

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

April 2013

President's Message

Our quarterly newsletter always contains interesting articles about Long Beach thanks to hard work of our Vice-President, Beth Hansen. This issue is no exception. You should notice that we have expanded the size from four to eight pages which provides additional space for stories and photographs.

There are two items in this newsletter that I particularly call to your attention. First, you will find an article announcing five recommended changes to the Society's by-laws. Generally, these changes will allow for the corporate year to begin January 1 and conclude on December 31 (rather than the current August 1 - July 31 which for bookkeeping is very confusing). Another change incorporates into the By-Laws the new position of Governmental Affairs Liaison. Finally, other changes provide for a more efficient election process. All of these proposals, which are unanimously recommended by your Officers and Directors, will be voted on by the membership present at the April meeting. (see page 5)

You will also notice something new has been added to "Smoke From The Chimneys"—advertising! Six local individual business and professional

men and women agreed to support the Society by buying an advertisement. We will be able to use the funds from these ads to offset the recurring cost of printing and mailing expenses. Please make it a point to let these folks know we appreciate their support!

Finally, a word regarding membership. I appreciate the efforts so many of you are making to obtain new members or encourage renewals. Please continue to help us enlist new members—they are the life blood of our organization!

Proud to call Long Beach home!

Donald Dana, Jr.

Vice President/Program Chairman Message

Our Second Annual Soup Luncheon in January was very successful this year and the program was enjoyed by all. Ronnie Skellie spoke about his two volume book based on the diaries and letters of the Confederate soldiers of the Immortal 7th Mississippi. He said that relatives of the men were still calling him at press time never realizing that anyone would still be interested in the 150 year old correspondence left behind.

Awards were also presented in January and information about them

is included elsewhere in this edition of Smoke from the Chimneys.

I'm happy to announce that Dr. David Holt of USM will be the featured speaker at the April 8 meeting at the society building. Dr. Holt is Assistant Professor of Geography in the College of Science and Technology; the coordinator of Senior Honors for the Gulf Coast Campuses Honors College and Faculty Adviser for Gamma Theta Upsilon, Iota Alpha Gulf Coast, Chapter of the International Geographical Honor Society. He will speak to us about the work that he and his students have been doing in cemeteries, including the Long Beach Cemetery and the equipment that was used.

I read the lengthy article that the Sun Herald published several months back about Dr. Holt's work and I'm sure we will all enjoy hearing about it first hand.

In July we're looking forward to a program by Paul Jermyn on Long Beach. Paul has an extensive photograph collection that he's amassed over the years. See you on April 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hansen

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

Beth Hansen: Editor

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

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Vice-President – Beth Hansen – 228-864-6100
Secretary – Allisa Beck – 228-864-7325
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Shugana Williams – At-large
Eddie Ware – At-large

Mailing Address:

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

Physical Address

645 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, 645 Klondyke Rd. Notifications will be sent if anything changes.

2013 Meetings:

January 14, Monday, 11:00 AM
April 8, Monday, 5:30 PM
July 8, Monday, 5:30 PM
Oct 7, Monday, 5:30 PM

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

**Ronnie Skellie
January's guest speaker**



Photo by Rich Kopp MGCCC photographer

**Charles Sullivan Receives Lifetime
Achievement Award**



Photo by Rich Kopp MGCCC photographer

Charles L Sullivan, archivist at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and author of four historical publications relating to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is recipient of the 2012 Mary Ellen Alexander Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Award was presented at the January quarterly meeting of the Long Beach Historical Society by Donald Dana, society president. "Professor Sullivan is being recognized for his lifetime of service which includes teaching, writing, and

helping preserve the rich history of our region. His accomplishments are recognized by historians throughout Mississippi and the United States."

The Lifetime Achievement Award is named in honor of Mary Ellen Alexander, the first president and founder of the Long Beach Historical Society. The award has been given each year since 2004.

