



# REDLANDS CHRONICLES

April 2023

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## THE MARVELOUS MRS. MEIGS

John P. Beall, Speaker  
Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
The Contemporary Club  
173 S. Eureka Street, Redlands

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WHAT DOES A SEASIDE STREET in Santa Barbara, Tiffany & Co., and a Heritage Award-winning house have in common? Join the Redlands Area Historical Society on Monday, April 24 at 7pm (doors open at 6:45pm) at the Contemporary Club or by Zoom to hear John P. Beall, Board Member of the Redlands Area Historical Society, offer a view of Gilded Age Redlands and Redlanders through the life of Katherine Campbell Meigs, whose once prominent name is today perhaps only known to few. Come for an enjoyable evening of antique photos, Society Column stories, legendary Redlands socials, beautiful gardens, and more about the Marvelous Mrs. Meigs in the fun and philanthropy of our town. Given Mrs. Meigs' early involvement in the horticultural movement of our town, a special welcome to the membership of the Redlands Horticultural & Improvement Society is given.

Historical Society programs in the Contemporary Club are free and open to the public. To attend via Zoom please register in advance by following the link at [www.rahs.org/calendar](http://www.rahs.org/calendar). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

-by John P. Beall



*Summit Avenue Residence of Mrs. Meigs.*



# *A Letter from Your President...*

Dear Redlands Area Historical Society members,

April has arrived and we are clear for another year for a repeat of the 1938 March flood. Suzie Earp certainly gave us a view of the flood damage in San Bernardino and Colton. One of the concrete picnic tables that was in Camp Cajon that our Chamber of Commerce donated is now in Perris Hill Park. The Southern Pacific Railroad yard in Colton took a direct hit with the deluge. My father grew up in Colton and spoke of the flood with precise stories. He was one of the youngsters that climbed on the railroad hanging bridges over the Santa Ana River.

My research led me to discover the ravages the flood left in Mill Creek Canyon and adjoining Mountain Home Canyon. Many of the cabins along the stream were lost. The Forest Service abandoned their Thurman Flats site for the present location near the entrance of Mill Creek. Some of the buildings at the former station went down Mill Creek. Every bridge on Highway 38 was gone along with bridges going up Mountain Home Creek. The only way out of Mill Creek was the University Truck Road over Yucaipa Ridge to Oak Glen. The CCC crews in Mill Creek built a temporary road across the creek to allow school children and grocery deliveries to mountain dwellers. No new bridge was open on Highway 38 for six months and then the new bridge washed out in an August thunderstorm.

Redlands Estate Sales & Consignments had a book sale this past week. John Paul Beall informed me they had some Redlands titles. I bought \$348 of books for Ways and Means, and J.P. will sell them at our monthly meetings. If you are interested in Redlands history these books have been out of print for decades. *Heritage of the Valley* by George and Helen Beattie was last printed in 1951. This book is a beginning history of the San Bernardino Valley. The only error is about the Asistencia.

Books by Bill and Frank Moore, the long-time owners of the Redlands Daily Facts are really informative. *Only One Redlands* and *On The Banks of the Zanja* are part of the purchase. One of my personal favorites is *The Winning of Barbara Worth* by Harold Bell Wright. The good banker is really a Redlands home-owner on West Olive. The good banker pioneered the Imperial Valley. Books are sold first come, first serve so see J.P. at a back table at the Contemporary Club.

This month the program presents one of the rich and famous of Redlands. Her Summit Avenue garden will be featured in the Old House Group meeting for 60 members only

*Tom Atchley*

## RAHS VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Interested in getting more involved in the Historical Society? Looking for ways to meet fellow members, learn more about Redlands History, and give back to the community?

RAHS is forming a Volunteer Committee to develop tours, marketing materials, maps, digital resources, and engage in historic & scenic preservation.

For more information, or to express interest, please contact JP Beall, Ways and Means Chair, at [jpbeall@outlook.com](mailto:jpbeall@outlook.com).

# *BEAR VALLEY*

## IRRIGATION COMPANY

*1890-1893*

### BROWN RESIGNS

FRANK BROWN gave James Graham one last chance to convince Charles Greene to reverse his dividend policy and when that failed made the decision to resign. *The Citrograph* revealed April 15, 1893, that Frank Brown resigned as a director of the Bear Valley Irrigation Company. Brown began selling his investments in the BVIC and BVADC in 1892 when he saw the directors and president's financial direction as delusionary. Scipio Craig, said, "Mr. Brown's time is so taken up with his own enterprises that he cannot give any attention to outside interests." The real reason for the resignation was not given in the article.

