



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

July 2023

President's Message

Summer is finally here and I really appreciate the words of a local gardener who reminded us that the hydrangeas were not harmed by the bad winter weather. They are such beautiful plants always gracing us with their huge blooms! I recently put some artificial ones on my mom's grave, she loved them so. My dad had a huge bed of them on the north side of our house in plain view from the street. Good memories!

Recent activity at the site of the Quarles homeplace has been a welcome addition to our city and those in charge say they will be there until January while completing this phase which should coincide with our January newsletter. We should be able to offer more information as to what has been done and what we may expect next. We knew it would not be a quick process.

Have I ever shared with all of you that I grew up on the former Quarles property on North Burke Avenue? Of course, there were no streets cut through the property when the Quarles vegetables were growing, however! And during my youth, in the fifties, I loved to walk past those former stately homes each day even though they were passed their glory days! This was when I was between the ages of nine to nineteen and Mrs. Toomer's property lines were hedged with roses. I wanted one each time I passed but I only ever picked one! Even a little girl likes roses! I suppose when I "did the deed" I was closer to nine than nineteen. Mea culpa! (Latin for I'm sorry)

Our city has really benefited from all of the auto festivals. Who knew there would ever be so many different kinds. Cruisin the Coast; Jeepin the Coast and the most recent, Scrapin the Coast. Sometimes there's also Touch A Truck, on a lesser scale! Hope I haven't left any groups out. Long Beach seemed to have been the hub of activity for the Jeepin group! We certainly had a crowd and tons of visitors to our little city. The thousands of jeeps and spectators navigating Beach Boulevard were also mind boggling. The food and music at Coastal Daiquiri are also both spectacular and definitely a fan favorite.

We never know what may pop up next!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely
Beth Hansen

Programs

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

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Long Beach
Historical Society

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- President – Beth Hansen
- Secretary – Allisa Beck
- Treasurer – Eddie Ware

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Mailing Address:

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.

2023 Meetings:

- January 16 -11:00 am
- April 17 - 6:00 p.m.
- **July 17 - 6:00 p.m.**
- October 16 - 6:00 p.m.

Email Address:

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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

Member Cindy Easterling of Pass Christian, gave us an informative program on the Quarles House at our last meeting. Cindy, an architect, had conferred with Mary Ellen when she was still residing in Long Beach. We've been fortunate to have had a few different programs about the house and each speaker has had a different take on the subject.

At the July meeting, our secretary, Allisa Beck will be in charge of the program. Back by popular demand will be her program on the RMS Titanic. I'm sure that those of us who missed the program when it was presented the first time are in for a treat! I'm really looking forward to it. However, as I was writing these lines, I was sorry to read in the news that a submersible vessel had disappeared during a search of the Titanic wreckage and even sorrier to read of its demise.

Old And New News Coming Together

Recently, an oak tree on Jeff Davis Avenue was in the news in our city which coincided with a recent Cemetery Tour program, from year before last on the George King family.

George D. King, and his wife Mollie, from Troy, Mississippi, up in Pontotoc County, moved their large family to our town before its' incorporation in 1905. We are lucky enough to have two family pictures of this group. However, his cousin James King, had already been living here since the early 1890's, according to a newspaper article, as did the man who eventually became our first mayor, Joel Whitten, who lived very close to James and his family according to census records.

The oldest daughter of the George Kings, Opha, married the oldest son of the Joel Whittens, William Wesley Whitten, so there was a very close personal connection between these families so news of Long Beach being the Radish Capital of the World was probably being talked about in Pontotoc County, Mississippi!

Coincidentally, both of the Kings were blacksmiths who each practiced their chosen profession under oak trees, James on 2nd Street, across from city hall, and George on the corner of 4th St. and Jeff Davis Avenue, across from the property which Harper McCaughan had donated to the city.

Recently, the Jeff Davis Avenue property was featured in some lively news around town when a tree was eventually removed from the site to accommodate the building of a hotel. No doubt this was probably the tree under which George King worked each day.

His property was also a good vantage point from which to view the building of the first brick school on Jeff Davis Avenue, across the street from his property. The family must have enjoyed their ring side seats. The school, designed by architect W. T. Harkness was built in 1906 at a cost of \$7000.00 by Contractor O. E. Thompson, who had also recently built St. Thomas Church and Villa.

We've all heard stories about the fun-loving students at the school and never tire of doing so and if one new ear hears this one today, it's worth telling again. One Halloween, a clever crew swiped a wagon from Mr. Bailey's store, disassembled it and hauled it in pieces onto the roof of their school, where they put it back together again! The next morning, the not so clever adults tried to remove the Halloween spectacle in one piece and damaged the steps of the school in the process! Punishment and a repair bill both ensued.

Sadly, in 1916, James King and his wife, Allie, moved to El Paso, Texas because they were both ill. He passed in 1917 and she in 1920. Apparently, they had relatives in Texas to help with the children.

George, whose father died in the Civil War, also passed in 1920, resulting from surgery and an old injury. Both of these men were well thought of in the community and kind words were said about each. George's wife Mollie, lived until 1929 and she and George have beautiful headstones in the Long Beach Cemetery.

New Historical Property

The property of Ken and Gail Walker was added to our new Historical Property list on April 19, 2023. The home, located at 125 Beach Park Place was built in 1945 by Bill and Mary Hansen, parents of members Danny and Billy. The present owners, also members, are the first to be added to the new list, on which the owners are choosing and paying for their own plaques, which, of course, does include the name of our society. Congrats Ken and Gail!!!



See pictures pertaining to this newsletter at the meeting.

Dues are due every January, unless you recently paid or recently joined.

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

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

Mail to:

Long Beach Historical Society

PO Box 244

Long Beach, MS 39560

You may also pay online:

www.lbhistoricalsociety.org/members

And, remember, when you reach your 90th birthday, dues become complimentary, which is a small perk of the society.

Dues paid in October, November, or December of 2023 will not expire until December 2024.

Find more at lbhistoricalsociety.org



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