

# Smoke From The Chimneys



# Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

April 2016

## President's Message

The Awards Luncheon Meeting in January seemed to be a success even though some of the recipients could not be present. However, the chicken salad on croissants seemed to be a big hit, thanks to Ola May Dana and her many volunteers. Those present seemed to enjoy having the January meeting in our own building for the first time.

Speaking of the building, I was very honored and surprised when Donald Dana made a motion to name the building in my honor. I don't think I've ever been so surprised. Stunned may be a good way to describe it. I am also very appreciative and grateful for the kind comments made by other members. Thank you all so much. I hope Mary Ellen is looking down with pride at the place where her picture graces the wall, in the meeting room which I named for her, the MEA room!

On that note, I'm very happy to say that having the Beth Hansen History House open twice a month seems to be going very well. New members have joined during that time, calendars have been sold and the gallery of pictures has been viewed by happy onlookers. Old acquaintances have also been renewed in the process. I feel sure that the numbers will continue to increase as time goes by and the word gets out. The paper wants to refer to it as an "Open House" in its What's Happening column, and if that works, so be it. Whatever brings the public in is fine with me. I just hope that folks won't be disappointed when no refreshments are being served. One man overheard me say that and he looked up and said, with a big laugh, "No refreshments, well, I'm outta here right now." However, he stayed quite a while afterwards, taking his time looking at all the pictures.

*Beth Hansen  
President*

## Special Birthdays of Two Special Ladies and Members

Mrs. Polly Mincher, celebrated her 98th birthday in February. Miz Polly's father, Leonard Dubuisson, was the son of Donatien and Anastasia Dedeaux Dubuisson, the couple who gained fame by moving into Long Beach, with their 13 children to increase the residential count necessary for incorporation in 1905. (Child #14 would be born in L B)

Her mother, Minnie Briggs Dubuisson, was the first female Post Mistress in our town, with certificates signed by 4 U S Presidents.

Miz Polly recently left our area to be near a niece in Texas. She resides at the Broadmoor at Creek Side Park, 565 Creekside Forest Dr # 703, The Woodlands, TX 77389.

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

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228-864-6100

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**Long Beach  
Historical Society**

**2015 Officers**

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**Board of Directors**

- Iantha Hines
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- Eddie Ware

**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 will all be held on the THIRD  
Mondays at Historical Society Building, 645  
Klondyke Rd.

**2016 Meetings:**

- January 18 - 11:00 am (Awards)
- **April 18 - 6:00 pm**
- July 18 - 6:00 pm
- October 17 - 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

*Birthdays From Page 1*

Mrs. Claire Morrison was 101 years old on April 12. Her father, William Boggs, was the son of pioneer residents, Robert Boggs and Eliza Jane Innerarity, the couple who were told by the Indians to build their home further back from the water, using hurricane water marks on the trees to give credence to their hint. Her mother, the former Claire Hale, and her dad did eventually accept the hint and built further back after the home was destroyed by the 1947 hurricane, which also took the lives of Archibald and Bessie Boggs.

Camille and Katrina were no kinder than previous hurricanes and the family compound ancestors are definitely further back now but do have a charming vacation home on the property.

**Happy Birthday dear ladies,  
from your friends and  
admirers!!!**

**Condolences**

Sympathy is extended to Board Member, Eddie Ware and his wife, Susan, whose mother, Lois Curtiss, passed away recently at the age of 92. Eddie was very close to and fond of Mrs. Curtiss, who's been like a mother to him in the absence of his own mother.

Lois was blessed with a beautiful singing voice, which she used for many years in the St Thomas church choir, worked at the food pantry and was a friend to many. Predeceased by her husband, Floyd and a son Steve, she leaves, in addition to Susan, 3 other daughters and several grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by all of us who knew her.

