

# MARCH 2012 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 open: Thursday-Friday-Saturday, 10-2 p.m.  
Evening meetings at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday • Monthly luncheons are typically on the fourth Monday of the month.

## March 5, 2012

Dear Friends & Members

We are fast approaching the 150th anniversary of the **Battle to Pass Christian** and related actions which occurred over a series of days in late March and early April 1862. (Military records don't use such lofty a designation as 'battle,' preferring instead terms such as 'affair,' but never mind.) The Society is planning three events to commemorate this anniversary. First at this Monday's meeting USM professor of history Deanne Nuwer will speak to us about the battle itself. Then at our monthly luncheon on March 26 Dr. Robert Travnicek will give a talk on Civil War medicine. And finally to kick off our fall season in September, we plan to remember the full Civil War decade at the Pass with a dinner and book publication.

In addition to these events we have a number of other activities in the coming months as detailed below. And just a reminder: Monday's meeting effectively begins at 6 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception so come and join the fun!

—Tom Shellnut, & the Board of Trustees

P.S. We want to extend a special thanks to **Robert Larkin**, a fellow Civil War buff of the other persuasion (an ancestor was with Grant at Vicksburg), who has very generously sought out and furnished the Society with copies of a variety of documents relating to the Battle of Pass Christian, a page of which is included in this newsletter.

**Reception Monday Mar. 12, at 6 p.m. & Regular meeting at 7 p.m. commemorating the 150 Anniversary of the Battle of Pass Christian.**

We hope all members will be able to attend our wine and cheese reception which at six. (See box.) Following the reception we will have our regular

meeting when **Dr. Deanne Nuwer**, a professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi (and author of *Plague Among the Magnolias: The 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Mississippi*) will speak about the naval engagements and subsequent battle of Pass Christian.

### The Great Flood of 1927 Exhibit

On Good Friday April 15, 1927 the skies let loose over New Orleans, dropping 15 inches of rain in 18 hours this was the last straw for the city. Already the Mississippi was overflowing its banks at various point along its course and soon many areas of the city would be under four feet of water. (How many of us have heard stories of parents or grandparents as small children boating in wash tubs through the streets of New Orleans during the Easter flood? Or recall the event ourselves?) Throughout the month of March the Historical Society, through the efforts of Jack Kelly, will be hosting an exhibit an exhibit of the Great Flood of 1927 which was to occupy the na-

tion's attention 85 years ago, and among other things propel Herbert Hoover to the presidency.

### Saints Patricks Day Toast Sun March 18

At 1 p.m. (more or less) the Historical Society will host the Pass Christian Saint Patricks Day Parade Toast and all are invited to stop by the building for refreshments.

### March 26 Luncheon Civil War Medicine

Continuing our Civil War theme, **Dr. Robert Travnicek** will speak at our monthly luncheon on the practice of medicine during the Civil War. Dr. Travnicek is a Health Officer in the Mississippi State Department of Health. According to Virgil Harris, our event chairman, in addition to having an interest in history, and being an entertaining speaker, Dr. Travnicek and avid Nebraska Cornhusker football fan. The cost of the meeting is ten dollars which includes lunch. We regret that due to space limitations, we cannot accommodate members who have not made reservations. So please contact us (452-7254 or



The Pass Christian Historical Society  
cordially invites you to a  
**Celebratory Unveiling**

of our new Engraved Brick Pavers  
and the launch of Phase 2 of this special project.

**Monday, March 12, 2012**

**6:00 P.M.**

(immediately preceding our monthly meeting)

**201 East Scenic Drive, Pass Christian**

Our special engraved bricks commemorate special occasions, memorialize loved ones, honor families, children and grandchildren and celebrate the history of Pass Christian. Please join us as we celebrate the completion of the first phase of this important project. For more information on ordering an engraved brick, visit [www.passhistory.org](http://www.passhistory.org) or call 228-452-7254.

info@passhistory.org ) if you would like to attend this \$10 event.

### Other up coming activities

**Monday April 9th** A talk by **Milady Howard** on the new Pass Christian Harbor Construction.

**Wednesday April 11th** A book signing by **Susan Haltom, of her One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place**. Susan is a garden designer and preservation and maintenance coordinator of the Eudora Welty garden. Her book on Welty's garden has received high praise.



**Garden Party Sunday May 6th** As we did two years ago, rather than hold a tour of homes, this we will be having a Garden Party. Jackye Carroll has volunteered to chair this year's event and the McDaniels have graciously offered their home. As in the case of the tour, the Garden Party is on the first Sunday in May.

### September Dinner Meeting & Book Publication

The Society is planning an off-site September dinner meeting to commemorate the Civil War era at the Pass. Arrangements are still being made, but the meeting would be accompanied by what we hope is an informative and entertaining presentation on the changing conditions at the Pass throughout the 1860s from pleasures of pre-secession, to the hardships of war, to the coming of the railroad and the dawn of the tourist era—panorama of events not unlike that presented in *Gone with the Wind*. An already lengthy book of contemporary documents is in preparation to accompany this event.

# 3000 Strong Land!

I hear that the New Orleans papers say that we were 3,000 strong at the affair of 'Pass Christian' and they were only 300. They say an Irish regiment 3,000 strong under a Col Cavil attacked them and that after a terrible fight in which we lost a great many men they were forced to retire when we committed all sorts of ravages among the citizens and burnt their camp. If I get hold of that fellow I think I shall try the toe of my boot on him. I saw George Kenedy at ship Island he was well you need have no fears on my account as I am getting along well as is every body else. Else I do not know what to

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(From a letter home by a Union officer who participated in the Battle of Pass Christian, dismissing some of the highly inaccurate reports out of New Orleans. Our special thanks to Robert Larkin for furnishing the Society with copies of this and other documents.)