

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

July 2013

President's Message

On August 28, 2012, Hurricane Isaac struck along the Mississippi Gulf coast. Its winds, clocked at 70 miles-per-hour in the Long Beach/Gulfport area, cracked and blew down the historical marker erected in front of St Thomas Catholic Church.

This was one of the original markers erected over the years by the Long Beach Historical Society. Unfortunately, this marker was one of 12 previously destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and later replaced through the efforts of Mayor Skellie, Father Louis Lohan, and the Historical Society.

Shortly after the storm, I was told that the marker had been broken and began working with church representatives and the Ohio manufacturer to begin a replacement process.

After several revisions were made to update the original text, an order was placed for the new marker which arrived on site in May of this year. Installation should have already taken place. Along with the St Thomas congregation we may

once again enjoy reading about the rich history of this landmark church.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Dana

Vice President/Program Chair Message

Members in attendance at the April meeting enjoyed the presentation by Dr David Holt of USM. Dr Holt guided his students to do some impressive work in the Long Beach Cemetery, updating and logging in all of the gravesites. He also provided us with some tidbits on burial customs of long ago. With the data collected the group has created informational databases that are available to all who need them. It's now easier to find out if your ancestors used their plots as they'd originally planned or if unforeseen circumstances necessitated a change.

We're excited to welcome back one of our fellow members, Paul Jermyn, at the July meeting. Paul is an extremely serious photography collector who will present a pictorial program on the city of Long Beach.

As I mentioned before, Mr. Jermyn has amassed quite a collection of photographs over the years. Happily, he also enjoys sharing his pictures on online social media pages. I have enjoyed viewing them and also the resulting dialogue that develops. Past residents of the coast are also enjoying these pictures while reconnecting with their coast families and friends at the same time.

I'd also like to share more information pertaining to the first mayor of Long Beach, Joel Whitten. Mayor Whitten, you may recall, served in the Civil War and was taken prisoner in Atlanta. One evening, he overheard one of the Union doctors discussing the next day's early morning surgery for the removal of his injured leg. Disturbed at the prospect, the future mayor, a young man of 22, found a way to escape during the night. He did not lose his leg and family members say that he walked with a limp for the rest of his life. Don't miss the July meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hansen

**SMOKE FROM THE
CHIMNEYS
LONG BEACH, MS**

Beth Hansen: Editor

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**Long Beach
Historical Society**

2013 Officers

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Vice-President – Beth Hansen – 228-864-6100
Secretary – Allisa Beck – 228-864-7325
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Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 244
Long Beach, MS 39560-0244

Physical Address

645 Klondyke RD

(South side of the central fire station on Klondyke RD)

Meetings are always quarterly and on the 2nd Monday at the Historical Society Building, 645 Klondyke Rd. Notifications will be sent if anything changes.

2013 Meetings:

January 14, Monday, 11:00 AM
April 8, Monday, 5:30 PM
July 8, Monday, 5:30 PM
Oct 14, Monday, 5:30 PM

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.com

Website:

www.lbhistoricalsociety.org
Eddie Ware – Webmaster

Mission Statement

The Society's purpose is "to bring together those people interested in the history of the City of Long Beach and to coordinate their efforts in preserving and recording that history for future generations."

Long Beach Historical Society is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the:

- Preservation and management of historic and cultural resources of Long Beach
- Provide educational opportunities for both its membership and the public

WWII Memorial Update

We've always heard that 10 men from Long Beach made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives for our freedom in WWII. Actually, there were 11 men, a fact that was unknown to most of us.

Due to an unintentional mistake, the star of acknowledgement was omitted from behind the name of PFC Jack Mc Intosh. His family always wanted to rectify the omission but post hurricane replacements of the memorials crept up each time. When the last memorial was dedicated in November on Veteran's Day and Patsy McIntosh Whitfield again viewed her father's name without a star, she knew that the time had come. She inquired and with help from Mayor Billy Skellie and his staff, we are happy to report that PFC Jack Mc Intosh's name is now finally adorned with a commemorative star sixty-nine years after his untimely death.

Condolences



We received word of the death of Fred Skellie as the previous newsletter was going to press. Fred, who graduated from Long Beach High School in 1938 was the brother of the late William Skellie and has many kin folks here on the coast.

For 70 years he was married to the former Lucille McPherson. The couple made their home in Atlanta where Fred was a CPA and was employed by Rich's department store for many years until opening his own business. Fred was a leader in the Druid Hills Methodist church and also active in his community. He touched many with his kindness and encouragement. Among those left behind in addition to his wife are two sons, several grandchildren and his sister, Anne Herrington.

To read about Fred's WWII experiences as a young naval officer, and the beginning of his life with Lucille go to <http://tinyurl.com/codq89b>. You will really enjoy this information.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the following, including a

few former Long Beach residents, Tom Jordan, Bobby Kunz, Roy Schutzman, June Earl Egan, Bill Libengood, Peggy Roberson, Jesse Cuevas, Betty Jane Asher, Donald Eley West, Frona Oestricher, Ann Christensen, Clay Seay, Bob Peno, Eurselene Reid, August Marie, Kenny Wise, Joyce Nevers,

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Old Days Mystery #1

Can you guess the answer?

