

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

October 2016

President's Message

Happy Fall Y'all,

We're gearing up for our normally busy time of year and the Cemetery Tour is topping the list. It's on Tuesday, Oct 25 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Long Beach Cemetery. We hope to see you there. The October program will give you a taste of what you've been missing if you haven't been able to attend during the previous years.

Dates for upcoming community events are Nov 6 for the Veteran's Day Parade, and Dec 10th for Christmas on the Avenue. Please sign up for a short shift at the meeting.

We'll walk in the Veteran's Day parade. Meet us behind the Methodist Church around 12:30 and pray that rain doesn't cancel the parade as it did last year.

Make sure and fill out the nomination form which is enclosed if you have someone to submit that fits the criteria of our coveted Mary Ellen Alexander award. It's

given to an individual who has "made significant contributions to increasing the awareness, preservation, and appreciation of history relating to Long Beach, the Mississippi Gulf Coast region and the State of Mississippi". Bring to the meeting or mail in by Oct 31st.

The Long Beach Garden Club asked me to speak at its Sep meeting. They seemed to enjoy hearing about our activities, programs, historical markers, etc., and began asking questions right after I finished. One of the questions was about the times that our building is open to the public so I hope to see some of the members soon. A magnolia tree will be planted in our name at the Avenue of Magnolias as a thank you for my visit.

I was so sorry to not be able to represent the society at the services for Mrs. Polly Mincher but our daughter went into premature labor on the day of the wake and we had to leave town unexpectedly. Read more about sweet Mz Polly a few pages over.

Janet Griffin, daughter of Mary Ellen Alexander, has lent us some family items to use temporarily. Included are scrapbooks of her aunt, Mrs. Toomer, which were helpful to MEA while writing Rosalie and Radishes. I hung a town map from the 1880's on the wall in the office that belonged to MEA's brother, Winks Watrous. Members at the July meeting enjoying seeing the items and we are thrilled to be the caretaker for whatever length of time transpires. Thanks so much Janet!

Beth Hansen

October Program

The October 17 program will include some presentations from past Cemetery Tours that we hope will get you all in the mood for the 2016 tour, which is on October 25. Brenda Batey will present Louise Hartley Morehead from 2015. Mrs. Morehead was a dynamic woman and prolific author, was a member of Eleanor Roosevelt's Press Corp and divided her time between Washington, Little Rock and Long Beach, MS.

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

Beth Hansen: Editor
228-864-6100

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**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



Program from Page 1

Danny Hansen will present his father, Billy Hansen, the Singing Baker, who was first presented in the 2014 tour.

The remainder of the program will be a demonstration by Eddie Ware of our newly created website, our second. I, Beth Hansen, will narrate as Eddie walks us through the marvelous additions and improvements that he's incorporated into this new site. This will be projected on the wall screen for easy viewing and we hope that those of you who do not use computers will enjoy seeing what others may see and do when visiting our website.

See you on October 17.

Time line of the Village that became Long Beach

The following is displayed on the wall at the Historical Society and covers the years from 1774 – 1909 and more will be added

Pre 1774: Indian Village, presumably Choctaw, one of about 15 tribes in the state.

1774: Bear Point is shown on a British map.

1781: Title to Cat Island was given by the Spanish to Nicholas and Marianne Ladner, French Swiss residents of many, many, years, who raised a family there.

1788: Weary of enduring hurricanes on the island, the Ladners petitioned the Spanish government before moving to the mainland and eventually built a house with 2 tall chimneys, at the mouth of Bear Point bayou close to Douglas Avenue.

1799: Nicholas Ladner died before the couple received actual title to the Bear Point property and Marianne moved to Deer Island to live with other family members.

1810: The Spanish government finally issued title to Mrs. Ladner. Known as the Widow Ladner Claim. Left to son Claude, it included a large part of the community.

1814: Tax Rolls recorded eight families living at "The Chimneys".

1817: Mississippi became a state.

