

Smoke From The Chimneys



# Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

Merry  
Christmas

January 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Historical Society,

I am honored and humbled that you will allow me to serve as your President. Since we are a group for whom history is of interest, I want to share some of mine. My parents are Haskel (recently deceased) and Floye Ryan Alexander from Saucier and McHenry. I was born in Stone County but lived in Gulfport, attended Handsboro Elementary, and moved to Long Beach in the fall of third grade. My husband, King Batey, has lived in Long Beach since the age of five; his roots are in Louisiana. I taught French and Spanish for 10 years at LBHS beginning in 1976. In 1988, I went to the Perkinston campus of MGCCC, retiring in 2007. The LB Historical Society was the first post-retirement organization I joined.

This year holds several projects, some new and others ongoing, listed below; your input and involvement are welcomed. Our first regular meeting, October 10, was well-attended. On November 5, we had a booth at the Radish Festival and November 6, we took part in the Veterans Parade. (Did you see Faye Collins' decorated car, plus we were on WLOX!) THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED! We sponsored a table December 10 at the Town Green for Christmas on the Avenue, and made a donation for toys to the Classic Car December 16 Toy Drive. The best news is that we have found a permanent meeting location for our group, next to the Fire Station on Klondyke Road. There are historic homes which need to be recorded; historical markers should continue to be addressed; documentation of our city's veterans needs a lead person. We support Ashley Skellie, as she writes a



NEWLOCATION

grant to designate Mt. Pilgrim Church as a historical site. Beth Hansen has agreed to serve as newsletter editor. (Thanks to Allisa Beck and Julia Arceneaux for years of dedication to the newsletter.) There's plenty of work for everyone, a need for more members to join and for all of us to become actively involved, however we are able.

My thanks to outgoing president, Ashley Skellie, who met with me more than once to make the transition smooth, and for her outstanding leadership. As well, my appreciation to the Board and other members who have offered advice and assistance!

In closing, I am smart enough to know how much I DON'T KNOW! While I may not be your perfect leader, I will work hard for our common goals. My phone number is 228 437 4983. I appreciate your confidence and hope to grow the Long Beach Historical Society in number, accomplishment and recognition.

*Respectfully yours,*  
*Brenda Batey*

## VP/PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

It's been my pleasure to serve as the Vice President for this term and as a charter member of the society, I'm looking forward to working with everyone again.

At the last meeting, the first in our "new" building, we were all mesmerized by Charles Gray, the Lifetime Executive Director of the Hancock County Historical Society. He spoke to us about Corrinne Dunbar's upscale restaurant in New Orleans of which he was a co-owner for twenty-five years. It was very interesting hearing of the way things used to be done in days gone by and those of you who have heard Charles speak know just how entertaining he is.

The President's Award for outstanding leadership was presented to the outgoing president Ashley Skellie. The Friends of Rosalie Award was given to Charles Gray, a great friend to the society.

The Mary Ellen Alexander Lifetime Achievement Award and the Harper McCaughan Awards will be presented at the January Meeting.

We've changed the format of the meetings which now begin with the speaker followed by a short break for refreshments and the business side of the meeting last. Everyone seemed to enjoy conversing with the speaker and other members before we continued.

Something else new is that the January meeting will be a soup luncheon. We will be serving three soups: chili; potato and vegetable also Hors d' oeuvres, desserts and beverages.

This meeting will take place at **11:00 AM, A NEW TIME. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT.**

Our speaker will be Billy Frank Brown of Cow Pen Creek Farms in Poplarville MS. He will educate us on Pineywoods cattle, an endangered breed of "heritage" livestock and tell us of the cattle drives that came right through

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

Beth Hansen: Editor

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**Long Beach  
Historical Society**

**2012 Officers**

Brenda Batey – President  
Beth Hansen – Vice-President  
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Fran Wren – Treasurer

**Board of Directors**

Iantha Hines – At-large  
Polly Mincher – At-large  
Shugana Williams – At-large  
Eddie Ware – At-large  
Ashley Skellie – At-large

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www.lbhistoricalsociety.org  
Eddie Ware – Webmaster

**Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Long Beach Historical Society is to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of Long Beach, Mississippi. The Society's major function is to discover, collect, observe, advance, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Long Beach.

