

# AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

201 EAST SCENIC DRIVE, PASS CHRISTIAN • 228-452-7254 • [INFO@PASSHISTORY.ORG](mailto:INFO@PASSHISTORY.ORG)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

### Monday, August 8, at 7 pm: Membership Meeting

*Albro (Bodie) Michel will make a presentation on German U-boat activity in the Gulf of Mexico during World War II.*

### Monday, August 29, at 12 pm: Monthly Luncheon

*Sally James will join us to speak about the Old Town Library.*

*Please reserve a lunch by calling 228-452-7254 or email [info@passhistory.org](mailto:info@passhistory.org) by Friday, Aug. 26.*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer ends officially on September 21, but with the Pass schools starting on August 4, summer for families effectively ends then. August has always been a slow to nonexistent month for your society, but this year we will meet on August 8 with a program by Bodie Michel on German U-boat activity in the Gulf during WWII. On August 29, Sally James will join us for our monthly luncheon to speak about the Old Town Library. Through the good efforts of our program chairman, Virgil Harris, we have year-round good and informative programs at our meetings. Hope to see you on August 8 and August 29.

We have had a wonderfully busy summer already. The New Harmonies luncheons brought many new visitors — and introduced a number of new members — to our Society. We thank the Pass Christian Library staff for all their work arranging the interesting speakers who informed and entertained our visitors for six weeks. We also had great turnouts for the roots music movie nights with Richard Ward, and we have had a steady stream of visitors to the Eudora Welty exhibit. Again, we thank Jack Kelly for his hard work locating, acquiring and

organizing the exhibits. They have now moved on to their next exhibition spot, but I hope you had a chance to see them when they were here.

We also welcomed speakers for the Welty exhibit — on July 21 two William Carey University professors, Dr. Thomas Richardson and Dr. Allison Chestnut, spoke about Welty's life and work. On July 27, Tim Isbell, award-winning photojournalist from the Sun Herald was the speaker for the closing reception. Like Welty, Tim also began as (and continues to be) a photographer and then took up writing. His literary efforts are three books of history and photography about Vicksburg, Shiloh and Corinth and Gettysburg. University Press of Mississippi published the three volumes, and we plan to have them for sale in the near future.

We have been given a picture of a mystery artifact (see next page). Society member Audley Taylor brought in this photo of a cigar box that reads "Made In Pass Christian, Miss." If you have any knowledge of a cigar factory in our town or the Pass's connection with a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SUMMER HOURS

In August, the Pass Christian Historical Society will be open the following days and times:

**Thursdays, 10am-2pm**

**Fridays, 10am-2pm**

**Saturdays, 10am-2pm**

If you would like to visit the building outside these hours, please make an appointment by calling Evelina at 228-363-1973. We'd be happy to arrange for a special visit.

**The Historical Society welcomes volunteers!** Please let us know if you have two hours a week during which you can help out at the building. If you can volunteer, please call 228-452-7254 or email [info@passhistory.org](mailto:info@passhistory.org).

## NEWSLETTER NAME — COMING SOON!

We will announce the nominations for the newsletter name at our August meeting! If you have a last-minute suggestion, please email [info@passhistory.org](mailto:info@passhistory.org) or call 452-7254. We'll print all the nominations in the next newsletter and announce the winner soon after.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership is the lifeblood of any historical society. We rely on your enthusiasm, involvement, interest and generosity. This year, we have 379 members, a sizeable increase from last year, and we thank you for your support. In 2011, our "New Beginnings" year, we offered a number of new membership levels, with members who join at the "Contributing" level and above to be recognized in the newsletter, in the building and on a permanent sign to be placed in our new home. We thank these members for their generous support of the Society this year. If you would like to join or upgrade your 2011 membership in the Society, it's not too late! Please call 228-452-7254 or email [info@passhistory.org](mailto:info@passhistory.org) for more information.

Our membership chair, Mary Helen Schaeffer, is continuing to work on recruiting new members to the Society. If you have any friends or neighbors who you think would be interested in joining the Society, please contact her at 228-452-7254 or email [membership@passhistory.org](mailto:membership@passhistory.org).

*NOTE: If your name is on the sign at right — or should be — and you would like to change the spelling or any other details, please let us know so we can make the fix before the signs are made! Call 228-452-7254.*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER, CONTINUED

cigar factory, please contact me or archivist Bruce Stinson at 452-7254 or [info@passhistory.org](mailto:info@passhistory.org).

*Tom Shellnut, President*



### *A Note from Virgil Harris...*

Dr. Harold Dawley has donated about 200 old bottles to the Historical Society that were recently unearthed in Pass Christian. We will be holding a work day to clean and scrutinize the bottles for historical value to the Pass. Watch for this event and we'd also appreciate any help that can be offered in placing a value on these bottles.

*The Pass Christian Historical Society thanks the following members for their generous support during our "New Beginnings" year.*

### **Benefactor**

*Janet & Mike McElroy*

### **Patrons**

*Phyllis F. & Kenneth W. Peppard  
Mary Helen & Phillip A. Schaeffer*

### **Sustaining Members**

<i>Maxie Blondheim</i>	<i>Joy S. &amp; Patrick L. Burke</i>
<i>Sandy &amp; Pete Byrne</i>	<i>Barbara &amp; Whitner Church</i>
<i>John G. Curren Jr.</i>	<i>Peggy &amp; Dick East</i>
<i>Sam Gore &amp; Majorie Schroeder</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Timothy Koerner</i>
<i>Henry Laird</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James McDaniel</i>
<i>Becky &amp; Stuart Orfila</i>	<i>Kathy &amp; Lee Randall</i>
<i>Meg &amp; Terry Retersdorf</i>	<i>Rhenda &amp; Jerry Saporito</i>
<i>Karen &amp; David Sawyer</i>	<i>Carolyn &amp; Scott Stiffler</i>

### **Contributing Members**

<i>Charlotte Christman</i>	<i>Melanie Cooksey</i>
<i>Susan Cooksey</i>	<i>Claudia &amp; Malcolm Dinwiddie</i>
<i>Jo N. Mitchell</i>	<i>Mrs. Jon B. Roth</i>
<i>Clara Mae Saucier Arnold Vella</i>	

## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

*Dear friends and members,*

We hope you are having a great summer, and perhaps some rest now that kids and grandchildren are returning to school. Our bit of history for August is a letter concerning activities at the Pass in the summer of 1861 that was published in the New Orleans Daily Picayune on August 2, 1861 — 150 years ago (to the day) as we put together this newsletter. Space does not permit the reprinting of the entire letter in this month's newsletter, but we will post the full letter on our website.

*Bruce Stinson, Archivist*

## LETTER FROM THE PATRIARCH OF THE PASS

*Pass Christian, July 26, 1861*

*Dear Pic,—*

The second grand target excursion of the Coast Guards came off a few days since in the beautiful grove of evergreens near the residence of the amiable Colonel of the Silver Grays, and was the occasion of much merriment, and a considerable amount of grand and lofty shooting.

The Guard were out in full feather and blue flannel frocks, and marching to the music of the celebrated band of the Fourth Regiment, who kindly volunteered their services for the excursion, attracted much attention by their soldierly deportment and warlike appearance.

*Continued on our website ...*

[www.PassHistory.org](http://www.PassHistory.org)