



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

November/December 2019

## HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 10, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Hadley Residence

1121 W. Highland Avenue, Redlands

IN APRIL 1890, the *Citrograph* reported, "The street carline has been extended to F. E. Brown's residence on San Jacinto Street. Cars are now making regular trips. A perceptible increase of travel has been noticed."

Frank E. Brown was co-founder of the Redlands Colony. He arrived in the area in 1878, and taught school in San Timoteo Canyon for six months before building a home in Lugonia on the corner of Church and Lugonia Avenue. He built his next home in what was thought might be the business center of the Redlands Colony on the corner of Center and Cypress Avenues in 1882. The Brown family was growing with five children so a new home was needed. He began construction of the third home in 1890 on the corner of West Highland and San Jacinto. The new house was finished in 1891 for the cost of \$5,500 and the barn another \$2,000. The Browns remained in the home for only one year before leaving Redlands for the Moreno Development in Riverside County.

At that time, Dr. Robert Thomas Allan and his wife, Jean, of San Francisco, purchased the property. They returned to San Francisco for two months while an addition doubling the size of the residence was completed.

Upon the death of Mrs. Allan's father in 1895, she inherited a substantial amount from the San Francisco pioneer. This allowed the Allans to build an adjacent domicile to the west of the barn in 1899, at 1145 W. Highland Avenue. The Allans rented out the old Brown house and occupied the new home until they suffered financial reverses after the San Francisco earthquake. They were forced to sell the house at 1145 and return to their former residence next door. Mrs. Allan sold the old Brown property in 1933. The house was demolished shortly after its sale.

The conversion of the carriage barn into a home probably occurred in 1928. S.E. Kannady had the water connected by the city in November of that year. Residents began being listed in the Redlands City Directory in 1931.

Originally the building consisted of two sides with an open area for cleaning of carriages and horses. The home also no longer has the vents that were much in evidence in early photos. It still, however, has three hay hooks which were used to hoist hay bales to the 'second story' of the barn. Massive fireplaces are at either end of the interior of the barn. The first floor west end is a very large living room and the grooming and tack rooms have been converted into a kitchen. The conversion created five bedrooms on the second floor. The plain Doric columns were added to the exterior of the barn to support an ivy trellis so that the home now appears to be of Colonial Revival architecture.

Thank you to owners Dean and Candace Hadley for opening their home.



*Close-up of Frank Brown's carriage barn, 1891.*



## *Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,*

AT THIS TIME of Thanksgiving, it is essential to offer our thanks to a number of people who have been instrumental in furthering the mission of the Redlands Areas Historical Society.

At our October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting we honored several individuals - volunteers who stepped forward to work on our Hillside Cemetery project chaired by former RAHS board member Leslie Irish. Those who diligently spent hours on the project included Kim Ennis McCrory, Gail Kramer, Carol Dyer, Julie Lamoureux, and Sharon Swan. As well, we sincerely appreciate the help and assistance of Armando Valles, manager/director of Hillside Cemetery and Rosie Linares, from the City of Redlands. Family members, genealogists and other researchers will benefit from these efforts.

A special thank you to AK Smiley Public Library archivist Dr. Nathan Gonzales for his presentation on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to generosity of an unnamed donor, the staff of the Heritage Room now has the equipment to digitize movies. If you have home movies that include scenes of Redlands, please contact Nathan.

For those of you who participated in the High Street neighborhood tour and/or the annual tour of Hillside Cemetery, thank you for being part of these events. Your support is greatly appreciated!!

As a reminder, the Society does not hold meetings in November and December. We do look forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas holiday event on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. Our first meeting of 2020 is on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 o'clock p.m. at the Contemporary Clubhouse.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and joyous Thanksgiving.

With warmest wishes,

*Steve Spiller*

### **Newsletter Deadline**

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



*Cemetery volunteers display their plaques.*

*Redlands Area Historical Society would like to thank our **CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS:***