Also, prayers go out to the families of Shelba Hinton Brewer, classmate and friend of Danny & Beth Hansen, Isabelle Rosetti Bishop, whose late husband Mike, was just in this column in January, Dennis Dauro, Jr. cousin of several members, Ellis Salloum, Helen Smith, Gertrude Louise Pavur, Jewel Huch, Norma Rutledge, Robert Purcell, Cleo Inez Warden, Faye Elrod, Helen Meadows, Donald Lee Parker, Michael Glenn Jones, Randy Carter, Sr, John Braun, Raymond Schmidt, Ruth Wilson, Ann Kitchings, widow of Dr Ben, Robert Munkel, Morris Johnson, Harry Allen, Marie Louise Durel, Sylvia Melanson, and James V Loftus.

**2016 Dues Are Due**

Don't forget to pay your dues.  
\$15.00 Single or \$20.00 for  
family.

Thank you so much.

**The Next Program**

The April 18 meeting, will be on the Dairies of Long Beach and Mayor William Skellie will be speaking about the first Holstein dairy in the area that his family operated.

Fortunately, for the earlier residents, there were several good dairies in the village. The trials and tribulations that were endured by those making a living in this manner is an integral and interesting part of history. Rules, regulations, and inspection practices were all being created and enforced in those days, for the protection of all.



### ***What others thought of Long Beach, back "In the day"***

*The following article about Long Beach was written in 1893, along with others on all the coast towns, for inclusion in the Columbian Exposition Edition of the Biloxi Herald, for the express purpose of show casing the area in 10,000 copies that were distributed for free at the World's Fair in 1894. The village and its people look pretty good for the times, however in the first paragraph, the writer thinks Long Beach is only a decade old, the same as the 5th and final name. Ignoring the first four names in our city's history is also ignoring the pioneer residents from 1788 to 1882, who essentially created the history that literally put Bear Point, The Chimneys, Rosalie and Scott's Station on the maps of their times.*

### **The Article**

The town of Long Beach, Harrison County, Miss, located on the line of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, and on the Gulf of Mexico, 61 miles from New Orleans and 77 miles from Mobile has much in its history to engage the attention of all who are looking for advantageous sites, whether for residences, farming, truck farming or manufacturing purposes. At the outset we will say that it has good railroad, mail, express

and shipping facilities, with an excellent climate and remarkably good health, and already, though but about a decade old, has a strong, vigorous, energetic and fine representation of business men and "truckers," up to the times, and who believe most heartily in the future of the town. This feeling has been accentuated by the number of New Orleans people who have selected and built, or now are building, residences at this place. Among the number are: Pierre Michel; F Jahnecke, of Schillinger pavement fame; L W Brown, city engineer of New Orleans; J P Douglas, Jr, Union Pacific railroad agent; Herbert Palfrey, the printer; Henry Wellburn; Miss Louise Howard; Jas McDonald, M Borges, Emile Crusel, Jas Baily, G Garmard, M Sintes, C N Snell, J Bokenfohr, J H Kamlade, George Meninger, C M Soria, J J Griffin; Mesdames Jones, Barrett, Costly, Angell and others. Possibly the town needs no better recommendation than the above, as certainly as it is to be presumed that these parties heretofore living contiguous thereto are well posted as to all its merits as a place for homes.

New buildings are constantly being erected, and within eighteen months some twenty-five have been added—comprising the very stately as well as smaller cottages.

Building material is low; rough

lumber from \$7 to \$10 per thousand, at the saw mill right in town; dressed lumber from \$8 to \$17 a thousand, delivered; but this, within a short time or as soon as the planer is put in the mill, will be furnished by the proprietor; brick is from \$8 to \$12 a thousand and cypress shingles from \$2 to \$3.75 per thousand. Logs for the mill are procurable from one-half to two miles from the railroad depot.

