

# Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

**HAHS MUSEUM**  
TEMP LOCATION  
107 PARK AVENUE  
P O BOX 1573  
HATTIESBURG MS  
39403-1573  
601 545-4582

## HAHS invites ...

*you to  
celebrate the  
completion of the  
first book on  
Forrest  
County  
history.*

It was truly a  
**LEAP OF FAITH**  
when HAHS began this  
project with volunteers. It  
is appropriate that the book be  
released on 'leap day' of leap year.

After many years with personal  
interruptions and imposed interruptions it  
is finally time to celebrate. As this letter  
is being mailed, the 1000 books are on  
the truck headed this way. Many thanks  
to Hattiesburg Grocery for their help in  
unloading and storage.

The book turned out great.  
Statistically it contains

- ◆ 496 pages on acid free paper
- ◆ 237 community stories page 136
- ◆ 621 family stories page 309
- ◆ 38 picture stories



- ◆ 18 maps
- ◆ 578 pictures
- ◆ 7 pages submitters list containing  
532 names with appropriate  
addresses
- ◆ 19 page Index with 2,365 surnames  
and the story number(s) where name  
appears.

Again with our **LEAP OF FAITH**, HAHS has reserved Forrest County Multi purpose Center for the day Tuesday, February 29, 2000. The center is located approximately 1 1/2 miles south of the Beverly Drive Inn on US 49S. There is a large **MESSAGE BOARD** on the highway. The telephone number at the Center is 583-7500 (if you would like to check to be sure the books arrived before you drive down). Plans are to release the first books on that day —Sold books may be picked up, books may be examined and purchased. After the 29th, books may be picked up at the Museum 545-4582. Mid March HAHS will begin mailing out-of-town books.

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**Next  
Display at the  
museum will  
be  
American  
History**



## You are cordially invited to ...

**Celebrate**

with

**Hattiesburg Area Historical Society**

The Premier Release of

***The History of Forrest County Mississippi***

Leap Day, Leap Year

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

James Lynn Cartlidge Forrest County Multi Purpose Center

962 Sullivan Road

From 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

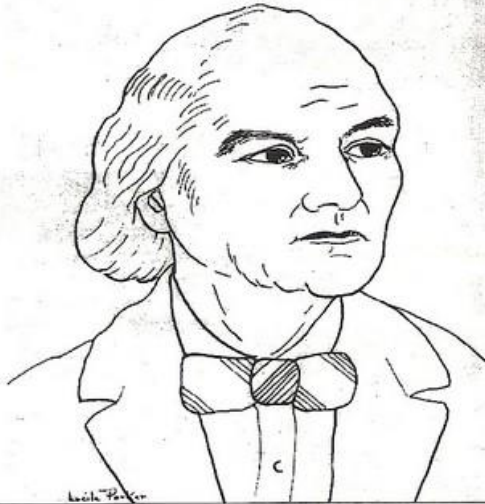
Casual

583-7500



# Captain William Harris Hardy

Drawings by the late Lucille Parker, for HAHS's History of Hattiesburg Coloring



***Captain William Harris Hardy Founder of Hattiesburg. In 1974, HAHS placed this marker on the corner of Pine and Forrest Streets near the site where he envisioned a town. In the picture are grandson John Hardy of Wilmington DE and great, great, great niece Ann Aldridge of Hattiesburg.***

We appreciate our readers. We received two corrections regarding the wives of William Harris Hardy, as was printed in the last issue of the HAHS newsletter. Somewhere between the information given and the printer our information was stated incorrectly. Sally was wife one and Hattie was wife two. Thanks for bring this to our attention. The following information is from excerpts from Nanci Price's article in The History of Forrest County Mississippi and information from The McCain Library Archives at USM. We hope you enjoy this information.

William H. Hardy, founder of the Mississippi cities of Hattiesburg, Gulfport and Laurel, was born in Todds Hill, AL, on February 12, 1837. He attended Town Creek Academy and Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. After three years at Cumberland, Capt. Hardy became ill and was forced to return home. It was shortly thereafter that he traveled to Jasper County, MS, to visit his father's cousin, James Hardy. While he was there, the local Methodist Church offered him \$900 a year and a new building to start an academy.