**Wes & Peggy Brier**

**Tim Watson—Mission Pediatrics, Inc.**

**Morgan Framing**

**Rita Shaw, Realtor, Rita Shaw and Associates**

**Daniel Haueter & Steven Villa    Geoffrey Hopper & Associates**

**Marjorie Lewis - Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes**

**Dr. Marcus Paulson DDS, MS—Paulson Orthodontics—[www.PaulsonOrtho.com](http://www.PaulsonOrtho.com)**

**Leslie Irish & Rebecca Mangum**

**Jill Huntsinger, Redlands REALTOR, CAPITIS Real Estate, [www.finedigs.com](http://www.finedigs.com)**

**Esri**

# Heritage Award Winners

## CORA J. WILSON HOME

606 Alvarado Street

Built in 1926

Arthur and Nancy Svenson, Owners

The San Bernardino County Archives tax records lists Cora J. Wilson as purchasing the land in 1926 from Gertrude A. Hayes and show a home was built in 1927 at a cost of \$3,200. Cora only lived in the house for two years before her passing. She was a native of Massachusetts and moved from New Hampshire to Los Angeles for three years before coming to Redlands. She died on July 9, 1929 and funeral services were held in her home at 606 Alvarado St. before burial in New Hampshire.

The Partija Amena Tract consists of only eight lots on the west side of Alvarado St., south of Cypress Ave. The home is on lot 2. The origin of this tract and the meaning of the name remains a mystery.

The architecture of this home is Italian Renaissance and is asymmetrical in shape. The front or east side is "L" shaped and the back is "H" shaped. The roof is a low hip of red tile. The windows are a combination of double hung and slender glass panes that open in. The stucco siding is molded around the windows and doors to give them an inset feeling. In the middle of the second story is a balcony with a black metal balustrade. Under this balcony is the centered front porch. Two

columns support the balcony above. The front door has a large rectangular glass pane at the top with wood below. On either side are side lights with metal decoration in the glass. The cement porch has the original metal balustrade. On either side of this porch on the southeast and northeast corners are identical windows with a large fixed window with slender windows on each side. Above each window is a half-circle wood decoration applied to the buildings surface. Two large Italian cypress trees flank the home.

The back or west side of the house on the second floor has a balcony. Under this balcony on the first floor are two sets of French doors opening onto a patio. A shed-like cover of red tile and two large brackets support the balcony above. There are two more patio areas on the north and south side. A detached garage is southwest of the home. On the north side of the yard is a swimming pool and behind the pool is a beautiful flower and herb garden. On the south side is a play area and shed. Right in the middle is a very large, old oak tree.

With further discussion on more residents of this fine home, we note that in 1934 Clifford T. Norwood, Cora Wilson's

nephew was awarded the home. It remained vacant until 1937 when it was sold to Louise Duke, a widow. Mrs. Duke's husband, Victor Leroy Duke, was the second President of the University of Redlands from 1914 until his death in 1933. Louise lived at 606 Alvarado for five years. In 1942, J. Warren and Catherine E. Roach purchased the home and lived there until 1968. Mr. Roach passed away in May 1975. His obituary in the *Redlands Daily Facts* states: He came to Redlands in 1917 and graduated from Redlands High School. He worked his way up from bookkeeper to manager of the First National Bank. In the 1960s, he transferred to the San Joaquin Division retiring in 1965 and becoming Tulare County Inheritance Tax Appraiser for the State of California until 1971.

After the Roach family moved in 1968, there were five more families that bought and sold 606 Alvarado. In 1985 Arthur Svenson purchased the home. He has lived here for 34 years making him the longest owner of this property. Art Svenson has been a professor of Political Science at the University of Redlands for 38 years. He was recognized twice as the Professor of the Year at the University and also, is a two-time Fulbright Scholarship recipient. Nancy Svenson also works at the University of Redlands as the Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Graduate and Professional Enrollment. Together the couple have made a wonderful team on the restoration of their home which was slightly enlarged to include a new kitchen, master bathroom, patio, rear porches, and pool – all to give the viewer the impression these additions were always in place – all built to the integrity of the home.

The Redlands Area Historical Society give our best wishes to Arthur and Nancy Svenson for their continued stewardship of 606 Alvarado and much happiness in the years to come. For maintaining and improving this beautiful home we present them this 2019 Heritage Award.

Researched by: Marjorie Lewis & Karen Flippin



# LUGONIA HISTORY: REDLANDS BEGINS

- by Tom Atchley

MOVING EAST from the Timber Settlement had two advantages and many disadvantages. The Bearry Roberts Ditch would suffer from less evaporation by taking the water of the Santa Ana miles to the east. Little irrigation competition would interfere with the surplus water use in the winter and early spring.

