia Hill

Old House Group Meeting

October 25, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Kimberly Crest

1325 Prospect Drive

The October Meeting of the Old House Group will be held on Tuesday the 25th, in the Garden House at Kimberly Crest, at 6:30 pm. An open tour of Kimberly Crest will be held just prior to our meeting, from 3:00 to 6:30 pm.

Our tour of Kimberly Crest will coincide with the Preservation Week activities ongoing in Redlands at the time. Old House Group members will be able to interact with other preservation-minded individuals attending the tour.

Kimberly Crest is a French chateau-style home built in 1897, and is a well-preserved example of the Victorian era in California. The 7,000 square foot, three-story chateau sits on a 6 ¼-acre estate and is enjoyed by more than 11,000 visitors annually.

(Continued on page 7)

A Letter from your President...

The Redlands Area Historical Society (the Society) has started the year with a very successful September and all the early planning and preparation is showing by your Board of Directors.

On September 21st we all had the opportunity to attend our Old House Group Potluck Dinner that was held at the beautiful residence of Dr. Ed and Nancy Garrett. The home was a 2011 Heritage Award – winner built in 1926 for Hugh McCulloch, in the historic neighborhood known as the Country Club Park subdivision. Each guest had an opportunity to enjoy visiting with club members and sampling a wide array of homemade dishes that were prepared by all of those who attended. Thank you to the Garretts for sharing their beautiful home with the organization and Leslie Irish, Chair of the Old House Group for organizing our annual dinner.

The next week was our first Program Meeting of the year that was held on September 26th titled *“the History of Packing Houses in Redlands”* featuring our own Tom Atchley. The meeting attendees braved the overworked air conditioning system and packed inside the Assembly Room of the A.K. Smiley Public Library to hear a timely discussion on the vast influence the citrus industry played in the formation of Redlands. The guests were treated to a presentation of historical photographs that depicted the early packing houses and how they were operated. The guests learned how Redlands citrus producers were true pioneers in the development of growing, harvesting and packing techniques that eventually brought Redlands to national prominence and ultimately dominated the naval citrus industry.

The month of October will bring many opportunities for our members. First, the month has been designated by your Board of Directors as **“Redlands History Tour Month”**. We will feature four historic tours that will each serve as a fundraiser for the Society. Second, the Redlands Area Historical Society and the Redlands Conservancy have teamed up to present **“Historic Preservation Week”** that will take place in Redlands from October 22nd to October 29th. As part of the special week the City of Redlands has the distinct privilege to host the California State Historic Resources Commission Board of Directors who will be holding several meetings in the City beginning on Wednesday, October 26th and concluding on Friday, October 27th.

The four tours that will take place during **“Redlands History Tour Month”** will be led by Tom Atchley and will cost just \$10.00 for each tour. The tour schedule is as follows: Saturday, October 1st at 9:00 AM Center Street Tour Part 1, Saturday, October 15th at 9:00 AM Center Street Tour Part 2, Saturday, October 22nd at 3:00 PM Hillside Cemetery Tour and Saturday, October 29 at 10:00 AM Tour of Downtown Redlands starting at the Ed Hales Park. The first tour was a success with 50 people attending. The Center Street Tour part 1 passed by several Victorian mansions the “Butler Belt,” the Wissahickon Inn, several Heritage Award homes and ended at the projected center of the Judson and Brown’s 1881 subdivision.

The Society will host many events during **“Historic Preservation Week.”** For more information on the week’s events and how you can participate see the article in our October News Letter and go to our website for a full listing of events. The week’s festivities will allow us to invite the community to learn about the important role the Society plays in educating our citizens of the significant historic resources that we all enjoy in our City. The week will also serve as an opportunity to showcase to our California State Historic Resources Commissioners who serve as the chief policy leaders on historic issues that Redlands is a special community of great historic value. I believe that this demonstration will assist us all in the future, as we work to preserve our community Redlands.

I encourage all of our members to participate in one or several events that we have planned for you during the month of October. I also believe that these events will be a great opportunity to learn more about the history of Redlands and to share with your family, friends and neighbors the importance of the Society and the work that we do to help preserve Our Town. I will look forward to seeing you at one of the many events that we have planned this month.

