

Grapewine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM

Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery by Patricia Herzig

Traveling south through Bullhead City on Highway 95, you might have wondered about the bluff rising at a 90-degree angle from the highway that is untouched by construction across from the Bullhead City Safeway. This bluff is located on Dorado Dr. between Verano Dr. and Colina Dr. If one was to venture to the top of the bluff, that visitor would find sixteen various sized piles of rocks separated by neat rows. It would be obvious to you that this is indeed a cemetery. The cemetery closed in the early 1900's when Hardyville burned down. Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery is one of the last remaining vestiges of the once thriving community of Hardyville.

When William Harrison Hardy founded Hardyville in 1864, he had vision enough to realize the potential of the area for shipping. He also realized the need for a connecting road between Hardyville and Prescott, AZ. Hardy understood that life in the Mohave Valley was difficult and often dangerous and because of these dangers, the need for a cemetery arose soon after the founding of the town.

Because of the extensive research of Vicky Salyer, a member of the Colorado River Historical Society Museum, we now know much more about the lives of those buried in the cemetery, however information about the deceased is still sketchy. The total number of the people buried in the cemetery remains



unknown, but there are sixteen grave sites clearly marked by piles of large rocks. Fifteen of these seem to be adult men. Rumors have it that the smaller, sixteenth grave could be that of a lady, or some even think that the grave site contained the body of an eight year old girl, however no one knows for sure as the headstone is missing. Needless to say, there was no name or date of death. Quoting from the Dam's

News on May 12, 1950, there was an article that read, "Will the person who removed the headstone from the grave of an eight year old girl in the Hardyville Cemetery below Petersen's Ranch please return it to the cemetery or the office of Dam's News."

Many other interesting myths and stories surround the cemetery. One example is that coffins were spilling out onto the highway. Actually, a small section of two coffins were sticking out on the edge of the bluff. In November of 1988, these two coffins were excavated, and the wood was found to be rotting. The skeletal remains were carefully removed, placed into mortician's coffins, and reburied at the rear of the cemetery. These are believed to be the remains of John Killian and Samuel Todd.

People also ask, what happened to all of the boards that marked the graves? Some believe that they were given to the University of Arizona and lost, while others believe that they were stolen by random individuals. *con't on pg 2*

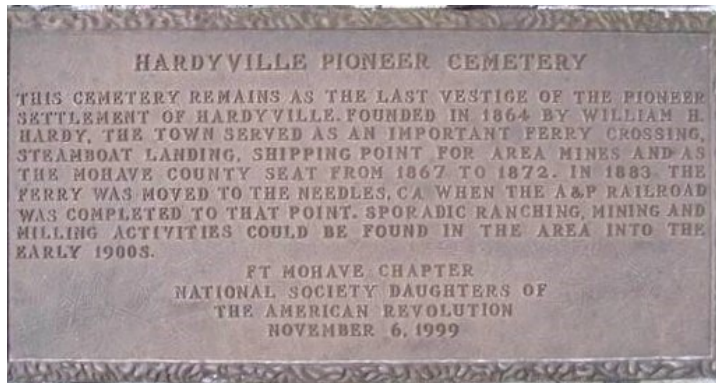
con't from pg 1

We do know that two of the wooden markers are on display at the Colorado River Historical Society Museum. The badly weathered wooden markers are for G. E. Matthew who died in 1867, and if A. O. Perkins in 1897.



In 1998, the Bullhead City Council discussed annexation of the Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery. It was annexed and dedicated to Bullhead City in October of 1999. In November of the same year, The Arizona State Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presented a historical monument, flagpole and light to the cemetery. In 2015, DAR members unveiled eight names that were added to the monument. The Colorado River Historical Society also contributed a historical anchor that was found in the Colorado River

Today, the Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery is a quiet and lonely place located a short distance above bustling Bullhead City. Not many people venture up the bluff, but you can be sure the souls that are buried there appreciate that it is preserved as part of the history of the Mohave Valley.



PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi, It's February- Happy Valentine's Day!

Our building is almost done and we are starting to move our collections into the storage and artifact maintenance area. So exciting. Thanks to Larry Adams of Pueblo Construction.

Also, we are still looking for a refrigerator this area. A refrigerator would give us a place to safely and securely store our heat sensitive archival materials like films and negatives. Contact Laurie Thompson if you have, or can help with securing this item.

The Educational Garden is looking great with the addition of street signs on the lamp posts at each storyboard. This adds a whimsical and nostalgic element to garden. Love them!

I want everyone to know anytime you need to talk or ask questions please call me at 928-219-2582 and I will try to answer as many questions as possible.

And don't forget to stop by the museum and see the wonderful things we have accomplished. Our retail team has been busy adding new items to the inventory.

Prayers for our builder Larry Adams worked as he is doing better. Hoping for a full recovery.

Also I have been not been able to be at the museum lately so thank you to all my volunteers and Board members for keeping up the good work

My husband Norman suffered a bad heart attack and we are working on it together both with help of my children. As everything this takes time.

But remember I am always available

Sincerely
Karole Finkelstein
President

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.

Examples of the types of volunteer we need:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Docent | Handyman |
| Gardener | Data Entry |
| Teachers | Marketing |
| Fundraising & Event Coordinators | |

WORD PUZZLE

Hardyville Cemetery

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

BLUFF	HARDYVILLE	PETERSEN
CEMETERY	KILLIAN	PIONEER
COFFINS	MATTHEW	SAFEWAY
COLINA	MONUMENT	SALYER
DAR	PERKINS	TODD
DORADO	PETERSEN	VERANO
		VISITOR

Jan 2024 answers: Bullshead Rock

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

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Did you know we have authentic native American jewelry made Priscilla of the Navajo tribe. Prices range from \$5 - \$20 and include items from earrings to necklaces.



EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

Fort Mohave Burro Rescue - Beth Wexler:

Beth will be giving you information about herself and why she started the Burro Rescue. She will also be talking about the challenges and rewards of working with the donkeys. Rumor is she will be bringing someone special with her.

March 20th 2024 - Wednesday 5pm - 6:30pm(AZ time)



Debbie Miler-Marschke - Olive Oatman:

Debbie does a full costume presentation of Olive Oatman.

Coming this Spring - Date TBD



**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM**

1239 Highway 95 PO Box 1599
Bullhead City, AZ 86429 Bullhead City, AZ 86430

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

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Barbra Brandt – Vice-President
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- Robbie Adams – Director
- Denise Vallon – Director
- Jim Lucas - Director
- Mary Wall – 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.

New Building Addition Update:

We now have a driveway for easy access to move items in and out of our new wing of the museum. Such an improvement over what we've had before. Thank you for all your help with this project Pueblo Construction!



**SEEKING COLLECTION
DONATIONS**

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

- ◆ 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.