

# FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

www.passhistory.org • Post Office Box 58, Pass Christian MS 39571 • Society Building 201 East Scenic Drive  
228 452-7254 • info@passhistory.org • passchristian.wordpress.com • Building typically open: Thur. to Sat. 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.

## February 1, 2016

Dear Friends & Members,

Happy Mardi Gras!

We kickoff February with the Pass Mardi Gras Parade next Sunday. The Society Building will be open for refreshments (Tickets are required, see below.) We close out the month with a talk at our February 22 luncheon on the Butler family of Pass Christian and Iberville Parish.

In between the Society is gearing up for a Sunday May 1, Tour of Homes. This year all homes are close neighbors of one another and contained between Courtenay and Hackett.

—Virgil Harris and the Board of Trustees

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, February 7, Pass Mardi Gras Parade** The building will be open beginning at 9 am and remain open until 30 minutes after the parade. Entry is \$20 per adult, \$10 age 12 and under. Sandwiches, soft drinks and ice will be provided by the Society. **Reservations strongly suggested**, and much appreciated so that we can adequately prepare. (For reservations please email [president@passhistory.org](mailto:president@passhistory.org) or call 228-4527254.



“England” Float from a Pass Mardi Gras Parade during the Reign of King Arthur II. (1916)

### Monday, February 8, 7 p.m.

Monthly meeting. No speaker at this time.

### Monday, February 22, Luncheon

Author Dave Plater will speak on “The Butlers of Iberville Parish and Pass Christian.” And how appropriate! The 22nd is George Washington’s Birthday and the Pass’s most famous Butler was Frances Parke Lewis Butler (locally famous for her camellia at Scenic and Menge), was a relative (via Martha) and indeed the last person to have received the General’s blessing. A \$10 (\$12 non-members) admission fee, which includes lunch, is payable at the door. Please email [president@passhistory.org](mailto:president@passhistory.org) to reserve, or call 228-452-7254 (feel free to leave a message). The luncheon begins at noon.

### Bits of History from 100 & 150 years ago

This month we continue to mark the centennial of the 1916 Pass Mardi Gras Parade with three photos from that event. We also look back 150 years to 1866 and the aftermath of the Civil War.

### Visit to the Pass in May 1866

*New Orleans Daily Crescent*, Tuesday, May 8, 1866 pg 2 col 3

[This is a portion of long article “A Visit to Watering Places” which M. James Stevens believes was written by Col J. O. Nixon, editor and proprietor of “Crescent.” Letter date May 6, 1866]

PASS CHRISTIAN

You pass the Bay of St. Louis and Pass Christian going and coming at night

(via *Creole*). The few lights which shine from the houses give you but little intimation of what is going on in their midst.

Both places, it is thought, will have large accessions to their population during the summer months, and Pass Christian will doubtless retain its supremacy among the wealthier classes of our community. Before the war, its carriages, fast horses and fine villas were unsurpassed, and were the theme of comment among watering place habitues.

Its population has sometimes been swollen to from eight to ten thousand persons. The old hotel, however, was recently sold to the Jesuit Order for \$20,000 and will henceforth be used as a college.

The scene presented to us on our second approach to this place was in the highest degree striking. A bright light had been kindled at the foot of the landing, which threw a lurid glare over a large building standing in the background, and which from its proportions might have been a castle or medieval manor. [The lighthouse still being inactive since the war.]

Above was the frequent play of lightning, while in the foreground stood a mixed multitude awaiting the arrival of the boat. Somebody, who perhaps knew, said it reminded him of one of Rembrandt's pictures, and, at any rate, everyone continued to gaze at it until the crowd, building and light was gradually lost in the gloom of the night. —Transcribed by M. James Stevens ■



*Has there ever been a better float than the mermaids?*



*Can anyone explain the iconography of the Western States float? Is it a bird eating from a granary?*