In 1860 he married first wife, Sallie A. Johnson. They married and had six children. Sally died Sept. 15, 1872, leaving Hattie, Willie, Ellen, Elizabeth, Thomas and Jefferson Davis.

After the death of his first wife, Hardy moved to Meridian and set up a law office. While visiting Mobile, AL, he met second wife, Hattie Lott. They married in 1874, she began raising the Captain's children. They had three children, Lena Mai, Lamar and Toney. Being a cultured woman, Hattie tried to improve the quality of life in Meridian. She help organize a literary society, the Fortnightly Club, which is the oldest women's club in Mississippi. She spent the rest of her life in Meridian, never living in the city that was named for her.

It was during his marriage to Hattie that Capt. Hardy

became interested in establishing railroad lines through the state. He is responsible for establishing the line between New Orleans and Meridian, with the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad Company. Hardy chose and named the sites where stations would be established, thus establishing the cities of Hattiesburg and Laurel. Later, he became president of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad Company and established the railway station that became known as Gulfport. Perhaps the establishment of these cities is considered his greatest achievement.

After Hattie's death, Hardy became interested in public service. He was elected to the MS State Senate in 1895, and while there he served as the chairman of the Committee on Corporations and the Finance Committee. He introduced a bill to remove the penitentiary from Jackson and to construct a new Capitol on the old site.

In 1899, Capt. Hardy, grieving the loss of his wife Hattie, decided to move to Hattiesburg, the town he had named after her. He built an elegant home in the western suburbs of the city and named it "Pinehurst", which means pine thicket - "hurst" being the German word for thicket.

Hardy married a third time in 1900 to Ida Viola May. After their marriage they moved to Hattiesburg, where she helped him raise two of the children by his late wife Hattie. He and Ida had three sons, William H, Jr., Hamilton Lee, and James Hutchins. In 1906, he was appointed Judge of the 2nd District Circuit Court, and they moved to Pascagoula. Ida was regional president of the women's suffrage group for the state of Mississippi in 1915 and was a charter member, by invitation of the Governor of Tennessee, of the Southern Sociological Congress. Judge Hardy died at the age of 80, on February 17, 1917. William Harris Hardy has justly been called "The Father of South Mississippi".





*Student member Clai Meador volunteers time at the museum, in doing this he gets his community service hours for his Oak Grove history class.*

Tat Ott holds old home made soap, while Clai looks at new home made soap.

### Collections Update

Volunteers are currently busy filling new file cabinets housed at the museum.

These cabinets will be filled with all the stories that are in *The History of Forrest County Mississippi*.



Files are also being made for new stories not yet used.

Many boxes yet to be sorted and displayed. Watch for updates in following editions of our newsletter. Would you like to volunteer?



### HAHS Program

January 22, 2000

Ensign John Shelton Chapter  
Colonial Dames XVII Century  
17 members attended.  
President Mrs. Viron Kersh of Sumrall

Program – This Century of Change  
from home made soap to home made soap

Fran Chambers and Thomas Young  
with SOUTHERN SOAPERY

#### customized fragrances

Examples: magnolia, castile, lavender castile, peppermint pattie, your favorite still made with lye, mild, sudsy, adds luxurious oils, takes four weeks to make.



P O Box 1573  
HATTIESBURG MS 39403

HAHS MUSEUM 601/545-4582  
601/583-1362

HAHS is striving to keep the membership list current. If you are a Life member or have renewed for 2000, your membership card should be enclosed. If there is any discrepancy, please contact us. Please call 601/583-1362 and leave a message.

Remember that all donations made to the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society are tax deductible.

How to know if your membership is current:

On the line above your name is the last year that your dues were paid. If your year is not 2000, we do not show your dues to be current.

2000
Mr. Historical Member 123 Main Street Anycity, Anytown 12345

Your membership is very important.

*Thanks!!!*

HAHS thank our members and contributors. It takes your dues and donations to keep our programs and activities going. HAHS appreciates all that you do.

**HAHS appreciate these recent contributions**

**Donor**

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