Disadvantages along the south bench of the Santa Ana were numerous. The land was bone dry composed of sand and gravel, and an occasional boulder thrown in the mix. No trees dotted the landscape from Tennessee Street in the west and Church Street in the east. Native Americans had scorned the location for food gathering since the land produced only sage brush and cactus. The nearest shade was along the Santa Ana River and many of these trees were scoured from the river bottom in the 1862 flood. That flood had removed some of the south bench sending the soil to Huntington Beach and the ocean. The settlement of San Bernardino with stores, post office, telegraph and farm supplies was now four miles further with no connecting road. Settling on this naked bench land with little green from the south bank of the river to the Terrace along the present Interstate 10 seemed an act of desperation or a foolhardy notion. Despite the apparent disadvantages the migration began in 1867.

Bearry Roberts planted corn, alfalfa, potatoes, beans and a half-acre of fruit trees on 35 acres in the spring of 1867. He had 25 head of cattle, 12 milk cows and 600 sheep. His farm like all the others in Lugonia was typical hard scramble agriculture. His fruit trees were watered by buckets of water from the Santa Ana during the long summer months. Other long-term groves were impracticable because the water supply only lasted through the winter and early spring. Roberts married Miss Frances Thomas, the daughter of Edwin H. Thomas. Edwin Thomas was one partner in the Berry Roberts Ditch filing. Roberts and Edwin Thomas planted their first crops together in the spring of 1867.

Bearry Roberts is listed as one of the first resident farmers of Redlands. He was born in Conway County, Arkansas in 1836. At the age of 16, Roberts was mining for gold on Scherlock Creek about six miles from the town of Mariposa until 1857. He purchased land in the Timber Settlement in 1862.

Roberts left the Berry Roberts Settlement in 1870. He moved to San Timoteo Canyon and bought a ranch with 200 acres. His wife died in 1879 leaving him 12 children to raise. Several children stayed in San Timoteo Canyon and two moved to Mill Creek Canyon to farm apples. Roberts kept his 160 acres in Lugonia, speculating on better times in the future. He most likely lied to the Los Angeles Federal Land Office in 1872, since he didn't live on the Lugonia land the required five years proscribed under Homestead Act



*Bearry Roberts is shown at right, 1891.*

legislation. In addition, the Homestead Act allowed a farmer to only one homestead in their life.

In December 1870, Roberts sold his rights to Hezekiah W. Ball, a burly Texan, who owned land in the Timber Settlement. Ball saw that a waste water right was not enough and bought 45 shares of the Timber Ditch water. Ball moved his Timber Ditch shares and combined them with part ownership in the Bearry Roberts Ditch. Ball claimed 1/3 interest of the Bearry Roberts Ditch in 1870. Ball filed for a patent on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 16, township 1 south, range 3 west, San Bernardino meridian on December 10, 1870. His land was north of Pioneer Street between Tennessee and Alabama. The government land office patented the Ball claim April 2, 1874 giving him the most valuable water rights in the Bearry Roberts Ditch. Ball paid about a dollar an acre for 160 acres of land in section 16. This was State School land and the money was set aside for school construction.

Ball accomplished something revolutionary is his transfer of Timber Ditch water shares to the Bearry Roberts Ditch. Previously, the first newcomers to the Bearry Roberts Ditch did not transfer their water

rights to the new ditch. The Roberts Ditch was completely a waste water ditch with only rights to winter water and spring flow to June 1. Ball, on the other hand, claimed the right to move his Timber Ditch shares to the Bearry Roberts Ditch. According to George Beattie, "It aroused strong opposition among his Timber Settlement neighbors, to the extent of physical combat in some cases. Ball, however, was accustomed to carry his point, by force when necessary." Others quickly followed the Ball bold move and by 1873 William W. McCoy, James B. Glover, Dr. Benjamin Barton, Colonel William R. Tolles and others were paying Ball the nominal sum of one dollar an acre right for the privilege of running their water through the Berry Robert Ditch. Apparently Ball had become the owner of the Bearry Roberts Ditch.

Wright Ball, perhaps the son of Hezekiah W. Ball, was the water master of the Berry Roberts Ditch in 1870. He dug a well June 1, 1870 to provide domestic water. This is the first well dug in the East San Bernardino Valley. Wright Ball undeterred by the lack of summer water, hauled water from the Mill Creek Zanja to keep his trees alive.

Tiring of these abominable work efforts, Wright Ball moved to Crafton in March 1873.

