



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

July 2020

President's Message

Happy hello to all,

Hope you are in good health and not too aggravated with the current state of affairs. (Don't you hate wearing a mask?) I shouldn't complain because I've hardly been anywhere but do wear a mask when I go out.

A recent issue of AARP magazine says to play music, lots of happy tunes, such as: What the World Needs Now is Love; What a Wonderful World; Beautiful Day; River of Dreams; Walking on Sunshine; I Will Survive and so many other good ones.

The same story reported that the Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City plays Here Comes the Sun when a coronavirus patient is discharged or also has the ventilator removed. Anything to create happiness during hard times.

The High School construction is now far enough along that classes finally began this year in one of the new buildings. It was 61 years ago when the old school opened as Long Beach Junior-Senior High School on Sep 3, 1959 on Old Pass Rd. and Cleveland Ave. It was quite an adjustment moving "out in the country" so to speak, from Jeff Davis Avenue. Danny and I were in the Senior class, Eddie was in the Freshman class and ex-mayor, Billy Skellie was in the 8th grade. It was nice to be in larger quarters and also to have a gymnasium and a Physical Education program for the first time in the history of Long Beach schools.

Work on the building is progressing. Lots of wood has been replaced on the decks and steps in order to keep us safe and all new doors are really a plus also. The wind has not been kind to the lattice either so pre winter repairs were in order. Enjoy!

Hopefully the Covid stats will have improved even more by October, at which time we hope to resume our meetings, but you will receive another newsletter on time.

Please stay safe and out of harm's way, hurricanes and Covid!
May Almighty God continue to bless us!!!

Sincerely
Beth Hansen

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

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

2020 Meetings:

- January 20 - 11:00 am
(Awards Meeting)
- April 21 - 6:00 pm
- July 20 - 6:00 pm
- October 19 - 6:00 pm

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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

**100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the
19th Amendment
Granting Women the Right to Vote**

In 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, Elizabeth
Katy Stanton and Lucretia Mott had a meeting
of the minds. They were joined by others who
were tired of not having the most basic of rights
already being enjoyed by males in our country.
Regarding women, the thoughts of the day were
that women were to be pious, submissive wives,
with home and family uppermost on their minds.
Although most women were doing just that, they
were also becoming more increasingly concerned
and disgruntled that they had no full rights for
being a participating citizen of the United States
in all ways. In addition to having no voting rights,
married women couldn't even own property, nor
claim their own earned money.

These brave women held the first Women's Rights
Convention which was attended by in excess of
300 people. Most of the attendees were female
although some men did show up, probably to help
their ladies. As the cause progressed, Susan B.
Anthony and other female activists eventually
joined the group. Many of them had also been
working to abolish slavery, another worthy cause.

Unfortunately, the fight for equality was slow going
and when the Civil War broke out, things seemed
to slow down even more. Several years after the
war, in 1869, the women were really discouraged
when a proposed 15th amendment was being
touted to give black men the right to vote. At this
time, no women of any color were mentioned
and the amendment was ratified in 1870. Also,
the struggle which black women endured trying
to secure the right to vote is another story within
itself which will be presented in the near future.

So, the fight for women's voting rights just kept
taking longer and longer but the women did
not give up. What began in 1848 took nearly
three fourths of a century and would take the
unbelievable efforts of many, many more women.



Crowds line the sidewalks to watch a Women's Suffragette Movement march through New York City in 1913.

Most of the names that we may have forgotten were nationally known. They were Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, Lucy Stone, Inez Milholland and others. (Inez lead several parades while riding a large white horse, which drew a lot of attention.) Some of these women suffered unspeakable horror and bodily harm at the hands of those who did not want women to have simple voting rights. I watched the movie made in 2004, entitled *Iron Jawed Angels*. Some parts were hard to watch, especially when the women were force fed with the use of an iron contraption to hold their mouths open during a hunger strike. Some were also fed through the nose. These women should never be forgotten.



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There was also a group from most all states, even our own Mississippi. Luckily for us, one of the most recent Journals of Mississippi History, which the society receives quarterly from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, contains information on these suffragists.

The suffrage movement began here in Mississippi in 1897 when the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, the MWSA, was formed. Nellie Nugent Somerville was the first president and vice-president was Belle Kearney. Nellie said at that time that Service was the keyword of the group and the women would be taking an active role in the upbuilding of their state, especially in education, philanthropy and in the great work of sanitation and prevention of disease.



