



# Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

May 2024

The Long Beach Historical Society lost one of its bests. Our president, Beth Hansen passed away on March 4. It was unexpected and has left all of those who loved her bereft. We at the LBHS will feel her loss keenly. She was a devoted historian and keeper of memories for our beloved community. She was this year's Mary Ellen Alexander Award and was aware of her designation before she passed. Every person matters to an organization to help it along but some go above and beyond without fanfare or seeking gratuity. Beth was that special person and we will miss her always.

### **Beth Ann Bourg Hansen**

Beth Ann Bourg Hansen passed away suddenly at her home on March 4, 2024, in Long Beach, Mississippi, at the age of 81. She was born on March 25, 1942, in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Beth was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Daniel Thomas Hansen Sr.; her children, Daniel "Danny" Thomas Hansen Jr., Jeffrey "Jeff" Stephen Hansen (Dori), Dustin "Dusty" Bourg Hansen (Mandy), and Holli Elizabeth Hansen Freeman (Eric); as well as her grandchildren, Stephen Hansen (Marla), Anna Hansen French (Kenny), Zachary Hansen, Kaleigh Hansen, Madeline Hansen, Colton Hansen, Cooper Freeman; great grandchildren, Carter Hansen, Clark Hansen, Claire Hansen, and Zane Hansen; brother, James Patrick Doherty, Jr. (Betty); sister, Denise Bourg Slotoroff (Jon); and sister-in-law, Denise Bourg (Butch).

Beth met the love of her life in the 4th grade classroom at St. Thomas School when Danny pulled on her hair. Their bond was instant and their marriage on July 1, 1962, was imminent from that first encounter. Beth was preceded in death by her beloved twins, Matthew and Mark; her mother, Aline Lyman Doherty, namesake of the Long Beach Aline Doherty Citizen of the Year Award established in 1996; her stepfather, James "Dusty" Patrick Doherty; her father, Hector L. Bourg, Sr.; and her brother, Hector L. "Butch" Bourg Jr.

Beth, known affectionately as "Nonni" by her grandchildren, was an amateur genealogist who dedicated her time to tracing her family roots across many, many generations. She was a pillar in researching and preserving the history of Long Beach.

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

Ashley Skellie: Editor

Published quarterly by the  
Long Beach  
Historical Society

**Officers**

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

**Board of Directors**

- Lucius Marks
- Bernie Parker
- Billie Skellie

**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.

**2024 Meetings:**

- January 15 -11:00 am
- **May 29 - 6:00 p.m.**
- July 15 - 6:00 p.m.
- October 16 - 6:00 p.m.

**Email Address:**

lbhistoricalsociety@

lbhistoricalsociety.com

**Website:**

www.lbhistoricalsociety.org

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

She was the longest serving President of the Long Beach Historical Society from January 2015 until her passing. She was known for spending countless hours writing and refining the newsletters. Donald Dana, past President of the Long Beach Historical Society, named the Historical Society facility on Klondyke Road as the "Beth Hansen History House" several years ago. Beth also thoroughly enjoyed backyard bird watching and stargazing.

Beth was a fixture in Long Beach, owning a craft store, The Crafty Hand, on Jeff Davis Avenue in the 1970s. After raising her four children, she later worked for Keesler Federal Credit Union until her retirement as a Loan Officer in 2004. Beth was involved in the Long Beach Carnival Association for 17 years. She was also a past member of both the Long Beach Garden Club and Gulfport Junior Woman's Club.

Beth received her education from St. Thomas School, Long Beach High School, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Beth was in the first graduating class of Long Beach High School (Class of 60) in its current Cleveland Road location. She worshipped at St. Thomas Catholic Church for over 70 years. She was a member of the church choir for many years singing alongside her mother, brother-in-law (Billy Hansen), and father-in-law (William A. Hansen, Sr.)

Beth will be dearly missed by all who knew her, but her legacy of love, dedication, and passion for preserving history will live on in the hearts of those she touched.



**Long Beach Casualties in Vietnam**

**SP-4 Leo Myers Breland**

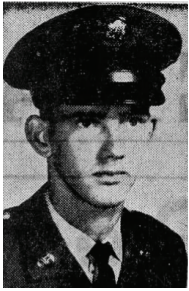
SP-4 Breland was killed by enemy fire after killing one of the enemy and saving the lives of his comrades, his citation read. He also received the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Combat Ribbon. The Brelands resided in Long Beach, MS. Lt. Col Ray Moran presented the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster to Mr. and Mrs. Beason Breland, parents of SP-4 Leo M. Breland, who was killed in Vietnam



**Navy Fireman Terry N. Thompson (1947-1969)**

Seaman Terry N. Thomson, 21, born in Arkansas and a Long Beach resident, was killed in action on April 28, 1969 aboard a US minesweeper on the Rach Duoc Dong River in Vietnam waters. He had been in the Navy for two years.