The 2012 Harper McCaughan Award was presented to Mayor Billy Skellie for his leadership in helping reestablish the World War II Memorial on the new Town Green on Jeff Davis Ave. During his tenure as mayor, Skellie has worked closely with the society in helping preserve the history of Long Beach.

Also at the January meeting, Friends of the Society plaques were presented to members Beth Hansen and Eddie Ware.

Eddie is on the Board, and has created (and maintains) our website, an online payment site for paying dues, online membership rosters and lays out and prints Beth's newsletter, and other endeavors too numerous to mention.

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Beth is an officer, is editor of *Smoke from the Chimneys*, and genuinely interested in the looks, future and success of our building and was deeply involved in the selection of chairs and carpeting. She and Eddie work together frequently, sometimes conversing while he is under the society building or in its attic making repairs.

"Without the dedication of members such as Beth and Eddie, the work of the Society could not be done." Dana said.

**Governor's Mansion
Being Renovated**

Mississippi's historic Governor's Mansion in Jackson is undergoing a renovation project to help preserve the 150 year old building and its art, antique furniture, and historic furnishings. A fire suppression system and new heating/cooling system are being installed to protect the structure and its contents from damage by fluctuations in humidity and temperature.

Regular public tours of the historic building will be suspended April through August as construction progresses throughout the Mississippi Landmark. Lauren Miller, mansion

curator, said, "We regret that we will not offer tours this spring and summer, but this work will maintain the mansion for generations to come."

Explore the furniture of the Mississippi Governor's Mansion online at <http://mdah.state.ms.us/museum/furnishings.html> Mississippi History Newsletter, Spring 2013

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Epitaphs

We've all known someone who has collected something during their lifetime. Salt and pepper shakers were a favorite back in the day, small figurines or whatnots as some called them, stamps, etc. Did you know that some people collect epitaphs? Yes, they walk through cemeteries looking for unusual inscription on tombstones. The stones that bear the most personality are of course, the ones that are the most appealing.

Who among us has not wandered around in a cemetery and not been touched or moved by what we've seen and read there? In much earlier times, people felt the need to leave permanent records of who they were and what they stood for. Today folks tend to keep mum about such things. It's a wonder that the

people of earlier generations were able to tell us so much considering that each letter had to be chiseled by hand on the tombstones. Early in the 19th century it appeared that the epitaphs were written expressly to soothe the bereaved and possibly that helped make them interesting to others who viewed them. Although many of the messages are sad, and some poignant, others are just downright funny which explains the fascination with them. (What may seem to be misspellings are just a sign of the times)

JEFFREY M. NIOLET, D.M.D.



nioletdentalcare@gmail.com

300 East Railroad Street • Long Beach, MS 39560
Phone: (228) 864-8711 Fax: (228) 864-3765

Old Days Mystery #1
Can you guess the answer?
What caused the damage to the steps of the first brick school on Jeff Davis Ave?
(Answers in the back, but don't peek too quickly)

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Epitaphs continued on page 4

Epitaphs from page 3

**In 1797 in Topsfield Mass
is seen this inscription:**

*Reader pass on and ne'er waste your
time, On bad biography and bitter
rhyme For what I am this cumb'rous
clay insures, And what I was is no
affair of yours.*

Hartford Conn 1882

*I was somebody.
Who, is no business of yours.*

1688 Watertown, MASS

*Here lyes ye precious dust of Tom
Bailey, A painful preacher, An eminent
liver, A tender husband, A careful
father, A brother for adversity,
A faithful friend, A most desirable
neighbor, A pleasant companion,
A common good, A cheerful doer,
A patient sufferer, Lived much in little
time. A good copy for all survivors
Age 35 He slept in Jesus ye
21st of Jany 1688*

**On the grave of an 8 year old little
girl in Plymouth Mass, 1804**

*As young as beautiful!
And soft as young,
As gay as soft; and innocent as gay!*

Vernon Vermont 1790

*Were I so Tall to Reach the Pole Or
grasp the Ocean with my Span, I must
be mesuer'd by my Soul, The Mind's
the Standard of the Man.*