1841: Harrison County was created. The first map of it lists Chimney Point, called The Chimneys, (remainder of Ladner home after fire) and used by boaters as reference points. The family had no idea of the legacy their home left. Think of this when dining at the namesake Chimneys Restaurant,

which later moved to Gulfport.

1842: Old Pass Christian Road, a former horse and buggy path, became a public road.

1846: John J McCaughan, who moved over from Mississippi City, listed houses and vacant lots for sale at The Chimneys, in the New Orleans Commercial Bulletin. He may have built his home, which he named Rosalie, at about this same time.

This same year McCaughan also became a Representative from Harrison County in the Legislature.

Early 1850's: George Scott built a home on his property and also cleared and graded a road from about where the railroad would later be built, all the way to the beach. Scott Ave was the only street between Menge Ave in "The Pass" and Texas St in Mississippi City to be cleared that far.

1852: J J McCaughan, a widower and father of two, married a second time to Miss Maria Hovenden Regnault of Mobile.

1854: Mail was dropped off by schooner at the McCaughan home, so a post office developed and John J was appointed by the US as Post Master. Soon the village began to take on the name of his home, Rosalie.

The family welcomed their first child, a son, William.

1856: Second son, Harper, was born and John J also became a State Senator.

1860: Sadly J J McCaughan died unexpectedly while on a business trip and was buried in Louisiana, just after the birth of new baby son, Hovenden, who only lived a few years. The Federal census that year listed six families living at Rosalie.

1861-65: Area drastically affected by Federal Blockage of Southern Ports during the Civil War. The Scotts left the area temporarily during the war and their home was lost to fire at some point.

1867: A wagon train of engineers and surveying crews came to the coast in preparation for the new railroad through Mississippi that would connect New Orleans and Mobile.

1870: The New Orleans, Mobile & Chattanooga Railroad opened on October 28th. George Scott, mill owner, donated land and timber for a small stop on Scott Avenue (present day Girard) and the railroad. Rosalie soon became known as Scott's Station.

1871: The new railroad became the New Orleans, Mobile & Texas Railroad.

1875: The Methodist Church, the first in the village, was commissioned in an abandoned box car previously used as a goat shelter. Mrs. Fannie Donovan began Sunday School outdoors, under the shade trees!

Robert and Eliza Boggs moved to the area and built a home on the beach which was the beginning of

a long standing family compound. Local Indians advised them to build a little further back.

1878: A Railroad & Township map lists the cities of Biloxi, Handsborough, Mississippi City, Scott, and Pass Christian.

1880's: The first black residents moved to Long Beach. Taylor, Williams, Lyons and other families. Some were involved in the turpentine business.

1881: The Louisville & Nashville Railroad, commonly called L&N, acquired the tracks here on the coast and began a daily commuter service which inspired New Orleanians to begin spending weekends or entire summers at Scott's Station for rest and relaxation. Summer homes began springing up on the beach for this purpose.

The Antioch Baptist Church was organized that year as the Bethel Baptist Church.

1882: The Thomas Brothers, James and Woods, and their families arrived, bought property on the beach from William and Harper McCaughan and opened a fruit nursery. They also had the town platted and gave Scott's Station a new name.....Long Beach.

1884: Newness was still on the town name when Jim Thomas invited close friend, Jim Quarles of Tennessee, to move here. Quarles opened a school in his living room

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Time line from Page 3

and built a store with post office space and was appointed Post Master. This was the first school and store. This same year, the two men shipped green beans to northern markets thereby beginning the truck farming industry. A busy year for town history!

1886: Students outgrew the Quarles living room and a one room building was built on Jeff Davis Ave on property donated to the town by Harper McCaughan.

1890: The L&N Railroad built a depot on Jeff Davis Avenue facing the tracks, twenty years after the railroad opened.

Early 1890's: All Saints Episcopal Church organized and was active for some forty odd years. After closing, the virgin pine and cypress lumber was sold to the Presbyterians, the stained glass to St Peter's in Gulfport, the pews to Mt. Pilgrim, the organ to a church in Picayune. The beauty of the church lived on as it was shared by many.

