

Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM

William Harrison Hardy Founder of Hardyville, Arizona

Stories of the early west most often tell of the trappers hunting furs, miners prospecting for gold, and military leaders fighting battles. But these people were continually moving on with the allure of what was over the next hill. Perhaps more important in developing the new territories were the merchants and town leaders who chose to settle down and establish a real community.

William Harrison Hardy was such a person. He was born in New York state in 1823 and grew up during the era when much of the country was migrating to the west. William, now 26 years old, joined a wagon train traveling to California in 1849. He was a big man, well educated, and sufficient leadership qualities to be chosen as captain of the wagon train. He continued to be referred to as Captain Hardy for the rest of his life.

Captain Hardy arrived in Placer County at the height of the California gold rush and worked as a miner for several years until he had accumulated enough funds to open a small mercantile store which became very successful. During this time, he had the opportunity to associate with Huntington, Stanford, and other highly successful and influential people who became leaders in the state.

Hardy remained in that area for about fifteen years, when he had a "desire for more adventure" (his words). He sold his store and invested the money in



supplies and mining tools for sale to the miners of the newly developed mines along the Colorado River in the Arizona territory. Now, at about age 41, he arrived in the area now known as Bullhead City in January 1864.

Captain Hardy chose a location along the river nine miles north of Ft. Mohave which was the terminus for steamships for much of the year. Here he established a ferry boat for settlers crossing the river and built a number of buildings to serve the travelers and local miners. Included were a hotel, saloon, warehouse, a few adobe shanties, and a well-stocked store.

A post office was added in June 1863 with Hardy made postmaster.

The location served as a shipping point for developing mining towns of Hackberry, Mineral Park, and Cerbat, furnishing needed tools and supplies to the miners and shipped the mined ores to available smelters on the west coast. Perhaps as important was the fact that the site provided trade to Utah, supplies to local military forts and was situated on overland trade routes to Los Angeles and other California ports.

Near this same time Prescott was made capitol of the Arizona territory and Hardy obtained a contract to furnish supplies to the army there. This contract required an investment in wagons, oxen and mules.

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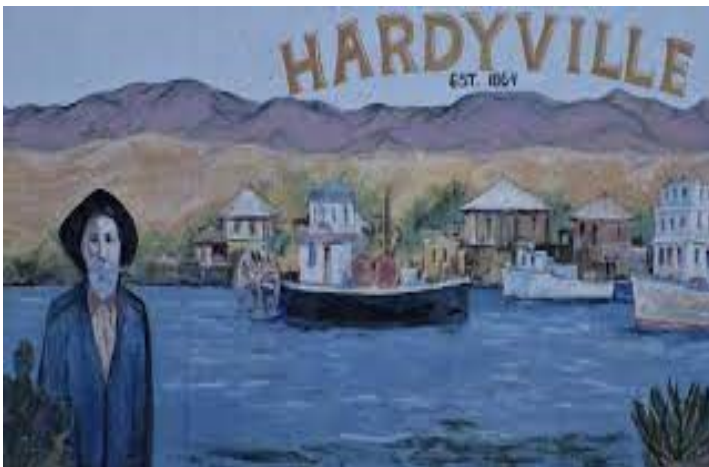
It also necessitated the building of a toll road over the 165 mile distance between Prescott and the Colorado River.

Other examples of his entrepreneurship are: he operated a mine near Chloride, imported and raised over 1500 head of Angora goats, raised hogs, turkeys, farmed hay and grain, along with operating his store and the post office.

Hardy, in addition to his various commercial enterprises, served as a Justice of the Peace, a Mohave County Supervisor, and in the 1865 Second, 1866 Third, and the 1899 Fifteenth Territorial Legislature.

The town of Hardyville survived two fires, one in 1873 that almost destroyed the town and another the following year. The town, however, could not survive the coming of the railroad which reached Yuma in 1877. Sometime later a bridge over the Colorado was constructed at Needles to provide even more convenient transportation. The riverboats, whose schedule depended on the flow and depth of the river, could not compete with the reliability of the railroad.