When and where was the first town meeting held by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen?

Leslie Clark, Mark Woodworth, Joseph Watts, Clay Bishop, Dennis Hodges, Lee Martinek, Dave Madigan, Dale Ray Woodcock and Mary Glancey.

The Humble Beginnings of Long Beach

In the 1780's Long Beach's humble beginnings took place next to where Bear Creek runs through the present day USM campus on Beach Blvd. This fertile spot, which included a massive oak tree, is where early French inhabitants of Cat Island chose to build a home when they moved over to the mainland. The village was first seen on a British map in 1774 listed as BEAR POINT. Many years after the deaths of Nicholas and Marianne Ladner the area became known as THE CHIMNEYS because that's all that remained after their old house burned. The tall structures were also good reference points for boaters.

1814 tax rolls show eight families living at the Chimneys and the tiny village would be so called for many years until John McCaughan purchased the property. In 1846 he advertised in the New Orleans papers to sell tracts of his land and sometime afterward built himself a new home there. The former widower and his second wife, Maria, would have three children born there and Mr McCaughan had also become the Post Master so understandably the area became known as ROSALIE, the name of their home. During his years on the property John fertilized

the large oak tree by burying sharks at its roots.

By the time John McCaughan died suddenly at only 56 in 1860 many businesses had already sprung up. Sawmills, creosote plants, charcoal making, and others lost their momentum when the civil war took place and interrupted the normal flow of everyday life between the years of 1861-1865.

By 1870 the railroad was complete and running on the coast. Longtime resident George Scott, who owned a sawmill, donated land and built a small railroad station. Because of his generosity the name of the community evolved into SCOTT'S STATION. Years later, in 1890, a depot would be built next to the railroad on the west side of Jeff Davis Ave.

The area continued to grow as the railroad brought in many more families including the Thomas brothers who bought property and opened a fruit nursery adjoining the McCaughan property. The brothers also platted the town in 1882 and changed the name to its present and final one, LONG BEACH. It's easy to see how the beautiful and glistening white sand

In 1884 James Thomas convinced his college friend J W Quarles to join him in Long Beach.

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Jim Quarles opened the first school here that same year in his home and taught for 2 years until a school was built on Jeff Davis Ave where in the ensuing years many other schools would also be built. The Town Green now occupies that site. This property was given to the city by Harper McCaughan, son of John.

Thomas and Quarles also began shipping green beans to northern markets in 1884 thereby beginning the truck farming industry.

Charcoal making, mentioned above, was a major industry in the latter part of the 19th century and several kilns were in use for this process in Long Beach. Popular for heating, cooking and ironing, the charcoal was not only used by locals but was also shipped from the area, first by schooner and then by rail. Some kilns were still in operation in Long Beach in the late 1930's.

A library was begun in 1894 with 250 books donated by a New Orleans resident.

At the turn of the 20th century the hotel business was in full swing with some of the hotels charging only \$6.00 weekly with

Humble Beginnings continued on page 4

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along the shoreline influenced their decision.

Humble Beginnings from on page 3 meals included. Vacationers from New Orleans could buy a round trip train ticket for as little as \$1.00. At that time, not only boating, bathing, and fishing were advertised as things to do here but also hunting!

By this time, the "long red" radishes became such a popular crop that 150-200 box cars were being shipped in a season. Saloon owners in the north served the radishes with beer. The town would become known as the Radish Capital of the World. It is not known how widespread this popularity was celebrated but the radish shipping industry extended beyond the first quarter of the twentieth century and owes its success to the many talented farmers living here, many of them Italian.

As the population increased the town wanted to incorporate but it was 10 residents shy of the 900 person requirement. Donatien and Anastasie Dubuisson, the parents of 13 children, were persuaded to move over from nearby Pineville. Incorporation took place on August 10, 1905. The couple would have another daughter here in Long Beach!

Shortly after the incorporation, the first mayor was elected, as well as a Board of Aldermen. They had much to do and one of the early ordinances created stated that it shall be unlawful for any person to ride their horses or other animals on public streets at a dangerous or reckless speed.

1906 was a very busy year. Telephone poles and water pipes were installed as there were many artesian wells in service. The first brick school was built as well as

a jail. The town also voted to be a part of the electric trolley line which would run from Biloxi to Pass Christian. The line set off a real estate boom and land prices shot up.

In 1907, bonds were issued to grade, shell and repair the streets in the town of Long Beach. It is possible that Railroad St was put through in 1908, the same year that the Louisville & Nashville Railroad built a packing shed for the farmers to wash and load all those vegetables being shipped out. It was in the vicinity of Hancock Bank.

By 1913, most of the 1200 residents were being serviced with electricity, gas and telephones.

A junior college for women was built in 1921 and a big New Year's Eve fire in 1923 played a part in the construction of a City Hall, waterworks department and fire protection system in 1926. The longest concrete seawall in the world was built on the coast in 1928 to prevent erosion of our shore and by 1951 sand was pumped in once again giving the area a beach.

