



REDLANDS CHRONICLES

February 2020

REVEALING THE HISTORY OF KIMBERLY CREST

Steve Spiller, Speaker

Monday, February 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

A.K.S.P.L. Contemporary Clubhouse

173 S. Eureka Street, Redlands

STEVE SPILLER, retired Executive Director of the Mission Inn Foundation in Riverside, will reveal to the Redlands Area Historical Society the history of Kimberly Crest at their February 24 meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the A.K. Smiley Public Library's Contemporary Clubhouse at 173 S. Eureka Street.

From 1981 to 2002 Steve worked at Kimberly Crest. He resided in the house for nearly three years and was the historic site's first Executive Director. Under his leadership Kimberly Crest was named a California State Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other accomplishments included seismically retrofitting the house, the formation of a docent auxiliary, and creating an awareness of Kimberly Crest to local, state-wide, and national audiences. All this and more would not have been possible without the due diligent research conducted by Steve, student interns, docents, board members, and others. Steve will highlight some of the research projects during his tenure at Kimberly Crest.

Steve is a founding board member of Inland Harvest, the Redlands Conservancy and Redlands Historical Museum Association. He is a twenty year member of Redlands Fortnightly, and a past member of Redlands Kiwanis, the Redlands Fourth of July Band, and the R. P. Blandford & Son Pipe Band. Currently Spiller is president of the Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc. .

Historical Society programs are free and open to the public. Two historical home books are for sale at each meeting along with a DVD of Illustrated Redlands 1897. DVD copies of the programs may be purchased from blueeaglevideo@aol.com.



Dear Redlands Area Historical Society Members,

THE OLD HOUSE GROUP met on Wednesday, January 22nd, for a delightful time at the home of Ms. Kasey Higgins. We sincerely appreciate her willingness to share her home with members of the Redlands Area Historical Society. Reserve February 26th for the next Old House group meeting. Committee chair Marjorie Lewis has a great house lined up. We look forward to seeing you.

A very special thank you to RAHS Vice-President Marie Reynolds for informative presentation on Mentone and Crafton at our 27th meeting. We forget or perhaps have never fully understood the fascinating history of these two communities. Marie has conducted exhaustive research while compiling a wealth of historic photographs in her successful effort to give us an appreciation for this eastern end of the San Bernardino Valley. Thank you, Marie!

Program chair Tom Atchley has several excellent programs set up for the coming months. We are repeating one of our programs from last year – with a few tweaks. Due to the overwhelming response to our “Roadshow” sharing event, we are hosting a “Roadshow II” later this year. Begin to think about what you might want to share. Details are to follow.

Thank you for responding promptly with you membership renewals. We sincerely thank you for your generous support. If you have by chance misplaced your remittance envelope, you can go online at www.rahs.org and submit your renewals on PayPal.

Mark your calendars now. Our annual Ice Cream Social and Heritage Awards Program is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020, at Trinity Episcopal Church - beginning at 6:30 pm. We look forward to your attendance.

With best wishes,

Steve Spiller

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

Wes & Peggy Brier Tim Watson—Mission Pediatrics, Inc. Morgan Framing
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Marjorie Lewis - Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes
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Esri

Heritage Award Winners

B. F. EDWARDS HOME

534 S. Fourth Street

Built in 1903

Vikki Tooker, Owner

WELCOME to 534 South Fourth Street, the Benjamin Franklin Edwards home. It was announced in the November 29, 1902 edition of the *Redlands Citrograph* that "A fine cottage is being built for Mrs. Julia E. Harpham on the west side of Fourth Street North of West Cypress Avenue." The Park Villa Tract subdivision was recorded in 1887 and this home sits on lot #24 out of a total of twenty-nine lots. The street was originally named Lotus St., but before it was recorded this was penciled out and written as Fourth St. An extensive article was written in *The Daily Courier*, Sept 20, 1887 about the Park Villa tract and touted as the wealthy San Bernardino business man's answer to Pasadena for the Los Angeles' businessman. It went on to say "in a region where the atmosphere itself is in its purity and inspirational and stimulative properties, a perfect restorative for the debility brought about by close sedentary work. And this the air of Redlands without exaggeration is." The home was completed in 1903 and the family lived there until the passing of Mr. Edwards on February 15, 1916.

