



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

October 2021

President's Message

Surely, it's Fall somewhere, I don't think it's here though. Our weather in Long Beach has been more like a super rainy April which includes some standing water here and there. However, I'm not complaining and in the overall scheme of things, it's a privilege to be alive and well.

Let's continue to pray for those around us and around the world who may not be so well. It's been wonderful seeing the good deeds home town folks are doing for our neighbors, and friends and relatives in Louisiana. Hurricane Zeta is still fresh in our minds so it's easy to identify with those suffering in our neighbor state. It is heart-warming to have seen all the large trucks parked on church campuses across Long Beach being loaded with necessities for delivery to our sister state. Many of the displaced residents have been finding lodging over here with us and shopping in our stores. We first noticed them at our gas stations, which brought back clear Katrina memories for sure and we're glad they're finding what they need.

We're gearing up for the next meeting of the Society on Monday Oct 18 at 6:00 pm and the cemetery tour the next evening, Tuesday October 19 at 5:00 pm.

Sincerely
Beth Hansen

Meetings

The last two meetings, our first for this year, were very successful. It's safe to say that all of us apparently missed the meetings but we all wanted to be as careful as we could during the pandemic and keep ourselves safe. Everyone seems to be relaxed about it now and we're glad to be back and have you all with us.

The July meeting, a video of the American Battle Monuments Commission, with special emphasis on the resting places and walls of honor of Long Beach's war dead, on the other side of the world, was well received and enjoyed by all present. We received many rousing compliments and one member said he was not aware of the American

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

Beth Hansen: Editor
228-864-6100

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Historical Society**

Officers

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- Secretary – Allisa Beck
- Treasurer – Eddie Ware

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

Physical Address

645 Klondyke RD.

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

2021 Meetings:

- January 18 - Canceled
- April 19 - 6:00 p.m.
- July 19 - 6:00 p.m.
- October 18 - 6:00 p.m.

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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

Battle Monuments Commission and so he had
learned something that evening. That's just what a
historical society wants to do; educate on the past.

Sadly, a few tears were also shed at the meeting
but that happens when one is in a cemetery, even
if it is watched in a video. While the subject matter
is very sad, the American cemeteries around the
world are exquisitely beautiful. This is in keeping
with the promises our country made to take care
of its own, and it has done just that and is doing
it with style! We will never forget those who made
the supreme sacrifice in all of the wars.

The program of the October meeting, on Oct 18
at 6 pm, is in keeping with the next evening's
Cemetery Tour and will be a recap of Famous
Ladies from our previous tours. For those of you
who may have missed any of the cemetery tours,
you will be pleasantly surprised at the lives of
these interesting women:

Louise Hartley Morehead, a graduate of George
Washington University, a prolific writer who
worked in Europe, Washington, D. C., Little Rock
and Long Beach, MS. Louise was honored to
have been on the female only White House Press
Conference ever begun by a First Lady, Eleanor
Roosevelt. Louise also wrote a small book about
the Old Spanish Trail which Long Beach is part of,
and we have her book in the society library. She
was also very active in community affairs when
living here in Long Beach

Joanna Vallet, Mrs. Harper McCaughan, was
born in New Orleans, but was a life-long Harrison
Countian, just like her mother, Ermine Talbot.
Her father, Joseph Vallet was a native of France.
She and Harper were blessed with a large family,
owned a lot of property and changed residences
several times depending on what he was involved
in at the time. Sadly, they faced the ordeal of the
loss of a grown daughter, while she lived out of the
country, while serving in the military.
Mary Abarr was a gifted newspaper journalist,
was very well traveled and lived in many different
places before moving to Long Beach where she
bought a farm north of the city. She was a devout

Methodist, who built a small church on her land. She wrote for many large
newspapers in Memphis, Kansas City, and Chicago before settling in at
the Times Picayune in New Orleans for many years. Any time she wrote
an article about the coast, the Picayune also picked it up.

Also, our dear founder, Mary Ellen Watrous Alexander, a descendant of
city pioneers and author of Rosalie & Radishes, A History of Long Beach,
MS. must be included along with interesting women. There will always
be new members who may not be acquainted with her story. Mary Ellen's
book is different from those written about other cities in that she gathered
information on a personal level of so many of the residents and when they
moved here. She also compiled the info without the aid of a computer.
Her book is well used by the society and we're happy to have the source
to use in continuing her work. Thank you Mary Ellen!

