



# COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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## The Rose-Bailey Wagon Train Massacre

The Rose-Bailey Party was the first European American emigrant wagon train to traverse the 35th parallel route known as Beale's Wagon Road, established by Edward Fitzgerald Beale, from Zuni Pueblo, New Mexico to the Colorado River near the present-day Avi Casino.

In 1858, a wealthy businessman from Keosauqua, Iowa, Leonard John Rose, formed the party after hearing stories from gold miners returning from California. He subsequently financed a well-equipped wagon train that included twenty horses and two hundred head of purebred red Durham cattle. He also acquired four large covered wagons and three yoke of oxen to pull each wagon. The Rose Company left Iowa in early April, and in mid-May they were joined by the Bailey company, led by a forty-four-year-old veteran of the Black Hawk War, Gillum Bailey. Their combined outfits numbered twenty wagons, forty men, fifty to sixty women and children, and nearly five hundred head of cattle. John Udell, a 62-year-old Baptist minister kept a daily journal of the party's travels, recording the locations of their campsites, documenting their progress, and noting the availability of resources.

On August 30, 1858, after having traveled more than 1,200 miles in four months, the Rose-Bailey Party were attacked as they prepared to cross the Colorado River near the present-day Avi Casino. Eight members of the party were killed, including five children, and thirteen wounded. The emigrants killed several of the

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karole Finkelstein – President  
Vacant – Vice President  
Brenda Warneka – Secretary  
Carla Lucas – Treasurer  
Jeanette Miller – Director  
Ralph Patterson – Director  
Dick Warneka – Director

## HOURS OF OPERATION

WE ARE OPEN!

Our hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (AZ Time). Come in and see our new displays and visit for awhile. We are located at 1239 Highway 95 in Bullhead City, AZ.

## OTHER NEWS

If you haven't already, please begin using our **NEW** email:

[crhsmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:crhsmuseum@outlook.com) as we will be discontinuing the former email very soon.

Don't forget that time changed for our Nevada and California friends. They are now one hour behind us.

attackers, and decided to backtrack more than 500 miles to Albuquerque, New Mexico, instead of continuing on to their intended destination in southern California.

Fort Mohave, originally named Camp Colorado was established on April 19, 1859 as a direct result of the the Rose-Bailey massacre, at the recommendation of Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale.

For more on this fascinating part of local history, consider purchasing a copy of Charles W. Baley's book *Disaster at the Colorado* from our Gift Shop.

## DONATION GUIDELINES

What we are looking for is 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.

Please keep in mind these are the guidelines we use if you choose to donate an artifact in your possession:

- Is it of museum quality?
- Is it pertinent to our area of interest?
- Do we already have as good or a better prime example of the artifact?
- Does the provenance of the artifact or material increase its significance?
- Is the donor the legal owner of said materials?
- Do we have enough volunteers to maintain it, i.e. clean, oil, repair it, and can we provide the correct environmental conditions to preserve the materials?
- Do we have adequate space to store it?
- Do we have adequate space to display it in the foreseeable future?
- 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!

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am pleased to announce we have begun a new "Patron" Membership offering for the coming year. You can now help support the museum by purchasing one of several levels of these memberships. Of course we will continue to offer our regular memberships as well, and are very thankful for the many years that everyone has chosen to support us. The Patron Membership consists of Platinum for \$1000, Gold for \$500, Silver for \$250, and Bronze for \$100. These additional funds will help us achieve our goal of starting phase 3 of our building.

Each year your name will be displayed on a poster as a patron donor, and your donation could be tax deductible. We also plan on having a couple of small receptions exclusively for patron members.

Elsie Needles has stepped down from her position on the Board of Directors. On behalf of the Board and myself I want to thank Elsie for her many years of devoted service to the museum and the community. Thank you Elsie!

We are again selling honey-baked hams. If you are interested, please call Susana at 928-219-2582. Orders will be taken until November 24, 2020 by 1:00 p.m.

I would again like to thank all of our volunteers. You guys help to make the museum the fabulous place it is.

Wishing you all a blessed, healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

Karole Finkelstein

## HARDYVILLE PLAQUE



This little jewel was saved by the museum years ago, though it was removed from the native stone cairn that was originally erected and located in front of the Safeway Supermarket in Bullhead City. The plaque reads:

### HARDYVILLE SITE

William H. Hardy founded Hardyville in 1864. It became Mojave County seat in 1872. Hardyville remained an important mining, shipping and river crossing center to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many adobe buildings, erected by Hardy, stood here when the settlement started its existence as "Hardy's Landing."

We don't know who to credit for the plaque as there is no credit given on the signage itself.

The plaque now hangs in the museum as part of the Hardy collection and can be viewed when you visit!



## ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

Cheryl Mangin – Archivist  
Richard Dotson – Asst. Archivist  
Carla Lucas – Member  
Jim Lucas – Member  
Laurie Thompson – Member

## ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Rich Dotson has been busy placing our map collection in archival sleeves. These, along with cardstock stiffeners were purchased using the \$1000 grant received from the Arizona Historical Society we were awarded a few weeks ago.

Laurie Thompson, Jim Lucas and Rich Dotson went to the Mohave Museum of History and Arts in Kingman last week to view and claim items Kingman was giving away to other museums. Several new to us books were obtained, and a lot of hard-bound Arizona Highway magazines for our extensive collection.

Mr. Ray Winslow of Bullhead City called the museum to invite us to view a ranch wagon he had sitting in his yard that he wished to donate to the museum. Jim Lucas and I went to the Winslow's and viewed the wagon. We will be accepting this generous gift and should have a nice example to show the public within a few weeks. Ray is making the arrangements to have the wagon brought to the museum and it will be placed in the outside compound. Unfortunately Ray does not have a history on the wagon but it is in much better condition than the wagon currently kept at the archives.