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.

Long Beach in the old days. King Batey spoke with one of the Browns at the Radish Festival and there is some history to be shared with us.

The location of the meeting will be determined after reservations are received. You will be notified as to the location, either our new building or the Methodist Church.

**Please RSVP by December 28  
for the luncheon by phone or  
e-mail, whichever you prefer.**

You may reach me at:

- E-mail: starbyrrd@cableone.net
- Phone: 864-6100.

As new editor of Smoke from the Chimneys I am also looking forward to carrying on the tradition of excellence set forth by my predecessors.

*Respectfully yours,  
Beth Hansen*

**SOCIETY STIRRINGS**

A successful meeting was held in our new building in Oct. with some improvising on our part to give those seated full access to the speaker. We have since removed a wall giving us a much larger space which has now taken on the aura of a meeting hall. We are beginning to create an office and now have a copier which was given to us by Charles Gray. Someday we hope to have research materials open to the public.

If any of you have reason to be in possession of any documents, books, awards, scrapbooks, pictures, etc, that you have stashed away belonging to the society, we thank you for your long term storage and please feel free to turn them over to us now that we have a proper place to display and/or store them. Put on your thinking caps all the way back to 1997 when the society was begun. Records of some type are bound to be floating around.

If you would like to share any pictures that you have taken of society events, we'd be happy to scan them for you on the spot. Please call me, Beth Hansen, 864-6100, I have a hand held scanner and will gladly do this.

**THANK YOU**

Thanks to our webmaster Eddie Ware, who has decided to improve on his work and create another website for the Society. It is looking fabulous and only lacks a small amount of information.

Eddie also made an informative tri-fold brochure that we used at the Radish Festival & Christmas on the Avenue and will display it in prominent places as well.

Eddie also recreated the design used on our previous tee shirts enabling us to order shirts in time for our participation at the Radish Festival and in the Veterans Day parade. They are available for your purchase.

One more thank you to Eddie, he has designed a new format for the newsletter. Isn't it grand?

Also thanks to the October hostesses, Iantha Hines and Lee Anne Bryant for the delicious refreshments.

Thanks also to the officers and board for getting our new building ready for the last meeting.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We're very excited to welcome the following to our society, many of whom signed up at the Radish Festival:

- Mr. & Mrs. David Drye
- Mrs. Lauren Hymel
- Mrs. Norma Gregory
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gurneck
- Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Johnson
- Mrs. Mary Lizana
- Mr. & Mrs. Leon Long
- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Ward
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Spears
- Mrs. Alice Carrubba
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Scott Sr.
- Mrs. Kathie Frye & Mr. Frye
- Julie Berry
- Maurice T. Hattier
- Will Koolsbergen
- Floye Alexander
- Ernest Batey





**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER**

A certain amount of you did not renew your membership by July 31 so please take the time now to send in a check to keep your membership current. We are presently updating the list and would like for all of you to be included in the future as we do value your membership. We want to keep Smoke from the Chimneys in your mail boxes and see your smiling faces! It's also a great way for the out-of-towners to keep that hometown connection.

Our by-laws state that "Members in arrears more than 3 months (90 days) after payment is due shall be dropped from membership."

The dues are still a very low \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a couple. This is lower than most dues that we've seen.

**Send in your check today!!**

**Thanks!!**

**WITH SYMPATHY**

Sympathy is extended to:

Kay Dauro in the death of her father, Andrew Dauro who passed away in Sept. Andrew was also a first cousin to members Mable Skellie, Mary Levens and Danny Hansen.

We are saddened by the death of member Lois W Lawrence who passed away in July. Lois operated her flower shop for fifty-two years and it was an asset to the community. The society gave her a citation of recognition in honor of her fiftieth year in business in 2009.

**FAMILIES AND FOOD**

Early residents created many enormous farms here, some extending from the beach to the railroad. However, the soil farther back from the sandy shores would prove to be more productive for the crops, leading to large farms north of the railroad tracks.