She also pushed reform in education and healthcare, safeguarding children and increasing opportunities for women, whom she wanted to see in more leadership roles, such as on boards of public institutions as well as requiring women physicians in insane asylums. It was hoped that the advancement of women in general would lead to woman suffrage.

Lily Thompson, pictured above, was the corresponding secretary under Mrs. Somerville and served as superintendent of the press. She kept in touch with all the newspaper editors and successfully convinced all to discuss suffrage in their papers. She also distributed information regarding the movement to as many Mississippians as possible.

Mrs. Thompson, also a founding member of MWSA, moved up the ranks and was elected President in 1912 behind Mrs. Somerville.

Lily was born on March 9, 1867 in Crystal Springs, nearly 20 years after that first meeting in New York. Her father, William Wilkinson, a merchant, had immigrated from Ireland and married a native Mississippian, Gabrielle Barnes. Lily graduated from Whitworth College in Brookhaven in 1884 and married Charles Thompson in 1891. After she and her husband moved to Jackson, Lily made a name for herself not only in MWSA but in several other community organizations: the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the revered Chiminade Music Club and others as well.

The movement in Jackson was of great concern to Lily Thompson and she

focused her efforts in helping to create an organized group that would have regular meetings. New Orleans had an Era Club, Greenville had its Civic Improvement Club and Thompson was instrumental in helping Jackson create the Equity League, which would raise funds for an awareness of the movement while supporting the mission of the state organization. Thompson and her fellow Equity League members undertook the planning and execution of many of the major suffrage events that occurred in the state. They were able to raise a large amount of funds at the State Fair, which they did for several years which helped in all of their endeavors.

Being an avid writer made Lily a most valuable member, not only to her local chapter, but also at the state level. After her tenure as president was over, Lily continued to be an outspoken leader for the cause. She and the new president, Annie Kinkead Dent and others spoke to the Mississippi House of Representatives January 22, 1914. This prompted Kate Power of the



An American suffragette carries a symbolic American flag attached to a broom handle, circa 1917.

Jackson Daily News to write, "England may prefer her brand of suffragists, but it is with our own gently-bred ladies in the lead that the South will ere long achieve the ends for which she aims."

In 1915, the Equity League hosted Dr. Anna Shaw, a leader in the national suffrage movement, when she came to Mississippi to address the MWSA state convention in Greenville. Dr. Shaw was one of the biggest names in the national suffrage movement and her visit was highly lauded by all as a great success. By this time, women were finally voting in twelve states and of course, Mississippi was eager to make it thirteen states.

There was always something in the works to help escalate the services of women and there was no shortage of women to take on these tasks.

They had to fight for everything back then. By 1916, they were fighting for leadership positions in state educational facilities

There was a little setback when the United States entered WWI in 1917 and the women did what they could to support the war effort, but never abandoned their original goal of securing those voting rights. They were constantly having meetings; working to enter amendments to the state

Right to vote page 6

Right to vote from page 5

constitution; marched in parades; distributed "Votes for Women" badges and more. These relentless women did everything they could to help legalize voting.

Although some opposition was openly expressed, thankfully there was never an organized opposition to the suffrage movement in this state.

In 1918, the national and state suffrage associations sent out a joint letter urging the suffragists of the state to intensify their efforts as a federal amendment was on the horizon. What this would mean was that the victory would be disappointing if the nation voted it in before the state of Mississippi did it. But, that's exactly what happened!! The 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote was signed into law on August 26, 1920. Despite all of their years-long efforts, women could now vote but they didn't receive the ballot from the men of this great state.

This failure was disappointing for many of the supporters of the movement including Thompson, who worked ardently both in Jackson and with the state organization to encourage Mississippi to support ratification. So, not surprisingly, Jackson was probably the only one of the larger cities that didn't celebrate by the ringing of bells and blowing of whistles. Although no doubt excited at the next election, club meetings could now be devoted to other issues.

Here now, in 2020, please think back to 1848 when the first meeting was held and when the victory came about in 1920. That was 172 years ago. Remember those women who fought for 72 long years to win that right for women to vote!!

Beth

Hansen

Sources: Issue LXXXI of The Journal of Mississippi History and various websites

Pictures Of Suffragists From American History



For the first time in American history, women cast their first votes for President in November, 1920, at P.S. 35 in Manhattan's Lower East Side.



