



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

July 2025

Join us **July 21, 2025** for an engaging presentation led by Paul Jermyn, who will take us on a nostalgic journey along the coast with his extensive collection of historical pictures and postcards. Paul has dedicated many years to curating this remarkable selection, and he's excited to share it with us through a captivating slideshow. Let's come together to show our appreciation for Paul's efforts and enjoy a wonderful evening filled with memories from the past!

ORIGINAL LADNER ARRIVED IN 1719 - by Sandy Ladner

A young Swiss named Luis Christian de L'Adner arrived on what is now the Mississippi Coast in 1719, after being exiled from France for dealing in black market salt. This young man, who had black hair, blue eyes and stood only five feet and four inches tall, lived to be over 100 years old, and he left a mark on the Mid-Gulf area equaled possibly by no other man. He was the original Ladner (Ladnier). His descendants today number into the thousands and are concentrated in an area from New Orleans to Mobile and as far North as Lumberton. De L'Adner, a native of Pisterene, Switzerland, was only one year old when the Biloxi Bay area was settled by the French in 1699.

He came to the Coast, arriving on the ship La Marie. When he arrived at the age of 20, he was alone. He went to New Orleans with the colony for a time and then returned to work at the Chaumont Plantation on the Pascagoula River south of the old Biloxi Indian village. When a hurricane destroyed the plantation in 1723, de L'Adner left the Pascagoula River. By this time, he had a wife and two small sons whom he brought to Cat Island. There he continued to sire children. Records show that in 1798, on Deer Island, when he was 100 years old, de L'Adner was among a group which was confirmed by the Catholic Church. His first son, Christian, settled Pass Christian in the latter part of the 18th century, and another son, Nicholas, located at what is now Long Beach.

The home of Nicholas at Long Beach was eventually destroyed by fire, and all that remained on that site for many years were two chimneys which were landmarks used as navigation aids by mariners. The area became known as "Chimney Point." The house was built on a small stream known as Bear Creek. Today the chimneys are gone and the creek is no more than a low spot of land. Gulf Park College now stands at that site.

Long Beach has had five colorful names: Shown on Area Maps were "BEAR POINT" 1774, "CHIMNEY POINT" 1841, "ROSALIE" 1865, "SCOTT'S STATION" 1878, and "LONG BEACH" 1882.

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

Published quarterly by the
Long Beach
Historical Society

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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.

2025 Meetings:

- January 20 - 11:00 am
- April 21 - 6:00 p.m.
- **July 21 - 6:00 p.m.**
- October 20 - 6:00 p.m.

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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:

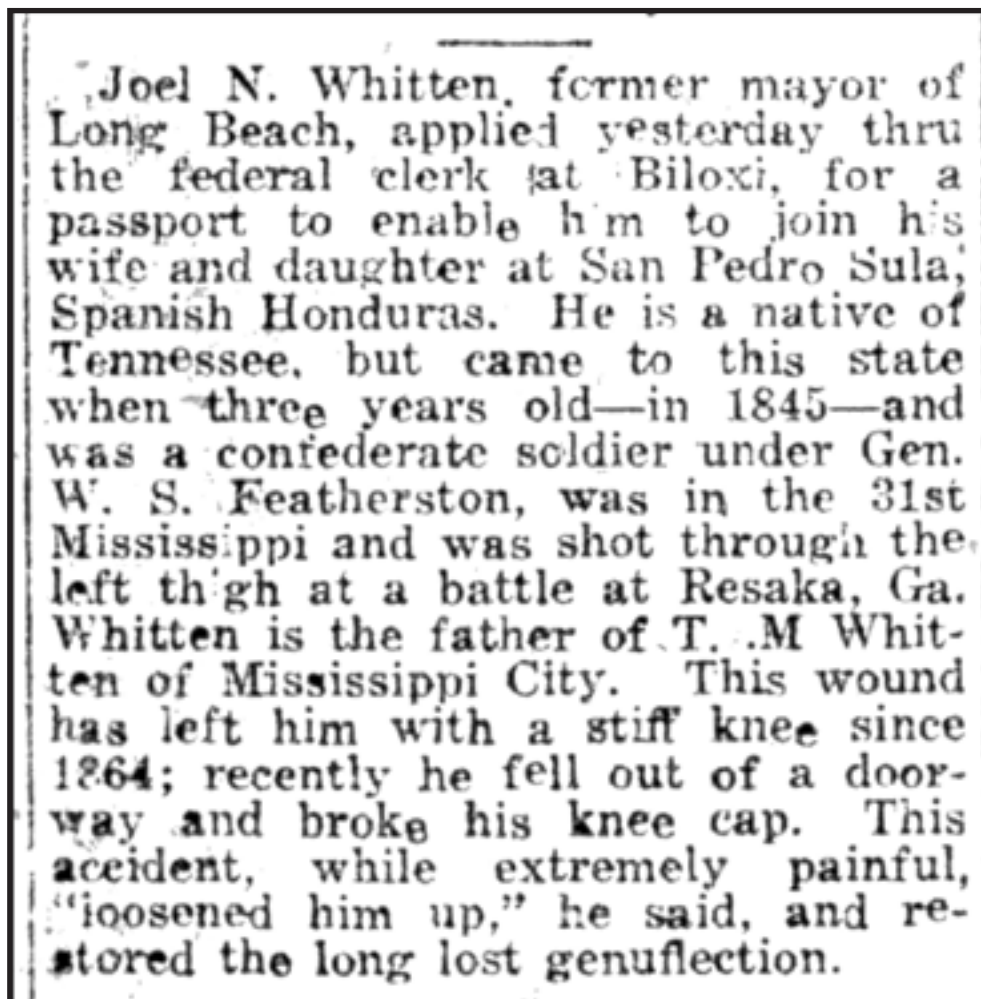
- Preservation and management of historic and cultural resources of Long Beach
- Provide educational opportunities for both its membership and the public