Houston Thomas, Calvin L. Thomas and Edwin H. Thomas stayed on the ditch for three seasons mostly raising corn. The Thomas family quit their claim after three years but didn't falsify their homestead rights. Calvin Thomas was born in Bledsoe County, Tennessee in 1837. He planned moving his family to Oregon in 1852, but deep snow in the Rockies brought him to San Bernardino instead. The family settled in the Mount Vernon District just south of San Bernardino. Most of the family participated in the Holcomb Valley gold rush of 1860. Houston Thomas irrigated five acres of corn using the Bearry Roberts Ditch water in 1868.

Calvin Thomas served one term as a county supervisor. He died in 1874 leaving seven children. Chances are good that Thomas Hunting Grounds, an interesting place name in the San Bernardino National Forest near Angelus Oaks, is named for this prominent pioneer family. The Thomas family were market hunters obtaining venison, bear, possum and antelope for the San Bernardino market.

Henry Suverkrupt, a German immigrant, had 40 acres in grain and planted

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a row of cottonwood trees to add color and shade to the new farm colony. He died in either 1874 or 1875 ending the original filing partnership of the Bearry Roberts Wastewater Ditch. With only a few original families living on the banks of the Berry Roberts Ditch the formality of a water time keeper proved unnecessary. Comments on this informality or omission were mentioned by the Water Commission Board in San Bernardino.

## A GROWING COMMUNITY 1870-1877

George A. Craw became a member of the Bearry Roberts Settlement with the filing on February 10, 1870. According to *Century Annals History of San Bernardino County*, Craw is mistakenly listed as the first resident of Lugonia. Roberts does get a mention for his ditch in 1869 and the others are omitted entirely. Their three-year farming experiment and repair of the Tenney Ditch and creation of the new Berry Roberts ditch was lost apparently, since they moved back to San Bernardino or San Timoteo Canyon. The Bearry Roberts Settlement at first failed but other dissatisfied Timber settlers soon followed - especially after Hezekiah Ball moved his Timber Settlement shares.

George Craw had about 15-20 acres of land next to Bearry Roberts. When Roberts vacated his homestead claim in 1870, Craw agreed to farm the 160 acres with no deed. Craw occupied the land for about two years and expanded to cultivate 30 acres to grain and 10 acres of corn. Grain was planted in the fall and harvested in May and June. Craw was definitely dry farming and praying for rain in the summer months. Evidently Craw and James B. Glover shared water from the Bearry Roberts Ditch in 1870 and farmed together.

Craw had a couple of mares and colts and some milk cows. Even though his filing isn't listed until February of 1870, Craw had been living in the Bearry Roberts Settlement since the fall of 1869. He wasn't able to plant wheat, barley and corn until the spring of 1870.

William W. McCoy was another of those first to file on the Bearry Roberts Ditch. McCoy was familiar with the East San Bernardino Valley since 1860. He operated a pack supply freight service to Holcomb Valley beginning in 1861. His mule trains packed two to four times a week winding their way up the Santa Ana Canyon and then over a Native American Trail (Seven Oaks Pack Trail) to Bear Valley. McCoy purchased grain and feed for his mules from Timber Settlement farmers and owned a small alfalfa

patch there. In 1867, he leased land from Lewis F. Carpenter on what is now the Paine Ranch (Walnut Road and Zanja) and used Zanja water to produce corn and alfalfa for his freight operation. McCoy mortgaged his Timber Settlement land to purchase Timber Ditch rights and then moved them to the Bearry Robert Ditch. He farmed along the Bearry Roberts Ditch for four seasons.

McCoy took up 160 acres along the ditch. He was an ambitious farmer having sold his muleskinner freight service mules. He hired a force of Native Americans to repair the Bearry Roberts Ditch by widening and deepening the delivery system. McCoy cultivated 80 acres of fruit trees, eight to ten acres of corn, beans, barley, wheat and potatoes. He planted five acres of peach, figs, apple and pear trees. He had a three-acre vineyard as well. His own words recorded in *Hewitt v. Story* 1888, reveal a rough-shod pioneer. "Well, I started in with no other water but the waste water, but I found that, as the words were usually used in them days, that I would dry up and blow away if I didn't get water from the Timber Ditch and moved onto it. This is the way I was forced to sell my place [Timber Settlement land]-----by mortgaging it for money to buy water."

W.W. McCoy and Hiram Barton, the son of 1857 pioneer Ben Barton, began work on a new ditch for the Bearry Roberts Settlement in 1874. Barton owned 1200 acres and began to invest in land along the Santa Ana River. Improvements for the Bearry Roberts Ditch would allow more water for irrigation. A new ditch taking water from the Santa Ana further east was dug and then extended to meet the old Berry Roberts ditch. New land east of Church Street along the bluff was now open for settlement. Israel Beal and George Beattie bought land along the new water ditch and planted crops.