**The Dubuisson Family and City Progress
Henry Sebastian Dubuisson**

Researched and written by Beth Hansen for the 2016 cemetery tour

I'm so glad to see you here today. My name is Henry Dubuisson and
my lovely wife Josephine is here with me. Three of our four children and
their spouses are also buried here. One of our daughters, Anita, went
into the religious life and became a Daughter of Charity. This was the
same order that staffed St Thomas School for so many years. Some of
you may remember seeing the Daughters around town when they were
still required to wear their habit which had a large head piece called a
cornette. Some people said that it reminded them of large white wings.

My wife Josephine descends from the large Ladner family and my mother
from the Dedeaux family, and you know what that means in a small town.
Don't tell any juicy gossip around us because we're probably kin to the
person being talked about.

I first moved to Long Beach with my parents and siblings as a young adult
in the early part of the twentieth century. My parents had 7 sons and 7
daughters!

One of my first jobs was in the logging industry which was pretty busy
when I was a young man. However, that wasn't my calling and I ended up
working in the dairy business when the time was right to go into business
for myself.

Having a business on the property made it convenient for everyone
to pitch in and when the children were small, my daughter Inez drove
herself and the younger ones to St Thomas School in our wagon and tied
the horse outside under the shade trees. When the boys got older they
were a big help to me in every facet of the business. They often got up
in the middle of the night to make deliveries. Our daughters could also
be counted on for whatever we needed. My wife was extremely helpful

assisting me with cleaning and sterilizing and keeping the dairy up to county standards. The county always kept a close eye on all the dairies in the area to insure there was no chance for contamination in any form.

While I was in business I also collaborated with the county which provided a large dipping vat on my property to keep the cows in tip top shape by ridding them of any pests or parasites. Anyone else who owned stock, could bring in the animals, for a fee, to also be dipped. I was able to earn some extra money for helping to provide this service.

In 1930, the county began grading the milk and consumers were instructed to take notice of what they were purchasing. After we were scrutinized on a regular basis, I was always happy to see my name appearing in the paper along with other dairymen here in Long Beach as well as others in neighboring cities, listing us all as selling Grade A milk. My sister, Mina Cuevas, was also included in this group of dairymen.

Now that you've gotten to know a little about me there is a very noteworthy fact about my family that I want to share with you which made my parents and the rest of us sort of popular around town.

There was an important reason that we moved to Long Beach. We were living close by, over in Pineville, in 1905 when the city wanted to incorporate. However, there was a residential requirement of 900 residents but there were only 890 residents here. My parents Donatien and Anastasie Dedeaux Dubuisson were asked to move in with our large family to legally raise that head count. My oldest sister, Mina Cuevas was already married and was not part of the move, but we children, Henry, (that's me,) Lucina, Tom, Eugene, Leonard, Lelia, Camille, Onelia, Claudis, Harold, Sylvest and Adeline, still numbered 12 and with our parents, the count was raised by 14, with residents to spare! So on August 10, 1905, Governor James K Vardaman issued a proclamation incorporating the town of Long Beach, which had evolved from a tiny village previously known by four other names. This was a historic moment in the life of our city, which was happy to have found us, and we were forever proud of the role that we played in helping to attain the incorporation!

Believe it or not, the next year after the move, my mother made even more history by having yet another baby, the 7th daughter, Justine! We were then a family of 14 children, 7 sons and 7 daughters! As we older ones reached adulthood, we either married and moved or began to seek lodging elsewhere to lessen the load on our parents.

It's been noted that we Dubuisson descendants, along with our parents, have contributed significantly to the town's continued growth. In addition to my children, several of my siblings are also buried right here, but our parents rest in the Delisle Cemetery, which is why I, their oldest son, have chosen to share this information with you.

Life was very pleasant here in Long Beach and several of us ended up in close proximity. My brother Leonard lived just up the street, where he had a nice farm and his wife Minnie was appointed as U S Post Master of the city. My brother Tom lived in a pretty green house on Jeff Davis Aveue between 4th and 5th Streets. He had 5 daughters and 4 of them attended nursing school at Hotel Dieu in New Orleans and the oldest one became a Daughter of Charity. The remaining daughter did not marry and pursued clerical work at the Veterans Hospital and on Keesler AFB. Our brother Harold, the barber, was also in the neighborhood, his son Cecil became Post Master too. The family can yield many other similar success stories besides these few.

Many of my other siblings were scattered all around town and all have descendants here.

In my spare time, I loved to dance and some considered me to be very talented at it. One evening in the late 1950's my son and his wife and my granddaughter were waiting for me in their car. We were all going dancing. I was about 75 at the time and my granddaughter was being accompanied by a girlfriend, who also called me Poppa, and she asked if they were going to drop Poppa off somewhere. My grand told her no, that I was going to the same place as they all were. She said, "Poppa's going dancing?" She was very surprised that I didn't miss many dances during that fun evening. That naïve little teenager is now president of the Long Beach Historical Society.