This past month, Long Beach welcomed a new mayor and administration. We wish Mayor Tim Pierce, the Board of Aldermen and City Hall the best of luck! It seemed a good time to learn about Long Beach's first mayor, Joel Newton Whitten.

Mayor Joel Newton Whitten

Long Beach's inaugural mayor, Joel Newton Whitten, hailed from Tennessee and grew up in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. A well-educated man, he served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and sustained a knee injury. Faced with the prospect of amputation, he made the difficult choice to leave the hospital and ultimately recovered, although he dealt with walking difficulties for much of his life. Interestingly, an injury from a fall at his Long Beach home later resolved the issues he faced with that knee.

After an unsuccessful stint in Texas, Whitten relocated his family to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, where they thrived in Long Beach's flourishing



The Gulfport Daily Thursday April 15, 1920

agricultural conditions. He was instrumental in persuading family and friends from his hometown to join him in this promising area.

Mayor Whitten constructed the two-story house that now stands on Second Street, directly across from City Hall. Originally, it was located where Bank House Coffee currently operates, before being relocated by oxen.



In the spring of 1905, Joel Whitten was elected Long Beach's first mayor in anticipation of the city's official incorporation, which was enacted on August 5, 1905. Alongside his mayoral duties, Whitten also served as the supervisor for the Harrison County Farm and held various positions on committees throughout Harrison County. He enjoyed a fulfilling life with his devoted wife and children.

Both Joel Newton Whitten and his wife, Julia Morrow Whitten, passed away in 1929 and were laid to rest in the Beauvoir Confederate Cemetery in Biloxi.

On July 28th last an election was held by the qualified electors of the proposed corporation of the town of Long Beach to decide upon the persons to be recommended to the Governor for appointment as officers of said town, until the general election. A full and fair expression of the choice of the electors was had resulting as follows: Mayor, J. N. Whitten; Board of Aldermen, Ed. Sugden, W. B. Stevenson, D. L. Hays, Louis Sugden and Wm. Smith. For marshal, Ed. Kline, and for treasurer, J. Prados. These gentlemen are all well known here and THE RECORD congratulates the good people of Long Beach on their wise selection.

Business man and farmer, George King

George King was born in Troy, Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in 1856. His parents were Green and Jane King. When he was just 8 years old, his father died fighting in the Battle of Franklin in Tennessee. In 1878, he married Mary “Mollie” Miears. Mollie’s father also lost his life at the Battle of Franklin. Both fathers served together in Company A of the Mississippi 31st Infantry.

In 1903, Mollie and George King decided to move to Long Beach. They had heard that it was the radish capital. They packed up their belongings along with their eight children and headed south to see what the town was like. Moving was easier because they had family nearby. They were related to Long Beach’s first mayor, J. N. Whitten — Mollie was his niece, and George was his nephew.

They bought a house on the northwest corner of 4th Street and Jeff Davis Avenue. George worked mainly as a blacksmith. Since farming was popular in the area, he wanted to try that too, even if only a little. The big oaks near their home made a nice shade for his blacksmith shop.

There were two blacksmiths in town, George and his cousin, James King. George’s shop was on 2nd Street, across from City Hall. Later, Mayor J.N. Whitten moved his house to the spot where George’s blacksmith shop once stood. That house still stands today across from City Hall on 2nd Street.

Over time, the Kings joined truck growers’ groups. There were two in Long Beach then. The group’s leaders traveled often to big northern cities. They wanted to tell buyers when and where to get their vegetables. It was an early way of promoting their crops.

The family lived on Jeff Davis Avenue, just across from the school that is now Town Green.

George King died in 1920. He was buried at Long Beach City Cemetery on Girard Avenue. He was a member of the Southern Star Masonic Lodge No. 500.

Early School Adventures

A kind man named Harper McCaughan gave land to the city to help with education. Everyone watched as O. E. Thompson built the second school in 1906, spending \$7,000. W. T. Harness was the one who designed that early building.

Many stories have been told about the 1906 school, and most are probably true. The long steps up to the school often became the place for mischief. One funny and famous event happened on Halloween. Some boys stole a wagon from Mr. Baily’s store, took it apart, and carried the pieces up to the roof of the two-story school. There, they put it back together. The next morning, the steps were damaged as some men tried to return the wagon, in one piece, back to Mr. Baily. Today, the area is our town green, named after Harper McCaughan. It’s been the spot for many gatherings and is a popular place for the community to meet and enjoy.