**On the grave of a 1 year old in
Hinsdale New Hampshire**

*Come little children see the place
where infant dust must lie
There is no age that's free from this,
both young and old must die*

Billerica Mass 1776

*The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when they sleep in Dust.*

**Plymouth Mass on the grave of
a 25 day old baby**

*What did the Little hasty sojourner
find so forbidding & disgustful in
our upper World to occasion its
precipitant exit.*

Hartford Conn 1882

*Those who cared for him while living
will know whose body is buried here.
To others it does not matter.*

1796 Keene, New Hampshire

*How loved, how valued once avails
thee not To whom related or by whom
begot; A heap of dust alone remains
of thee 'Tis all thou are, and what we
all must be.*

Old Days Mystery #2

Can you guess the answer

**What did J J McCaughan build in
front of his home?**

(Answers in the back, but don't peek too quickly)

Something New

The society now has a Refreshment Committee of which Iantha Hines is the Chairperson. Her new group is: Ashley Skellie, Pat Skellie, Ola Mae Dana, Brenda Batey, Julia Arceneaux and Stephanie Bass. Welcome ladies!!

The First Mayor of Long Beach



Joel N Whitten, the first mayor of our city, was a veteran of the Civil War and was only in his early twenties when he served. He later married and began his family before moving from Pontotoc to Long Beach where he operated a store in the vicinity of the Pineville Shopping center.

The Whittens sold their two story home and property on Jeff Davis Ave to Hancock Bank and the home was moved several yards down Second St around 1924 in order to build the bank. The Whitten home is still standing today.

The Whittens died in the 1920's and

Whittens continued on page 7

The above info taken from Epitaphs to Remember by Janet Green. A portion of the Whitten column is from Rosalie & Radishes by Mary Ellen Alexander.

EYE EXAMINATIONS
CONTACT LENSES

Dr. Max Edrington
OPTOMETRIST, PA

(228) 868-2020
FAX 863-2695
email: drmax@cableone.net

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202 EAST RAILROAD STREET
LONG BEACH, MS 39560

RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN SOCIETY'S BY-LAWS

The Society's officers and directors met February 18 and approved the following revisions to the by-laws. According to the by-laws, any proposed changes must be presented to the membership for adoption at a regularly scheduled meeting. The proposed revisions will be presented and voted on at the April meeting.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 5.

Current: To commemorate the incorporation of Long Beach on August 10, 1905, the Corporation's business year shall begin August 1 and conclude July 31.

Proposed: The Corporation's business/membership year shall begin on January 1 and conclude on December 31. Annual membership fee will be due in January of each year.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 5.

Current: (Eliminate section as it now reads): The officers shall be elected for a term of one year and may be re-elected for one consecutive term.

Proposed: Governmental Affairs Liaison; The Governmental Affairs Liaison shall be responsible for representing and acting on behalf of the Corporation only in governmental matters at the Federal, State, County, and City levels.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Current: The Board of Directors shall consist of the General Officers and four Directors.

Section 2

Current: The initial Board of Directors shall consist of three (3) General Officers and four (4) Directors, two elected for a term of one year and two elected for a term of two years. Thereafter, all Directors shall be elected for a term of two years, with two (2) Directors elected each year.

Proposed: Sections 1 and 2 would be combined into a new Section 1:

Section 1

The governing body of the Corporation shall consist of five (5) General Officers and four (4) Directors. The General Officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Governmental Affairs Liaison. The General Officers and Directors shall be re-elected on an annual basis by the general membership.

Section 5

Current: The Board of Directors shall select candidates for office, thus acting as the Nominating Committee.

Proposed: The Board of Directors each year shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of one (1) General Officer, one (1) active Director, and two (2) representatives from the Corporation's general membership.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 3

Current: Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall serve as the Nominating Committee and shall select candidates for General Officers and Directors. Officers and Directors shall be elected and installed at the last meeting of each business year.

Proposed: Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for nominating candidates for General Officers and Directors. The Committee shall present a slate of candidates at the third quarterly meeting of the year, during which members present shall vote on the nominees. General Officers and Directors shall be installed at the conclusion of the last meeting of the Corporation's business/membership year.



