

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.passhistory.org • Post Office Box 58, Pass Christian MS 39571 • Society Building 201 East Scenic Drive
228 452-7254 • info@passhistory.org • passchristian.wordpress.com • Building typically open: Thur. to Sat. 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.

October 8, 2015

Dear Friends & Members,

One of the important functions of the year is to elect three trustees to serve for a three-year term. A nominating committee will present a slate of candidates for those positions and nominations will also be accepted from the floor at Monday's meeting. The election will be at the November 9 meeting.

Homes for the May Tour of Homes have been identified, but a Chair of that event is needed. If you are interested or can help please contact Cynthia Hammond.

The Society is also in need of volunteers to provided food for the November luncheon. If you can do that please contact Joy Burke.

We are excited to have a talk by Paul Dilille at Monday's night meeting, and a group from the Middle School for our October 26 luncheon. Details below.

—Virgil Harris and the Board of Trustees

Upcoming Events

Monday, October 12, 7 p.m. Paul Delille will speak, and his topic will be the 1812 Society and the La Native Guard. Nominations for three trustees will also be presented at the meeting, as well as, taken from the floor.

Monday October 26, 12 noon. **Lori Fisher** and the Discovery students from Pass Christian Middle School will present "A taste of the Live Oak Cemetery Tour."



Trinity Episcopal Church, as it likely appeared at the time of the October 1, 1893 storm

Monday, December 7. The **Christmas party** will be held at the home of William and Dr. Angela Wingfield at 915 East Scenic. Wilma and Lou Rizzarda will be chairing the event. Nancy Calder is in charge of food.

Our Bit of History... An October 1893 Storm

In looking through the Society's archives for October events, a surprising number of them relate to late season hurricanes. Below is an newspaper account of an October 1, 1893 storm. The first big storm in 30 years! In light of Camille, and Katrina,

though, it's hard not to feel a little nostalgic for such a storm.

From the New Orleans Daily Picayune, Saturday, October 7, 1893

AT PASS CHRISTIAN

Pass Christian, Miss., Oct. 3, 1893 —

Sunday morning [October 1, 1893] there arose quite a severe southeast wind, which increased in intensity during the whole night until about 4 o'clock Monday Morning [October 2], when it veered to the northeast, and the amount of destruction it has done can hardly be calculated.

In every direction could be seen fences blown down and large trees

uprooted, so that most of the streets were impassable.

Water Rises 10 to 12 Feet.

Not a wharf has been left standing along the extent of the Pass, and only two bath-houses, one belonging to Mr. J. H. Menge and the other to Mr. L. C. Fallon.

A great portion of the damage was due to the extreme rise of water, which exceeded the highwater mark by ten or twelve feet, as well as the great violence with which the waves beat against any object with which they came in contact.

Vessels

All the vessels that were anchored in front disappeared during the night. Among them were the yacht Iris, belonging to Captain J. B. Donnally & Co., the sloop Cucie Joe, owned by Captain Charlot, and the schooners Cinderella, belonging to Captain W. A. Terrell, and the Centennial, recently purchased by Captain W. F. McDonald. On the last were three white men and one negro, who at first were presumed drowned; but the news has just reached us that the white men (Captain Wm. McDonald, Philip Brown and Andrew Fournier) had reached Bay St. Louis safely, but the negro is supposed to have been drowned.

Fishermen

Most of the fishermen were heavy losers. Captain Bartole Bojlanich, who was a large shipper of oysters, lost everything, even his clothes and money. Mr. Louis Schruff lost his sloop Fly and his seine and nets.

Captain Francis Fournier, owner of the Live Oak Oyster Shop, reached the beach this morning just in time to see his ship settle down into the water; his schooner Loretta was already gone.

Stores

The stores situated on the beach side of the front road all sustained heavy damage; that of the estate of C. Courtney being estimated at about \$500.

Mr. Joe Murphy lost over two tons of feed, ruined by the water, which was knee-deep in his store when he entered it this morning.

The heaviest loss fell upon Dr. A. K. Northrop, who has but recently completed his new store. His warehouse was totally destroyed with its contents, and the back of the store sank several feet, owing to the washing away of every pillar except one. The doctor says it will take fully \$1,000 to repair the injury.

Catholic and Episcopal Churches

Even the churches did not escape.

The steeple of the Catholic Church was blown to one side, and at every moment its fall seemed imminent.

At the Episcopal Church two of its beautiful memorial windows were shattered.

Houses

Several houses beyond the railroad were razed to the ground by the wind, and the inmates had to seek shelter in the town.

The yards of many of the citizens were scenes of great devastation, fine fruit trees being demolished and fences torn down, which has been reported to be the case along the whole coast.

In fact our pretty town looks as if it had been visited by a cyclone, and everyone seems wrought up to a great pitch of excitement, for such a storm has never been experienced for the past 30 years. Business has been for the most part suspended, and groups of people may be seen in every direction discussing the storm and the probable amount of loss, which has been estimated at the minimum to be \$100,000 to \$150,000. ■



Beach view showing St. Paul's steeple from a 1907-mailed postcard. No mention is made of damage to a rectory in the 1893 storm report and it maybe that the one pictured here was built later. (Possibly about 1903 when, according to Hayden's History of Pass Christian, a permanent priest, the Rev. Auguste Althoff, was appointed for the Pass.) If any members know more about the rectory, we would be glad to hear from you!