Brown purchased the Wolfskill Tract of some 9,000 acres in April 1893 and planned a Lakeview Tract

land sale. Brown was joined by Russell Waters on the project.

Frank Brown had time to buy 80 acres with Edward Judson and the Bryne Ranch in Crafton for \$30,000. This land extended from Wabash east to Opal Avenue and East Citrus to the Mill Creek Zanja and was later called the Judson Subdivision.

Brainard W. Brown, Frank's younger brother, had an affair in 1893 that resulted in a child. Frank and Jessie raised the little girl and she is buried next to Brown in Hillside Cemetery.

Brown and James S. Edwards owned 800 acres together of the East Highlands Land Company. Edwards began to plant and farm the land with Brown paying for the improvements.

Brown sold his Summit and Cajon home to George W. Meade for \$27,000. Meade also bought 60



*Alessandro Orange Grove and Fruit Company was a Kelsey-Brown Excursion Stop. Courtesy Moreno Valley Historical Society.*

acres from Brown in Crafton and 60 acres from the Williams Tract in West Redlands for \$26,000. The paper reported that Brown intended to reside in the East in the future.

Brown was not cutting ties with the San Jacinto Valley or Redlands. On April 22, 1893 he incorporated the Kelsey-Brown Excursion Company. The company would conduct tours from the east to Redlands, Moreno and Alessandro. The first tour arrived from Chicago and enlisted the press, Los Angeles residents and Redlanders for a tour. Boarding at 8:30 a.m. in a four-in-hand rig from Chambers' livery the group stopped to sip water from the BVIC canal near Redlands Blvd. approaching Moreno Valley. The group walked the Alessandro Orange Grove and Fruit Company property and ate lunch at the Moreno Hotel. The tour continued in the late afternoon with a visit to the Moreno nursery in Moreno Heights. Returning to Redlands the tour patrons bought wine from the E. Vache winery in San Timoteo Canyon and then went to their Terracina Hotel rooms. Brown planned weekly excursions every Tuesday.

Brown sent R. E. Archer to Los Angeles to purchase a building to establish an office there to advertise the Kelsey-Brown Excursion Company and advertise the Lakeview land, Alessandro, Moreno and Redlands.

Some Redlanders expressed concern that the communities in Riverside County would compete with Redlands. There were families and businesses that moved to Moreno and Alessandro. However, business in Redlands profited by selling nursery citrus, lumber, grading contracts, real estate, and an active stage line.

In June, Brown purchased a residence in New York for \$98,000. Brown spent a good deal of his summer in the east. Scipio Craig recalled in *The Citrograph* how Brown made \$60 a month as the teacher in San



Lunch was Served at Hotel de Moreno. Courtesy Moreno Valley Historical Society.

**KELSEY-BROWN**

# EXCURSION

FROM

## REDLANDS TO MORENO AND ALESSANDRO.

Leaves Hotel Windsor and Baker House

**EVERY TUESDAY AT 8:30 A. M.**

Beginning the 18th Inst., D. Chamber's  
Livery furnishing conveyances.

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Tickets for round trip, including dinner at  
Hotel de Moreno, \$1.75, for sale at Baker House  
and Hotel Windsor.

**GEO. H. KELSEY,  
Manager.**

Excursion Advertisement in *The Daily Courier*, April 29, 1893.

Timoteo Canyon School in 1878.

Kelsey-Brown tours began again in September with an impromptu reception for Brown reminiscent of a reception held for him in 1887 when he returned from a world irrigation tour. Brown came to Redlands accompanied by his cousin, George Brown, of New York City and other interested investors from London and Chicago. "The Redlands band marched to the Windsor Hotel and played several songs which brought out Mr. Brown to the veranda. There is a warm spot in the hearts of Redlands people for the father of many enterprises that have resulted in so much prosperity to this section, and this little impromptu affair was only a small way of expressing their esteem and good will, which was highly appreciated by the recipient. Mr. Brown acknowledged the compliment and thanked those present, stating that he was well and glad to meet his many friends once more." The Redlands Band continued with several more musical renditions that attracted a good-sized crowd.

Brown brought 150 excursionists from Chicago in October in just one tour to show Lakeview lands,

Alessandro, Moreno and Redlands. Brown extended land ownership with a lease of San Jacinto Nuevo land of 5,400 acres. The additional land brought Brown 12,000 acres he could sell. The fourth tour of the month brought out the Redlands Band again and Brown was hailed as the Father of Redlands.

