

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

January 2016

President's Message

The last quarter has been a busy and profitable one for the Historical Society.

We had a very successful Cemetery Tour in October that was well received. Brenda Batey and Mary Levens and their committee did a fantastic job. The cemetery was really beautiful, thanks to Marilyn Skellie VanCourt and her crew. A lot of folks made the evening happen and to all of them we're very grateful.

Brenda, Marilyn, Pat Skellie and I wrote the scripts and we were blessed with some diligent reenactors. Spectators commented after each presentation. Sadly, there was one cancellation by a reenactor due to a family emergency, out of town, who was going to do Harper McCaughan. Mr. McCaughan will be at the top of our list for this year.

We were set to participate in the Veterans Day Parade in November but it had to be cancelled due to the rain. The next one will be here before we know it.

December 12 was a great day for Christmas on the Avenue, an annual project of the Long Beach High Concert Choir. We sold a few copies of Rosalie and Radishes and many of our 2016 calendars, which were hot off the presses, literally, thanks to Chair, Brenda Batey and our expert printer, Eddie Ware.

If you haven't seen the 2016 calendar yet, it's a commemorative of the churches of the city and possibly be in demand by church members. If you couldn't participate in any of our recent activities, you may want to pick up a few calendars to sell. Remember folks like to have our calendar for historical purposes, more so than for active use, and selling them is something that you may do in your leisure time. It does bring in much needed revenue. Oh, and buy one for yourself while you're at it!

Last, but not least, is something very near and dear to my heart, and that is the opening of our Library and building. It will take place on February 10 at 11:00 a. m. We will open every 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, between the hours of 11:00 a m and 2:00 p m. We'll try these 6 hours a month

out and see if any adjustments should be made. Two of us will staff it together at all times and I'll have a schedule so you may sign up at the meeting on Jan 18. I'll be happy to have you for which ever days you can be here and will only hold you to one day at a time, nothing long range. Hopefully, it will all go well and we may think about a Grand Opening down the road to generate more activity.

Please feel free to come by at any time during the open hours for your own purposes.

Sincerely,
Beth Hansen
President

Jefferson Davis Avenue

One of the earliest mentions of the main street of our little city is in Mary Ellen Watrous Alexander's description of when her Quarles ancestors moved to the area in 1883. Her mother's father, Jim Quarles, had a health issue which prompted his move south. The water probably played a part in his decision to move here and after arriving he cleared a path from his home north of the railroad track all the way to the

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

Beth Hansen: Editor
228-864-6100

Published quarterly by the
**Long Beach
Historical Society**

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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 will all be held on the THIRD Mondays at Historical Society Building, 645 Klondyke Rd.

2016 Meetings:

- **January 18 - 11:00 am (Awards)**
- April 18 - 6:00 pm
- July 18 - 6:00 pm
- October 17 - 6:00 pm

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.com

Website: www.lbhistoricalsociety.com

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."

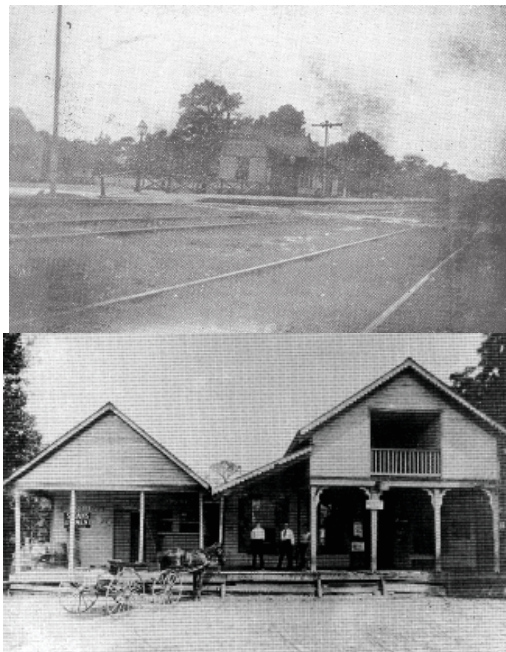
Long Beach Historical Society is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the:

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

shore so he and his family could walk down to the shore. Obviously not developed, the street had been platted 2 years earlier as Jeff Davis Ave.

When the Thomas brothers, one of whom told Quarles about the area, hired an engineer to plat the city, they all planned on Cleveland Ave being the main street of town. Unknowingly, Mr. Quarles may have been responsible for Jeff Davis becoming the main street. One of the first major things that he did after his arrival was to open a store in his front yard. No doubt his customers began using his family foot path to cross the track to get to his store since there was no crossing there at the time. Locals had been either walking the railroad tracks to Pass Christian or taking the Old Pass Christian Rd to get over there by horse to buy supplies so a new store in town was very convenient. Surely other businesses opened close by.

After several years, a larger general store was needed and Mr. Quarles built it at the head of Jeff Davis Ave with a Post Office inside. A new depot was also built that same year on Jeff Davis, by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad,



just a stone's throw away from the new Quarles store which J J Bailey and his new wife bought in December of that year. Later he would move his store south of the railroad on the west side of Jeff Davis Ave.

As time went by and the street was properly cleared, other businesses, as well as residences too, sprang up along the former Quarles path. In 1894 the Herald reported that 28 residences and 3 store-houses were erected in Long Beach during the year and 4 other structures had been started not long after New Years of 1895. The article did not say where the buildings were but in all likelihood some of them were probably on the Avenue.