McCoy sold part of his water rights to James B. Glover in 1872. Glover came to the Berry Roberts Settlement on November 20, 1869. He was born in Benton County, Missouri June 29, 1842. He came to California with his parents in 1855. The family arrived in Drytown, Amador County and placer mined during the gold excitement. He learned a blacksmith trade and farming. He married Miss Elizabeth A. McGuire in 1863 and they had three children. For a short time he mined in Owens Valley but abandoned his claim for a farm in Mendocino County. He moved from Mendocino to Southern California in 1870 and filed for a homestead upon arriving. His land claim encompassed Pioneer Avenue west of Orange Street along the river bank. Glover like several before, irrigated his fruit trees by traveling to the Santa Ana River and hauling barrels of water. He persisted in this scheme until he could purchase water rights.

Timber Ditch water shares were expensive, so he could only irrigate with wastewater rights from the Bearry Roberts ditch purchased from H.W. Ball. Ball required annual work days to keep the ditch repaired and dug free of sand, weeds, leaves, and brush.

Ironically, Glover a 28-year-old Missouri Democrat decided to earn the money for water shares in the Timber Ditch by partnering with Israel Beal, a recently freed slave and new settler. The Glover-Beal partnership leased Lewis F. Carpenter land in Crafton and used the Carpenter Mill Creek Zanja water to irrigate a sizeable corn crop for two years. This is the same land that W.W. McCoy had farmed in 1867 that would eventually become the Paine Ranch on 400 Walnut Road and the Zanja by 1876. Recalling his partnership with Beal 50 years later Glover said, "Never in my business



Early Lugonia

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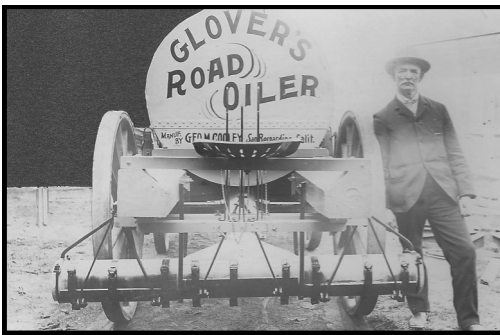
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relations have I been associated with a more honest, or true-hearted person than Israel Beal”

With their two years corn profits both Beal and Glover moved back to their homestead claims along the Bearry Roberts Ditch and purchased shares in the Timber Ditch. They immediately began farming their land. Beal claimed land on West Lugonia Avenue.

Glover related several early incidents in 1919 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his arrival in Redlands. He described the dry coarse prairie that would become Lugonia and later Redlands. He remembered borrowing \$25 to buy a cow. “Three years later he had saved up the \$25 to pay off the note, and was informed that the bill had increased by reason of unpaid interest to \$125. But the man who loaned the money marked off the interest, declaring that any man who will live over there where the lizards wouldn’t even grow half-size is entitled to something.”

Glover also recalled the 1869 typhoid epidemic throughout San Bernardino Valley. He drove day and night on a circuit with the only doctor in the area. They visited some 52 homes with people fighting for their lives. The doctor could only pay Glover with lumber, since that is what patients had paid him. Glover used the wood to construct his first home on Pioneer Avenue.



Glover died in 1921. The City of Redlands paid tribute to his life. He built the first clothing store in Lugonia. He was elected to the first city council of Redlands in 1888. In 1896, he began a 24-year career as a San Bernardino County supervisor representing Redlands and the East San Bernardino Valley. Recalling travel without roads in the early days, Glover championed road construction in the valley and the mountains throughout his elected tenure. To further this endeavor, using his blacksmith skills, Glover invented a road-oiler to preserve and protect the new county roads. Upon arriving for the first time as a county supervisor in 1896, the other four county supervisors elected Glover chairman of the board.

Asa A. Carter settled with his family in the Bearry Roberts Settlement in 1870 and

irrigated with the Bearry Roberts Ditch. Mrs. Hinckley in her book, *On the Banks of the Zanja*, noted the Carter family became neighbors of the Glover’s on Pioneer Street. Hinckley also contends that the Carter family recorded the first birth in the settlement and also first death, when one of their children died.

