

NOV./DEC. 2011 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 of the month • Monthly luncheons are typically the fourth Monday

November 7, 2011

Dear Friends and Members,

November and December are busy months for the Society. This letter includes reminders about next week's annual meeting, the November luncheon, Christmas in the Pass, the Christmas party and other happenings. As in the prior years, the Christmas Party takes the place of a December meeting, and also due to the holidays, there will be no December luncheon.

This will be the last newsletter of the year, however invitations for the Christmas Party will be sent out around Thanksgiving.

—Tom Shellnut, President, & the Board of Trustees

Annual meeting on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

While there is much to be accomplished, 2011 has been a terrific year at the Historical Society. Our annual meeting next Monday will be given over to discussing our financial results and achievements for the year as well laying out our goals and budgets for 2012. And of course we will socialize afterwards. (There seemed to be several bottles of wine in the refrigerator.)

A high point of the November meeting is the election of three trustees by the membership, and under the by-laws these trustees will each serve a three-year term, joining six existing trustees who have similar staggered terms. At the October meeting Cynthia Hammond, Ed Macdiarmid and Patrick Burke were nominated for 3-year terms. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to voting.



Afternoon setup preparations for Christmas in the Pass 2011 (showing of course our old building). Please stop by the new Society building during this year's Christmas in the Pass for cookies and punch.

Monthly luncheon, Nov. 21st at Noon

Our luncheon this month has been moved up a week so as not to conflict with the Thanksgiving holidays. The cost of the luncheon is \$10 and reservations are required. Please contact the Society at info@passhistory.org for further information.

Christmas in the Pass, Dec. 2nd, 5-9 p.m.

While Santa won't be hearing the petitions from the naughty and nice at the building this year, we will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. as part of Christmas in the Pass. Please stop by for cookies and punch.

Christmas party, Dec. 12, 6-8 p.m.

Carroll and Dale Mathews are hosting our December 12th party at their home at 765 East Scenic Drive. The party is from 6:00-8:00 and invitations will be sent out around Thanksgiving.

This is a membership party, but it has a secondary goal of attracting new members and you are encouraged to invite non-member friends who would like to join the Society at the party. *And of course members are asked to renew their memberships for 2012 at the party.*

Finger foods needed for the Party

Lise Lorber (452-5043) and Eileen Guthrie (452-1961) [corrected numbers] are chairing the food committee. You can contact them at the numbers provided to let them know what you will be bringing (or for suggestions as to what is needed). Alternatively, just email the food committee c/o info@passhistory.org to let them know what you will be bringing.

Brick order deadline is November 15

Bricks are an excellent way to honor friends and support the Society. Bricks ordered by November 15 will be installed by Christmas, and if you are planning one as a present we can have a photo made to "place under the tree." Order forms are at the building and our website.

Volunteers needed

The Society has ambitious plans and volunteers are needed to carry them out. We would especially like volunteers to keep the building open on more than just its present weekend schedule. And we would be glad for any volunteers who could help out during Christmas in the Pass. Please call or email the Society (see masthead) if you can help.

(over please...)

Upcoming exhibits

Jack Kelly has done a terrific job in lining up a variety of new exhibits. Here is a list of Jack's upcoming exhibits:

- January 9 to January 27: Ten Most Endangered Places.
- January 9 to January 27: Archeological Finds.
- January 9 to February 24: Exploring Mississippi and the Pass.
- March 12 to April 27: The Great Flood of 1927.

150 Years ago the Vault...

Our bit of history for this month is a letter to the New Orleans Daily Picayune published 150 years ago on conditions at the Pass as Union forces blockaded the coast and made preparations for taking New Orleans a few months later. (Our apologies for the very small print. We will try to place a copy of the letter on our website.)

New Orleans Daily Picayune, December 29, 1861

Letter from the Pass

(Special Correspondence of the Picayune)

Pass Christian, Miss., December 18, 1861

Dear Pic.—"My dissatisfied friends, the mystic chords of memory having aroused the better angels of our nature," we are lead to exclaim, in the language of the vastly renowned and most perfectly resigned Robinson Crusoe, formerly Captain General of the rather sparsely settled and somewhat remote island of Juan Fernandez (not yet annexed to the United States),

"I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute;
From 'Cat Island' all round to the Middle
Channel,
I am lord of the fowl and several kinds of animals."

The announcement that the steamer Creole was about discontinuing her trips from here to New Orleans, for the present, was the signal for the departure of the third and nearly the last installment of the winter residents of this place, and were it not for a small invoice of choice spirits, (Peters & Millards', twenty-two years in store, "Old London Dock," recently smuggled into port here through the Lincoln blockade, by a member of the original "Iron Tie" family,) we might image ourselves the last one of earth, the balance of mankind having been clean "wiped out," or gone to seek some "safe place of retreat," where wars nor rumors of wars can not come to appall or smite them with terror.

