

JANUARY 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.

December 30, 2011

Happy New Year to all our friends and members!

It was great seeing so many of you at our Christmas Party, and we want to thank Carroll and Dale Mathews for hosting the event, as well as Lise Lorber and Eileen Guthrie who chaired the food the committee, along with all of you who brought food, and used the party as an occasion to renew your membership. (If you have not yet renewed, passhistory.org has renewal information.)

As the old year passes we also want to thank those you who helped with holiday decorations and Christmas in the Pass including David Taylor (who has played the handyman on so many occasions during the year), and Carol Kelly, Mary Helen Schaeffer and Cynthia Hammond who kept the building open and served punch at Christmas-in-the-Pass. And additional thanks to Cynthia for her hard work selling PCHS mugs at both Christmas-in-the-Pass and our party.

January promises to be an exciting month at the Society with three new exhibits assembled by Jack Kelly and a show and tell at Monday night's meeting on archeology in the digital age. Please bring any important local history artifacts to Monday night's meeting for scanning!

—Tom Shellnut, President, & the Board of Trustees



Jack Kelly and Vay Carboni at the January 2011 Bicentennial Party. Jack is our exhibits' chairman and is responsible for the three new exhibits opening this month. Vay has been responsible for our commemorative brick program. (See installation photo on reverse.) Our special thanks to Jack and Vay for their hard and important work.

Monthly Meeting Monday Jan. 9, at 7 p.m

Barbara Hester of the USM Archaeology Department is our guest speaker. Barbara will be demonstrating the use of two- and three-dimensional scanning of items of archeological interest as an archival tool. **Members may bring items to this meeting for Barbara to evaluate or possibly scan for the USM Gulf Coast Archaeology Database.** Barbara welcomes the opportunity to record images of items the members believe may have some heritage value. After the scan, the two- and three-dimensional images will be placed on one of the pods of her USM exhibit in the Society library. So, you keep your documents and artifacts, but leave a digital record with us, as well as the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

January 23rd Luncheon

Our monthly luncheon is set for Monday January 23rd. The cost 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 info@passhistory.org) if you would like to attend this \$10 event.

Jack Kelly's Report on his Three New Exhibits

DeSoto January 9 - February 24

We welcome in the New Year with an exhibit about Hernando DeSoto the Spanish conquistador whom historians credit with being the first European to discover the the Mississippi River. (DeSoto died on the banks of the Mississippi in 1542—160 years before the 1699 Iberville expedition that explored the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the future site of New Orleans.)

"Putting Hernando DeSoto in His Place," an exhibit offering artifacts and documents used by archeologists in attempting to reconstruct DeSoto's route through Mississippi, opens this Monday, January 9th, at the Pass Christian Historical So-

ciety building, and will be the featured exhibit through February 24.

The exhibit, originated by the Museum of Mississippi History, shows Spain's role in the exploration and conquest of "La Florida" which included present-day Mississippi. The interaction between the Spaniards and Native Americans, which provided the first written record of native Mississippian culture, receives special attention. Ironically, the earliest information that we have on these native cultures comes to us through the explorers who also sowed the seeds of the Native Americans' demise.

The eight three-dimensional panels include a relief map of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas showing Native American sites, and reproductions of documents and artifacts including brigandine, chain mail, Clarksdale bells, halberd weapons, chevron beads, and pottery shards. An audio-visual display of DeSoto's trek complements "Putting Hernando DeSoto in His Place." The exhibit demonstrates some of the methods professional archaeologists have used in gathering data to reconstruct DeSoto's route, and was produced by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH).

Archaeology Exhibit

Complementing Barbara Hester's Monday January 9th talk and instructive demonstrations we are pleased to display University of Southern Mississippi (USM) exhibit which highlight how we can "pick up the pieces and preserve our own Gulf Coast heritage." These pod-displays highlight how items you may have encountered and dismissed as inconsequential may actually have archaeological value. Examples of such items range from broken pots, animal bones, chipped rocks, to even some things stored long ago in one's attic.

Endangered Places

Another exhibit the Society will be presenting in January will be the Mississippi Heritage Trust's (MHT) "Ten Most Endangered Historic Places of Mississippi." These panels will highlight 10 places that are important historic resources of Mississippi that are in jeopardy of being lost. The displays explain why the places are historic and what we lose when the places are gone. The MHT selects these sites based upon the historic or cultural significance of

the site, as well as the immediacy of the threat (development pressures, neglect, etc.) to the property. This exhibit travels around the state to raise awareness about the endangered properties on the list.

