

JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

www.passhistory.org • Post Office Box 58, Pass Christian MS 39571 • Society Building 201 East Scenic Drive
228 452-7254 • info@passhistory.org • Building typically open: Thursday-Friday-Saturday, 10-2 p.m.
Evening meetings at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday • Monthly luncheons are typically on the 4th Monday of the month.

January 6, 2013

Dear Friends & Members,

Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and Christmas are over, and we are entering the Carnival season. Beginning today, Twelfth Night, our building's Christmas tree comes down to be replaced by the Carnival Association's banner.

It is among the truths universally acknowledged that our annual Christmas party is one of the best events of the year. Judging by comments, our recent party, which kicked off the local holiday season was no exception. We are indebted to Margaret Loesch for the use of her wonderful home, and were sorry to learn that a bad fall had detained Margaret in California. Our thanks also to Maggie Sedgwick and Beth Cash who stood-in as hostesses for Margaret.

Success of such an event can be measured by many things: attendance, the food, the music, and the attitude of the party goers and those putting on the party. In each of these, the marks were the highest: our members responded with enthusiasm as they enjoyed themselves immensely and signed up for another year of membership, Ainslie Tatum masterminded the food with a delft hand, Jonathan provided an evening of toe-tapping music, and Amy Wood, chair, orchestrated the party with a smooth and harmonious leadership. The bartender cadre supplied us with ample reason to enjoy the party.

We are pleased to tell you that a second group of bricks has been installed in the loggia of our building. Nine 8" by 8" bricks and nineteen 8" x 4" bricks were placed in front of the second loggia



An old photo of the Dixie White House, late 1890's, some years before President Wilson's stay there a century ago. In the 1880s former President Grant also was a guest at this house (for perhaps only a few hours) when it was owned by his old friend General William Selby Harney.

door from the west end on December 21 by Ray Mitchell of the construction company that built our building.

Vay Carboni has been in charge of our brick program since the beginning of the project. We are indebted to Vay for his attention to detail and his promotion of the project. Be sure to thank Vay for work and management of our brick project.

The smaller 4 x 8 bricks sold for \$100, and the 8 x 8 bricks sold for \$200. The bricks gave buyers an opportunity to memorialize, honor or commemorate loved ones or events. The bricks are a permanent addition to the building and will give those shown on the bricks a place in the history of the Pass Christian Historical Society for years to come.

We are confident that brick sales will continue in the future as other society members and friends see how they make a permanent remembrance of

loved ones and help the finances of the Pass Christian Historical Society.

Revenues for this second round of brick sales amounted to \$3,700, a welcome addition to the coffers of the society.

Throughout 2014 we look forward to more and exciting programs guaranteed to hold your attention and create increased involvement by members and potential new members.

—Tom Shellnut, & the Board of Trustees

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 13, 7 p.m. Ms. Lolly Barnes, Executive Director of MS Heritage Trust, will talk about the Ten Most Endangered Sites in MS.

Monday, January 27, 12 noon. Mr. Al Saucier will speak about moonshine in South Mississippi and the characters

involved. He will not provide recipes or names, but he will talk about the characters involved in this cottage industry.

Reservations are required. A \$10 (\$12 non-members) admission fee, which includes lunch, is payable at the door.

Please email president@passhistory.org to reserve a spot, or call 228-452-7254 (feel free to leave a message).

Happy New Year-Time Flies!

If we were to hop-scotch back in history some 250 years in 50 year leaps here are some of the events of note: **1964**—As a community and nation we are still in shock over the Kennedy assassination. Vietnam enters our lexicon. The Beatles play in New Orleans. **1914**—President Wilson winter vacations in Pass Christian. (More below.) **1864**—The Pass largely cut-off from the rest of the South is, by all accounts, war weary, and reduced to boiling down sea-water for salt with which to barter for inland food.