-by TOM ATCHLEY



*Excursionists Stopped at Emile Vache's Brookside Winery in San Timoteo Canyon before Returning to Hotel Terracina.*



# OLD HOUSE GROUP GARDEN TEA

Saturday, April 29, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Nolan Residence (former home of Mrs. Meigs)

419 Summit Avenue



*Colonial Tea at Linda Vista, the Residence of Mrs. Alonzo Hornby, in 1903. Mrs. Meigs is seated 2<sup>nd</sup> row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left.*

JOIN US for a MEMBERS ONLY event to celebrate Spring while enjoying the beautiful garden of a Heritage Award-winning home (1979), harp and vocal performance of the talented former RAHS board member Sue McClure, tea and refreshments. Vintage garden party dress 1890s-1930s are “*de rigueur*,” encouraged but not required. No costume? No problem. Vintage style hats and smart casual attire are also encouraged.

Parking is only available on the street, along Summit Avenue. Space is limited to 60 people and will fill up quickly, so make sure to RSVP! If you find you are unable to attend after reserving, please cancel your reservation ahead of time to allow another member the opportunity to attend.

Finally, please consider appropriate footwear! Lawns and vintage pea gravel paths are not friendly to high heels. Note: Mobility concerns have been taken into consideration and need not prevent you from attending.

We look forward to seeing you at this very special event, but please keep in mind space is limited so register early to reserve your spot!

-by Kathleen Beall

# CALLING ALL DOCENTS!

The Redlands Area Historical Society is offering a wonderful volunteer opportunity to anyone interested in Redlands history. One way RAHS will participate in the annual Historic Preservation fortnight is by offering walking tours of downtown Redlands beginning on May 20, 2023. Tom Atchley, Ron Running and myself worked over the summer to organize a comprehensive walking tour for our downtown.

If you are interested in helping with this project, all you need to do is show up for the training sessions. I will begin training docents from Ed Hales Park, on the corner of E. State Street and 5th Street in downtown Redlands. I am happy to answer all your logistical questions at that time. We will have subsequent trainings (as many as needed until you are comfortable touring on your own) up until our start date of May 20, 2023.

Please contact me, Judith Hunt, at either [judithhunt1@msn.com](mailto:judithhunt1@msn.com) or my cell phone #909-557-3683 (either text or call). I will then add you to my existing roster and I will email everyone regarding upcoming training sessions.

Thanking you all in advance for your assistance with this interesting endeavor which will also be a fundraiser for RAHS. This is a total win win project!

-by Judith Hunt

## REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *would like to thank our* **CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS**

Char & Larry Burgess

Leda & Steve Stockton

Paul Barich

REDLANDS VISITOR CENTER <https://redlandsvisitorcenter.com>

John C. Morgan Production Framing

Jerry Bean—REDLANDS COMMUNITY NEWS

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Marjorie Lewis - Realtor, Redlands Vintage Homes

ROCHFORD FOUNDATION

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Sullivan Party Rentals

Esri

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Redlands Area Historical Society's purpose is to support and advance the many facets of the area's historic resources.

Historic resources, sites, and memorabilia provide tangible links and visible reminders to the past, and continuity to our daily lives. By perpetuating the past through the preservation of our historic resources, we maintain the rich diversity of our community life. By respecting and restoring the architectural integrity of historic structures, and by conserving the neighborhood environments, we preserve the unique character, and document the historical evolution of the geographical areas in which we live.

The Redlands Area Historical Society emphasizes the conservation of the past in terms of buildings, neighborhoods, written and oral history, and memorabilia. It also presents programs to educate citizens, young and old, on the significance of the values of Redlands' heritage.



THE REDLANDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
 P.O. Box 8775  
 Redlands, CA 92375  
 (909) 307-4661  
 www.rahs.org

Address Correction Requested

**Redlands Area Historical Society, Inc.**  
 Founded 1972, Incorporated 1974

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023**

President	Tom Atchley
Vice-President	Ron Kunning
Treasurer	Susan Rettig
Secretary	Jennifer Schaefer
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Board Member	Kathleen Beall
Board Member	Erin S. Benson
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**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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Hospitality	Judi Cisar & Thomas Jackson
Membership	Ron Kunning
Newsletter	Marcie Reynolds
Old House Group	Kathleen Beall
Programs	Ron Kunning
Social Media	Marcus Paulson
Ways & Means	John Paul Beall

Visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.rahs.org](http://www.rahs.org). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**Upcoming Events**

April 24, 7:00 p.m.

The Marvelous Mrs. Meigs  
 John P. Beall, Speaker  
 Contemporary Club  
 173 S. Eureka Street

April 29, 1:30-3 p.m.

Old House Group Garden Tea  
 419 Summit Avenue  
 MEMBERS ONLY  
 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

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1st Thursday of the Month

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