

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

January 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the recent Veterans' Day observance in Long Beach, I represented the Historical Society during rededication ceremonies of the restored World War II Veterans Memorial. In brief remarks, I recalled the dedicated work started by 15 mothers who regularly met together to pray for the safety of their sons and daughters. They formed an Association which, through bake sales and similar activities, funded the first memorial dedicated in 1945.

Before the ceremony, I took a few minutes to read the names inscribed on the plaques, applauding their service to America some 70 years ago. The thought came to mind: what about those Long Beach men and women who served in Korea--the "forgotten war"--and more recently in Vietnam? Do they also deserve to be remembered?

Perhaps the time has come to follow the 15 mothers' lead and form a similar civic association to explore the possibility of designing, funding, and erecting a proper memorial to Long Beach men and women who served in Korea and Vietnam. Do you think such a project could (or should) be undertaken today? I invite your thoughts.

My e-mail is: OLADON@ATT.NET

Or mail to:

P.O. Box 244

Long Beach, MS 39560

Respectfully yours,
Donald Dana, Jr.

VP/Program Chair message

At the meeting last quarter we observed the 15th anniversary of the Long Beach Historical Society. We're very proud of how far we've come during those years and we're looking forward to whatever the future will bring for our group. Mary Ellen Alexander would be proud!!

The program also featured Bertram Hays-Davis of Beauvoir and his program was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Since our soup luncheon was so well received last year we have decided to have it again. We had a donation basket last year but this time we must charge a very low \$5.00 per person. Three soups will be served: chicken, chili and vegetarian. Our building is not large enough for dinner service so the meeting will again be held at the First United Methodist Church in Long Beach and begins at 11:00 a.m. Hopefully you've already received your RSVP card. Please call us by the date listed as we will need an accurate count for preparations.

The speaker for this meeting will be former Long Beach resident and current member Ron Skellie, of Acworth GA, son of Mable and the late William Skellie. Ron, a graduate of Perkinston Junior college and USM is a Human Resources Consultant and now an author who will be speaking to us about the book he recently had published about the Immortal Seventh Mississippi Infantry of the Civil War. He collected a phenomenal amount of information from relatives and friends of the men which enabled him to put this wonderful book together. It's a part of our history that you won't want to miss. I'm reading the book at present and immersed in the information about the camps in Pass Christian and Shieldsborough (Bay St Louis) and other coast information.

It's also the time of year when the historical society presents annual awards so that will also take place during the upcoming meeting.

I was happy to hear that everyone was pleased with the progress that we've made in our new meeting place and home on Klondyke Rd and it's our plan to make even more happen by the next meeting in the spring.

See you on January 14.

Respectfully Submitted
Beth Hansen

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

Beth Hansen: Editor

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**Long Beach
Historical Society**

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Eddie Ware – At-large

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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.org

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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

Community Participation

The society had a booth set up at the Radish Festival on the Town Green on Nov 3. We sold some note cards, tee shirts and copies of Rosalie & Radishes. Thanks to those members who helped staff the booth. We usually pick up new members at these venues so it's really beneficial for us to be seen at them as a group.

Many members also rode in the Veteran's Day Parade sponsored by the Methodist Church. The event seems to be successful and it's definitely worthy of having a long life. We will display photos of the afternoon in our building for all to see. After the parade, community entertainment was provided on the Town Green prior to the dedication of the new WWII Memorial. Our city has a good share of talented performers and the seating was filled to capacity.

Thank You

Thanks to Iantha Hines for serving as our refreshment hostess at the last meeting. The Anniversary cake was a big hit.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following who have passed away, some possibly before the last issue of Smoke from the Chimneys:

Phyllis Kaletsch, O V Thames, Tony Wagner, Wayne Ray, Evelyn Davis, Jeri Ann Zimmerman, Charlie Spears, Alvin Durel, Anna Edwards, Joseph Guiffria, Cora Lee French, Curtis Bartlett, Larry Satchfield, Tom Dilworth, Buddy Rogers and Doris Osswald.

These men and women were a vital part of the community and may have been our neighbors, friends and fellow church members. They will all be missed.

Rosalie Reflections

In anticipation of the upcoming program it may be note worthy to reflect on the circumstances of those left at home during the Civil War.