Long Beach Historical Society

- \$20.00 per individual
- \$5.00 per student

Those who are unable to attend the meetings may mail a check to:

Long Beach Historical Society
 P. O. Box 244
 Long Beach, MS 39560

Name:

Spouse:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone: Home: Cell: Work:

Email:

I would like to serve on the Committee to identify historic homes that survived Katrina.

I would like to serve on another Committee.

Comments:

Cut dotted line

Whittens from page 4

are buried at Beauvoir. Recently this photograph was obtained from Whitten descendants who did not know that their ancestor was the first mayor of Long Beach, in fact, they didn't even know he had been the mayor at all!

The society has been wanting to obtain a picture of Mr. Whitten for quite some time for inclusion with the other mayoral photos at City Hall and will continue to look for another possibly taken at an age closer to

Carlin, Mary Frances Dodson, Michael Wayne Saucier, Max Leon Anderson, Ruth Kinsey Varner, Fane Sachse, Danny Cole Sr, Charles Mitchell Kapp, Joe Essary, Russell Tripp, Blake Edward McKenna, Wayne Smith, Michael Schutzman, Terry Wayne Rawls, Rosie Barrale, Harry Stamps, Bob Cuccaro, Janie Morris Estrada, Jean Sneed, Fred Skellie, James O'Connell, and Roger Trisotto.

The ages of the above go from 17 to 99.

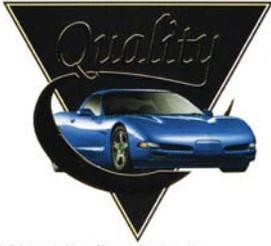
Mystery answer # 1:

Some boys took apart a wagon from Mr. Bailey's store in order to carry it to the roof of the school, piece by piece, where they reassembled it. The next morning the school steps were damaged by those trying to remove the wagon from the school.

Mystery answer #2:

Mr. McCaughan built a 1000 foot pier which extended into the Mississippi Sound in front of his home. It had a rail track and an ox drawn cart in order to move supplies and mail dispensed by steamer. Guests also disembarked on the pier.

For anyone that did not read "The Obituary of the Century" of the late Harry Stamps, it is on our website.



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his mayoral election age.

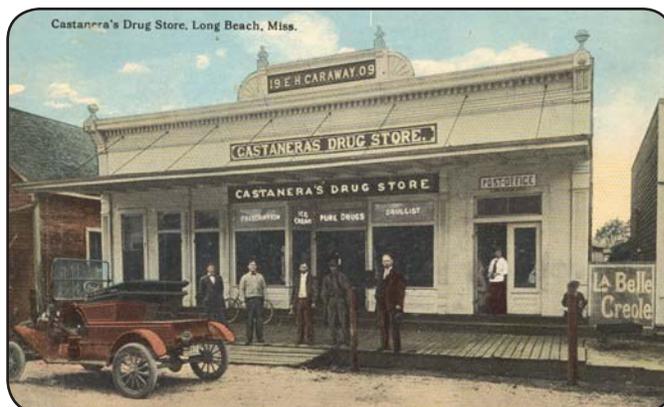


Condolences

Many of our Long Beach friends, relatives and neighbors have passed on since the January newsletter.

We offer our deepest sympathy to families of the following:

- Sheila Castanedo, Kenneth Marie,
- Louise Fillingim, Fran Rees Talley,
- Michael John Jones, Estelle Maxwell,
- Henry Barrale, Billy Wayne Crosby,
- Dennis Hale, Brian Michael Wiley,
- Margaret Maxey, Jerry Ryals,
- Thomas Barrett, Evelyn Lassabe,
- Ruth Young, Rodney Sandoz, Nona May,
- David Gannon, Christine Toop,
- Mack Leggett Jr, Betty Bankston



Castanera's Drug Store
Picture courtesy of Paul Jermyn

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Pictures courtesy of Paul Jermyn