

# Smoke From The Chimneys



# Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

April 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lovers of History, Long Beach and All Things Olde,

Before you read a word, allow me to publicly apologize to five members who were not informed of the change of venue for the Winter Soup Luncheon on January 9, and went to the original location. I spoke with them personally about the meeting, but their names were left off the list of confirmations whom we called about the change. Dr. & Mrs. Magruder Corban, Mr. John French, and Dr. & Mrs. Hurd Gaddy, you are all dedicated members who deserved better! Please accept my regrets for your inconvenience.

George Washington Carver left us this quotation, "I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." Now that Spring has sprung, hopefully, you have been able to tune in.

Another tune signals the near end of this quarter! These past five years, I have truly enjoyed being involved with the Long Beach Historical Society and want to thank you for the honor of serving as president. Besides a personal journey of learning more about our city, it has opened my eyes to the tremendous accomplishments of previous members, and how much work will be required in the future. We have a diverse cadre of members--interesting, intelligent, innovative and full of energy! The willingness from everyone has impressed and inspired me. No president could have had a better group of fellow officers, all of whom have become dear or dearer friends. Every officer but Beth, lantha, Shugana and me, is a "native Long Beachian"; so, you can be sure that many

fun stories, some wild and crazy, were shared! (Natives, your secrets are safe!) I am proud of our accomplishments but realize that there is so much more to do; further on in the newsletter is a partial list of what your officers have been doing this past year.

Our Spring meeting will be my last as this term's President. I will pass the gavel in July when I will become one of you again--a member willing to help, eager to learn and glad to be a part of this important organization. Physical evidence of history disappears daily--seize any available moment to record (orally, written, by photograph or video) the memories and stories of your relatives and friends--especially the older ones. Keep your own journal or diary, it will be a treasured account of your experiences and personal history; besides, your efforts will serve those generations after you. Along with the officers and Board, I want to thank my husband, King, who has helped me in planning, hauling, setting up and taking down, and everything in between. Additionally, a special note of appreciation to Eddie Ware, the creator of the web page and the one responsible for the professional look of the newsletter. He repaired a leak under the House, moved in all of the furniture and copy machine with the help of Danny (and Beth) Hansen. He spent hours cleaning, built the beam on the ceiling where the wall was removed, and has worked on the copier. He never wants any recognition and works totally behind the scenes--another example of the unselfish talent among our members.

In closing, please consider serving a term as an officer, it is gratifying and eye-opening; call anyone on the Board to submit your name. You only have to organize four meetings per year. Again,

thank you for the privilege of serving this term as President. I sincerely wish for an outstanding future for our organization.

May God bless you and yours, our city and our nation,

*Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Batey,  
President, 2011-12*

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LBHS 2011-12:

Following are some activities and accomplishments of your LB Historical Society thus far this year; however, the year is not over:

- Established a permanent meeting place in a building donated by the City, located on Klondyke Road next to the Fire Station;
- Removed wall in the building to accommodate more space in a central meeting area;
- Acquired a copy machine from the Hancock County Historical Society;
- Acquired used desks, filing cabinets and chairs for meetings;
- Purchased T-shirts with Society logo;
- Participated in the Radish Festival, Veterans Day Parade, Christmas on the Avenue, and the Gulf Coast History Week
- Made Donation to LB Toys for Kids Drive;
- Had our first luncheon meeting with 54 participants;
- Verified names for the new WWII Memorial at Town Green;
- Creating a Master Calendar for future officers;

*(continued page 2)*

## SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

Beth Hansen: Editor

Published quarterly by the  
**Long Beach  
Historical Society**

### 2012 Officers

President – Brenda Batey – 228-437-4983  
Vice-President – Beth Hansen – 228-864-6100  
Secretary – Barbara Kimball – 228-861-3293  
Treasurer – Fran Wren – 228-239-5199

### Board of Directors

Iantha Hines – At-large  
Polly Mincher – At-large  
Shugana Williams – At-large  
Eddie Ware – At-large  
Ashley Skellie – At-large

### Mailing Address:

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

### Physical Address

535 Klondyke RD

*(South side of the central fire station on Klondyke RD)*

Meetings are always quarterly and on the 2nd Monday at the Historical Society Building, 535 Klondyke Rd.

Notifications will be sent if anything changes.

### 2012 Meetings:

January 9, Monday

**April 9, Monday**

**This meeting is at 5:30, a new time**

July 9, Monday

Oct 8, Monday

### Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.org

### 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

- Developing a Handbook for New Officers to facilitate a smooth transition;
- Revised the meeting order to reflect program first, refreshments and business afterwards;
- Revised newsletter format;
- "Clean-up" of membership lists with current contact information;
- Revised Web page;
- Created a tri-fold brochure for handout.

