

FEB-MAR 2017 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.

February 6, 2017

Dear Friends & Members,

Mississippi was admitted to the Union on December 10, 1817. This is the 200th anniversary of that event. If anyone is interested in presenting a program commemorating that event later in the year, please contact the Society via email or telephone. We have a number of events scheduled over the next two months including celebrating Mardi Gras in the Pass from the building

--Virgil Harris and the Board

Upcoming Events

February 13 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Becky Orfila will speak on "Dirt Streets and Demimonde-Part 1-A History of Brothel Culture"

Luncheon February 20 @ 12:00 pm
Becky Orfila will speak on Part 2 of "Dirt Streets and Demimonde-A History of Brothel Culture."

Attendance at the monthly luncheon is \$10 (\$12 non members). This fee applies to reservations as well as walk-ins, and whether you have lunch or not. Please reserve by 3 p.m. on the Friday before the luncheon. You may reserve by calling 228-452-7254



"FrontWay" looking East from the Mexican Gulf Hotel (ca late 1890s) from a Deckler Photo Album. The Bielenberg Furniture Store can be seen on the south side just west of what would later become Memorial Park. (see reverse)

(feel free to leave a message) or emailing president@passhistory.org

Mardi Gras in the Pass, February 26th. PCHS will hold the annual Mardi Gras Party for members and their guests at the Society Building on February 26, 2017. The parade rolls at 11:30 am this year so our doors will open at 9:30 am. Admission price for adults is \$20 person and \$10 for children. The Society will provide sandwiches and soft drinks. Those who attend are welcome to bring their own food and drinks. There is limited parking behind the building but the Society does not provide parking for this event. *Please make your reservations either by email or by leaving a message on the phone recorder no later than Thursday, February 23.*

March 13 @ 7:00 pm Jim Miller from the Mississippi Historical Society

will speak on "How Mississippi Celebrates Historical Birthdays"

March 27 @ 12:00 pm Gary Higginbotham, local sports historian, will give a presentation on "The Boys of Summer-Spring Training on the Gulf Coast." Attendance at the monthly luncheon is \$10 (\$12 non members). This fee applies to reservations as well as walk-ins, and whether you have lunch or not. Please reserve by 3 p.m. on the Friday before the luncheon. You may reserve by calling 228-452-7254 (feel free to leave a message) or emailing president@passhistory.org.

A Garden Party has been scheduled for May 7, 2017 at the Conwill house. Watch for further details in a later newsletter.

Our bit of history...

A Railroad in the Works 1867

New Orleans *Daily Picayune*, Thursday,
June 6, 1867

PASS CHRISTIAN AND THE RAIL-ROAD There has been much talk of building rail-roads; but the only one now certain to be built within a short space of time is that which will go from New Orleans to Mobile via the watering places, and thence to Chattanooga. The preliminary surveys are now in progress, and the earth will be broken with a large force as soon as this is so far completed as to indicate the path the workmen are to take. Apart from the ultimate commercial ad-vantages of this road to the city resident desirous of a home out of the reach of our dust and noise, this opens a most hopeful vista. Pass Christian — delightful, breezy, dry, with its airy shades and lovely dwellings, will then be only an hour and a half distance from New Orleans. The man of business who, after an early breakfast, starts from his home along the beach at the Pass, can by leaving at 7 reach the city at half past 8, and leaving again at half past 3 be ready for his dinner at 5. Three hours of the day he may spend along the way, but they will be pleasantly employed in observing the world outside the city, or in meditation, for which few business men get time, or in conversation, and not illy spent, when they separate him from his business cares. The rest of his time will be in the country, along the beach, angling

perhaps, perhaps bathing in the salt water, and slumbering in the cool and pure air, made fragrant and musical by the coquetting of the breeze with the pine boughs. We mention Pass Christian especially because it has ever been the favorite watering place, where the finest mansions were built, where society was always unexceptionable, where the best schools abound, where churches are well established and supported., and because it has a progressive and intelligent population. No doubt those who have secured themselves comfortable homes with the sole expectation of visiting their families, once a week during the summer, are now greatly rejoiced to find that they will, within a year, be able to be with them every night, and lose hardly an hour from the time they give, even in winter, to their business. 45



The Bielenberg Furniture as seen in Along the Coast (1894). The store stood just west of modern day Memorial Park on the south side of Scenic. Many members will remember Adele Bielenberg, whose home stood across from the store site until Katrina.