1894: The Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star organized

1895: The first library, the Garland Ferguson Library, opened. It was named for New Orleanian, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ferguson, whose maiden name was Garland. She helped the town ladies bring their dream to fruition.

That same year, Mrs. Uriel Wright, also on the library committee, organized the Whatsoever Circle

of King's Daughters and Sons, a humanitarian group that helped anyone in need. It provided years of unselfish service to the community when no other such aid was available.

The church of the black community, Mt Pilgrim Missionary Baptist, was built in 1895. In addition to spreading the word of God, the church has been the site of the Head Start Program and for meetings in the landmark decision of the City of Long Beach, to choose integrating all twelve grades of school in one year, in the desegregation program of the State of Mississippi.

1896: Jim Quarles donated land and timber for a one room school near the corner of Beatline and Pineville Rd. The school was named Quarles School in his honor.

1900: Charles Littlepage, who had moved from the U S to the British Honduras following the Civil War returned to the U S with his wife and children and settled in Long Beach.

1901: Charles Littlepage passed away and was the first person to be buried in the Long Beach Cemetery on Girard and Railroad Streets.

1903: Long Beach had just entered its quarter century as the Truck Farming Center of the Coast and was well known for its radishes, "the Long Beach Long Reds". It was also well known as the "Radish Capitol of America".

1905: Governor James K Vardaman issued an incorporation proclamation for Long Beach on August 10 after Donatien and Anastasia Dubuisson had been persuaded to move their large family into Long Beach from Pineville to increase the head count to the required total of 900 residents.

Joel N Whitten, local grocer, was elected the first mayor.

On July 1, an Artesian Well Company was formed by 12 citizens for the use of the community. It was patronized until 1926 when a city system was built.

The Vincentians, a private order of Catholic priests from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, purchased 40 acres on the beach to build a church and living quarters for vacationing priests. They built a Gothic style church of virgin pine and Louisiana cypress. For living quarters they built a 40 room building, The Villa. St Thomas the Apostle Church, known as the church of 13 altars, was dedicated on Sept. 23, 1905 and quickly became more than a church for vacationing priests.

1906: After 20 years, the school on Jeff Davis Ave was replaced with a new two story brick building, built for \$7000.00.

Telephone service became available as did an electric power and light system provided by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Traction Company along with the electric railway system which was not only

very convenient, but also set off a real estate boom.

A request was denied to put a saloon in the town. Long Beach was the only town between Bay St Louis and Biloxi that did not have one. It was, however, blessed with many churches!

1908: At a city meeting in January, a petition for construction of a road on the north side of the L&N Railroad carried. It was named Railroad Street.

Having the new road may have been the impetus that L&N needed to build the first packing shed, just north of the track in front of the W J Quarles home. Shipping out in excess of 200 cars a year, the shed was an invaluable asset to the farmers.

1909: Two more churches opened during the 2nd week of April, the Long Beach Presbyterian and First Baptist. The Methodist church provided the meeting place for the Presbyterian group as well as letting them conduct worship services until their own church was completed in 1912.

The Baptist church began meeting at the school and was able to dedicate its church a year later, in April 1910, with assistance both in labor and materials by members of other denominations in town.

The student body increased at the Quarles School and a new one was built on property donated by Will Bass on the corner of Commission and Daugherty Roads. Another outgrown school around Commission and Gates was consolidated with this new school which kept the Quarles name.

Sources:

- Rosalie and Radishes: A History of Long Beach, MS by Mary Ellen Alexander
- Genealogybank.com
- Federal Census Records
- Misc Railraod Sites

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Cemetery Tour Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Featured on the cemetery tour, as announced by Brenda Batey, are Walter Fabian, Meta Hanville, Henry Dubuisson, Salathiel Smith, Harper McCaughan and Joanna Vallet. You must come and let these folks tell you firsthand what they did during their lifetimes. Reenactors will be Marcia French, Steven Mink, Mark Bryant, Beth Hansen, Mayor Billy Skellie, and Ron Skellie. Make sure and join us to learn about these People from the Past who have helped to make our city what it is today.