Mississippi was mostly wilderness during the civil war so it was definitely not filled with sprawling plantations. Contrary to popular belief most families in the south had either no slaves or very few so the physical labor fell to the men and children. However, in the absence of the able bodied men the power dynamic shifted and in addition to their regular duties such as cleaning, making and repairing clothing and looking after the children, the women found themselves also having to do the physical labor necessary to keep their farms functioning and their families fed. This no doubt caused the women to become old before their time and also interrupted the normal childhood of the young.

A volunteer group did spring up on the coast that became part of the Third Mississippi Infantry but names of Rosalie men in it have been elusive.

Since the railroad wouldn't come through here until five years after the war ended, the coast had always relied on the familiar paddle wheel steamers to bring in goods and supplies but this luxury came to a screeching halt when the Union Army put up a blockade of all southern ports. Being spared from the rigors of battle didn't change the fact that much needed supplies would be absent until the end of the war. The settlers remaining in Rosalie (some residents temporarily left) not only took full advantage of the the water and its precious seafood but also used it to make salt which had previously been delivered to them. The prime use of the salt was to cure meat and of course was also used as a seasoning. Making the salt was not a quick and easy task but the early settlers of Rosalie and other coast cities rose to the occasion

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and became quite adept at the process in their time of need. The salt was also beneficial for trading purposes with those living in the interior areas who had food items that may have been sorely needed here. (There were reports that during the war in other areas the cost of salt was \$60.00 for a 200 lb. bag that was previously only 65 cents.)

The settlers did not have the same success in trying to make a substitute for coffee but they were ambitious enough to try it with ground parched corn and sweet potatoes and probably other foods too. Possibly their addictions to caffeine, if any, were gone by the end of the war.

Wheat, flour, corn meal, and meats of any kind also became too expensive for an ordinary family.

Shoe manufacturing only took place in northern factories and doing without new shoes when needed would definitely create a hardship not imagined until one suffered through the inconvenience. It would seem unlikely that a shoe maker would reside in an area so sparsely populated as south Mississippi. Suffering indeed took many forms.

It is not known if our residents were able to donate their woolen items like many in other states. Every effort was put forth to keep our soldiers warm and the wool was fashioned into garments as well as being used for blankets.

Parts of the above were taken from Rosalie and Radishes, A History of Long Beach Ms and also from U S History.org and other sites.



Our president, Donald Dana, was asked to speak at the WWII Memorial Dedication on Veteran's Day and following are his remarks:
World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremonies

November 11, 2012

This World War II Memorial, which we are re-establishing today, is the continuation of a vision originally shared by 15 mothers who began praying weekly in 1942 for the safety of their sons and daughters serving in the Armed Forces.

In February, 1945, these ladies organized the War Memorial Association which sponsored bake sales and other similar fund-raising benefits. This effort resulted in construction of the first World War II Memorial. It was dedicated on June 3, 1946, and located in the Municipal Rose Garden, the site of our present City Hall on Jeff Davis Avenue.

Through the work of the War Memorial Association, enough money also was raised to purchase property along Church Street now known as War Memorial Park. When a new City Hall was built in 1958 on the site of the rose garden, the World War II Memorial was moved to the park.

Hurricane Camille struck the Gulf Coast in August, 1969, destroying the World War II Memorial. Our city would not have another memorial for 30 years.

In August, 1997, the Long Beach Historical Society was organized under the leadership of Mary Ellen Watrous Alexander, whose mother, Mae Watrous was the first President of the War Memorial Association.

The City donated property between the City Hall and the Municipal Library on Jeff Davis Avenue. With gifts of volunteer service and donations in memory of loved ones and friends, a second World War II Memorial was completed and dedicated on August 15, 1999, the 54th anniversary of VJ Day.

Time and weather began to take a toll on the Memorial, and in August, 2005, Hurricane Katrina left it in very bad condition.

During the restoration years following Hurricane Katrina, Mayor Skellie, aware of plans for Jeff Davis Avenue, a new magnificent City Hall, and this beautiful Town Green, approached the Historical Society about the possibility of building a new World War II Memorial and relocating it within the Town Green.

The Society enthusiastically endorsed the proposal, and as we say, "The rest is history, and here we are today!" Long Beach Historical Society says "Thank You" to Mayor Skellie, our Board of Aldermen, and all the government and civil officials who helped bring this restoration project to reality. Together, we not only are re-establishing a World War II Memorial, but we are continuing to keep alive the vision of 15 praying mothers.

Thank you. God bless Long Beach and God bless America!

Donald M. Dana, Jr.

President

Long Beach Historical Society