Bill Blankenship

Historic Preservation Week

October 22nd – October 29th

The Historical Society and the Redlands Conservancy are jointly sponsoring and celebrating Redlands Historic Preservation Week during the last week in October. The impetus of having Preservation Week at this time is the fact that the California State Historic Resources Commission will be holding their fall meeting in Redlands on Friday, October 28th. The Commission meets quarterly to revise and approve applications for the State Historic Register. One of our members, Donn Grenda, is a member of the State Commission.

Activities of the week will start with the Society's annual Hillside Cemetery tour on Saturday, October 22nd, at 3 p.m. led by Tom Atchley. On Monday evening, the Historic Society's monthly meeting will be held at the Mitten Building at 7 p.m. where a panel discussion will be held on topic of Historic Preservation. Panelists will include guest representatives from other Southern California communities that have active historic preservation programs.

Tuesday evening, October 25th will include a special activity sponsored by the Society's Old House Group. On Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. the Redlands Forum will be held at ESRI with Milford Wayne Donaldson as a guest speaker. Mr. Donaldson is a well known historic preservation architect and is currently the state historic preservation officer.

On Thursday evening, October 27th a reception for the State Historic Commission will be held. During the day on Thursday, the Commission will be given tours of the City and will be visiting some of our major historic resources. As mentioned previously, the Commission's meeting will be held on Friday, October 28 during the day. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

The week long celebration will finish with a tour of Downtown Redlands starting at 10 a.m. starting at Ed Hales Park on State and Fifth Street. The tour will be led by Tom Atchley and will last approximately two hours. Contributions of \$10 per person are suggested for all of the tours.

More detailed information will be published in the October edition of the Society's newsletter as well on our webpage and Facebook page.

- by Ron Running

Genealogy News

2011 ANCESTRY NOVEMBERFEST

Annual Family History Fair

Saturday, November 5, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

LDS Church

7000 Central Avenue

Highland, CA

This year's Novemberfest is going to be held in a new location. The event will follow the same format used in previous years by offering free genealogy classes during the morning on Saturday, November 5th. Registration will be between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The keynote address will start at 9:00 a.m. and will be given by Kerry Bartels, the Archives Specialist at the National Archives in Riverside (NARA).

Eighteen different classes will be held during the morning offering six classes each hour. The topics will be:

9:40 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

Many Facets of the National Archives Website (Part I)
Family Search: What's Under the Umbrella
Emigration Research
Getting Started with RootsMagic
Family History for the Frazzled Family
Digital Cameras for Genealogists

10:45 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

Many Facets of the National Archives Website (Part 2)
Digital Data Keeping (Mac/PC)
Using the 1790-1840 Censuses
FamilySearch.org Records Search
Bulldoze Your Way in to the Land Records
Puritans or Pilgrims: What is the Difference

11:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

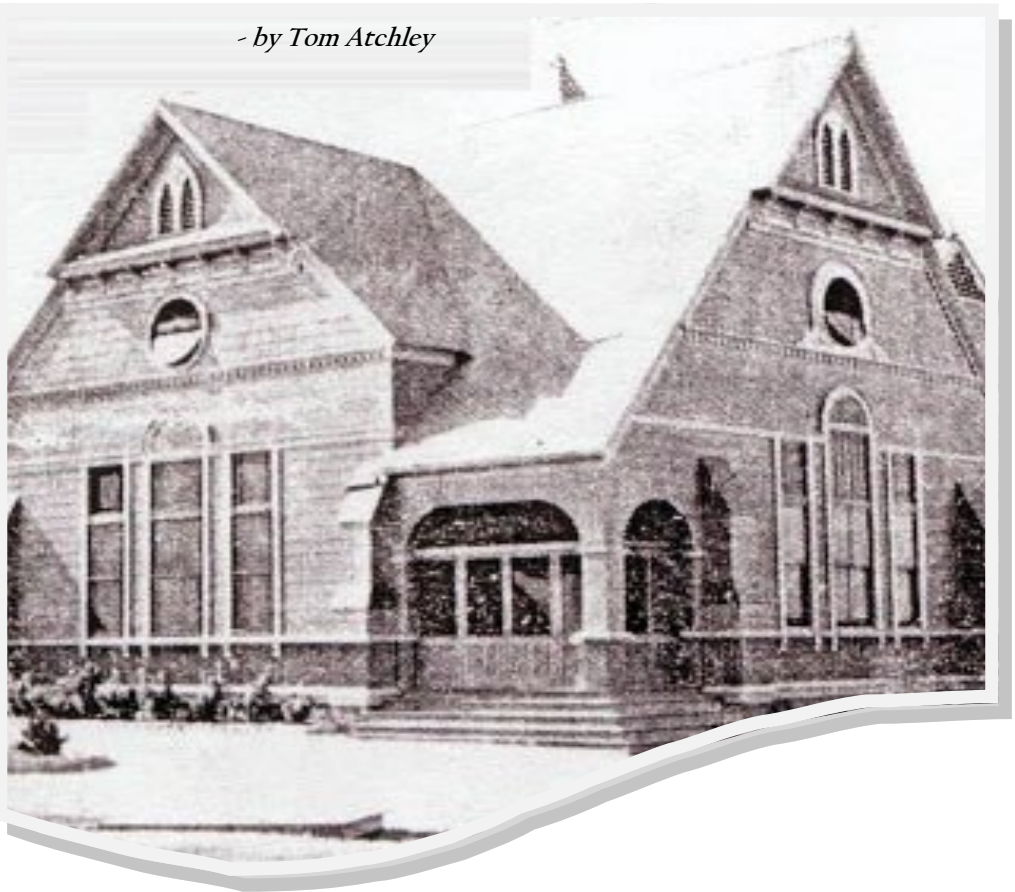
RootsMagic and New FamilySearch
Finding Your Ancestors on Ancestry.com
Revolutionary War Research
Harnessing the Power of Google
The Mysterious McGowen: A Case Study
Record Keeping Methods