1814—The Pass becomes an American military encampment as British, having burned Washington, look south to control New Orleans and the Mississippi. In December, Thomas Ap Catesby Jones engages the British at “the Pass Christian.” (This Wednesday, incidentally, marks the 199th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.) **1764**—The French and Indian Wars over, coast residents sign British loyalty oaths, including two who seem to figure prominently in Pass history—a *Bapt Chris Lardnare*, and a *Juliet de brose Azamari*, who we assume to be Christian Ladner, the Pass’s apparent namesake, and the Widow Asnard, the Pass’s land grant holder.

☛ *In December we emailed many of you a 24-page account of President Woodrow Wilson’s visit to Pass Christian in the winter of 1913-14. For those you not on our email list we include the following (but please get on our list):*

President Wilson Reception

Gulfport, January 12 1914. Daily Herald Saturday afternoon President Wilson and his wife held their first public reception since the day of his inauguration. At 3

o’clock they took their places on the Herndon porch, across which the lines of visitors passed. Near them stood the Misses Wilson, Miss Bones, Congressman Harrison, Dr. Grayson and the Secret Service men. The scene was a striking one as two thousand residents of the Coast towns filed past one by one and grasped the hands of the chief executive and first lady of the land. The crowd was decidedly representative of the Coast, there not being ten people whom the deputy sheriffs stationed at the foot of the stairways did not recognize. All afternoon long a continuous process of street cars, autos and carriages proceeded toward the Pass and by 1 o’clock a tremendous crowd was massed at the east gate of the Winter White House grounds. Slowly the crowd was admitted to the grounds and when it reached the porch the people were placed in a single file, and permitted to ascend the steps in sections of twenty-five. It took forty-one minutes for the crowds to pass thru the grounds. The President and Mrs. Wilson had a hearty hand grasp and cheerful word for each of the two thousand visitors, and frequently, and children greeted them, there was a special word and smile and sometimes a cress. One of the most amusing incidents was the presentation of a mammoth picture of herself by Aunt Lucy Marshall, a Pass Christian negress who lays claim to ninety five years. When she was admitted to the presences of Mr. Wilson she fumblingly untied a huge bundle, extracted the picture from an immense white frame and presented it to the President, dropped an old-fashioned courtesy to Mrs. Wilson and proudly marched off, carrying the frame with her. Another picturesque figure was Gen A. C. Oxford of Birmingham, who is spending the winter on the Coast. Gen. Oxford wore the uniform of a Confederate general, and erectly marched up the steps, presented Mr. Wilson with his card and received a cordial greeting. On the obverse of the card was the Confederate pledge: “If

I ever disown, repudiate or apologize for the cause for which Lee fought and Jackson died, let the lightening of Heaven rend me, and the scorn of all good men and true women be my portion; sun, moon, stars, all fall on me when I cease to love the Confederacy. It is the cause, not the fate of the cause that is glorious.” The card also carried the announcement that the general had fought under Wheeler and was commander of the Fourth Alabama Brigade, United Confederate Veterans. It was a beautiful day for the reception. The sun shone brilliantly, and the air was so warm as to make it very comfortable to lounge out of doors. The waters of the Gulf were unusually colorful and the flowers in the lawn of the Herndon home were in full bloom. It was an appropriate setting for the Coast’s welcome to the President and the president’s greeting to the people who had given him a delightful rest. After Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had met the people, some one began to sing America in a sweet, piping voice. Others joined in and before the first verse had ended, the hundreds who had congregated on the lawn took up the national song and made the cedars and oaks ring with the patriotic melody. The President bowed and waved his appreciation, and stepped inside. Later Col. Ewing and his son of New Orleans called for a chat and all three sat on the porch and talked. Post Master General Burleson and Congressman Harrison were responsible for a graceful courtesy which was very much appreciated by the men whom it concerned. In the morning Mr. Harrison wired the postmaster general asking that he permit the post office in Gulfport to close in the afternoon in order that the post master hand his clerks could attend the reception. At 2 o’clock the requested permission was wired to Mr. Wadlow, and there was a grand rush from the government building for street cars to the Pass.