Israel Beal located in the East San Bernardino Valley with his family in 1870 and remarkably teamed with James B. Glover to earn cash farming land in Crafton. The first glimpse of the history of Israel Beal and his impact in the Lugonia settlement is recorded in the *Hewitt v. Warren Story* 1888 case and the African-Americans did not receive positive press most of the time in this period. The 1887 Lugonia paper reported that, “Israel Beal, the well-known colored man, expects to visit Richmond, Virginia in search of his mother, brothers and sisters, whom he has not seen since 1865. Beal was a slave when the war commenced and in 1865, when Grant captured Richmond, Beal joined the Union forces. When the war ended Beal came to California with a bundle of blankets on his back and an old musket over his shoulder. He went to work for Myron Crafts in Crafton and eventually bought a farm and got married. At first he had 130 acres and sold off all except 20 acres. He has fruit trees, oranges and a garden that would bring \$600 to \$1000 per acre. He couldn’t read or write when the war began but he is now literate.” This story alone illustrates the financial standing Beal had obtained by 1887. He received praise-worthy press coverage throughout his life in Redlands.

In November 1887, Beal had returned from his trip to the South and the *Southern Californian* continued the story. “Israel Beal was born a slave in Goochland County, Virginia until Phil Sheridan came along and Beal joined the Union Army. In five months the war was over with the army going to Washington. Beal left for California. He drifted through the mines of Northern California, Nevada and Arizona for five years and arrived in the East San Bernardino Valley in 1870. He worked for Myron Crafts for 18 months and then rented a farm for three years. (Time with James B. Glover) He afterward purchased C. B. Bates 20 acres for \$10 an acre. He then purchased 17 more acres. He found his five sisters and two brothers in Virginia. He brought his mother to California to care for her.” The *Lugonia Southern Californian* only published for a little over one year and perhaps did only a handful of personality features in that time. Beal received attention in two stories in that short time.

Beal was instrumental in fruit drying, house moving, irrigation projects, water master, fruit propagation, nursery propagation, sewer maintenance and



Israel Beal

construction contracts. Building a substantial two-story home in the 1880’s, Beal moved his family to Pioneer Street just east of Church Street and the George Beattie ranch. His children graduated from Redlands High and one became the first African-American postmaster in Los Angeles. Harry Beal, son of Israel operated a stage line first to Thurman Flats and later to Bear Valley for many seasons. Harry was the personal driver for Anthony Hubbard in the winter season.

Many Bearry Roberts Settlement pioneers are noteworthy but few can match the fame of Colonel William R. Tolles before arriving at the Bearry Roberts Settlement. William Ransom Tolles was born in Litchfield County, Connecticut in 1823. His father was one of the pioneers of the Northwest Territory, Ohio. Tolles was in Arkansas when the legislature of the state declared its secession from the Union. He left immediately on the last river steamer north to enlist in the Forty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a captain of a company. Captain Tolles became a Lieutenant-Colonel when he recruited a regiment of 1,180 men in three weeks. His command became the One Hundred and Fifth Ohio Infantry. His commander, Colonel Hall, died just after the regiment was organized giving the command to Colonel Tolles.

Between December 26, 1862 and January 5, 1863, Tolles led his troops in the 14<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Fifth Division, with the Army of the Cumberland commanded by Major General William S. Rosecrans. They fought at Stone’s River or Murfreesborough in the Tennessee campaign. In the Chattanooga campaign Tolles led the Second Brigade of the

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105<sup>th</sup> Ohio commanded by Major General Ulysses S. Grant. Col. Tolles resigned his commission January 29, 1864 after struggling for months with consumption. (TB) He had a history with the disease since his boyhood.

Tolles left for Ohio, remaining there until 1867. He then met his brother in Michigan and engaged in the lumber business until 1872. Tolles came to Los Angeles expecting to die shortly and was directed to San Bernardino County and Crafton Retreat. Myron Crafts and his wife cared for the ailing Tolles and suggested he remain in the valley to recover his health. Tolles petitioned the Los Angeles Land Office for a 160 acre soldier's homestead in section 22 bounded by San Bernardino Avenue on the north, Church Street on the east, Colton Avenue on the south and Texas Street on the west. Tolles received the northeast quarter, which is mostly Community Park and Clement Middle School today. His property also included the future site of Lugonia Elementary School on the northwest corner of Lugonia Avenue and Church Street. Tolles came to the settlement in August of 1873. He lived with the Crafts family until his home was built.