Born in Union County, AR, he was the son of Lester and Cora Tucker Thompsom of Long Beach. He graduated from Gulfport High School. Survivors included his widow, Mrs. Jody Thompsom of Long Beach. He was buried in Smyrna Cemetery in Columbia County, AR.



**SP-5 David DeWitt Creel (1948-1968)**

Twenty-year-old David DeWitt Creel was killed in action on November 27, 1968. His helicopter went down over a landing zone under attack. He was a gunner. While in the end, it would not have saved any on board, SP-5 David D Creel had bravely undone his safety belt trying to assist a fellow crewmate when the helicopter was hit causing a total crash. He had worked at the Hatten Service Station. He was interred in McHenry.



**Captain Edward Aloysius Blake (1935-1964)**

Captain Edward Aloysius Blake was born in 1935. He grew up in Long Beach, MS with three sisters and five brother. He graduated from St. Stanislaus and Perkinson Junior College. Capt. Edward Blake enlisted in the United States Army, Jan. 28, 1953. He served as a paratrooper during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged from the Army in June 1956 and enlisted in the Air Force as an aviation cadet.

Blake graduated from pilot training at Bryan Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, and received a commission as a second lieutenant. After pilot training, he received advanced weapons training at Luke AFB, Ariz., and B-47 combat crew training at

McConnell AFB, Kansas. With all advanced training completed, Blake was stationed with the 339th Bomb Squadron at Dyess AFB, Texas. While at Dyess, he showed exceptional pilot skills and outstanding leadership ability as an aircraft commander. He was then assigned to the 546th Bomb Squadron at Little Rock AFB, Ark.

On May 18, 1964, Blake joined the 1st Air Commando Squadron in Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam and participated in numerous combat missions over Southeast Asia. His dedication, professionalism, and bravery earned him many honors throughout his career.

Among Blakes awards and decorations are the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Blake was killed, Oct. 29, 1964 during an aerial mission at the Vung Tau Gunnery Range near Bien Hoa. His A1E aircraft developed an engine fire and before he and his fellow crewmember could parachute to safety, flames engulfed the cockpit and the aircraft was lost. He left behind his wife, Sharon and two sons, Mark and Kevin. His funeral mass was at St. Thomas Church in Long Beach and he was buried in Biloxi at Southern Memorial Park. The Long Beach Veterans of Foreign Affairs Post #3937 is named in honor of Eddie Blake.

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## May 29<sup>th</sup> Upcoming Coming Meeting

Our speaker will be Ann Marie Hernandez of Diamondhead. She is a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Long Beach-Friendship Oak Chapter and chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Committee for Friendship Oak.

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### Special thanks to a team of SeeBees for repairing the handicap ramp



Naomi Rouse, Equipment Operator Chief (ECO) Jeff Andreski, Builder Chief (BUC) Justin Taliaterro, Builder Chief (BUC) Brandon Shortridge.

Equipment Operator Chief (ECO) Victor Sanders, not in the picture, had to leave early as his knee gave out.

The young girl is Jeff's daughter. She is a junior at Vancleave and worked with them the whole time. It's hard to believe she gave up her Saturday to do this!!

To show our appreciation for a great job we treated them to a lunch of Crawfish/Blacken Shrimp/Rice Etouffee from Darwell's Happiness Cafe.

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Also thanks goes out to one of our boards members, Lucius Marks, and his son for repairing the floor at the front door.

## Restoration and Grand Opening of Greenvale

The city of Long Beach hosted the grand opening of Greenvale, also known as the Quarles House on January 27th. Located at 179 E. Old Pass Road in Long Beach, this is the restored home of Mr. W.J. Quarles.



*Jim Alexander and Janet Alexander Griffin  
Son and Daughter of Mary Ellen Alexander made  
a gift of the house to the City of Long Beach*



*The above photos are courtesy Candace Riser Photography*

Mr. W.J. Quarles and his family arrived in Long Beach by train from Wilson County, Tennessee in 1884. Mr. Quarles built Greenvale in 1892. Mr. Quarles taught the first school in Long Beach in this same house. He was also



appointed the first postmaster.

William James (WJ) Quarles and his wife, Merinda, who were among the first settlers of the City of Long Beach. His granddaughter, Mary Ellen Alexander, was the author of the city's historical book, Rosalie

and Radishes. The Quarles family were multi-generational contributors to the advancement of our city.