We encourage and welcome you to visit these three exhibits about our Mississippi heritage. Admission of course is free.— *Jack Kelly*

A Letter to the Picayune 150 years ago

Pass Christian, Miss., January 20, 1862

Dear Pic.—The recent arrival here of the Mississippi Coast Horse Guards, composed of Mississippians from Copiah, Hinds, Simpson, Lawrence, Covington, Jones, Perry and Hancock Counties, affords very general satisfaction to the inhabitants of the coast.

This company, under the command of Capt. Jas. B. Norman, V. L. Terrell, John Pope, J. B. Middleton, lieutenants; H. F. Smith, orderly, was transferred to the Confederate service, for twelve months, by Gen. Lovell, during his brief visit to the Pass on board the Oregon on Sunday last, and is made up of stalwart, determined and youthful appearing men, all of whom are well mounted on spirited horses and armed with sabers, pistols and double-barreled shot guns. The appearance of the troops when marching through our streets, is exceedingly imposing, and notwithstanding we learn that numbers of men are quite new in the service, yet their maneuvering is very creditable, and is indicative of a determination to accomplish all that may be reasonably expected of them, if ever called to charge upon the enemy.

Like many others in the Confederate service, the general expenses of the outfit of the Company has been borne by the individual members of the troops. This may be regarded as very substantial evidence of their patriotism and deep-seated love of country. New recruits are daily expected to join the troop, and when the Regiment is complete we doubt not you will hear of gallant and daring deeds of valor having been performed by the Coast Horse Guards. Since the grand and startling naval predatory incursion of the Lincolnites at Biloxi, the principal result of which was the capturing of a couple of wheezing old cannon that for many years had been laying about loose and had become so asthmatic from exposure to the weather, that it was found necessary to bore them out before they could be fired, and the frightening of a few sensitive and nervous old women, very little has been seen or heard of the Yankee fleet, until yesterday, when a short engagement took place in the presence of Gen. Lovell and aids, between the New London and the gallant little Pamlico. After firing five or six shots both vessels retired uninjured.

It is rumored that, after the daring affair at Biloxi, and whilst the Lincolnites were on their way out of the harbor, becoming satisfied of the almost utter worthlessness of the captured cannon, and convinced that they would have to

be recast to render them at all serviceable, cast them overboard in silence and disgust.

A few days ago, 13 guns, followed in quick succession by 7 others, were fired by the blockading fleet, inducing the belief that some important personage, possible the renowned Gen. Butler, had arrived at Ship Island. Owing to the density of the fog, which has encompassed the lake almost constantly for a week past, very few of the Yankee fleet have been seen in their usual positions, and nothing is known of the movement of the enemy.

I could fill a dozen sheets with every-day rumors, nearly all of which are as ridiculous and unreliable as they would prove unsatisfactory and profitless to you readers.

Passing through the tranquil and imposing little village of Tugville, situated on the main traveled road leading into the interior [generally thought to be Menge Avenue the present day "Dixie White House" nursing home], a short time since, we were accosted by an ancient and smoky-skinned female, who was pulling vigorously away at a very fragrant and dingy clay pipe, which she held firmly between two old stumps of teeth, with "Mister, dew tell me ef them dogond old Yankees has burnt Biloxi clean up, and is marchen outn the Pass? He hearn so, and Mr. Jones telled me last night that the hull country would be ransacked and murdered in a few days. How does eggs sell at the Pass now?" quoth she, "I must get rid of mine, somehow, or they'll spile." Having informed the old lady that Biloxi had not been destroyed and that eggs were selling at a fair price at the Pass, she elevated her spectacles, took a long pull at her pipe, exclaiming, "The Lord have masy on our souls, for I'm afearred the pesky Yankees won't." We drove on.

The appearance of the Oregon, Arrow and Pamlico in the lake again, after so long an absence, is quite refreshing and encourages the hope that hereafter we may not be entirely shut out from the world at large, New Orleans in particular.

The publication of a "Chronicle of the Notable Social, Political and Military Events of the Second American Revolution," in the columns of the Pic is a feature that renders your paper the more sought after, if possible, than heretofore, and will, we trust, prove as remunerative to you as it is interesting and satisfactory to your numerous subscribers.— P. DISMAL



New brick installation. Our deep appreciation to all who have supported the Society through buying a brick. Please visit passhistory.org for more information about ordering a brick.