Captain Hardy retired and moved to live with his sister in Whittier, California. He died there in 1906 at the age of eighty-three.



PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi Everyone,

Happy spring. Hope everyone had a happy Easter and everyone is enjoying all the beautiful flowers that spring has brought us.

So many things happening here at the museum with the Educational Gardens in the backyard moving right along. We've poured the concrete for the sidewalks and Laurie Thompson and her team have put together a project that I thought could never be completed. It is going to be absolutely beautiful and the community will be able to enjoy it.

We are planning to have many different kinds of programs for children and adults and will be working on these in the next months.

I would like to welcome our new secretary Ellen Brown and welcome her to our board she is replacing Brenda Warneka who has been our secretary for many years.

We are hoping to see our membership grow more and our donations to be great and if you have any questions or anything that you'd like to discuss never hesitate to call me 928-219-2582. Thank you

As always your president.
Karole Finkelstein

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado River Historical Society Museum is seeking volunteers.

If you enjoy history and want to learn more about the area, the society needs you. This is a chance to meet area visitors from all over the world and form friendships with a wonderful group of volunteers. Many of our volunteers are part-time residents and retirees.

Hours are flexible and duties are as easy or challenging as you would like.

WORD PUZZLE

William Harrison Hardy

T T U Z T R O E D D E C P A P
 A R N X M A I L L I W B H D I
 B A U O P E O O S A O E A V H
 R P G Q O G R L X S S L R E S
 E P O A J L O C I E T U D N R
 C E Y I Z O A J A E N R Y T E
 A R X D T U Z S R N A T V U D
 P S X S R M J R E I T O I R A
 F C D E I A I J L O C I L E E
 X C I N M T H R U S H G L L L
 L U I O O S O R E V I R E E I
 G N S R Z A W H I T T I E R G
 G U I Z D S F V F D X D D W L
 M E S P I H S M A E T S A Z T
 S P R E S C O T T Y N L O J P

ADVENTURE	CERBAT	GOLD
HARDY	HARDYVILLE	LEADERSHIP
MERCANTILE	MINING	OXEN
PRESCOTT	RAILROAD	RIVER
RUSH	SALOON	STEAMSHIPS
TERRITORIES	TOOLS	TRAPPERS
WHITTER	WILLIAM	

March 2023 puzzle answers: Life and Death of Explorer

E S M R O F T A L P A M C R W
 L G X U F Q L H O T I Y L E R
 C S A U N B R L L X W Q K R E
 Q C E Y E Y F E O G I L A O C
 B W P K Q M D L Y R K L K L K
 R O C K Y V J T E B P M S P Q
 S G E N Y S I C T O O A W X E
 P U S B V U N L R I V B C E S
 W E R D N A M D O L R Z Q O L
 F M R V I D L A F E R M N Z A
 I D A F E V B L W R O O J T G
 M K E P N Y S T D I R K N W U
 X D G O O R D I N A T E S H N
 I O N E N O T E L E K S H Z A
 E E W D E B S K B C V X S O X

EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

Seek peek at the upcoming Fall Event Season



Debbie Miller-Marschke does a full costume presentation of Olive Oatman, covering her life from the time the family left Illinois on a wagon train, to the massacre that took almost her entire family's lives near Yuma, her captivity by the Apache and Mojave tribes, her life among the Mojave in the Mohave Valley and Needles area, her return to Ft. Yuma, and finally her later life.

Upcoming Spring 2023 Events

COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

SPRING 2023

EVENTS

All Events at Museum unless otherwise stated



TOM BRADY

April 26th-Wednesday 5pm-7pm (AZ time)

A Vietnam veteran, Tom has been a resident of Bullhead City since 1982. Working for Mohave County for 19 years, retiring in 2002 from the position of parks director. He served for 10 years as elected Bullhead City Justice of Peace before being elected in 2014 to his first term as mayor.

FORT MOJAVE YOUTH DANCE GROUP

May 24-Wednesday 5pm-7pm (AZ time)

The Fort Mojave Youth Dance Group was created by the late Geneva Evanston, her dream was to carry on the tradition of song and dance with the youth within our tribe. She started with her grandchildren and incorporated her nieces and nephews along with a few other tribal children.



