

MAY 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.

April 19, 2013

Dear Friends & Members

We are sending out our May newsletter a little early, and include with it a copy of the **Tour of Homes** brochure.

Notice that we include mention of Monday's monthly luncheon in this newsletter, and apologize in advance if this letter is not reaching you in time. Luncheon details are usually sent close to the luncheon date via email, so if you are not currently on the Society's email list, please contact the Society at info@passhistory.org to have your name added.

Speaking of luncheons, at our May luncheon we will be celebrating the publication of what must surely be one of the most important eyewitness accounts of New Orleans barely a decade following the city's founding.

See you at the Tour!

—Tom Shellnut, & the Board of Trustees

April/May Events

Monday, April 22: Monthly Luncheon, 12 p.m.

We welcome Thomas E. Simmons, author of *The Man Called Brown Condor: The Forgotten History of an African American Fighter Pilot*, as the speaker for the April luncheon, this Monday, April 22, at 12 p.m. at 201 East Scenic Drive.

To reserve, please respond to this email or call 228-452-7254. Lunch is \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members.

This will also be a great opportunity to buy advance tickets for the Tour of Homes.

Sunday, May 5, 2-5 p.m. Tour of Homes. (See included brochure.)

Volunteers and Food still needed!

If you would like to volunteer that day, please call the Society at 228-452-7254 or email info@passhistory.org. Volunteers will be able to purchase tickets in advance for \$20. If you can bring food for the Tea, please contact Kitsie Roth (kitsier@aol.com) or Ainslie Tatum (abtoak@bellsouth.net).

Also, if you are interested in being a sponsor for this year's event, please contact Evelina at 228-363-1973 or info@passhistory.org.

Monday, May 13: Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.

Rebecca Smith, will speak about genealogy.

Monday, May 20: Monthly Luncheon, 12 p.m. (Note this is a week earlier than usual, due to Memorial Day.)

Erin Greenwald, editor of "A Company Man," the writings of any early (1729!) New Orleans colonist, will speak at the luncheon. This is an extremely important addition to our understanding of the early history of our region, and copies of the book will be for sale at the meeting. We repeat below the press release description of Ms. Greenwald's just published book.

"Recently rediscovered and never before published, Marc-Antoine Caillot's buoyant memoir has been translated from the original French and published, with an introduction and annotations by THNOC staff historian Erin Greenwald, as *A Company Man: The Remarkable French-Atlantic Voyage*

of a Clerk for the Company of the Indies.

Caillot was only 21 when he left his family in Paris to embark on his overseas adventure. His assignment to Louisiana was hardly coveted: the colony was one of the company's least desirable destinations, thanks to an unforgiving climate and limited resources, and its capital, New Orleans, was only a decade old.

Yet with humor and insight, Caillot documents episodes major and minor—from the Natchez Massacre to New Orleans's earliest documented Carnival celebration to his own string of pranks and romantic escapades. His words speak with immediacy across the centuries, illuminating racial and ethnic politics, environmental concerns, and the birth of New Orleans's distinctive cultural *mélange*.

That Caillot's intended audience was likely an intimate circle of friends—rather than professional or royal supervisors—distinguishes his manuscript from other travelogues of the period. In her introduction, Greenwald notes that his account "was never subjected to censorship by the company or king, making it an exceptional example of a fully narrative account, unhindered by the literary conventions of polite society."

Caillot's handwritten and illustrated manuscript endured an adventure almost as intriguing as his own: it is believed to have languished in the library of an Augustinian convent in France for well over a century. At some point it was bound together with another, unrelated book. In 1939 a group of nuns brought it to Canada. THNOC acquired it in 2004,

and Greenwald spent several years investigating the manuscript and the man who wrote it. Her research took her to nine archives in France and several in the States, including THNOC's own holdings.

Greenwald describes the immeasurable value of Caillot's narrative to the field of colonial Louisiana history, noting that the manuscript may be one of the field's most significant finds in well over a century.-- *From the Press Release*

More photos from an old photo album Last month we received a pleasant surprise in the form of old photographs of Pass Christian from a Carol Kinney Grimes whose great grandfather, Joseph Forman, was treasurer of the Illinois Central Railroad and, with his family, a visitor to the Pass, and published several photos. We include three more photos in this newsletter. Clockwise, a snapshot of the famous cannon at Fort Henry, The Buckner/Menge home at 917 East Scenic Drive (late the Grey Castle Hotel and still later Xavier Hall) and finally a snapshot of guests on the porch of the New Magnolia Hotel which stood at the west end of Scenic on the site of the fabled Pass Christian Hotel (and later the Miramar). ■

