



THE LARIAT

Voice of the
LITTLE RIVER RAIDERS

Website www.littleriverraiders.com.au

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President: Tony Diablo

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Scribe: Patrick Floyd Garrett

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone the new year has started and moving quickly, the National championship a very close and only a few entry's are in from the LRR members, it's 5 days of fun.

Also I need help in many ways for getting things ready a swell during the week off shooting if you can help in anyway please let me know

A reminder February shoot we have a general meeting please attend if you can ,it is your club and when it comes to the way the club is going, you have a voice.

Tony Diablo **President**

CAPTAIN'S CORNER (OR SAMBUCCA'S SPEAK)

Howdy all,

Well it's been a while but a lot has happened over recent months and now we're back in 2019 it going to be an exciting time all round for everyone.

As you know we have been granted the 2019 Single Action Nationals and they will be held at Eagle Park commencing Wednesday 3 April running through to Sunday 7 April, 2019. The programme is be quite extensive incorporating 12 Stages on Friday through to Sunday as well as Long Range Rifle, Side Events, Cowboy Clays and other events to tantalise your taste buds.

It promises to be an experience that will be memorable so try to make all 5 days if you

can by putting it in your diary now and applying for leave if you have to. We will be setting up all the Ranges o Sunday 31 March so if you are free please come down.

The Nomination form is on our Website so please download it and give me a call if you have any questions. As I said at our last shoot, I believe you are all competent to compete and enjoy the experience.

Now, it will be a lot of fun but also some work involved, so I'm following up with asking you to consider helping out with any working bees we have and also volunteering to assist during the week of the Nationals. If you are available please give me a call on 0407 553 281 or send me an email at

bcooper44@bigpond.com.

Aside from the above there will be quite a lot of work to be done on the Ranges so a couple of additional working bees starting Sunday 9 February will be scheduled to get this done.

We will only see the Nationals this close every few years so take the opportunity to be a part of 2019 at Eagle Park.

Another couple of matters:

MOVING WITH YOUR RIFLE:

I've mentioned this at the last couple of shoots but just to reinforce it. Under the old Rule if you were moving from one position after firing 5 rounds to another to, say, fire the next 5 rounds and you inadvertently actioned your rifle after the 5th round you had to fire into the berm before moving and you could load an additional round at the next position. Under the amended Rule if you now inadvertently action your rifle you may move

with the action/lever open to the next position, close the action/lever and continue on. If you're not sure what to do please see me.



Open and empty

See u on the range. Regards, *Sambucca*,
Club Captain

SHOTGUN MOVEMENT:

SSAA (Vic) has not previously allowed any movement with a loaded (but not closed) Shotgun from one position to another. However, that has now changed and, in line with SASS guidelines, you can now move with cartridges in the chamber but **the action must be open/broken**. So the process for 2 targets from position A, move to position B and engage 2 more targets is load 2 and fire, break your shotgun before moving, shuck the empties and load 2 cartridges whilst moving (but **DO NOT** close the action or you will suffer a Match DQ) and close the gun only when you come to a complete stop at position B.

You do not have to load on the run until you feel competent to do so and I would suggest that you practice first. In fact you can in need consult with an experienced shooter before doing so.



Open and loaded

SAFETY REPORT – CLUB SHOOT 20TH JANUARY 2019

Now that we have had our Christmas break and are getting back into enjoying our shooting, I feel it is important that I raise some serious incidents from the weekends club shoot.

It seems like many people have forgotten or choose not to follow our basic Range Rules. There were way **too** many instances of the Rules not being followed and it's not good enough. **IT's YOUR** safety as well as everyone else's.

If you are going to shoot on any Range make sure that you know the **Range Rules** that apply.

If you are shooting a particular discipline make sure that you know the Rules that apply to it. We have all done (or should have) a minimum of the SASS Range Officer course. It was obvious at the last shoot that many members are not following the Rules, this is not because they don't know the Rules it's because they are complacent and think it's okay to take short cuts. Excuses like "**it's okay I have done it before!**". They are not **okay!** SAFETY is our responsibility and EVERYBODY is a Safety Officer.