Condolences



We were very saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Polly Dubuisson Mincher, (Joseph), born in this city 98 years ago. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family and the second oldest member of our society which she served in many capacities as well as the First United Methodist Church to which she was very dedicated.

Polly was a graduate of Long Beach High, Perkinson Jr College and USM and was a teacher. At one time she worked with her mother, Mrs. Minnie Dubuisson, the Post Master for many years in Long Beach. She also worked in New Orleans for the Travelers Insurance Co.

After her marriage to Joe Mincher, the couple moved to Green Cove, FL where they made their home until returning to Long Beach to care for her aging parents.

Our thoughts are with her step-daughter and step-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Her grandson, Leel Knowles Jr, began a Memorial Fund for the Long Beach Historical Society in Polly's name and donations are being made. The society is very proud and appreciative. Donations made be made by computer on the society website at www.lbhistoricalsociety.com or to P. O. Box 244, Long Beach ,MS 39560

The community is also in mourning for two valued teachers, Royce Ladner, who served in many capacities at his church, Sacred Heart, in Dedeaux and was also a favorite English teacher at Long Beach High for many years. Oh, the stories and memories!

The other was Laurie Symmes, from Gulfport, an innovative and award winning teacher, and friend to many, who was also a treasured asset for nearly 40 years in the Long Beach School system.

We also extend our sympathies to the families of the following members of our community: Bert Savarese, Bradford Lawrence Donaldson, James Lathan Crowe, Jewel Perrone, Becky Clair Truxillo, Alice Patterson, Clara Cupp, David Weems, Kim Mattox, Annette Skinner, Mason Darty, Charlotte Cross, Thomas Wallace Jr. Eddie McCann, Jr, Dale Patterson, Ruby Womack, George Cospelich, Donna Lee Wells, Mary Alice Cockrell and O B Hillman.

Inadvertently omitted from the July newsletter during a printing glitch, were: Rita Bertucci Salloum, L A Koenenn, Audrey L Pierson, Joyce Hill, Judy Best, Fred Welch, Phyllis Hover, Debbie Gurley, Robert VanOsdol, Peggy Wade, Jo Cospelich, Juanita McKay, Jan Finch, Leon Jay Sleight, Curtis Falks, Bradford Macomber, Murray P Cato, Joseph Gallegos, Howard Kapp, Gene Gervais, Phyllis R Darden, Veronica Sullivan, Peggy Reinike Parker and Wayne Woodall.

2017 Dues may be paid at the October meeting

If you renew or join at the October meeting or later in the year, consider yourself paid for 2017, \$15.00 Individual, \$20.00 Family or \$5.00 Student

Pay at meeting or either send a check to
 Long Beach Historical Society
 P. O. Box 244
 Long Beach. MS 39560

or pay online at our website:
www.lbhistoricalsociety.com

MARY ELLEN ALEXANDER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The MARY ELLEN ALEXANDER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, presented by the LONG BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, recognizes individuals who during their lifetime have made significant contributions in increasing the awareness, preservation, and appreciation of history relating to Long Beach, the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, and the State of Mississippi.

The LONG BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY invites nominations for the MARY ELLEN ALEXANDER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. This award is presented annually at the January meeting of the society. Nominations must be received by October 31 to be considered that year. Nominations received after October 31 will be considered the following year.

Nominee Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

SUMMARY OF NOMINEE'S LIFETIME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS THAT MERIT THE AWARD
(Please continue additional sheets as necessary and attach or reference supporting documentation that should be considered.)