Long Beach is not incorporated, as yet, therefore taxes are low. It covers a beach area of three miles on the gulf by about a mile deep, and the business and residence part of town will, doubtless, always be separate; the firms ranging on both side, of the railroad track and running east and west. A very attractive and pretty little depot has lately been built by the L and N officials, and wires have just been put in, making it a telegraph station. It may not be amiss to state that the business done by the railroad and express companies at this station amounts to over \$6000 a year and yet but two or three years ago it was simply a flag station.

The rise in real estate values within the past four years is something almost incredible. At that time elegant sites fronting the beach and running back thousands of feet were offered at \$3 a front foot, and within a few days just, \$8 was paid. Prior to

that time, say seven years ago, it was sold for \$1 a front foot. These front lots will be hard to get in a short time; at present \$8 to \$10 is the figure. Another instance of an advance; Seven years ago a lot 210 feet on the railroad, near the depot, cost \$210, after a while was sold for \$225, this owner in the meantime had given 20 feet for a street. A few days ago, \$1500 was offered for this same lot, but the owner wanted \$2000—and no doubt will get it. Investors can draw their own conclusions. In other parts of the town, naturally the prices are not so high and the person of small means can be readily accommodated, as the prices range from \$50 to \$100 for a lot 96 x 170. James Thomas is the real estate dealer to whom, or any other business man, inquiries can be addressed. Farming lands, admirably adapted for truck or fruit farms, can be purchased unimproved from \$5 to \$25 an acre—the latter fronting the railroad and the former about ½ a mile back. Most of all the land is available for cultivation, drainage being good, with a soil of a sandy nature and a little clay sub-soil. Use of fertilizer greatly benefits the land. The farms under cultivation are beautiful to the eye and show the attention bestowed on them. Great orchards of the Leconte, Keiffer and Bartlett pears abound. Peaches, plums, figs, pecans, grapes and berries of all kinds

grow in profusion. Of vegetables we speak further along.

Another beautiful feature of Long Beach is the growing of flowers. Every home, no matter how lowly, has its flower bed selected with great care and nurtured with delight. The people, too, are of a hospitable nature, kindly disposed and glad to have strangers come amongst them. Society is good. The only church at present is the Methodist which is well attended and at which services and Sunday school are held; the former on Sunday morning and at night. School is open for eight months—four months public and then four months more as a private school. There is also at present a seminary at which a number of pupils attend. Law and order are perfect.

The business lines are few, but ample for population. Among those who are prominent and take a lively interest in the welfare of the place are W J Quarles, James Thomas, Thomas Bros, E K Champlin, W C Biberon, Uriel Wright, M Borges, who has lately erected a hotel on the beach, accommodating 50 people and open all year; N L Brown, proprietor of Brown's hotel, E E Jordy, D Beech, G W Emerson, Wm R Creel and Douglas Donovan; the latter, the section boss of the railroad, and being imbued with the prevalent

idea that everything must be of the best that affects Long Beach, has since 1887, with the exception of 1889, received the prize that is awarded by the L&N company for the best kept section of road.

A foundry and machine shop was lately erected at Long Beach, and the opportunity for other mechanical industries abound.

The charcoal interest is of sufficient importance to warrant a brief notice. Last year 110 car loads were shipped, representing a cash value of near \$7000. Timber plays an important part in the business of the place. Regular lumber along with the cross tie interest, aggregates quite a figure. Of course the fish and oyster industry will soon make itself felt as large beds of the latter have been planted with a view of making shipments to all points.

Long Beach is the vegetable mart of the coast, where all grow in profusion for the north and west, and much attention is given to their production. This industry is particularly indebted to the efforts of Messrs. W J Quarles and the Thomas Bros. In its infancy it was fostered by W J Quarles, who gave a great deal of attention to this business and demonstrated that it could be made a paying one and

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so induced others to venture, until now the sum of five to six thousand dollars net, is returned to the shippers as their portion of shipments to the North and West. In the shipping season—say early spring—it is quite a sight at the depot and post office, where gather the truckers—few in number, but large in their receipts. By mail some are informed of what their shipments have brought in cash and at the same time others are shipping off to the far away points, thereby creating a scene only to be witnessed at Long Beach, and possibly at times, in the New York Stock Exchange.