The City of Long Beach received \$2,000,000 from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund to assist with the restoration of the W. J. Quarles house, which was built in 1892 and is the oldest building in the City. The purpose of this project is to restore and preserve this historic home and create a welcoming venue to be used for the benefit of the community at large. In addition to providing a Welcome Center for visitors, the building could be used to host community events, educational opportunities, display works by local artists, and exhibit memorabilia celebrating the history of the city.

Please call the Long Beach City Hall at (228) 863-1556 to tour the historic home of W.J. and Merinda Quarles.

(Information taken from "WLOX," "The Long Beach Breeze" and the City of Long Beach.)

W. J. Quarles, E. E. Jordy, C. Leive, H. McCaughan and Edward Creel appointed commissioners to examine proposed route of change of back road from Mississippi to Pass Christian at 6-mile post, commissioners to meet at said mile post on Dec. 22, 1890, and to report at next term of board.  
Attendance and mileage allowed.  
Board adjourned until term in course.  
A. J. BOND, Pres.  
Attest: F. S. HEWES, Clerk.

ment.

## W. J. QUARLES PASSES AWAY

Honored Citizen of Harrison County and Father of Long Beach Trucking Industry Dies.

It is given to but few men to leave more last foot prints behind them than those left by William James Quarles of Long Beach who passed away this morning at his home in Long Beach.

Death came at 7:25 o'clock with all of his dear ones at his bedside. After a long and useful life of more than 73 years he left the work which he had begun to be finished by a host of friends and admirers.

The deceased was born in Tennessee, March 3, 1851, and came to Long Beach from that state in 1884. No sooner had he arrived and chosen a home site than he began to work for the betterment of the community.

Taking what was then thought to be practically worthless land he developed it into truck growing land of a very high type and was the pioneer in the immense trucking business which is the distinguishing feature of the Long Beach at the present time. The first vegetables ever sent to outside markets from Long Beach was shipped by him. Not only did he work untiringly for the development of this branch of industry but he was foremost in all of those things which go to make successful God fearing citizens.

When discouragements came he never grumbled but kept ahead and brought success out of failure. Along with his energies in material lines the Christian life was not neglected. Schools and churches were assisted by him in every way possible.

Behind him is a family of useful sons and daughters who will see that the work he began will be carried forward. The wife, three daughters and two sons are the immediate relatives living. The daughters are Mrs. A. E. Toomer, of Long Beach, Mrs. Dr. T. Z. Goss of Caesar, Miss. and Mrs. May Watrous of Long Beach. The sons are H. Y. Quarles of Wiggins and B. T. Quarles of Houston, Texas. Three brothers and two sisters also survive him. A sister, Mrs. Phil Huddleston of Nashville, Tenn., is now at the family home.

Mr. Quarles was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church and was a communicant of the Long Beach church of this denomination.

Funeral services will be held at the family residence Thursday morning at 11 o'clock, Rev. A. W. Duck, pastor of the Long Beach church, assisted by Rev. C. Z. Berryhill of Hattiesburg who is an old friend of the deceased, will conduct the funeral services. Those who will act as pall bearers are F. H. Adams, J. H. Jarman, D. L. Hays, E. C. Miller, L. K. Hill, Louis Saucier, John Allen and Edward Willet.

Honorary pall bearers are James Thomas, C. B. Gates, A. Andre, Dr. M. M. Moody, Hannu Gardner, A. C. Purple, V. A. Griffith, J. H. Lang, T. M. Evans, J. C. Clark, J. J. Bailey, John Nettles, Geo. P. Brandt, John B. Stroud, W. H. Bouslog, F. S. Hewes, Uriel Wright, R. Ingliss, H. McCaughan, Dr. W. A. Dearman, Dr. C. A. Sheely, Fred McCutcheon, F. P. Watrous, E. C. Harris, C. H. Castenera, N. C. Biberon, P. A. Stilwell, Dr. J. J. Harry, Henry N. Bohn, and Joe Rouse.

Interment will be made in the Quarles family cemetery.

Long Beach will plant a large crop of vegetables this spring. W. J. Quarles has received a carload of seed potatoes from Tennessee for distribution among the planters at that place. Last season two hundred dollars per acre was made by some growers. What can be done at Long Beach can be done at other points in this county with a little industry and enterprise.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1912.

# THE GULF & SHIP ISLAND R. R.

## 1912 SUNDAY EXCURSIONS

TO

### GULFPORT, MISS.

Biloxi, Pass Christian, Mississippi City, Long Beach, Beauvoir and Camp Grounds can be reached quickly by Electric Cars.