For more information call: (909) 794-3844

Sponsored by the Redlands-Yucaipa and Highland
Family History Centers

Methodist Church History in Redlands

- by Tom Atchley



The denomination has organized six different churches over a hundred-year history. The Methodist Episcopal South first met in Society Hall on the corner of Orange and Water Street (Redlands Blvd.) and then later built a church on Citrus Avenue between Sixth and Cajon. The downtown parking lot west-end comes close to the proximity.

African Americans organized the African Methodist Episcopal on the south west corner of State and Seventh Street. S. H. Johnson was the first pastor.

B. J. Jacobs was instrumental in the organization of the University United Methodist Church. He donated \$3,000 in 1904 and the church was built in 1905 on the corner of West Union Avenue and Washington Street and dedicated as Grace Methodist Episcopal Church March 26, 1905. Sunday school boasted 133 in attendance and this led to steady enlargements. In 1947, property on Colton and Division Street was purchased. Grace Church became University Methodist Church and the new church built in 1956. The new education building followed in 1969.

Beginning with tent meetings in 1925 the Brookside Methodist Church first church was on the corner of Webster and Colton Avenue. The 1926 church was constructed just west of the early tent gathering spot. The 18 charter members grew with the completion of the church from 24 to 68. Between 1956 and 1966 the church bought a larger parcel on Tennessee Street and built a church.

Latin America Free Methodist Church first met in the Tennessee Street Brookside Methodist Church with Bible studies in Spanish in the

1970's. After meeting in the Veterans of Foreign Wars building in Yucaipa and the community building on Lugonia the congregation bought the property on the corner of Clay and Lugonia Avenue. Their facilities were dedicated in October of 1985.

The first and largest of the Methodist congregations was the First Methodist Episcopal that built their church on the south west corner of Cajon and Citrus (above.) Today the west side of the telephone company building comes close to the location. Cajon Street met Citrus and Orange forming a triangle and the Methodists chose this as their building site after Judson and Brown, founders of Redlands, donated the land.

The Methodists followed the Congregationalists (1883) and Episcopal (1885) Both the Baptists and Methodists can trace their organization to 1887.

Pastor Charles W. Nicklin

held the first three services of the newly formed Methodist congregation in private Redlands homes in July of 1887. W. F. Allison promised to donate land for a future church. By September Rev. Colburn was able to move the twelve charter members to the newly constructed YMCA building on East State Street. Officially the Southern California Methodist Conference recognized the new congregation November 15, 1887.

Methodists in Redlands would use the YMCA until their new church was constructed. In return, Methodists became major contributors to the YMCA over the years. To finance the construction of a church the Ladies Aid Society conducted strawberry festivals, flower festivals, picnics and ice cream socials. Judson and Brown donated land on Citrus and Cajon when the Allison land fell through.

Methodists, following the

(Continued on page 6)



Methodist Church on the Lord's Corner (Cajon and Olive.)



