

NOV/DEC. 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.

November 1, 2013

Dear Friends & Members,

Halloween has come and gone, and the cut jack-o-lanterns have been put away. Nights are getting cooler, a harbinger of the end of hurricane season and the beginning of our holiday season on the Coast. For us, this season, only second to the hurricane in length, seems to last from the end of October through midnight of Mardi Gras which in 2014 is March 4.

Our Trash or Treasure event, held last Saturday, was a great success. We had six professionals in the appraisal field here helping participants determine the value of their family heirlooms or garage sale purchases. Results were mixed; some visitors were ecstatic and some were disappointed. All in all, we had a good time as we spread the knowledge of participants' possessions and enjoyed some addition to our coffers. Kudos go to our tireless leaders: Cynthia Hammond, Barbara Woelke, and Pattie Ryan.

Our next event is the November 11th evening meeting at which time the membership will elect three trustees. Those proposed by the nominating committee headed by Virgil Harris include Keith Voigts, Joy Burke and yours truly. We will also hear Bertram Hayes-Davis, the great great grandson of Jefferson Davis who is the executive director of Beauvoir located in Biloxi, the last home of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. Mr. Hayes-Davis will discuss the holiday activities at Beauvoir.

Our Christmas party is on Monday, December 9 at the home of Margaret Loesch, 625 East Scenic. We ask all members to come and renew their membership for the coming year. The party is free to members who have paid their 2014 dues (or are lifetime mem-



Closing time at Trash or Treasure last Saturday. We thank all of our appraisers for volunteering their time and all you who supported the Society by attending and staffing the event.

bers). You can pay your dues at the door. Dues range from \$20 for an individual up to \$1,000 with steps in between. With each step upward, you get more value, so consider bumping up your membership status. Go to our web site at www.passhistory.org for a complete review for each level of membership. We have collected several commitments for food and other duties at the party. If you have not volunteered to help with the party, please do so by calling Amy Wood, membership chair, at 228-216-7649.

Finally, we want to remember the passing Dr. Martha Hays Taylor who, along with her late husband C.D. Taylor, was a great friend and supporter of the Society. Our deepest sympathy to the Taylor and Hays families.

—Tom Shellnut, & the Board of Trustees

Upcoming Events

November 1st & 2nd. Although not a Historical Society event, we want to mention that the Pass Christian Middle

School will be holding a history tour of Live Oak Cemetery on these two evenings.

Monday, November 11, 7 p.m. Trustee elections. **Bertram Hayes-Davis**, executive director of Beauvoir will speak on Christmas at Beauvoir. In addition we will also be electing three trustees. This will be the last event of the year, except for the Christmas Party on December 9th.

December 9, Christmas Party at 625 East Scenic (the home of Margaret Loesch) 6-8:30 p.m. Invitations will be mailed in a couple of weeks. If you have friends wishing to join, we encourage you to invite them to the party. (This is technically a members-only party, but happily 2014 dues may be paid at the door!)

'Like' us on Facebook

In addition to our website, the Historical Society has over the summer been

making expanded use of its Facebook page.

The Facebook page for the Pass Christian Historical Society communicates our upcoming events, the results of various matters of historical importance in our community, invites volunteers and contributions, and provides information for guests doing historical, genealogical, and architectural research.

Becky Orfila, who maintains the page, reports that we are seeing good reaction, via LIKE clicks. For example, the Trash or Treasures post on September 28 has received over 280 clicks. Announcements for the bottle workshops have received fewer clicks, but any recognition is great!

What can we do to bring more people to the Society Facebook page? Simply put, go visit our Facebook page and click LIKE on our activities! When you do that, it will post to your personal Facebook page, which will in turn inform your Facebook friends about Society doings!

The Pass's first Regatta?

Some years ago, prior to Katrina, we reported in this newsletter a contemporary newspaper announcement of an 1839 regatta to be held at Pass Christian and wondered whether this race (which predates the race at which the Southern Yacht Club was founded by almost ten years) should not be considered the first regatta. Well thanks to research by Robin Rafferty, we have learned a little more about the 1839 Regatta from a brief mention in a New York sports journal which we transcribe below (as well as reprint).

As the item makes clear, this first regatta was a rowing competition, presumably inspired by the Henley Royal Regatta which held its first rowing competition earlier that same year (1839). So July 1849 still stands as the first *yachting* re-

Regatta at Pass Christian.—A brilliant affair was to come off on the 18th. The editor of the N. O. "Picayune" remarks to the following effect.—

We saw the beautiful silver boat, built upon the model of one of the Mobile club boats, yesterday, and would have no objection to pull a few licks for it ourselves even in this hot weather. It was made by Murray & Brothers, of this city, at a cost of something like \$300, is the neatest and richest specimen of the kind we have ever seen, and is to be presented to the winning boat at the regatta. Six oared boats, rowed entirely by amateurs and no others, are to contend. Those boys at Bayou Sara have a splendid boat—they will take a hand in the regatta and pull for the silver present of course.

gatta at the Pass (or apparently anywhere in the South), but not first regatta!

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Thanks again to Robin for discovering this most interesting item. □

No November or December Luncheons. Due to their proximity to Thanksgiving and the Holidays, there are no luncheons scheduled for November and December. And of course the Christmas party takes the place of our December meeting. Our 2014 year will begin with the January 9th evening meeting.

Time to Renew Your Historical Society Membership for 2014

Levels:

Individual — \$20

Family — \$30

Student — \$5

Contributing (one adult) — \$60

Sustaining (two adults) — \$100

Patron (two adults) — \$500

Benefactor (two adults) — \$1,000

Note: Contributing and higher memberships include ticket(s) to the Tour of Homes. Patron and Benefactor memberships also include an engraved brick. (Please visit our website for full details.)

Three easy ways to renew or join:

1. Mail or drop off a check at the Historical Society Building.
2. Visit passhistory.org and pay on line with a credit card.
3. Pay night of the Christmas Party.

The Pass Christian Historical Society

Invites You to

**Make a Lasting Impression
For Your Family or Business
With an Engraved Brick**

4"x8" 1-3 Lines - \$100

8"x8" 1-5 Lines - \$200

Contact us at

228-452-7254 or

www.passhistory.org