### VP/PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

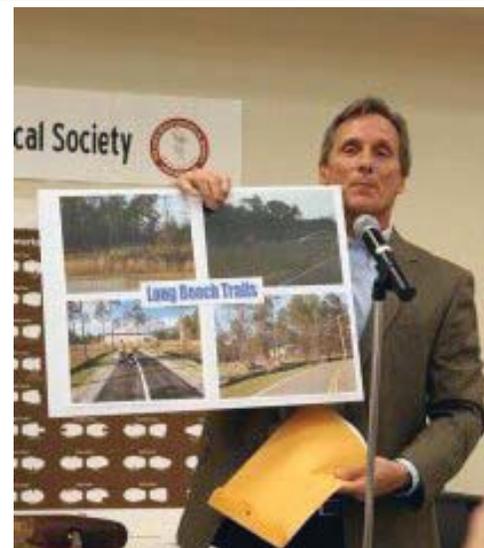
At our last meeting in January, The Mary Ellen Alexander Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Alissa Beck who is the Head Librarian of Collections at USM and has worked tirelessly for the society, serving as president, has been editor of the newsletter as well as serving on many other committees through out the years. Alissa is also president of the Long Beach Friends of the Library, President of the Library Board and is also an officer and committee chairperson in the Historical Society of Gulfport. She is a get involved person and it was our privilege to present her with this award.

We also took great pleasure in presenting the Harper McCaughan award to Glenn Mueller, the president & CEO of RPM Pizza.



Glenn is a dynamic, successful business leader who always makes time for worthy causes. He played a big part in the recently opened Long Beach Trails, the fabulous multi-use pathway. He has served on the Long Beach Vision 2020 Committee, the Long Beach School Safety Task Force and the College of Business at USM, just to name a few.

The program presented at the meeting by



Bill Brown of Cow Pen Creek Farms on the Pineywoods cattle was enjoyed by all. He brought many photographs, albums and artifacts for us to view and his program was very entertaining and fit well with our first meeting where food was served. Speaking of food, everyone really seemed to enjoy the soup luncheon and since attendance was so high, there is a possibility that we may do it again in the future. Let us know how you feel about it. The April 9th meeting will be at 5:30 pm, a new time, so please make a note of it and it will be held at the Historical Society Building at 535 Klondyke Rd. The speaker will be our own Mrs. Polly Dubuisson Mincher who is one of the oldest members of our society. "Miz Polly" has spoken to us before so plan on enjoying every word. She will speak about her family's early years in Long Beach which did not include the modern conveniences that we enjoy today. One funny tidbit is the introduction of the toilet and it's amenities to children just entering school for the first time who had only used "outhouses" at home.

To add to the program, it has been suggested that if any of you also used outhouses feel free to share any funny family stories or pictures that you may have with us, if you desire.

*Respectfully yours,*

*Beth Hansen*

### EARLY ARRIVALS IN LONG BEACH

After arriving in this country new Americans were on the lookout for just the right place to continue their lives. Often times, reports of good farmland would constitute a move, as would various

other reasons. Some moves may have been unplanned and were romantic, funny, intriguing and definitely worth remembering.

Probably a very important move into the town would be the one made by Donatien and Anastasie Dubuisson. They lived close by, over in Pineville, and were persuaded to move to Long Beach for the purpose of boosting the residential count up to the 900 required for incorporation in 1905. They had so many children that the requirement was attained with residents to spare. One of their young sons, Leonard, would become the father of Mrs. Polly Mincher.

Another move was put into motion in 1898 during the Spanish American war as a troop train was passing through. Word is, that back then, people would gather at the depot on Sunday afternoons for the purpose of watching the trains pass through. A young soldier on the train, Wade Kerr, spotted a pretty watcher, Carmelite Thomas, and threw her a note containing his name and address. A correspondence ensued and when the war was over the young man returned and a marriage followed between the two.

Ben Maceri, the brother of Virginia Maceri Carrubba just wanted to tour America in 1902 and then return home to his native Sicily. When he did not arrive at the specified time, his worried father came in search. Seems that the rough seas made Ben so sick that he had no plans to return. His father also liked what he saw here so much that he sent word for his wife to sell the farm in Sicily so she and their daughters could join the men here in Long Beach.

In 1909, August Werner and Willie Neusetzer, sailed in on a Norwegian ship that anchored near Ship Island as ships often did back in those days. August made up his mind to stay here as soon as he got a view of the beautiful coastline from the mast of the ship. On a shore leave, he and Willie met another resident immigrant who offered to help them find work. The men had to jump ship in order to stay. They also had to "borrow" a skiff and row to shore, not an easy task in the dark of night but they accomplished their mission.

A young salesman from New Orleans, James Bailey, who used to sell goods to Mr Quarles for his general store, brought his wife, Caroline, to Long Beach on their honeymoon in 1890. During their stay, they decided to buy the business from Mr Quarles and take up residency in Long Beach.