Henry H. Conger acquired the home

sometime in the mid 1920s and lived there on and off until 1948 when it wasn't being rented out to other families.

The home was listed as vacant in the early 1950s, but was very soon occupied by longtime residents Joseph and Kathrine Wheaton. Joseph is listed as an accountant for Kaiser Steel and Kathrine a supervisor at Beaver Medical Clinic. Their daughter, Alyce, became a famous dancer and performed with the likes of Sammy Davis Jr., Eddie Fisher, Bobby Darin, and Debbie Reynolds. The Wheaton family owned this home until they sold it to its current owner in July of 1999, thus making the Wheaton's the longest running owners at just under 50 years.

The 500 block is located in a special layered section of historical neighborhoods. This home carries a local designation of Early Redlands Historic and Scenic District, Historic District 3, and the Federal and State designation of Smiley Park Historic District, Historic District 8.

This exquisite example of a Victorian Cottage is quite possibly in its best condition today as it was the day it was constructed. Its curb appeal is pristine with its centered entry stairs and front door with

dentil course detail and glass window. The front porch is quite ample and flanked by two cylindrical tapered columns. The enclosed screened porch to the south east is still used as a sleeping porch. The overall style is a hipped cottage with hipped dormer featuring three, two sash windows at the front and a rear dormer with two two sash windows. The substantial angled bay consists of three, two sash windows and charming interior window seat. The exterior is covered with clapboard siding and end boards. Originally described as a one story, it clearly functions as a two story home today with a central staircase leading to a large bedroom and fully finished attic.

Completed in 2005, an addition was made to the backside of the first story to add approximately 500 square feet to include a master bath, walk-in closet, service porch, laundry room, and a well thought-out remodel and extension of the kitchen. The remodel is a seamless transition with the original construction. During one of the many interior restoration projects the homeowner made a priceless discovery of a set of pocket doors that had been walled over.

In the lovely summer months of 1999 this cottage came to market and presented itself to Ms. Vikki Tooker. Vikki had lived in Riverside previously, but not in a historic home. She used to visit Redlands and talk about one day living here. She acquired the home on July 21, 1999 knowing she had plans to bring it to its full potential and has done so carefully over the years. Ms. Tooker has been a Neo-Natal intensive care nurse for many decades at the Loma Linda Children's Hospital. Her passion is travel and is driven by the culture and history of other areas. Her favorites include Turkey and Amsterdam.

The Redlands Area Historical Society would like to recognize and thank Ms. Vikki Tooker for her love and gentle, tireless care of the is beautiful historic cottage.



by Jill Huntsinger

LUGONIA HISTORY: REDLANDS BEGINS

- by Tom Atchley

IN 1882, Col. Tolles began selling off his subdivided property. He hired Frank Hinckley, in 1883, to survey roads and lots for his vast holdings. Tolles purchased 70 acres along Cottonwood Row in Old San Bernardino, just east of Mountain View Avenue, with Mill Creek Zanja water rights. He moved with his wife and daughter to Colton for one year and lived on the north terrace there. In 1888, he moved to San Bernardino and became the principal promoter and organizer of the San Bernardino Board of Trade, and its president in 1890. Tolles died December 11, 1893. The *Redlands Facts* carried no obituary at all., while *The Citrograph* listed Tolles as a Lugonia pioneer. Tolles had moved before *The Citrograph* began. Scipio Craig would have known Tolles, since Craig's parents settled in Crafton the same year Tolles arrived at the Crafton Retreat.