Suffragettes hold a jubilee celebrating their victory following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.



Elizabeth Smart, Elizabeth Glass, Mrs. A. Dugan, and Catherine McKeon, of the Brooklyn Woman Suffrage Association, pose with their rifles and an American flag in 1918.

Claire Boggs Morrison 1915-2020

The sad news about Mrs. Morrison came in just as Smoke from the Chimneys was going to press last quarter and there wasn't time or space to add much more info.

Mrs. Morrison, affectionately known as "Tootie" to her family, was born at the family's compound, Boggsdale, as were all of her siblings. She did live in Louisiana for a time also. The whole family has been captivated by this lovely piece of ground in Long Beach as were visitors who came and went back in the day.

I remember going to a graduation party in the compound, for our 8th grade class of St. Thomas School in 1956. Danny and I were classmates of twins Robert and Florette Morrison, the oldest children of Claire and Stanley Morrison. I was also captivated by the beautiful spot where their home sat with its meandering stream and gorgeous view of the beach and Cat Island too. It's easy to understand the family's love of this ground.



Her family was large and there was a Morrison in almost every class at school along with Fennells, Truaxes and Dubuissos, and other large families.

These sons and daughters grew up, married and began raising their own children on the family property. They all said how much they enjoyed being with their sibling families. But as always, those pesky hurricanes have always interfered, but some of the children are still on original Boggs property or very close by today.

Through the years, this family has endured many catastrophes and lost family members to local hurricanes but they managed to keep going. Miz Claire said she endured four wicked hurricanes at Boggsdale during her lifetime. The first she was too young to remember, and the second, 1947, was the most terrifying and Camille, 1969, took place during a family wedding and they all evacuated to the Edgewater Gulf Hotel with the last bottle of champagne.

One day, sometime after Katrina, Miz Claire drove by and stopped in front of my house here on Boggs Circle, where we've lived almost 50 years, (in the Boggs backyard one may say) to tell us she'd be moving into a house right down the street. She was smiling so broadly and was most excited for the next chapter in her wonderful and long life. And of course, she would still be close to her beloved Boggsdale

Through the years, when doing society research, I'd often see articles about this lovely lady so I began to copy them since I knew that past hurricanes had taken most all things of that nature from her. Actually, there was no shortage of articles and one was about her attendance and participation in a carnival ball in NOLA, as a young miss; and her gorgeous wedding photo also came up. She said she'd forgotten some of the events, (balls and parties) and many memories came flooding back to her as she was reading, and suddenly, she felt young again.

And I might add, Miz Claire loved the Historical Society, its calendars and newsletters and never failed to mention it.

On an extremely sad note, 6 days after the death of Miz Claire, her oldest daughter, Florette Homes, a very sweet mother of three sons, and grandmother of several, also left this life after a long battle with cancer. It's also even sadder that Covid19 has interfered with many funerals and the paying of respects to all concerned.

Our sympathies go out to the many loving family members left behind by these two wonderful women.

Beth Hansen

Old Newspaper Clippings

1908

WORD PAINTING OF AN OIL PICTURE.

Oil Fever Has Struck Long Beach, and the Radish Growing Industry Might Pale into Insignificance—Cow Track Gave First Clue as to the Existence of Oil.

Long Beach, our neighbor on the East, the burr the radish has made famous, has or will strike oil, for it is apparent the oil has already struck Long Beach, but all these years the fact seems to be one unknown, until a bovine in its daily perambulations over the town roaming the streets, as the stock do unmolested in Bay St. Louis, seeking the best cared gardens, for the delectation of its gastronomic propensities, created a cow path, and a resident on the oil path, struck it and was soon on the trail.

A correspondent residing at Long Beach tells "oil" the tale as follows:

The property holders in the Mills Avenue and Wright Avenue neighborhood are awakening to the fact that possibly oil may be underlying their truck gardens and fields. There has been talk of oil for two or three years, but it was looked upon as possibly a real estate venture, backed up by, possibly, an oily substance exuding from pine roots, but it is beginning to look as though there was something more in it than mere boom inflation.

Gulfport has claimed all the honor, but if a few guthers are brought in Long Beach will come in for a full share, for the prospective field is on the line that divides the two towns. Of course, it was a Gulfport man who first discovered the oil indications, and it was a Gulfport enterprise that enlisted the necessary capital and secured an expert to examine the ground and had the oily friend, Miss Arthemise Manning.