These humble beginnings chronicle most of the firsts for the city of Long Beach.

The above was taken from the book, Rosalie and Radishes, A History of Long Beach, MS by Mary Ellen Alexander.



News from the State Capital - Museum Plans

After a goal of \$5 million in gifts and pledges is achieved, the state will break ground for two new museums, the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. The Dept of Archives and History has actively been seeking high quality artifacts for the museums. The efforts have been rewarding and items are already coming in.

Plans are underway for a fall ground breaking on the side by side comprehensive state history museum and the nation's first state-supported civil rights museum.

Fund raising will be taking place so watch for news on that prior to watching for a completion date on these state of the art museums which will no doubt be an asset to our state.

Finding of a "LOST" Artifact

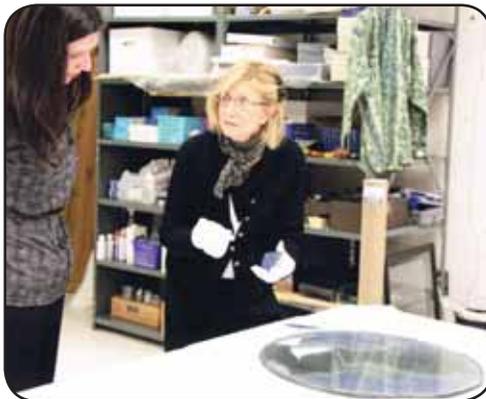
In 2012 a U S Historical Society fellowship was granted to Jean Farnsworth, an art historian who has studied stained glass extensively, to do the same in the U S Capital.

At one time, the mid-nineteenth century skylight in the U S House of Representatives was adorned with seals of all the states. Some of the seals had been made by John Gibson and George Gibson in 1857-58 and subsequently as additional states were admitted to the Union. Through the years some of the seals became damaged and in 1907 a Bavarian born glass artist, Maria Herndl was asked to make some needed repairs. It was determined that the seal of Mississippi was beyond repair and had to be recreated. The new Mississippi seal and all the others remained in place for 42 more years.

In 1949, the governor of Mississippi, Fielding Wright, heard that the skylight was going to be dismantled so he wrote and requested the seal of his state. Happily, the request was honored but sadly, Secretary of State Heber Ladner noticed that the seal had

broken into 3 pieces during the shipping. It was stored until 1980 when it was given to the Dept of Archives in Jackson. At that time, it was thought that the broken piece was left over from a remodeling of the state Capital, not the US Capital.

Sixty-four years later, Mrs. Farnsworth did not know that the seal had been given to Mississippi and while searching sent an email about it to the Mississippi Dept of Archives & History to see if it knew anything about it. She was pleasantly surprised to receive a reply the same day.



It came from MDAH assistant curator of collections, Nan Prince, who also attached an image of the broken seal to her reply. Shortly thereafter Farnsworth came south to Jackson where she explained the history behind the seal while she joyously examined the work of Maria Herndl for the first time.

The "lost" seal, which features an eagle, has remained here in Mississippi and the MDAH is looking into a repair source for it.

Above News from the State Capital was culled from articles in the Mississippi History Newsletter, Summer 2013, a publication of

the Mississippi Dept of Archives and History.

New Slate of Officers for 2014

Per the recent changes in the society by-laws that were voted on at the April meeting, here is a list of suggested officers and directors to be voted on for the year 2014. Installation will take place at the end of the October meeting in preparation for the group to officially be in service at the January meeting.

Officers

- President - Donald Dana, Jr
- Vice President - Beth Hansen
- Secretary - Alissa Beck
- Treasurer - Fran Wren
- Governmental Affairs Liaison
Mike Wren

Directors

- Iantha Hines
- Paul Jermyn
- Gary Ponthieux
- Eddie Ware

Old Days Mystery #2

Can you guess the answer

What task was required of all men between the ages of 18 and 55 years in the town of Long Beach?





Matthew Blackmon
Owner / Operator

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Mystery #1 answer:

Oct 3, 1905 in the Woodmen of the World Hall which at that time was the site of the present day City Hall.

Mystery #2 Answer:

To perform annually six days labor of ten hours each on the streets, alleys or avenues, or in lieu thereof, shall pay the sum of three dollars.

P S Shirking this duty would result in being guilty of a misdemeanor and a \$10.00 fine or a 10 day stay in the town jail.

P P S The town marshall usually had prisoners but it's not known if they were guilty of failure to perform the street work.



Long Beach Historical Society

**Yearly membership is January 1 – December 31
payable beginning at the January meeting as follows:**

- \$15.00 per individual
- \$20.00 for family
- \$5.00 per student

Those who are unable to attend the January meeting may mail a check too:
Long Beach Historical Society
P. O. Box 244
Long Beach, MS 39560

Name:

Spouse:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone: Home: Cell: Work:

Email:

I would like to serve on the Committee to identify historic homes that survived Katrina.

I would like to serve on another Committee.

Comments:



Kit Carson's Camp, on U. S. 90



Brown's Hotel



Horseback Riding Along the Gulf Coast



Long Beach Public School

Pictures courtesy of Paul Jermyn



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