George Beattie arrived to live on the banks of the South Fork Ditch in 1874 at the age of 15. His mother had read literature on the merits of Southern California and brought her own mother and son, George, to California from Oberlin, Ohio. George William Beattie and his wife, Helen, would later become the premiere historians of the San Bernardino Valley.

Beattie was born on the island of Jamaica in 1859. He was educated in the schools of Oberlin, Ohio and the Oberlin College preparatory school. The harsh winters provided the incentive to move to California. The Beattie family purchased land on the northwest corner of Church and Pioneer Avenue and built a shack.

The Beattie family arrived at 1:00 a.m. in San Bernardino, on October 14, 1874. That night they had ridden a small train from Los Angeles to Spadra, the terminus of the

Southern Pacific Railroad, and then had traveled by stage, through the wastes of Cucamonga desert, to San Bernardino. They stayed at Sharkey's Hotel on the corner of Third and Arrowhead. They were directed the next day to Col. Tolles residence on the banks of the old "Tenney Ditch." They spent three weeks living with the Tolles family and then bought 20 acres from them. The Beattie's tiny cabin was the only improvement on the ranch, surrounded by sage-brush and cacti. Within months George had set out a fence line, planted a garden and planted 36 deciduous fruit trees. Rabbits and other critters sustained the small family.



George William Beattie

At the age of 18, George Beattie took the first grade State Teacher's exam and failed the test. In 1877, he met Frank E. Brown, who passed the 3rd grade-4th grade exam and was teaching in San Timoteo Canyon for the Railroad District. Brown's family

had owned the Seaside Boy's Academy in Connecticut and Brown had just graduated from the Sheffield College at Yale. Brown tutored Beattie for the second test attempt. Beattie passed the test with the third effort and became the first teacher for the new Lugonia School.

In May of 1877 school began, in a temporary one-room shack on Texas Street, about a quarter mile north of Pioneer Street. Section 16 of the township was designated State School Land, and had accumulated \$640 from the sale of land. County Superintendent of Schools, Charles R. Paine, suggested using Dr. William Craig's wine label - called Lugonia- for the school name. The name utilized the 1842 San Bernardino Land Grant owner's name, Antonio Maria Lugo. The name grew in popularity beyond the school.

Beattie taught school for the first month before a new building was constructed on the northwest corner of Lugonia and Church Street. He earned \$50 and bought orange trees for the ranch. In the fall, the \$500 school building was completed. Beattie taught there for two years. The school was a welcome addition to the growing community. Youngsters would no longer make the trek over a well-worn burro path to the Mission School on Cottonwood Row. The new school district gave the community a uniting name: Lugonia. The name Sunnyside was suggested at first, but the 1876 Sunnyside School District acquired that name in 1876.

Beattie bought a ten-acre ranch for himself on East Colton Avenue, and planted Mediterranean sweets, peaches and apricots. From the profits of his orchards, Beattie purchased a 60-acre ranch in East Highlands. He began teaching at the Washington School in San Bernardino

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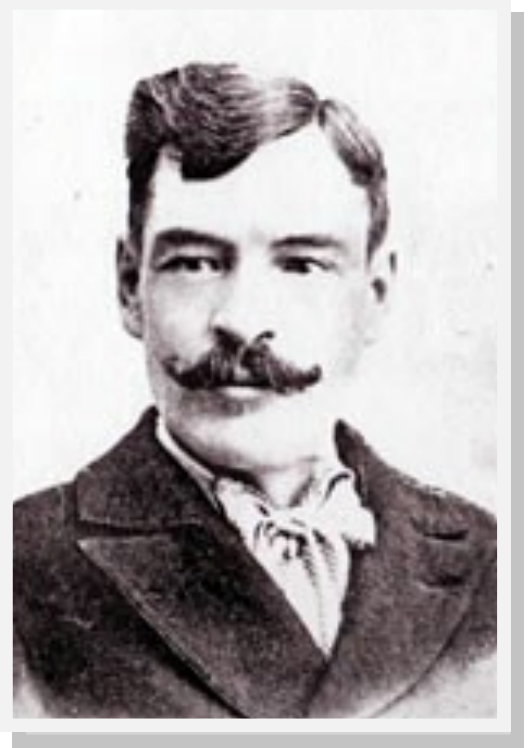
and made the 16-mile round trip five days a week in 1880. In 1882, Beattie sold his East Colton Ranch and moved to East Highlands to become part of the Judson and Brown tract there. Beattie continued his education achieving a science degree from Berkeley. His 1939 book, titled *Heritage of the Valley*, is the most important history published about the San Bernardino region.