By 1874 Tolles owned land between Church and Orange Street, Lugonia and San Bernardino Avenues. Tolles built his home on the northeast corner of Church Street and San Bernardino Avenue and moved into the home in January of 1874. Four months later the new home burned down but was rebuilt within six months. Tolles experimented with citrus and planted some seeds from rotten Tahiti oranges he obtained in San Francisco. He read all the books available by the best Spanish authorities on orange culture in Europe. His seedling orange grove produced a partial crop of fruit in the seventh year. In 1882, he planted 50 acres dividing equally between oranges and lemons, deciduous fruits and raisin grapes. While waiting for these fruit trees to mature, Tolles raised vegetables between the rows and realized \$50 profit per acre.

Tolles regained his health in the dry, warm climate. He would be the first of many to regain their health in the San Bernardino Valley. He characterized the same leadership displayed in the Civil War. Mrs. Hinckley called him "a tower of strength."

Tolles had the largest nursery in the East San Bernardino Valley by 1878. He planted peach and apricot trees and realized a \$100 profit per acre in 1881. Always experimenting with new crops, Tolles harvested nearly 9,000 pounds of sweet potatoes while waiting for citrus and deciduous production to begin.

Tolles profits were invested into new land purchases and eventually Tolles owned 1500 acres and was the largest land-

owner in the settlement. More land required more water. Tolles bought shares of the Timber Ditch and then proceeded to move them to the Berry Roberts Ditch east to a new higher diversion from the Santa Ana River. Settlers were now calling this new ditch the South Fork Ditch of the Santa Ana. Nearly all of the 369 original shares of the Timber Ditch had migrated east to the new settlement. Bearry Roberts and the original Bearry Roberts Ditch filers were now history. New settlers abandoned the old Berry Roberts Ditch and only used the new South Fork Ditch.

Tolles reorganized a sloppy, wasteful ditch company into a more efficient water company with a yearly elected water master and a time-keeper. The name zanjero would apply to the same combined positions today. The water flowed year round now in the South Fork Ditch, which was divided into 369 shares on a seven day-six hour rotation. The six-hour variation was arranged, so no rancher would have night or Sunday irrigation all the time. Despite the new ditch organization the South Fork Ditch lost 60% of the water before reaching the last rancher on the ditch. Steel pipe and concrete paved canals would be the only real solution. In 1876, Mill Creek Zanja owners piped water from the mouth of Mill Creek Canyon to their old diversion dam site and increased their water flow to Old San Bernardino by 25%.

Tolles was so ambitious he leased for six years the William G. Borron 160-acre property that owned 1/3 of the Bearry Roberts Ditch. Tolles planted fruit trees, olive trees, grape vines and berries on this property. Tolles wanted Borron, in his European absence, to acquire the homestead. Perhaps Tolles expected some portion of the land when Borron succeeded in his land filing. Borron disappointed Tolles in 1882, when the land was sold to Isaac L Hewitt. Borron moved back to Melbourne, Australia with his invalid wife.

Isaac Hewitt wanted land for his son, Harvey. Hewitt purchased 14 hours, 8 minutes and 45 seconds in the new South Fork Ditch. Isaac Hewitt ended up with 30 shares in the South Fork Ditch Company. Hewitt also owned 240 acres and claimed 2/3 interest in the now abandoned Bearry Robert Ditch. Next to Tolles, Hewitt became the second largest land owner.

The quest for additional water sources to supplement the South Fork Ditch became a yearly theme for the Bearry Roberts settlement. Parson C. B. Bates, William W. McCoy and John Bates petitioned the County Water Board for a waste water right on a small stream issuing from Guess Canyon (Morton Canyon) located on the south side of the Santa Ana River. Bates intended to convey the water in a ditch to a ranch known as the

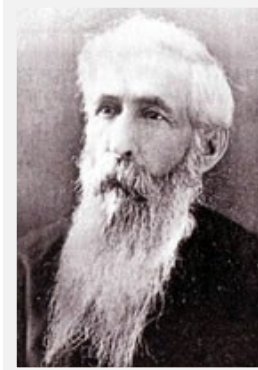
"Green Spot" occupied by George Crafts and then southwesterly to the Bearry Roberts ditch. The May 24, 1872 request was protested by the entire ownership of the South Fork Ditch Company since the water was a tributary of the Santa Ana River.