A drive around town still reveals the many pecan orchards planted so very long ago by those bearing the names of Miller, Bass, Woodward, Triplett, Tims, Glass, Werner, Quarles and others. Many vegetable crops were grown around the pecan trees to make good use of the land. Today there are

subdivisions in those very orchards. There was certainly no shortage of fruit in our fields during this time either. Back when the coast was known as the Satsuma Belt many of those satsumas came from the orchards of James and Woods Thomas.

Bernard Reinike became somewhat of an expert in growing pineapple pears after receiving a cutting from a friend. His fruit was in high demand because he had the only orchard on the coast planted with that particular fruit. During this time, Mrs Reinike also learned the proper & safe method of canning from the first county Home Demonstration agent, Miss May Quarles. Their son George was heavily into grafting pecan trees and created a favorite "Reinike Pecan" popular with all. August Werner was also quite proficient with pecans. W J Quarles & James Thomas hit on something big when they decided to ship their green beans out of town by rail back in 1884, the precursor of the famous radishes by rail industry that made our little town famous for so many years.

Joining the other farmers were many Italian families: Barrale, Bertucci, Carrubba, Dauro, DiLorenzo, LaRosa and others, all instrumental in helping the community become the "Radish Capital of the World."

In 1903, the farmers shipped fifty cars of their vegetables and fruits, one hundred cars in 1904 and two hundred cars in 1905. By 1921, three hundred thirty cars were shipped to the northern markets. Lucky for our farmers that the beer parlor owners had such good luck with our "long reds" in their establishments.

The farmers gained enough notoriety that Joseph Smith, a leading grower of the long reds was quoted in an issue of North & South in 1908 about the successful plantings.

Louis Saucier not only raised vegetables but began raising chinchilla rabbits that he sold not only for the meat but for the fur as well.

J R Nevers sold a variety of seafood from his home built on a pier extending over the water at the foot of Jeff Davis

Ave. Those that didn't want to buy seafood would spear flounder by the light of flaming pine knots and crabbed and fished from local piers.

W H Daugherty operated a dairy as did the Skellie family who operated the first Holstein dairy in this area. A pitcher would be carried out to the milk trucks in those days as there weren't any bottles yet.

Although the radish seems to take center stage in most reports from days gone by, the farmers in Long Beach were extremely successful in growing a myriad of other vegetables, plus rice which H Y Quarles grew on his farm and Richard Inglis did very well with lettuce. Sam Dauro claimed that the carrots grown here had the best flavor of any carrot in the world. There are records of 1,000 to 1,200 hampers of carrots per acre. Nearly 60 carloads of carrots were shipped from Long Beach in 1921 as part of the three hundred thirty cars listed above. The Daily Herald noted that Long Beach closed the biggest season in its history that year!

Along with satsumas and pears, our fields were alive with grapefruit, oranges, watermelon and for a time, strawberries. However, freezing weather put a halt to the growing of the berries after crops were lost with disastrous results. Some of the farmers even lost their farms.

Many of the sons of the original residents continued on for many years making a living as farmers and supplying our grocery stores with produce as well as selling it fresh off the farm, as did the Dauro brothers who always had prolific crops of tomatoes, beans, butter beans, peas, turnip greens and corn, as well as pecans.

Information from:

**Rosalie & Radishes**

***A History of Long Beach, Mississippi  
by Mary Ellen Alexander***





# SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEY'S

## FROM YEARS GONE BY



**Skellie's Grocery Store, located on Jeff Davis next to the nowadays Bank House Coffee Shop**

Left to right: William Skellie, Billy Hansen, Danny Hansen, Billy Skellie, (*current mayor of Long Beach*), Jasper Carrubba, Stanley Hansen, Lester Kunz, Fred Ball.

### IN NEED OF A UNIQUE GIFT?

**Merry  
Christmas**

Give those special someones on your list a membership in the Historical Society. A nudge to the young folks and other family members may help them discover that they're really interested in local history after all. We have an attractive Christmas form that you may use for this purpose.

**Peace  
On  
Earth**