



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering and Preserving
the past to empower the future

Next Meeting January 19 at 6:00 pm

January 2026

President's Message

I just want to take a moment to shout out a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who showed up for our last two meetings. The turnout was fantastic! We had some awesome speakers and presentations throughout 2025, and we're super excited to carry that momentum into 2026. Let's keep that passion burning bright!

Also, a huge thanks to everyone involved in the Long Beach Cemetery Tour—it was a blast! A special nod goes out to Courtney Welch, Tina Dahl, Eddie Ware, Pat & Russ Jones, Danny Hansen, and Lucius Marks for their hard work.

As we kick off 2026, the Long Beach Historical Society is gearing up for even more exciting events and opportunities to dive into our rich history. We'd love to see you all at our meetings, so feel free to bring along family and friends!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

*Sincerely
Billy Skellie*

Vice-President's Message

Hey there, Long Beach History buffs!

Happy New Year! We've got some exciting news to kick off the year right! The Long Beach Historical Society is gearing up to unveil new exhibits at the Quarles House, and trust us—you won't want to miss it!

This is your chance to dive into our town's rich history, learn some fascinating stories, and connect with fellow history enthusiasts. Whether you're a longtime local or just passing through, these exhibits will showcase the heart and soul of Long Beach like never before.

Stay tuned for all the juicy details coming your way, and let's make this year one to remember as we celebrate our local heritage together!

See you at the Quarles House!

*Sincerely
Courtney Cuevas-Welch*

The Nu-Grape Bottling Company***SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS
LONG BEACH, MS***

Published quarterly by the
Long Beach
Historical Society

Officers

- President - Billy Skellie
- Vice President - Courtney Welch
- Secretary - Allisa Beck
- Treasurer - Eddie Ware

Board of Directors

- Lucius Marks
- Bernie Parker
- Danny Hansen
- Tina Dahl

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.

2026 Meetings:

- **January 19 - 6:00 pm**
- April 20 - 6:00 pm
- July 20 - 6:00 pm
- October 19 - 6:00 pm

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.com

Website:

www.lbhistoricalsociety.com
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

In the late 1940's and early 50's, Long Beach had a soft drink bottling company. The Nu-Grape Bottling Company was located on the west side of Jeff Davis Avenue, at 138, to be exact, between 3rd St. and the Bankhouse Coffee building, sitting behind the buildings which faced the avenue in those days. The company was a 3-man operation, or I should say two men and a boy.....I was the boy.

Mr. Lyman H. Coker was the manager and inspector. The other gentleman was Dallas F. Boothe, a good natured, tall, lanky fellow, and in the days before video games, he had the best hand and eye coordination of anyone I'd ever seen. We bottled two flavors, grape and one of the best orange drinks I'd ever tasted.

A typical run started just at daylight on a Saturday morning. The syrup was gravity fed from two large wooden barrels that were in the loft. Downstairs there was a large metal conveyor belt running down the center of the building. It held around six bottles across. I stood on one side of the conveyor and the bottler on the other. I loaded dirty bottles in one side, upside down in the belt, and as they moved around, were washed and returned back to me...I took the clean bottles and stuck them in the other side for the bottler and at the same time putting more dirty bottles in the rack. (Lucy & Ethel candy skit style). The bottler standing on the other side would remove a clean bottle and place it in the first station of the bottling machine and start the actual bottling process. The machine had three stations, the first syrup, the second, carbonated water and the third, installation of the cap.

The first bottle was put in and the handle pulled one way for syrup in the first bottle. Another clean bottle came in and moved the first to station 2 where the handle was pulled with the bottler's foot putting a cap on bottle. Another bottle came in..1 to 2 to 3 and 3, etc. The bottler then took the finished bottle and threw it down a long wooden chute. The man was amazing as his left hand was putting clean bottles in the machine and working the handle with right hand while one foot was working the peddle all at the same time, throwing the finished bottle down the chute where Mr. Coker removed and placed them on top of a box for inspection (light bulb inside).

Mr. Coker then put the bottles in wooden cases. Once the operation began, we would bottle around a hundred or so cases in a few hours. As I mentioned before, the bottler never missed a beat, and still had time to hand me a drink before its' cap went on. One hasn't lived until tasting a fresh cold soda pop with fizzy carbonated water and fresh syrup!