COMMENCING

## SUNDAY, MAY 5

And Each Sunday Thereafter. Through the Summer

The Gulf & Ship Island Railroad Company will establish special Sunday Round Trip Excursion Fares to Gulfport, Miss., in connection with special train service shown below:

## OLD FASHIONED BARGAINS

<p>32-inch FAST COLOR PLAIN SHADE CHAMBRAY, a 25c value at ..... <b>15c</b>                  Fine quality light weight chambray, ideal for boys' blouses, rompers, or dresses for house wear.</p> <p>1000 YARDS OF FAST COLOR 25c CAMBRIC FINISH PERCALES at yd. .... <b>15c</b>                  Every good pattern is here, all guaranteed fast colors and full 36 inches wide, the lot will be sold quickly at 15c. Shop early.</p> <p>20c NOVELTY DRESS GINGHAM, an Opportunity Sale Special, yd. .... <b>12½c</b>                  Full 27 inches wide, in a range of neat checks and plaids. This is a wonderful value.</p> <p>\$1.95 ENGLISH LONGCLOTH, special 10 yd. pieces <b>\$1.39</b>                  Fine soft quality, ideal for making dainty undergarments. We do not cut pieces.</p> <p>36 PAJAMA CHECK NAINSOOK; a big bargain, 20c value, yd. .... <b>15c</b>                  Full yard wide, small check nainsook, best quality, free from dressing.</p> <p>\$1.75 WEARWELL 81x90 HEMMED BED SHEETS <b>\$1.49</b>                  Made with a taped selvedge edge which insures extra long wear. We guarantee wearwell Sheets highest quality.</p> <p>\$1.00 NOVELTY RATINE EPONGE FOR FINE SKIRTS at ..... <b>69c</b>                  Several very attractive medium or large sport plaid designs, much wanted for making the new fringed skirts and dresses.</p> <p>36-inch \$1.00 QUALITY DOTTED SWISS at yd. .... <b>79c</b>                  Excellent quality in colors, white, orchid, pink, sky, brown, black, red and copen with contrast dots.</p> <p>85c NOVELTY BASKET WEAVE MERCERIZED SUITING; 36 inches wide ..... <b>59c</b>                  An attractive and serviceable fabric for making sport dresses, skirts or middies, all the best shades, guaranteed fast colors.</p>	<p>40-inch \$1.85 PURE SILK CREPE DE CHINE, Specially priced yd. .... <b>\$1.39</b>                  A good weight extra fine quality crepe in good showing of best colors.</p> <p>36-inch \$2.00 QUALITY CHIFFON TAFFETA, Extra Special at yd. .... <b>\$1.39</b>                  Pure yarn dyed taffetas in a complete range of the best shades, as well as the staple black and navy shades.</p> <p>\$3.50 WHITE BARONETTE SATIN SKIRTING at <b>\$2.49</b>                  Extra heavy quality much wanted for making smart summer skirts and capes, in all white only.</p> <p>GENUINE JAPANESE SILK PONGEE, a \$1.50 value at yard ..... <b>\$1.19</b>                  This is full weight and guaranteed the best quality in natural tan shade only. Fine for children's dresses or ladies' blouses.</p> <p>\$2.85 HEAVY QUALITY SPORT CREPE DE CHINE SHIRTINGS, special yd. .... <b>\$1.79</b>                  Beautiful quality stripe crepe de chine shirtings, in demand just now for making one piece summer frocks. This is finest quality.</p> <p>40-inch SHEER PLAIN SHADE ORGANDY, in our Opportunity Sale at only ..... <b>39c</b>                  Beautiful quality, in a complete range of the season's most wanted shades and white.</p> <p>45-inch FINEST IMPORTED PERMANENT FINISH ORGANDY, the \$1.00 kind ..... <b>69c</b>                  Beautiful quality in a complete range of all the newest pastel and high shades, also in plain white.</p> <p>\$1.65 GENUINE IMPORTED DOTTED SWISS .... <b>\$1.29</b>                  This is finest quality in a complete range of all the best colors, a real bargain at this price.</p>
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1000 YARDS OF NOVELTY DRESS VOILES, values in lot to \$1.25 yard, now ..... **49c**  
 Dainty summer designs for making cool, serviceable summer frocks. Some silk embroidered, all desirable patterns; the greatest dress goods value we have ever offered.

LADIES' NEW SPORT SKIRTS, values to \$15.00 **\$8.95**  
 About fifteen finest wool sport skirts; also a few sport stripe silk styles which sold regularly for as much as \$15. on sale at only \$8.95.

Dues were due in 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.com/members](http://www.lbhistoricalsociety.com/members)

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

Find more at [lbhistoricalsociety.org](http://lbhistoricalsociety.org)



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