I should not have to say this **BUT** it seems I need to keep repeating myself. The firing line is from the loading bench to the un-loading bench and the 170 Rule must be followed. Firearms are **NOT** unloaded until they have been cleared by the Un-loading Officer and as such must be pointed **DOWN RANGE**.

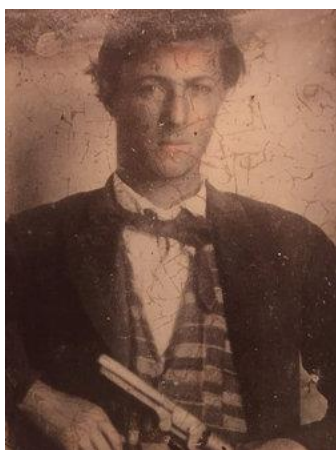
Members and visitors are not permitted to shoot on the Ranges unless they satisfy the conditions set out in the Range Rules. All these Rules (or links to them) are available on the web site. Do yourself a favor and read them. If you have difficulty or don't understand any of these Rules talk to Me, Sambucca, the Range Manager or our State Governor.

Grizzly Grumps
Safety Officer



JOHN WESLEY HARDIN

American gunfighter



Born: 26 May 1853, Bonham, Texas, United States

Died: 19 August 1895, El Paso, Texas, United States

Buried: Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, Texas, United States

Children: Mary Elizabeth Billings, John Wesley Hardin, Jr., Jane Hardin

Spouse: Carolyn Jane "Callie" Lewis (m. 1895–1895), Jane Bowen (m. 1872–1892)

John Wesley Hardin (May 26, 1853 – August 19, 1895) was an American Old West outlaw, gunfighter, and controversial folk icon. The son of a Methodist preacher, Hardin got into trouble with the law from an early age. He killed his first man at age 14, he claimed in self-defense.

Pursued by lawmen for most of his life, he was sentenced in 1877 at age 24 to 25 years in prison for murder. When he was sentenced, Hardin claimed to have killed 42 men but contemporary newspapers accounts attributed only 27 deaths to him. While in prison, Hardin studied law and wrote an autobiography. He was well known for wildly exaggerating or completely making up stories about his life. He claimed credit for many murders that cannot be corroborated.

Within a year of his release in 1894, Hardin was killed by John Selman in an El Paso saloon.

Early life

Hardin was born in 1853 near Bonham, Texas, to a Methodist preacher and circuit rider, James "Gip" Hardin, and Mary Elizabeth Dixson. He was named after John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist denomination of the Christian church. In his autobiography, Hardin described his mother as "blond, highly cultured ... [while] charity predominated in her disposition." Hardin's father travelled over much of central Texas on his preaching circuit until he settled his family in Sumpter, Trinity County, Texas in 1859. There, Joseph Hardin established and taught at the school that John Hardin and his siblings attended. Hardin was the second surviving son of ten children.

In 1862, at age nine, Hardin tried to run away and join the Confederate army.

Trouble at school

In 1867, while attending his father's school, Hardin was taunted by another student, Charles Slotter. Slotter accused Hardin of being the author of graffiti on the schoolhouse wall that insulted a girl in his class. Hardin denied writing the poetry, claiming in turn that Slotter was the author. Slotter charged at Hardin with a knife but Hardin stabbed him with his own knife, almost killing him. Hardin was nearly expelled over the incident.

First killing

In November 1868, when he was 15, Hardin challenged his uncle Holshousen's former slave, Major "Maje" Holshousen, to a wrestling match, which Hardin won. According to Hardin, the following

day, Maje "ambushed" him as he rode past shouting at him and waving a stick. Hardin drew his revolver and shot Maje five times. Hardin wrote in his autobiography that he rode to get help for the wounded man, but he died three days later. Hardin further wrote that his father did not believe he would receive a fair hearing in the Union-occupied state (where more than a third of the state police were former slaves), so he ordered him into hiding. Hardin claimed that the authorities eventually discovered his location and three Union soldiers were sent to arrest him, at which time he "chose to confront his pursuers" despite having been warned of their approach by an older brother, Joseph:

Fugitive from justice

Hardin knew he could not return home. As a fugitive, he travelled initially with outlaw Frank Polk in the Pisgah area of Navarro County, Texas. Polk had killed a man named Tom Brady, and a detachment of soldiers sent from Corsicana, Texas pursued the duo. Hardin escaped but the soldiers apprehended Polk and jailed him temporarily. Hardin also briefly taught school in Pisgah. While there, he claimed he shot a man's eye out to win a bottle of whiskey in a bet. Hardin also claimed that he and his cousin, "Simp" Dixon, encountered a group of soldiers and each killed a man. Allegedly, Hardin killed a black man in Leon County, Texas. On January 5, 1870, Hardin was playing cards with Benjamin Bradley in Towash, Hill County, Texas. Hardin was winning almost every hand, which angered Bradley who threatened to "cut out his liver" if he won again. Bradley drew a knife and a six-shooter. Hardin said he was unarmed and excused himself but claims that later that night, Bradley came looking for him. Bradley allegedly fired a shot at Hardin and missed; Hardin drew both his pistols and returned fire, one shot striking Bradley in the head and the other in his chest. Dozens of people saw this fight, and from them there is a good record of how Hardin had used his guns. His holsters were sewn into his vest so that the butts of his pistols pointed inward across his chest. He crossed his arms to draw. Hardin claimed this was the fastest way to draw, and he practised every day. A man called "Judge Moore", who held Hardin's stakes of money and a pistol, but refused to give them up without Bradley's consent, later "vanished". Hardin eventually admitted killing two men in Hill County.

After killing Bradley, Hardin claimed that when a posse of fifteen men came after him, he captured two of them and took a shotgun, two six-shooters, a rifle, and two derringers from his captives. He then ordered the two men to join the other members of the posse at Jim Page's and wait for him to come along—"I reckon they are waiting for me yet.

Later that month, on January 20, in Horn Hill, Limestone County, Texas, Hardin claimed he killed a man in a gunfight after an argument at the circus. Less than a week after this incident, in nearby Kosse, Texas, Hardin was accompanying a prostitute home when they were accosted by her pimp, who demanded money. Hardin threw money on the ground and shot the would-be thief when he bent over to pick it up.

Encounters with "Wild Bill" Hickok

The Bull's Head Tavern, in Abilene, Kansas, had been established as a partnership between ex-lawman Ben Thompson and gambler Phil Coe. The two entrepreneurs had painted a picture of a bull with a large erect penis on the side of their establishment as an advertisement. Citizens complained to Town Marshal "Wild Bill" Hickok. When Thompson and Coe refused his request to remove the bull, Hickok altered it himself. Infuriated, Thompson tried to incite his new acquaintance, Hardin, by exclaiming to him: "He's a damn Yankee. Picks on Rebels, especially Texans, to kill." Hardin, then under the assumed name "Wesley Clemmons" (but better known to the townspeople by the alias "Little Arkansaw"), seemed to have had respect for Hickok, and replied, "If Bill needs killing why don't you kill him yourself?" Later that night, Hardin was confronted by Hickok, who told him that he was wearing guns in violation of town ordinance, and ordered to hand over his guns, which he did, but in a quite surprising way: Hardin reached down, picked his revolvers up from the holsters, and handed the guns to Wild Bill butts forward, then swiftly rolled them over in his hands and suddenly Wild Bill was staring right into the barrels. However, both men did back down. Hickok had no knowledge that Hardin was a wanted man, and he advised Hardin to avoid problems while in Abilene.