We then loaded the cases on the truck and Mr. Boothe and I made deliveries, mostly in Gulfport, till around dark...a long day but always great! (*author unknown*)

Our Town from Newspaper Articles

From January 11, 1902: Long Beach Personals

- A Boggs was in Gulfport Friday on business.
- Louis Kohler has returned from South Africa.
- James B Cable was in Biloxi Saturday on business.
- H Y Quarles was a business visitor to New Orleans Thursday.
- Sam Capers, of New Orleans, was over for a few hours Thursday.
- Misses Minnie and Mae Quarles have entered the Gulfport High School.
- C B Gates (former LB mayor) has moved to Gulfport and will make that place his home.
- U Wright and B T Quarles spent Sunday at home with their friends.
- Misses Mae Angel and Alice Benedict were visiting friends here Sunday.
- T M Whitten (son of 1st mayor) of this place, is now agent of the L&N at Mississippi City.
- W J Quarles and E Harris were of last week's business visitors to Mississippi City.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat on Nov 17, 1905:

Louisville & Nashville Interurban Service will be inaugurated in a very short time. Unless something unforeseen intervenes to prevent, the interurban service of the L&N, from Bay St Louis to Ocean Springs, will be inaugurated next Monday, Nov 20. Superintendent Marshall, it is expected, will make the official announcement to this effect today. Nine new trains will be making stops at Henderson's Point, Pass Christian, White Harbor, Long Beach, Gulfport, Mississippi City, Beauvoir, Biloxi, Oak St and Ocean Springs. The new service will give the coast towns from Bay St Louis to Ocean Springs, inclusive, train communication practically every hour and a half from daylight to dark, in addition to the regular through train service, which they now enjoy.

From Dec 13, 1905

The Herald reported on an article in the New Orleans Item of the day before:

Stories of the sudden boom in Mississippi coast lands since the operation of the Interurban trains are coming from the gulf cities. It is said that \$25 a front foot has been paid for lots intermediate between Long Beach and Mississippi City, and similar prices are being asked for all residential plats all along the thirty mile extent of the shuttle trains.

Nearly fifteen hundred people—thirteen hundred and fifty, to be exact---traveled back and forth last Sunday between Bay St Louis and Ocean Springs. The patronage of the Louisville & Nashville service has grown to proportions far above what was expected, especially at such seasons of the year. The sudden growth of property values along the line is believed by railroad officials to be a steady increase, and not a boom.

"A city thirty miles long and a mile and a half wide is going to grow up over there," was the opinion expressed by a prominent real estate man of the coast this morning. "It will be virtually a part of New Orleans, and the growth of this country is to the benefit of the city."

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEY'S

From Oct 13, 1906: What the Old State is Doing

Long Beach, Saw Mill Moved to Quarles-Big Jump in Pine Land Value.

The saw mill of Toomer & Graham, just north of the town limits, is to be moved to Quarles, an interurban station, two miles west of town. Some days ago H Y Quarles bought of John Lang, of Pass Christian, a tract of pine land containing several hundred acres for \$30 an acre. A few years ago this land could have been bought for \$5 an acre or less. When Mr. Quarles asked to buy it Mr Lang said, "No, I am going to hold that until I can get \$30 an acre for it." In a few hours afterwards Mr Quarles presented the amount to Mr Lang and the land soon changed hands, somewhat to Mr Lang's regret, for he did not expect to be taken up at \$30 an acre.

From Jan 24, 1907: A Bright Prospect for an Improved Beach Road

A party of gentlemen who represent the business and official interests of this Gulf Coast left Biloxi this morning in three automobiles for a westerly trip over the beach drive way and are to inspect its condition as far as Pass Christian with a view of improving this attractive feature of this coast so as to make it first class and substantial.

The unity of interests and the fellowship of effort on the part of representative citizens of Biloxi, Mississippi City, Gulfport, Long Beach and Pass Christian, together with the cordial support of the county supervisors, composing this party warrants large expectations from this day's inspection. Tomorrow's Herald will contain a full report of the condition of the present road-bed, and the forecast of plans for its improvement by the combined commercial, municipal and county officers controlling frontage for nearly 25 miles along Mississippi sound.

From July 30, 1908: A United Coast Gulfport Record-Tribune

The interests of the various coast towns are very similar. Several of the leading municipalities bordering on the Mississippi sound are connected by electric railway with Gulfport and Biloxi both representing both business and residential sections and Long Beach and Mississippi largely residential only.

Work should never cease for a moment for a united coast. The municipal authorities of the towns, the commercial organizations, the clubs, and last but not least, the individuals should work constantly for greater co-operation.

Railroads, industries, commercial advantages of every kind should be induced to look to this section as one of the most promising of the state.

From August 24, 1909

Slowly but surely the summer season is drawing to a close. It is probably no exaggeration to say that it has been one of the most successful in years. Starting in at Bay St Louis and Waveland including Pass Christian, Long Beach, Mississippi City, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs and other coast resorts,

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEY'S

there are no reports that do not sound encouraging. In this city particularly the number of visitors exceeded the record of any previous year in the history of the town.

From Dec 14, 1910 Dr Carraway Still Mayor of Long Beach, Defeated C B Gates in election yesterday Other Officials Elected

Dr E H Carraway is to be mayor of Long Beach for another term. He was elected yesterday over C B Gates, receiving 30 votes to Gates' 21. J B Stone will be marshall in place of Klein. William Tell beat O'Pry for clerk and Nevers will succeed William Smith as one of the councilmen. Otherwise there is no change in the official family at Long Beach.