Rounding off the list of 1870 Lugonia pioneers is John Chapman Reeves. He was born in Missouri in 1862 and moved to Montana when very young. On December 25, 1876, the family moved to Lugonia and purchased 20 acres on the southwest corner of Church Street and Lugonia Avenue. Reeves planted oranges, peaches, and apricots, and commenced a business career as clerk in the Benton Johnson grocery store in 1885. Reeves became the water master of the South Fork Ditch and timekeeper several times. He owned five shares of the South Fork Ditch and received water every seven days. Reeves purchased the 1877 Lugonia School house and incorporated the structure into his family home in 1885.

A new Lugonia School was built in 1885 on the southwest corner of Orange and Lugonia on land donated by Frank Hinckley.

New South Fork Ditch: Sunnyside Division, 1874-1882

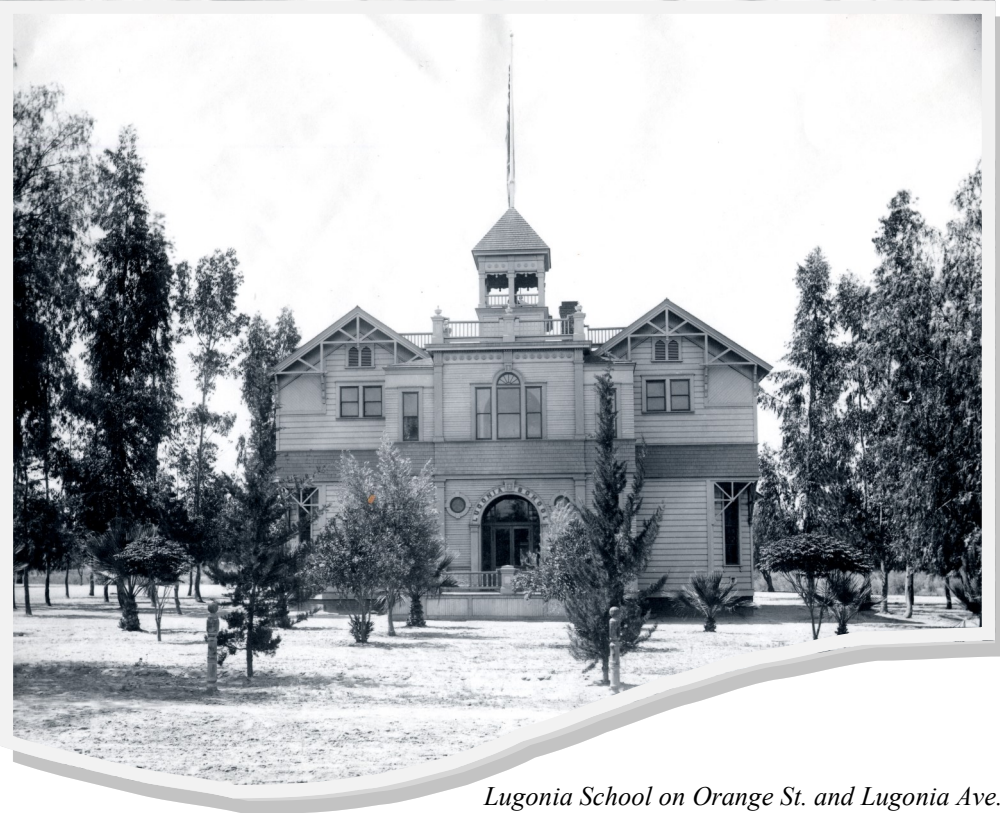
During the period from 1867 to 1877, Lugonia development moved at a snail's pace - with the exception of the Sunnyside Company development of May 19, 1874. This ambitious project united the farmers of Old San Bernardino, San Bernardino and the future Lugonia. The plan included building a ditch from the mouth of the Santa Ana River, replacing the Bearry Roberts ditch at a higher elevation, and constructing lateral ditches to supply irrigation water not only for Lugonia, but portions of the future Redlands, lands west of Lugonia, and land adjacent to Mound City. Article III of the incorporation papers states the "purposes of irrigation of lands, and water power; and for settling colonies of people in said county; for acquiring and furnishing lands and town sites for settlements of people, and of said colonies; for buying, holding, selling,