From the rising to the setting of the sun, from twilight's gentle hour, through the dark and silent watches of the night, no sound disturbs the ear, no footfall awakes the slumbering ech-

oes—we are bewildered with the silence of the Pass, and, were it not for a slight distaste which we entertain for the Lincoln Bastile, we might wish the courageous Capt. Smith to honor us some day with an invitation to dine on board the Massachusetts, just for the fun of the thing, and as a relief to the monotony of the place, engendered by the blockading squadron.

For several days past the naval and military operations upon the Lake and Coast have not been of a very momentous, startling and sanguinary character. Occasionally, in fact almost daily, the report of cannon may be heard in the direction of Biloxi or Ship Island, and we learn that the number of the grand armada has been somewhat increased of late—at one time nine vessels belonging to the Federal fleet were to be seen inside of Ship Island—and it appears to be the determination of the Lincolnites so effectually to blockade the Gulf Coast, as to prevent all commercial intercourse between Mobile and New Orleans.

This we shall not altogether regret, as, until we are more fully prepared to cope with our enemy, by an increase of efficient gunboats, it will be useless to contest with so formidable and determined a foe. Already too many light draught steamers and small sailing craft have been sacrificed to warrant any further attempts to navigate the Lake, until it can be done with more powerful means and with perfectly assured safety.

For the second time in many years, the Pass has been visited with fire. The burning of Mr. Fred Sutter's dwelling, a few days since, has excited the warmest sympathies of the community in behalf of himself and family. Mr. S. is one of the most industrious and worthy mechanics of the Pass, and with the destruction of his property is very sincerely lamented by all who know him. In one hour from the time the fire was first discovered, his entire premises were in ruins and himself and family rendered homeless, penniless and almost naked. Prompt and somewhat efficient measures, we are happy to state, have been adopted for the relief of Mr. S. and family, and we trust the terrible calamity which has so suddenly plunged them in deep distress, may be somewhat ameliorated by the generous manifestation of friends and sympathizers.

The patriotic letter addressed to the chivalrous Lieut. Col Allen, of the 4th [La.] Regiment, by the venerable Judge John Huddleston, and published in the Picayune, a short time since, is characteristic of the man. Judge Huddleston is one of the indomitable spirits of the ages—a true patriot, an unmistakable and abiding friend of this country.

His elasticity of age is wonderful, being now over seventy years—a period when most men cease to take an active interest in public affairs, lay down the weapons of strife, and retire from

the busy scenes and turmoil of life, and seek repose around their own families. Not so with Judge Huddleston; his faithful goal and unwavering loyalty to the cause of the South will not permit him to sleep tranquilly on his post, whilst his country is menaced by a mercenary foe.

We spent the day with Judge H. not long since, at his quiet and secluded residence on Wolf River, and were heartily entertained and delighted with the fervor and intelligence with which he discussed the general topics of the day. He spoke of the Lincoln war, as unholy and aggressive upon the South, and said, "Although he was an old man, gray with the frosts of seventy winters, and somewhat enfeebled and that his old flint lock musket had become rusty with age and disuse, yet if his country needed his service, he would have his old gun put in order, and be in readiness to lay down his life in defence of the holy principles for which the people of the South are so manfully contending"

We saw him a few days since in town, with his musket beside him, having had it thoroughly repaired, the old time flint lock removed and replaced by a modern percussion, better adapted to the exigencies of the times. As he bid us good-by, exhibiting his favorite death dealing weapon, he exclaimed, "Let them come one and damned be he who first cries hold, enough."

Notwithstanding Judge Huddleston declines, in consideration of his advancing years, to serve his State in the halls of legislation, a position his numerous friends have often solicited him to accept, yet he is ready to endure the fatigues of a campaign and fight the devil himself and staff for the sake of his beloved South. Such a man is superior to one hundred and nine Bombastre Furiosos, who fight heroically with their tongues at long and convenient range. We understand it is in contemplation to present the Judge with a knife, manufactured from a material as unbending, keen and well tempered, as is the courage, vigor and patriotism of John Huddleston.

Hunting hereabouts this season, is very good. A couple of young gentlemen, Messrs. Fass—n and Coff—s, being quite enamored of field sports, arrived here from New Orleans for the purpose of duck hunting. They brought with them a keg of Dupont's treble F, and ___ lbs of assorted size shot, anticipating making feathers fly. After remaining for a week or so, they have expressed the belief that hunting in this region is somewhat on a par with the battles heretofore fought by the Federal army, the results, as near as ascertained, being none killed and two wounded, and doing well.

Permit me, Dear Pic, to renew the assurance of our distinguished consideration, and to invoke on you and you're a merry Christmas and happy New Year. PATRIARCH DISMAL.