(There were still homes along the Avenue in 2005, only to be destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. However by that time, the homes had been converted into commercial use.)

1905 was a highly important year for Jeff Davis Avenue. The town was incorporated and a slate of officers elected and ordinances made at the first meeting on the Avenue in the Woodmen of the World Building which was on the site of the present City Hall. Among the first ordinances was one that prohibited riding a horse, horses, or other animals at dangerous or reckless rates of speed. There was also one that required any wheeled vehicle, car, bicycle, etc. to have a light on the front.

1910 was a busy year. First Baptist Church opened on the Corner of 5th St, Railroad St was being constructed and the Avenue was covered in shells and traveled by horse & buggies and a few automobiles here and there.

On Oct 3, 1914, the Naia Motion Picture Co of Pass Christian opened a show in the Roth building on the

Avenue. It had plans to be open every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. In 1915, The Long Beach Airdome, billed as a pleasure resort, opened opposite Castanera's Drug Store. On opening night, three reels of high class pictures were shown featuring some of the greatest moving picture stars. It's anyone's guess how long these theaters remained open.

During the time of the theater openings above, one could rent a 9 room house on the Avenue for \$15 monthly. It was modern, had running water and open fire places and was a half block of the car line, so fairly close to the beach

In 1920's Hancock County Bank also moved to Jeff Davis Ave to be available to the farmers since Long Beach seemed to be the leading farming center of the day. There was also a lot of other construction in 1925 on Jeff Davis Avenue, including a new school for all twelve grades, that opened in 1926 and continued on until 1959. It's been inadvertently reported that classes at this school were discontinued in 1956, but this, of course, is not true. Classes were held at the old high school on Jeff Davis Avenue until May of 1959, 3 years longer than the reports. In Sept of 1959, all 4 high school grades as well as part of the junior high classes, reported to the new school on Old Pass Rd at Cleveland Avenue that was just barely complete. Some of these students were distressed that they would now be going to school so far from Jeff Davis Ave and their beloved Busy Bee, the favored teen hangout on the Avenue. (There was nothing on Cleveland and Old Pass in 1959, well, except the new school, but no place to buy a Bars or a Coke after school!)

There was a lot of construction during 1925 and 1926 on Jeff Davis Ave including 48" sidewalks from the beach all the way to the railroad as well as the entire length of the beach front. The contractor for the paving work was A H Alvis of Long Beach, and he charged \$1.31 per running foot for the work.

By 1927 there were 13 residences on the Avenue, 3 restaurants, a bakery, a dry goods store, filling station, barber, drug store, news, Mount Bass' grocery store, a meat store, bakery, garage, Mr. Toomer's hardware store, a real estate office, and already mentioned, Post Office, School, Baptist Church, L&N depot, Bailey's general store and the Town Hall.

Condolences

Our hearts go out to King Batey and Brenda upon the death of King's dad, Ernest King Batey, Sr. "Batey" has now joined his beloved Maxine, another dearly missed person around the Friendly City. The couple led a very full life together. He was a long time employee of the county, serving many years as Tax Collector and she, the owner of Maxine's Carousel of Beauty. Also to the families of Peggy Joyce Blakeney, Sandra C Eades, Ellis Salloum, Ruby Hodge, Bob Vogt, Beverly Woodcock Walker, Mildred Bass Fayard, Roger Wayne Franke, Allie "Frenchie" Moreau, Homer Lee Strahan, Jr, Robert "Dale" Hodges, Mike Bishop, Charles Jeremy Rolison, George Rishel, Edith Mae Strock Penney, Sidney Roy Maddux, Nancy Jean Smith, Lucille Crowder, and Edward Miller.

**Dues Due
January Dues Due**
Don't forget to pay your dues this month. \$15.00 Single or \$20.00 for family. If you just joined at the Sept Open House or later in the year, consider yourself paid for 2016. Thank you so much.

**Annual Awards Presentation
and Luncheon
Monday, January 18, 2016**

For the first time, our January meeting will be at the Historical Society House at 11:00 a m. This mid day time, with lunch, seems to work well for the award presentations and our sound system won't have to be transported. Another bonus is that there won't be a rental fee either.

Also, the awards will be the only program at this meeting so we'll have more time to focus on the recipients and what they mean to our community without putting any time limits on a speaker. Some of our past meetings have been a little hectic in that aspect.

CONGRATULATIONS

Former Officer and Board member, Shagana Williams recently received an I Love My Librarian Award. Shugana now works at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston but was nominated for work she did while employed at USM here in Long Beach. There was double icing on the cake of this award. With it came a \$5,000 prize which was awarded to her in NEW YORK CITY!!! Way to go Shugana! Congrats from all of us at the Long Beach Historical Society!!!

Just a Few Tidbits

Here a few things that one may learn while reading old newspapers:

- Turkeys were bought way before the holidays and they weren't dead yet.
- There was no re-paving of roads, It was a re-shelling.
- Leisure activities included "watermelon cuttings"; "candy pullings"; "jack-knife swappings"; "whittling of soft pine"; and "shooting matches".

More Pictures of Jeff Davis Ave.



RESIDENCES ON JEFF DAVIS AVENUE, LONG BEACH, MISS.



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