From Dec 27, 1910:

H J Quarles, a well-known trucker of Long Beach, is in Pittsburg, he having gone there in the interest of the gardeners in his section, who will soon begin to ship their products to that market.

Feb 12, 1914 Society and Personal Items

The Long Beach Civic Improvement League meets tomorrow at 3 o'clock at the school building. A full attendance is desired.

Miss May Quarles organized in Long Beach recently a Woman's Canning Club with a charter membership of ten. Mrs. I D Toomer was elected president, Mrs. F C Gates, vice president, and Mrs. E D Willett, secretary.

William Hansen, of Bay St Louis and formerly of Gulfport, was a visitor in Gulfport today.

From January 4, 1917 Radish Income for Long Beach & Suit against Long Beach

Long Beach is enjoying an income of about \$200 per day from its radish crop which is being shipped by express for the present. Twenty-five barrels a day is the estimate placed on the shipments, and they are bringing \$8 each in the northern markets. The price is good, although in the past the radish has brought more.

The suit of James Thomas against the town of Long Beach will come up Tuesday before Circuit Court. It involves the contraction of the western and northern corporate limits of the town.

Small Feature in School History

One-Hundred and 3 Years Ago, in 1923, the first group of students in our school system completed twelve grades in the town for the first time. Those five graduates were Eddie Belle Richardson, Margaret Cruthirds, David Weeks, Martha Kerr, and E. H. Conn.

Why is this, you ask? Because for many years, there were only ten grades being taught at Long Beach School. A certificate was given to all whom completed the ten grades, but if desiring a regular diploma, enrollment was necessary in another school which taught twelve grades. Many enrolled at Gulfport High School but they had to catch a trolley or bus at the shore. This necessitated fare both ways. Some families with several children could not accomplish this task and made arrangements for their children to spend evenings and nights with friends or relatives living in Gulfport.

Fortunately, our graduates never had to be concerned with that problem again after 1923.

LONG BEACH BENEFITS FROM RAIN

The rain at Long Beach last night was worth thousands of dollars to the old corn and sugar cane crops in that section, said L. K. Hill this morning. The rain was sufficient for all needs and saved the crops mentioned from ruin, or a great shortage at least. Mr. Hill is one of the larger farmers in that section and expects to make 2000 gallons of syrup, but he is apprehensive about being able to get tin cans in which to put it. He considers packing a good home made syrup in barrels as lowering its quality.

LONG BEACH BOY ARRIVES IN FRANCE

News has been received at Long Beach by Mrs. F. L. Taquino that her son, Corporal Douglas Taquino, has arrived in France. Douglas, although but 18 years old, was one of Capt. Smith's first volunteers. He left with Company G last August for Jackson where later he was transferred to Camp Beauregard and became a member of 142nd M. G. Bat., Co. D.

LABOR SHORTAGE AT LONG BEACH

Loss of Food Stuff Will be Great Unless Men Can Be Secured at Once to Gather Crops

GULFPORT

The crops at Long Beach have more than come up to the expectations of the truck growers and give promise of satisfactory returns but a condition has developed that has brought no little uneasiness to the truckers.

"We have the crops," say the farmers, "and we have the market and satisfactory prices, but there is an alarming scarcity of labor to gather the crops. We have advertised for men and we have made offers of good pay, but thus far we have had no response to our calls. The crops will not wait and unless we are able to get the needed help right away our loss will be a great one."

The Long Beach farmers have not overdrawn the problem which confronts them. Their crops have to be moved right quickly and unless they succeed in getting labor enough serious losses will surely overtake them.

Should there be any idle men at work in this vicinity they would do well to report at once to Long Beach, and place their services at the disposal of the farmers. The cry throughout the United States is for more food. In fact, those in authority say food will help to win the war. Therefore, all who can do, so should hasten in the Long Beach truck region and help save the crops.

LONG BEACH DID HERSELF PROUD

Added Materially To the Success of the Liberty Bond Parade On Wednesday.

GULFPORT

Long Beach added materially to the success of the Liberty Bond parade on Wednesday, furnishing a number of well decorated autos and an interesting float. This was contributed by the Long Beach auxiliary of Red Cross and elicited much favorable comment. The auto truck was tastefully decorated in the national colors and flew the Stars and Stripes from one end and the Red Cross flags at the other. A large Red Cross banner covered the end of the truck.

The center figure was a wounded soldier with bandaged head lying on a regulation army cot. At each side sat a Red Cross nurse in attendance. At the four corners of the float were our lovely young women in Red Cross costume knitting, sewing on hospital garments or working on surgical dressings, showing the different departments of the work.

DUES ARE DUE

Annual membership dues are in effect from January 1 to December 31. Dues paid in October, November, or December will be applied to the following year.

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.