I was known to be a happy man, and feel sure that came about because of my wife and children but I was even happier as long as I could dance or drink an Orange Crush, my drink of choice. The last time I went dancing was in 1963 and during the evening, I simply collapsed on the dance floor. Everyone who knew me said it was a wonderful way to leave this world, lucky to be enjoying my favorite pastime!

History Detective

1. Which two family homes were moved from their foundations on Jeff Davis Avenue to other locations?
2. Who was the first merchant on the Avenue to lay a concrete sidewalk in front of his place of business?

See answers on back

Condolences

We offer our condolences to the family of Faye Johnson Collins, a long-time member of our society. Faye served the society as Treasurer and was also on the Membership Committee for a time. She was very fond of the society and especially enjoyed our 2015 Open House. She will be greatly missed.

100 Years Old Newspaper Clippings

A Whopping Big Potato

October 17

W. T. Woodward of Long Beach brought to the Herald office last Saturday the champion sweet potato so far brought to public notice. It was of the Puerto Rican variety and weighed 10 lbs. He gathered many large potatoes on his place this season, getting a few in one hill that weighed 22 lbs. Notwithstanding their size, the potatoes are of good quality.

L. B. Truck in Car Lots

March 5

Col. R. Inglis of Long Beach reports that the vegetable Assn. of which he is the Executive Officer is shipping three and a half cars a day and that the other Assn. there is moving as many. Radishes are said to be still in demand by the produce dealers in the north and their price continues to be good.

Long Beach Methodist Church Being Repaired

July 9

Rev. H. C. Castle, pastor of the Methodist Church was in Gulfport today. He states that the regular service at his church will not be held tomorrow because the building is being repaired and just had a new coat of paint put on it. Rev. Castle will preach tomorrow in the Sunshine church which is near Long Beach. Note: the church was in Long Beach, just not in the city proper, it was Mary Abarr's church.

Witness Sale of Jersey Herd

July 9

Mr. & Mrs. Archibald Boggs motored to Hattiesburg last Monday where they witnessed the sale of a herd of five Jersey cows. The demand was inactive and the cows brought but little, the average selling price being about \$125.00. Mr. Boggs has become quite an enthusiast on the subject of Jersey cattle and is accumulating a handsome herd on his farm near the beach in Long Beach.

100 Years Old Newspaper Clippings

Predicts Heavy Traffic Across the Bay

Feb. 14

The Bay St. Louis ferry will be too small to accommodate the summer patronage, stated Emile Waldemier, a well known businessman of Long Beach. A few days ago, Mr. Waldemier and his family went to Bay St. Louis on a pleasure trip and upon returning he found six or eight pleasure parties who wanted to cross the bay to the Harrison County side and only two more machines would have taxed the ferry to its utmost capacity. If in mid-winter the ferry is well patronized, its patronage will increase many fold during the spring and summer season, and for this reason a larger boat should be provided, states Mr. Waldemier. It requires two hours to make a round trip and this means a long wait to pleasure seekers should they be forced to wait that long for passage.

Visitor Attracted by New Design in Home Building

Apr 30

Some time ago Ben Reinike built a ten or twelve room home on his farm in Long Beach, and the design was so different from others of its kind that it has attracted general attention. There are so many callers to see his residence that he decided to keep a register in which all visitors may record their names. The register now contains many pages which shows the public is interested in new ideas for residential construction. The timber came from Mr. Reinike's property but was planed at a local saw mill. The home is an original design built by Reinike and his sons.

Fine Beets from Long Beach

Apr 30

The finest beets ever seen on the local market were brought to the Herald this morning by a Long Beach gardener. The dealer who bought them claimed they weighed over a pound.



Long Beach Historical Society
PO Box 244
Long Beach, MS 39560-0244



Find more at lhistoricalsociety.org

MEET & GREET THE SPIRITS LONG BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY CEMETERY TOUR



Tuesday Evening Oct. 19 at 5 PM

Long Beach City Cemetery South Railroad & Girard Ave.

- Charles Kohler - Portrayed by Mark Bryant
- Elisha Mohler - Portrayed by Russ Jones
- John Prados - Portrayed by Danny Hansen
- George King - Portrayed by Billy Skellie
- Don Hancock - Narrated by his daughter, Jessica H. Butler

Dues are due every January. Dues paid in October, November, or December will not expire until December 2022.

Check the address label to see if your membership has lapsed.

- Per Individual \$15.00
- Family \$20.00
- Student \$5.00 (thru 12th grade)