**WE ARE NOT DESCENDED
FROM FEARFUL MEN!
-Edward R. Morrow**

America 250!

On July 4, 2026, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This milestone gives us a chance to look back on our history, honor the many different Americans who shaped it, and dream about the future we want to build for those coming after us.

While we will officially mark 250 years on July 4, 2026, many key moments have already reached this milestone. For example, on April 18, 2025, people across the country placed lanterns on their porches to honor Paul Revere's midnight ride. He warned that the British were coming by sea. Interestingly, Paul Revere was not the only rider that night; he was the one who got caught. We often hear he shouted, "The British are coming!" but he probably didn't say that exact phrase. Back then, he and many Americans still saw themselves as British. The more accurate phrase would be, "The Redcoats are coming!" If you haven't read Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride," I recommend it. It's full of spirit and very inspiring.

The Battle of Bunker Hill is also reaching its 250th birthday this June. Most know it as the site of the famous "shot heard around the world." New research shows the real fight happened on Breed's Hill, not Bunker Hill. A British officer mistakenly recorded it as Bunker Hill at the time.

Another important date is July 2, 1775, when General George Washington arrived in Boston to lead the Continental Army.

As the 250th anniversary approaches, take the next 11 months to learn and share stories about the founding of our country. It's easy to forget how special this attempt at freedom and democracy really is.

The Gulf Coast Campaign

You might not think about the Gulf Coast's role in the Revolution, but it's pretty interesting. Back in 1776, what is now Long Beach was under British control. This changed because of battles among the big powers of that time. Before the British took over, the land kept switching between France and Spain, based on earlier wars. When Britain won the French and Indian War, they took over this territory. Spain wanted to get back what it considered Spanish West Florida.

According to www.revolutionary-war.org, "The Gulf Coast Campaign, also called the Spanish conquest of British West Florida, was a series of military actions by Spain during the American Revolutionary War. Led by Bernardo de Gálvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, these operations aimed to take control of British-held areas along the Gulf Coast." Gálvez kept British forces busy in the Gulf of Mexico, now called the Gulf of America.

Many names from the Gulf Coast can trace their roots back to Gálvez and his troops. Names like Ladner, LeBlanc, Benard, Rousseau, Boudreau, Bourg, and Allen all have ties to this history. It's a proud part of our story!

Old Clippings from

Leaving Mississippi City, Gulfport and Long Beach are the principal places, with Pitcher point last, before reaching Pass Christian. Each one of these places is built principally along the shore, so that the through line would in each place serve the purpose of a local street car line, as well as a line of connection with the other resorts. The only thing about the enterprise at all strange is that it has not been carried out long ago, but as said before the changes in the law have contributed to that fact.

Daily Herald · Wed, Jul 25, 1900

AT LONG BEACH

was found a community of happy, prosperous and neighborly people—some of the old style, who have not yet forgotten how to be kind to each other, nor allowed the all-pervading spirit of competition and commercialism to grind from their breasts all the finer human feelings. There are many pretty homes and pleasant locations in Long Beach. Here more than any other place on the gulf coast is attention paid to truck gardening, and the gardeners here have proved that this “sandy soil” is capable of producing vegetables at a good profit for shipment to northern markets.

“Mine host” Quarrels is landlord at the pleasant and homelike hotel of Long Beach. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Hayes are the leading merchants.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AT LONG BEACH

Chas. Kohler of Long Beach believes that his town has reached that point in its history where a small banking institution would pay handsome dividends. From Long Beach, during the shipping season of vegetables to the north and east there go forward more than 300 cars, each of which contains about 110 barrels, and which, at an average of \$3 per barrel, yield enormous sums.

These garden products are paid for by checks, which, in the absence of banks, are cashed by local merchants. It is contended that this feature of a banking business there alone would insure a profit to say nothing of the large sums of money that are needed in the many trucking enterprises there.

Daily Herald · Tue, Jan 11, 1910 ·

the Daily Herald



Menu

Sunday Dinner

APPETIZER
Green Split Pea Soup
with Croutons

SALAD
Black & Gold on Crisp Lettuce

ENTREE

1. Fried Oysters with Lemon Wedge and Tartar Sauce	\$1.50
2. Old-Fashioned Chicken and Dumplings	\$1.25
3. Jumbo Fan Tail Shrimp with Tartar Sauce and Lemon Wedge	\$1.75
4. Bruceloni (Stuffed Steak) with Spaghetti and Tomato Gravy	\$1.75
5. Grilled Pork Chops with Apple Jelly	\$1.75

VEGETABLES—CHOICE OF TWO

Stuffed Irish Potato	Field Peas with Snaps
Blue Lake Cut Green Beans	Creamed Petit Pois Peas

DESSERT

Hot Buttered French Bread	Banana Pudding	Coffee or Tea
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Chehardy's Restaurant

AND MOTEL

Hwy. 90
Long Beach
Dial UN 3-8353

Located east of White Harbor Road, was destroyed during hurricane Camille

Dues paid in October will be for 2026.

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

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

Find more at lbhistoricalsociety.org