John Chapman Reeves

conveying, renting, leasing and acquiring and dealing in lands generally; for the encouragement and business of agriculture, horticulture, arboriculture, grazing and stock raising; and for taking and appropriating seven-twelfths of, and all the unappropriated water of the Santa Ana River at or near the mouth of the canon of said river where the same debouches into the San Bernardino Valley."

Water power plans included cutting timber for railroad ties and fluming these ties of the Mound City Station of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Capital stock of \$36,800 was divided into 368 shares of \$100 each. Ben Barton was elected president; William R. Tolles, secretary; and L. J. Colby, treasurer. James B. Glover and P. A. Raynor were the other two directors. Farmers buying stock from Lugonia were W. G. Borron, W. W. McCoy, Elizabeth Jackson and Josiah Bates. San Bernardino investors included F. R. Girard, James A. McClean, and E. Van Leuven.



Lugonia School on Orange St. and Lugonia Ave.

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Southern Pacific Railroad's Loma Linda Station.

The company stalled within three years and never completed more than 1900 feet of the new Sunnyside Ditch, with only extensive flume construction over the Mill Creek wash. Fostering real enthusiasm in the new corporation the name "Sunnyside" was applied to the development encompassing the Bearry Roberts ditch farmers and lands west of there. The *Riverside Press and Horticulturalist* used the name for the community until Edward Judson, in 1880, requested in a letter that the name "Lugonia" be used instead. Confusion over the Sunnyside name was abundant due to several communities use of the name. In Riverside, a school district went by the name Sunnyside and a subdivision in south San Bernardino adopted the name also. The formation of the "Lugonia" School District in 1877 and the choice of that name predominated after 1877. The failure of the Sunnyside Company to complete their plans also soured the name selection for everyone except William R. Tolles.

Many of the first Bearry Roberts Settlement pioneers abandoned their farms within the first

three years. The next five years would chart a faster course for the new settlement of Lugonia. Aiding measurably in these next five years the Southern Pacific Railroad expansion to Colton looms significantly. The railroad arrived in Spadra, twenty-five miles east of Los Angeles, in April 1874. After some stalling there, a surprised San Bernardino witnessed the completion on July 30, 1875, of the Southern Pacific to Colton. In September, 1876, the northern and southern ends of the railroad connected directly with San Francisco. San Bernardino County could now receive transcontinental passengers via Southern Pacific. Lugonia found itself just seven miles from the end of the transcontinental railroad. Southern Pacific plans revealed an eastern route through San Gorgonio Pass predicted in the near future. Prospective farmers and land promoters found land east of Colton offering a bright future. More importantly, getting to the East San Bernardino Valley didn't require a long stagecoach ride or overland adventure.

Congress rewarded the Southern Pacific Land Company richly with free land. In the Redlands

Township 1 south, Range 3 west, Southern Pacific received sections 1, 5, 9, 11, 23, 31, 33, 35 and 36. Section 23 encompasses San Bernardino Avenue on the north, Judson Street on the east, Colton Avenue on the south, and Church Street on the west. Leland Stanford personally owned the "University Tract" just west of the present University of Redlands. Thus, Southern Pacific had an interest promoting development in the valley for land sales, passenger service and future freight shipments. The railroad received the government patents for this land between July 2, 1877 and April 4, 1879.