(Methodist, continued from page 4)

teachings of John Wesley, joined the Redlands Improvement group, planted trees, built an animal drinking fountain in the triangle, sent missionaries to care for Indians, celebrated children's days and conducted a growing Sunday School. Methodists held union picnics with the Baptists and Presbyterians at Urbita Springs.

In 1888, Benjamin C. Cory became the new minister. In 1889, the first foundations of the church were formed. Before the church was completed a parsonage for Cory was built. In the wooden framed unfinished church, Mrs. George A. Cook suggested prayer meetings and a revival. Methodists revivals held in Yucaipa Wildwood Canyon, Fallbrook, Oak Glen, Eden Springs, Rabel Springs, Arrowhead Hot Springs and Urbita became legendary. Great preaching, baseball games and family celebrations were the centerpiece of each revival.

Methodists Mentone minister Rev. J. H. Stewart allowed Sunday School for Redlands folks until the Church was completed in 1891. The \$5200 church was the envy of other congregations. A Wesleyan Centennial Service was conducted on March 15, 1891. This was the most expensive church built in Redlands at this time. Methodists had taken four

years to raise the funds but still continued vital charities. In June, the University of Southern California located in Ontario, held a concert in the new church. An Epworth League formed to discuss religious literature and Bible studies. Methodists attended from Mound City and Highland as well.

Methodists took firm stands on Redlands civic issues. They opposed prohibition but still invited the Women's Christian Temperance Union to lecture. They supported the newly formed Salvation Army despite the fact this might attract tramps (homeless) to Redlands. They formed a "Boys Brigade" in 1893 to pick up downtown trash and do missionary work. Methodists opposed the forced removal of Redlands Chinese in 1893. They even invited Wang Foo Shun to lecture the congregation. Scipio Craig, editor of the *Citrograph* newspaper from 1887-1908, considered the Methodist congregation the best "singing Christians" in Redlands.

Outgrowing their church in yearly stages the Methodists bought land on the north-east corner of Cajon and Olive in 1901. Methodists planned an extensive new church and Sunday School annex. Over \$11,000 was subscribed in 1902 and the newest

church was added to the Lord's corner joining the Baptists and Congregationalists. The official corner stone was laid November 8, 1902. Membership was now 600 with an average 400 attending Sunday school.

Garrett Huizing was contracted to build the extensive Sunday School complex along East Olive and this was dedicated March 5, 1925. The Emory Ewart Watchorn memorial chimes were dedicated October 15, 1925. All of Redlands suffered a major loss when the 1902 church burned on a night in June 1967.

Mrs. Eleanor Sibley and E. S. Libby, charter members of 1887, attended the 50th anniversary in 1937. They expressed pride that Methodists were the early supporters of Associated Charities (Family Service) and reached out to new immigrants in the community.



ORDER YOUR DVD VIDEO

All of our monthly programs and Heritage Awards ceremonies are dutifully recorded each month by Ger and Linda Brassfield of **Blue Eagle Video**. We are sure you will want to order a keepsake video of Tom Atchley's September program on the History of Packing Houses in Redlands. Videos are \$20 each.

To order a video contact Ger or Linda at: (909) 882-2003 or email: blueeaglevideo@aol.com.

Newsletter Deadline

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



(Old House Group, continued from page 1)

Originally built by Mrs. Cornelia A. Hill, a widow from New York, the home was purchased by J. Alfred Kimberly (a co-founder of the Kimberly-Clark Corporation) and Helen Cheney Kimberly in 1905. Their widowed daughter, Mary Kimberly Shirk, lived in the home from 1920 until her death in 1979.

The house's unique features include a French revival parlor complete with gilt furniture and silk damask wall coverings. Terraced Italian gardens, orange groves and ponds surround the home. The lily ponds feature Koi, lilies, lotus and papyrus. In 1998, KSA was made an honorary member of the Inland Koi Society who maintains the lily ponds at Kimberly Crest.

In 1963 there was a community effort to raise money to purchase Prospect Park (a 39-acre botanical park east and adjacent to Kimberly Crest) for the City of Redlands. To motivate support for this project, Mrs. Shirk promised to give her home to the "people of Redlands," if the needed money was raised. The park was acquired in 1968. The following year the Kimberly-Shirk Association, a non-profit corporation was formed. In her will, Mrs. Shirk left the house to the Association for the people of Redlands.

Please join us in our celebration of this Redlands treasure. For questions or comments please contact – Leslie Irish (951) 201-5742.



Kimberly Crest looking toward Canon Crest Park (above) and the Italianate gardens (left.)