The failure of the first endeavor led Josiah Bates, W.W. McCoy and William G. Borron to claim all the waste water of the Mill Creek Zanja that did not enter the Mill Creek Zanja at the diversion dam. Waste water not committed to the Zanja would be redirected to a ditch constructed just east of a road (Garnet) and follow a southwesterly direction across the north half of section 21 to eventually meet the South Fork Ditch or Bearry Roberts ditch. Evidently this October 1874 request was granted to Josiah Bates, William Borron and O. E. Johnson with each granted 1/3 of the water recovered. Called the McCoy Ditch Col. William R. Tolles joined the claim in 1875 after he discovered additional springs (Green Spot) along the bank of Mill Creek and water seeping into the creek below the Zanja intake dam. On August 21, 1875 the county clerk recorded the claim. Today the intake of the San Bernardino Water Conservation District is the same ditch diverting waste water from Mill Creek since 1874.

No one influenced the South Fork Settlement more than William R. Tolles in the 1870's. Only 50 years old when he arrived, his boundless energy rejuvenated the settlement like no other had. His 1890 photo in 1897 *Illustrated Redlands* shows a 67-year-old man looking much like Father Time. His long white beard nearly reached his waist.

Tolles would sell 10 acres to both Frank Brown and Edward Judson in 1877. Tolles hired Edward Judson as an accountant for the new South Fork Ditch construction in 1877. Tolles would donate the land for the Lugonia Elementary School in 1877. Tolles demonstrated what could be done with water. Land he sometimes purchased for a \$1 an acre was being sold in the mid-1870's for \$25 an acre. Land in full deciduous fruit production was selling for \$1000 an acre. Tolles' land development practices were assiduously studied by the future firm of Judson and Brown.

-by Tom Atchley



Lugonia History:  
Redlands Begins  
will continue.

Col. William R. Tolles



## REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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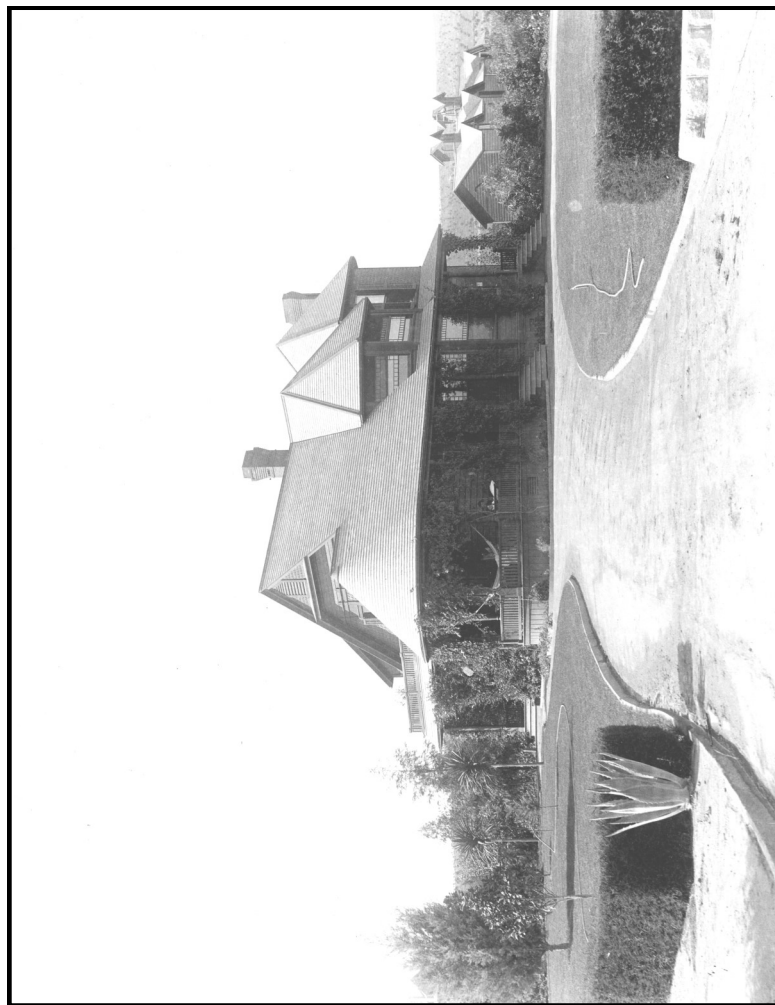
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*Frank E. Brown's residence on W. Highland and San Jacinto features the carriage barn at right.*

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