1908

Progressive Long Beach is going to spend \$10,000 on streets, cleaning the town, draining the stagnant ponds and banishing the pestilential fly and mosquito. Good! Let's all move to Long Beach and leave our board of aldermen to wade the sand, breathe the foul effluvium from the swamps and fight the green flies and mosquitoes.—Gulfport Journal.

Why not come to Bay St. Louis? Why wait for Long Beach to do things? Our streets are the best, drainage the finest natural kind in the world, and the pestilential fly is an unknown quantity. The festive mosquito seeks victims here only when the winds sigh from the direction of Long Beach.

1920

GINNED COTTON GROWN AT LONG BEACH

Leo Moody of Long Beach passed through the city yesterday afternoon with a bale of cotton weighing 610 pounds ginned at McHenry and the fourth he has gathered from a nine-acre field this season. He will have possibly 3 more bales making a yield of 7 bales from his 9 acre tract. Mr. Moody will follow the example of other cotton producers who are holding their crop for better prices.

1892

A dispatch from Mississippi City says: Messrs. Harper and Wm. McCaughan, of Long Beach, Miss., have applied for a patent for an invention by means of which the waters of swollen streams, and especially the Mississippi river, can be controlled and be kept at a fixed gauge.

Old Newspaper Clippings

Gulfport, The Wonderful.

Possibly the most wonderful town on the coast is Gulfport, with its harbor and its ships that carry Mississippi's products to almost every civilized land on the Globe and are beginning to bring back products from foreign countries. It has the largest and most up-to-date hotel on the Gulf Coast, and is the center of attraction to all who visit the coast in summer or winter.

The shell drives are far-famed for their beauty. They are smooth as a floor and on one side is the sea and on the other the beautiful homes. Carriages and autos, horseback riders and wheelmen all enjoy these drives.

One of the later pleasures that have been added for the home people and visitors is an electric car line that starts at Biloxi and skirts the coast all the way to the western limits of Long Beach and is being continued to and through Pass Christian. This enables the coast visitors to enjoy all the towns and places of historic or legendary interest along the coast. They may go when they choose and return at their leisure without waiting for the railway trains which are several hours apart and do not stop at all the places one cares to visit.

Taken all in all, there is no place quite equal to the Gulf Coast.

May 16, 1896 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Board granted permission to Harper McCaughan to set and operate a series of pound nets, not exceeding three, in the waters of the Mississippi Sound, in front of his property, for the purpose of catching refuse fish to manufacture into oil and fertilizer. All marketable fish to be shipped and packed in ice when passing through the towns. This permit to be for 212 months from the 5th of May, 1896.

1920

ENJOYABLE ENTERTAINMENT AT QUARLES SCHOOL

All roads lead to Quarles school whenever one of their entertainments is put on, "Standing-room only" is the sign early displayed. Last Saturday night was no exception to the rule and the auditorium was filled to the over flow when the following program was given. Where each number was so excellent it is difficult to make special mention of anyone. Russell Hrabe however was the "hit" of the evening in his role of Johnny Larkin showing real historic ability. Unstinted praise is due Mrs. Emma Lindsey and her efficient corps of teachers, Miss Lawrence, Miss Ziz, Miss Huntley, also the members of the Mothers Club who served such delightful refreshments following the program. Mrs. Lindsey added one more laurel to her crown for being the prime-mover of this varied and high class entertainment carried to completion without a single break. The drills were new unique and perfectly executed. The program follows:

Opening song.

Play, "The Glen-Willow girls," Misses Warrenne Huntley, Martha Conn, Carrie Wilson, Bernice Conn, Ida Allen, Eleanor Muncher, Willie Yerger.

Vocal Solo, Miss Daisy Dedeaux.

Piano Solo, Miss Clarice Dedeaux.

The Flower Drill, eight girls and eight boys.

Vocal Duet, Guy Benny, Lois Beach.

Play "Johnny's New Suit, Christine Ziz, Russell Hrabe, Ida Allen, E. H. Conn, Thelma Miller, Mary Murphy, Neil Andre.

Reading, Miss Huntley.

Vocal Solo, Reavis Lindsey.

Good-night song, eight little girls.

*A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!*



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