Railroad land had several advantages. Homestead land could award 160 acres for only a \$10 filing fee, but required five years of farm development and no guarantee of success. Homestead law allowed for only one homestead per farmer. Government paperwork required improvements yearly on land that might not be worth a dollar an acre. Railroad land could sometimes be purchased for less than a dollar an acre, and the deed could be in the farmers' hand immediately. Railroad land ownership and the railroad plans on building east led to land speculation. Bearry Roberts moving to San Timoteo Canyon to raise cattle in 1870 was a wise decision, especially when the railroad decided the canyon route through San Gorgonio Pass.

One of the first notables brought by the railroad to Lugonia was Dr. J. D. B. Stillman. He was born in Schenectady, in 1819. He received his degree from Union College and medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1849, Stillman sailed with his wife to San Francisco and established the first hospital for Sacramento. Along with his wife, he went up the Feather River with Mark Hopkins on a gold expedition. In 1876, his gold fever experiences recorded in, "*Seeking the Golden Fleece*" was published prior to

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his arrival in Lugonia.

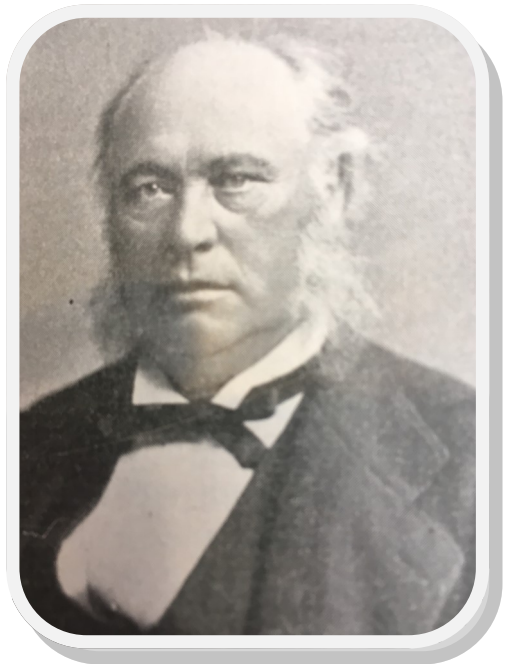
Stillman wrote "*Wanderings in the Southwest*" after searching for a home site in Texas. While in Texas his letters were published in "*The Crayon*" magazine. His correspondent articles included scientific ideas on germ theory. He returned to California and practiced medicine in Sacramento until the great flood of 1861-62. He then moved to San Francisco, where he served as city coroner, member of the board of education, trustee of the Lick School and appointed medical faculty member of the University of California. He became the personal physician and friend of Leland Stanford.

Dr. Stillman received considerable attention in the 1887 *Lugonia Southern Californian* newspaper. His national reputation extended even further with the publication, in 1882, of "*The Horse in Motion*." His extensive study of the anatomy and physiology of horses running recorded the experiments of photographer Edward Muybridge. Stanford published the book, and later Thomas

Edison used the ideas to produce the motion picture camera. Stillman would provide the celebrity interest in nearly the same way the Smiley twins did for Redlands a decade later.

Stillman purchased "800 acres of this waste, and with the energy characteristic of the old forty-niners, proceeded at once to reclaim it," stated the news editor H. E. Boothby. Boothby continued his feature writing, "He paid for the survey and construction of the new South Fork Ditch. He had his home built in 1879, while on a trip around the world. Stillman was told to plant Muscat and Sultana grapes, which are good for raisins. He found that raisins only thrived on a small portion of his land. In 1887, he had three fields each with 10,000 vines of Sultana, three fields of 5,000 vines of the favorite Muscat. Besides these he has 7396 Zinfandel vines, 6200 Blue Elbing, 7400 Rousseau, besides a number of vines of the Burgundy, Carrignac and other high priced varieties. Land is definitely excellent for viticulture."