The adventurous spirit instilled in each of these and other early residents has left a grateful Long Beach a better place due to the positive marks left behind by all of them.

Information from:  
*Rosalie & Radishes*  
*A History of Long Beach, Mississippi*  
by Mary Ellen Alexander

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our own Shugana Williams, and her Katrina Research Center at USM has won the "Preserver of Mississippi Culture" award from the Mississippi Humanities Council for 2012. She will share this award with Edie Green and MS Public Broadcasting in Jackson.

Shaguna has been with USM for 10 years now and since the inception of the Katrina Research Center, she has brought in exhibits as well as creating others for it, has taught workshops, conducted tours and encourages artists to display their work and encourages the public to view and enjoy all.

Shugana is also the current president of the Society of Mississippi Archivists.

### CONDOLENCES

Sympathy is extended to the Woodward & Braud families upon the Feb 20 death of Mrs. Rosina Woodward Braud who leaves behind many loved ones here in Long Beach and elsewhere.

Although not a member of the society, we were also saddened by the loss of the late Bill Seal, a valuable member of our community who also leaves behind a large family.

### THANKS

Thanks to those who helped make the Soup Luncheon a success: Brenda Batey, Beth Hansen, Mable Skellie, Iantha Hines, Faye Collins, Ashley Skellie, Fran Wren and so many others. A huge thanks also to the First United Methodist Church for graciously lending us the use of their facility when we need it.

### A REMINDER AND MORE THANKS!!

Now that the Historical Society has use of a building that we can call our own we'd like to remind all past officers and committee chairman to locate any books, papers, data, or information of any kind that may belong to us that you've forgotten and may still have stored in your homes. We now have a proper place for these things. The society began in 1997, a fairly

long time ago, so please think about this again. You may want to free up some valuable space in your homes by returning these items to us.

In the last newsletter, this was mentioned and we had a pleasant surprise. Other folks who had things that they thought we would like to have for display came forth and brought them to us. Pat Maxwell, who now lives in Virginia, sent us a framed copy of the first Annual Radish Festival poster from 1991. Many thanks Pat for being so thoughtful. Also thank you to Rose Donaldson who came forth with an armload of goodies and books including an 8th grade graduation certificate from our school system. At some point, very soon, we will display all of these items for all to see at our meetings and have them on shelves for perusal. We look forward to the time when we can open our building for short periods of time, maybe an afternoon or two, during the week. This will happen after we collect enough items and books that folks may want to see for genealogy or other historical purposes.

We are moving slowly but have not wavered in these plans for the future.

### PARTICIPATION IN THE 22ND ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI COAST HISTORY WEEK FEBRUARY 13, 14 AND 15

We manned a booth during the Coast History week that is put on every year by the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Library. It was held this year in the civic center that is attached to the new library. Some of the other groups participating had some really elaborate displays and we are already making plans on how to improve ours for next year. Make sure and attend this event next year if you've never done so. You will be pleasantly surprised.

### NEW MEMBERS

We're very excited to welcome the following to our society

- Ann Stewart
- Charlotte Timmons
- Amy Spears Wilson
- Bill & Jackie Hansen
- Betty D'Aquilla
- Jerome & Cheryl Nyberg
- Talia Lock
- Tiffany Batey Gordon
- Trey Batey
- Anna Berry
- Robin Thorn
- Ginger & Paul Terrell

## SPOTLIGHTING OLDER HOMES IN LONG BEACH

(This is also spotlighting Mrs. Polly Dubuissou MIncher, our speaker for this month)

According to Miz Polly:

*“My parents were Leonard and Minnie Briggs Dubuissou, also the parents of two sons, Clyde & Ray.*

*My father built our house in 1921 with the help of my mother's father, James J Briggs. Each piece of yellow virgin Pine was picked out from John Dedeaux's sawmill and the house was built with double walls. Uncle Albert built the fireplace using cream brick and maroon mortar, both of which retain their vibrant color today. Our cousins built the steps. Father put screens in the dining room & kitchen cabinets, which are still intact today.*

*Our house was heated with a wood stove and a pot-bellied heater. There was no electricity, gas or running water but father did install a bathroom for future use. Luckily, a bathtub easily fit in this space many years later. Such tubs had not been designed at the time this room was constructed.*

*Our property had been part of the Old Spanish Trail from Mobile to New Orleans and contained 10 acres in the beginning but we acquired 30 more acres later. My father wanted to farm on this land and built himself a barn in which to store his equipment. Now, the home rests on one acre.*

*My brothers and I all moved away but I came back years later to care for my ailing parents and have lived in my childhood home again since that time and have taken steps to insure that the remaining property stays in my family.”*