Colorado River Museum
 1239 Highway 95 (in Community Park)
 Bullhead City, AZ 86429
 928-754-3399

COMMITTEES UPDATES

From The Desk of Our Curator:

If you enjoy maps, the museum has recently put two maps on display that you may want to stop by to see. The first one is the 1871 map showing routes of the river and land parties engaged in exploring the Grand Canyon of Colorado, under the command of 1st Lt. George M. Wheeler.

The second map is a very large copy of the 1876 Rand McNally map showing routes, stage lines and proposed mail routes. This one is especially interesting due to the significant details, including of the Tri-state area.



Seeking Donations for Our Collection

We are looking for any artifact that is pertinent to our Tri-state area. This includes, but is not limited to, photographs, family histories, military activity, Davis Dam, Native Americans, steamboats, ranching, fossils, explorers, highways, historical maps, churches and service clubs, businesses, and mining.

◆ We cannot accept an artifact with stipulations on it such as it must be displayed in a particular way or time period.

◆ We do not accept loans.

Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider.

We are actively seeking local historic photographs and Mohave Valley Daily Newspapers before 2010.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Featured Item:

What Fun - 3D wooden puzzles.

Insects or vehicles

Available in the gift shop now.

Only - \$5.00



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Reminder, all memberships expired at the end of the year (Dec 31st 2022). If you haven't had a chance to renew for the year of 2023, now is the time.

Since we have an all-volunteer staff that oversees the operations of the museum, all the monies collected from membership fees go directly to the costs of the operation of the museum (other than staffing), new display items, and future expansion of the museum. We have 2 more phases left of the museum to build so the more we can expand our membership and fundraising efforts, the sooner we can get this additional space added.

Thank you again for all your support!

MUSEUM PROJECTS

Things continue to progress with the Educational Gardens project. We received most of the plants on our wish list from Star Nursery on March 24th. The wonderful group of ROTC kids, under the direction of Chief Starkey, came and planted them along with doing some other miscellaneous ground work. Lots of hard work and fun! Also would like to give a big shout out to our own Mary Ragusa and her great brother Bob for helping make this day a big success. Mary has been instrumental in helping me make the vision a reality.

On April 7th Stewart Concrete came and put in the pathways throughout the area. What a big change that made! On tap for the near future is the installation of the amphitheater benches, the mining table, the Mojave shelter, and the storyboards. We are still on track for the opening of the area this spring. ~ Laurie





**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM**

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Bullhead City, AZ 86429 Bullhead City, AZ 86430

Phone: 928-754-3399
Email: CRHSmuseum@outlook.com
Web: coloradriverhistoricalsociety.org/
Hours of Operations:
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
(last admittance 3:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Karole Finkelstein – President
- Ralph Patterson – Vice-President
- Ellen Brown – Secretary
- Carla Lucas – Treasurer
- Laurie Thompson – Director
- Robbie Adams – Director
- Denise Vallon – Director
- Barbara Brandt - Director
- Jim Lucas – Director

Mission Statement

The mission of The Colorado River Historical Society shall be to operate a museum to promote interest and knowledge concerning the history of the Lower Colorado River area, most specifically the Tri-state area.

***** MUSEUM FUNDRAISER *****

The historical society is currently in the midst of a fundraising effort, the monies of which will be used for construction of the next phase of the museum. This addition will store our archives and collections not presently displayed in the museum.

These items are currently stored at the Davis Camp site. Mohave County has generously renewed our lease on that building for an additional year, expiring in July 2023. We are in need of a new home for these artifacts, which require multiple storage racks. The Historical Society also stores various other supplies and tools in this facility.

In the coming months the museum’s fundraising Committee will be using a variety of methods to raise money for our building fund. In the meantime if you are interested in assisting us with a donation it would be highly appreciated. Your contribution may be tax deductible, please confirm with your tax consultant.

It takes a village and we are counting on you to help us make this a reality.