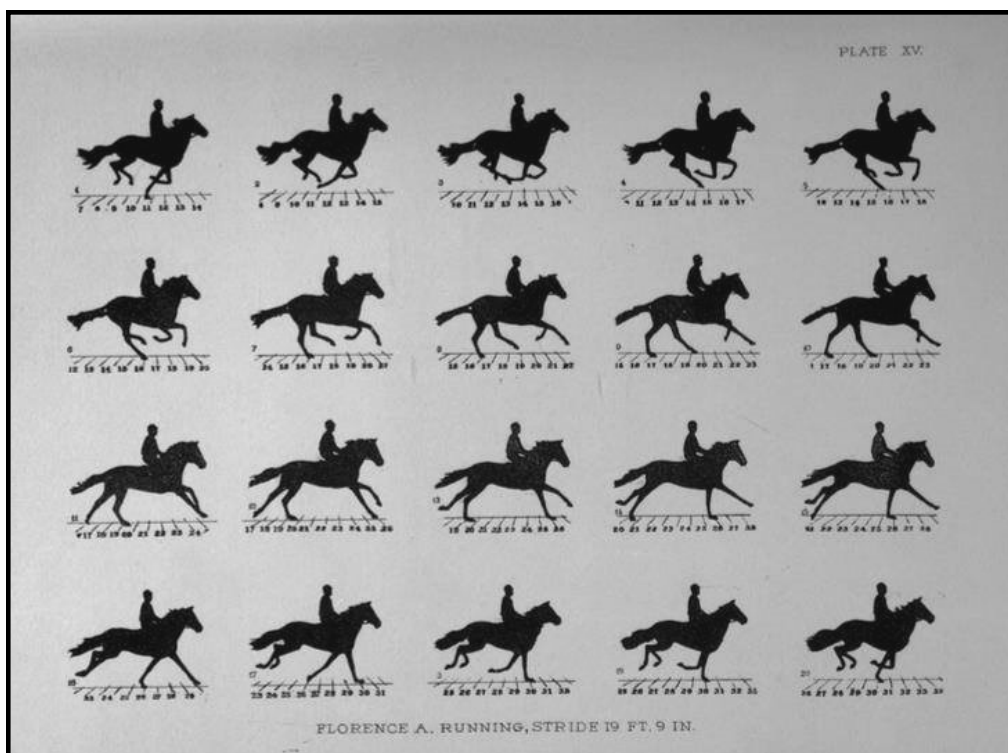
Stillman needed water to make this wasteland bloom. He



Dr. J.D.B. Stillman

provided the financial support to rebuild, relocate and improve the South Fork ditch. As part of the deal with Col. William R. Tolles, N.B. Hicks and C. E. Brink, the ditch would be extended to his land south of Lugonia Avenue and north of Colton Avenue. Edward Glover Judson, a new arrival in Lugonia, was hired as accountant of the new ditch company. Frank A. Miller, later the Mission Inn builder, was foreman of construction. Fifty laborers from San Bernardino, a gang of Native-Americans and a hand full of Chinese coolies provided the work force in 1877. Fred T. Perris, who lived on Lugonia Avenue in 1876, was selected as the surveyor for the new ditch. Perris would later survey the Santa Fe route through Cajon Pass as chief engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad.

-by Tom Atchley



From "*The Horse in Motion*," by Dr. J.D.B. Stillman.

Lugonia History: Redlands Begins , will continue.



REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 8775
Redlands, CA 92375
(909) 307-6060
www.rahs.org

Address Correction Requested

Upcoming Events

February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Revealing the History of Kimberly Crest
Steve Spiller, Speaker
The Contemporary Clubhouse
173 S. Eureka Street

February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Old House Group
704 W. Highland Avenue
SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

1st Thursday of the Month

Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
35 Cajon Street

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