Hardin met up with Hickok again while on a cattle drive in August 1871. This time, Hickok allowed

Hardin to carry his pistols into town - something he had never allowed others to do. For his part, Hardin (still using his alias) was fascinated by Wild Bill and reveled in being seen on intimate terms with such a celebrated gunfighter. Hardin alleged that when his cousin, Mannen Clements, was jailed for the killing of two cowhands Joe and Dolph Shadden in July 1871, Hickok – at Hardin's request – arranged for his escape.¹

Gunfights 1871–1872

Following his escape, Hardin claimed to be involved in the following gunfights

- In October 1871, Hardin was involved in a gunfight with two Texas Special Policemen, Private Green Paramore and John Lackey, during which Paramore was killed and Lackey wounded.
- A negro posse from Austin, Texas came after him for killing Paramore but said that they returned "sadder and wiser" after he ambushed and killed three of them;
- About 45 miles outside Corpus Christi, Texas, after he was followed by two Mexicans, he shot one off his horse while the other "quit the fight".
- On June 19, 1872, Hardin was involved in a gunfight in Willis, Texas;
- On July 26, 1872, Hardin wounded Texas State Policeman Sonny Speights in the arm with a derringer pistol in Hemphill, Texas.

Captured and tried

On January 20, 1875, the Texas Legislature authorized Governor Richard B. Hubbard to offer a \$4,000 reward for Hardin's arrest. An undercover Texas Ranger named Jack Duncan intercepted a letter sent to Hardin's father-in-law by his brother-in-law, Joshua Robert "Brown" Bowen. The letter mentioned that Hardin was hiding out on the Alabama-Florida border using the name "James W. Swain". In his autobiography, Hardin admitted that he had "adopted" this alias from Brenham, Texas Town Marshal Henry Swain who had married a cousin of Hardin's named Molly Parks.

In March 1876 Hardin wounded a man in Florida who had tried to mediate a quarrel between him and another man. In November 1876 Hardin was arrested briefly for having marked cards in Mobile, Alabama. Two former slaves of his father's, "Jake" Menzel and Robert Borup, tried to capture Hardin in Gainesville, Florida in mid-1877. Hardin killed one and blinded the other.

On August 24, 1877, Rangers and local authorities confronted Hardin on a train in Pensacola, Florida. He attempted to draw a .44 Colt cap-and-ball pistol but it got caught up in his suspenders. The officers knocked Hardin unconscious. They arrested two of his companions and Ranger John B. Armstrong killed a third, a man named Mann, who had a pistol in his hand. Hardin claimed that he was captured while smoking his pipe and Duncan only found Hardin's pistol under his shirt after his arrest.

Trial and imprisonment

Hardin was tried for Webb's killing, and on June 5, 1878, was sentenced to serve 25 years in Huntsville Prison. In 1879, Hardin and 50 other convicts were stopped within hours of successfully tunnelling into the prison armory. Hardin made several attempts to escape. During his prison term, on February 14, 1892, he was convicted of another manslaughter charge for the earlier shooting of J.B. Morgan and given a two-year sentence to be served concurrently with his unexpired 25-year sentence.

Hardin eventually adapted to prison life. While there, he read theological books, becoming the superintendent of the prison Sunday School, and studied law. He was plagued by recurring poor health, especially when the wound he had received from Sublett became re-infected in 1883, causing him to be bedridden for almost two years. In 1892, Hardin was described as 5 feet 9 inches tall and 160 pounds, with a fair complexion, hazel eyes, dark hair, and wound scars on his right knee, left thigh, right side, hip, elbow, shoulder, and back. During Hardin's stay in prison, his first wife, Jane, died, on November 6, 1892.

While in prison, he wrote an autobiography. He was well known for wildly exaggerating or completely making up stories about his life. He claimed credit for many murders that cannot be

corroborated. Hardin wrote that he was first exposed to violence in 1861 when he saw a man named Turner Evans stabbed by John Ruff. Evans died of his injuries and Ruff was jailed. Hardin wrote, "... Readers you see what drink and passion will do. If you wish to be successful in life, be temperate and control your passions; if you don't, ruin and death is the result."

After prison

Hardin was released from prison on February 17, 1894, having served seventeen years of his twenty-five-year sentence. He was forty years old when he returned to Gonzales, Texas. Later that year, on March 16, Hardin was pardoned, and, on July 21, he passed the state's bar examination, obtaining his license to practice law.¹ According to a newspaper article in 1900, shortly after being released from prison, Hardin committed negligent homicide when he made a \$5 bet that he could "at the first shot" knock a Mexican man off the soap box on which he was "sunning" himself, winning the bet and leaving the man dead from the fall and not the gunshot.