The vegetables come in early at this point and are very fine, indeed, and those grown at Long Beach have the preference, not only along the coast but in the far West where they command high prices. An illustration, and one that is true, is of a transaction in radishes. The Thomas Bros. planted three quarters of an acre in radishes this spring; they paid only eight dollars for fertilizer and three dollars for labor, a total of eleven dollars and the returns from the small acreage paid them ninety dollars net. Again, when about to consign a number of turnip tops to the compost heap they fortunately decided to ship the same. Result, three dollars a barrel net. These illustrations are simply given to

show even in the commonest vegetable production what can be done. String beans were shipped from this point on April 18th and this in spite of a freeze some weeks previous. All the various table vegetables are now grown, and as fast as one crop is exhausted another comes in and so keeps the shippers busy for some time. Of course success is only accomplished by work and attention, but what has been done at this point by those now there can also be done by those who come after. But no drones need apply.

Long Beach--all in all, is certainly a place that should command attention. It is steadily growing and affords investors splendid chances. The post office business is greatly increasing. Mr. Quarles, who has been the efficient postmaster since 1885, informs us that the receipts for the first quarter of 1892 was \$111.13, and for the same quarter of 1893 was \$176.14.

### **Another short one about the Coast Resorts**

*The Times-Democrat in New Orleans on January 9, 1897 published information on all of the Mississippi Coast resorts along the line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and how they have developed.*

### **On Long Beach**

One of the most inviting resorts along the line of the L&N is Long Beach, its people being of high culture and its surroundings pleasant. It has a population of 500, and during the outing season the visitors usually outnumber the residents. It is situated in a truck farming region, and is a large shipping point for vegetables; has good church and school facilities, fine bathing, a 10 ton ice plant, a number of mercantile houses and several artesian wells which afford excellent water. A stock company has been formed and a cannery will be built in the near future. The celebrated Rossmere Springs are here, the waters of which are upon the market. Quite a number of cottages are owned here by wealthy New Orleans people, who make it their home during the heated term.





# Long Beach Historical Society

## Don't forget dues were due in January

Feel free to either use this form as a gift for family or friend or pass along to a prospective member.

**Yearly membership is January 1 – December 31  
Payable beginning at the January meeting as follows:**

- \$15.00 per individual
- \$20.00 for family
- \$5.00 per student

Those who are unable to attend the January meeting may mail a check too:  
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. **YES – NO**

I would like to serve on another Committee. **YES - NO**

An old Coast landmark, the Old Packing Shed, a 750-foot long building along the L&N railroad was destroyed by fire on Aug 1, 1953 on a Saturday morning. Large billowing clouds of black smoke filled the air and were visible to residents in Gulfport. Burning shingles sprayed the vicinity. An oak tree in front of the Geoff Watrous home, north of the track, was set on fire also and distinguished by the fire department. The heat was so intense from the fire that spectators couldn't get across the back road to get a closer view. About 500 residents and others gathered to watch the conflagration. A city truck manned by R M Norwood Jr and members of the volunteer fire fighters, a truck from Gulfport No 2 Station, and a truck from the Navy Base of Gulfport all answered the call. The fire began about 11:45 a m and it took until 1:45 p m to bring it under control. Standby crews were on hand throughout the night as a precaution. The shed was built in 1915 by the Coast Traction Company and was used by the shipping industry, especially during its heyday when Long Beach shipped out 200 cars and upwards a month. Later when not used for packing vegetables, other groups used it for various meetings and functions. The Long Beach Rural Library was located in it from 1935 until 1939. In 1940 the building was purchased by the New Southern Fat Pine Kindling Company and it still contained bagged kindling wood and pure rosin that created the intensity of the fire. However the present owner lived out of state and was notified by telegram of the total loss of the building.