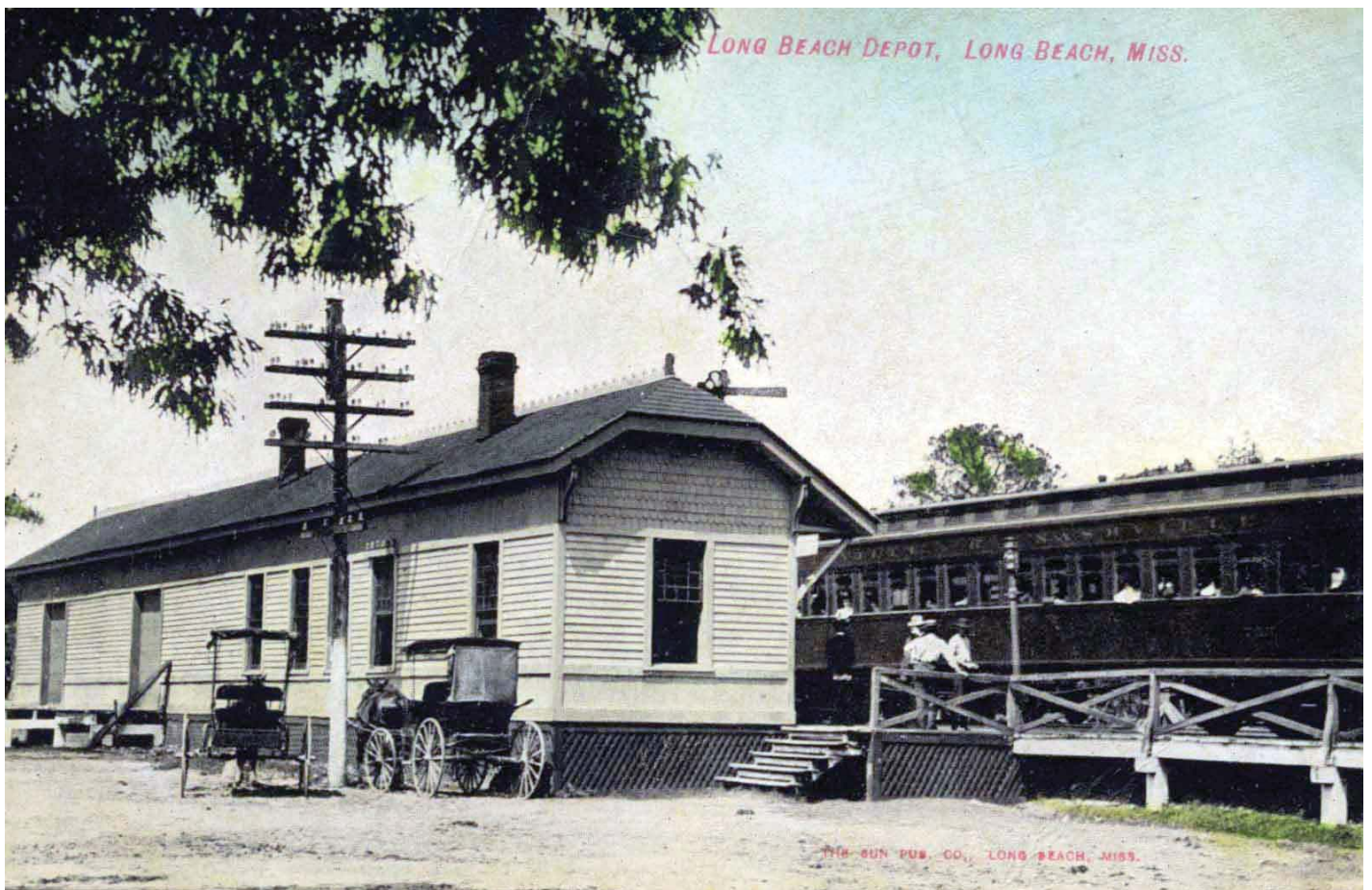
Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mail nominations to Long Beach Historical Society, P.O. Box 244, Long Beach, MS 39560

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Back side of the L & N Train Station



Bear Bayou

Pictures from the collection of Paul Jermyn