On January 9, 1895, Hardin married a 15-year-old girl named Callie Lewis. The marriage ended quickly, although it was never legally dissolved. Afterward, Hardin moved to El Paso, Texas.



Death

An El Paso lawman, John Selman, Jr., arrested Hardin's acquaintance and part-time prostitute, the "widow" M'Rose (or Mroz), for "brandishing a

gun in public". Hardin confronted Selman and the two men argued. Some accounts state that Hardin pistol-whipped the younger man. Selman's 56-year-old father, Constable John Selman, Sr. (himself a notorious gunman and former outlaw), approached Hardin on the afternoon of August 19, 1895, and the two men exchanged heated words. That night, Hardin went to the Acme Saloon, where he began playing dice. Shortly before midnight, Selman Sr. entered the saloon, walked up to Hardin from behind, and shot him in the head, killing him instantly. As Hardin lay on the floor, Selman fired three more shots into him. Selman Sr. was arrested for murder and stood trial. He claimed self-defense, stating that he witnessed Hardin attempting to draw his pistol upon seeing him enter the saloon, and a hung jury resulted in his being released on bond, pending retrial. However, before the retrial could be organized, Selman was killed in a shootout with US Marshal George Scarborough on April 6, 1896, during an argument following a card game.

Hardin was buried the following day in Concordia Cemetery, in El Paso.

Reburial controversy



The grave of John Wesley Hardin

A century later, on August 27, 1995, there was a confrontation between two groups at the site of Hardin's grave. One group, representing several of Hardin's great-grandchildren, sought to relocate his body to Nixon, Texas, to be interred next to the grave of his first wife, Jane. The other group, consisting of locals from El Paso, sought to prevent the move. At the cemetery, the group representing Hardin's descendants presented a disinterment permit for the body, while the El Pasoans presented a court order prohibiting its removal. Both sides accused the other parties of seeking the tourist revenue generated by the location of the body. A subsequent lawsuit ruled in favour of keeping the body in El Paso.

COWBOY JOKES

1:- Three cowboys of the world are sitting around camp talking about how tough they were and the tales kept getting bigger and bigger. The cowboy from Australia says, "I wrestled a 200 pound crocodile and may it cry like a baby."

The Cowboy from Brazil shakes his head and says, "I killed a 400 pound steer with my bare hands."

The Cowboy from Texas just smiled and kept stirring the campfire with his leg.

2:- Back in the Old West three Texas cowboys were

about to be hung for cattle rustling. The lynch mob brought the three men to a tree right at the edge of the Rio Grande. The idea was that when each man had died, they'd cut the rope and he'd drop into the river and drift out of sight

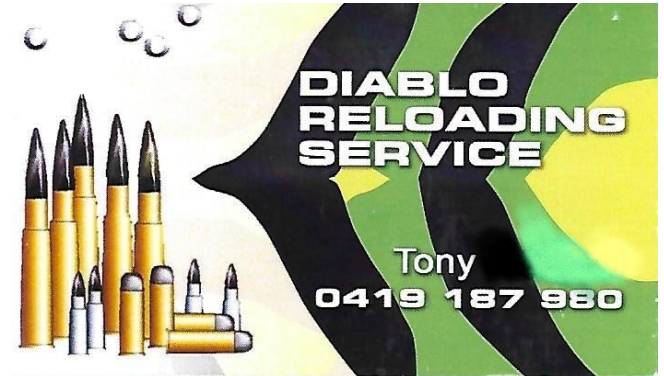
They put the first cowboy in the noose, but he was so sweaty and greasy he slipped out, fell in the river and swam to freedom.

They tied the noose around the second cowboy's head. He, too, oozed out of the rope, dropped into the river and got away.

As they dragged the third Texan to the scaffold, he resisted, "Please! Would yaw'l tighten that noose a little bit? I can't swim.

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Regards *P.F.G.*