

# PASS CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

www.passhistory.org • P.O. Box 58, Pass Christian MS 39571 • Society Building 201 East Scenic Drive

228-452-7254 • info@passhistory.org • passchristian.wordpress.com • Building hours: Friday & Saturday 11am-1pm

Evening meetings at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday • Monthly luncheons typically on the 4th Monday of the month.

*Dear Members and Friends,*

Thanks to the efforts of many generous volunteers who are donating their time and talents, plans for our Garden Party and Home Tour are progressing and indications are that this will be a spectacular event. The Party is May 6, 2018, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the home of Carol and Burt Keenan, 701 East Scenic Drive. Tickets are now available, and we hope all Members and Friends will come and enjoy this Party and Home Tour. More details are included throughout this newsletter.

We are pleased that our additional office on the second floor has been leased, and our new tenant is in residence.

There has been little response to our need for volunteers to assist with keeping our building open Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We ask that anyone who has the time to volunteer for those hours, please consider doing so—we need your help.

Our monthly Luncheons and General Membership Meetings are a great opportunity to enjoy interesting and informative programs, visit with friends and learn about Society activities. Everyone is invited and urged to attend.

*The Board of Trustees*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

## *2018 Garden Party & Home Tour*



*Tickets are available now for this year's Garden Party and Home Tour! Please see the enclosed card for more details. Tickets may be purchased at upcoming society events; at Pass Christian Books; and online at [www.passhistory.org](http://www.passhistory.org).*

#### **Monday, April 9 at 7pm: Membership Meeting.** Rebecca Adams.

Topic: "The Adams and Robinson Families of Pass Christian"

**Monday, April 23, 12pm: Luncheon.** "The History of Medicine in India" with Dr. Ishrat Syed. Cost for lunch is \$10 for members and \$12 for non members. To reserve your spot, call 228-452-7254 or email [president@passhistory.org](mailto:president@passhistory.org).

**Sunday, May 6, 2-5pm: Garden Party,** 701 East Scenic Drive

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We have begun keeping the building open for two hours on Fridays and Saturdays, 11am-1pm. Volunteers are needed as docents to greet visitors and perform other tasks related to Society activities. Training will be provided, so please think about getting involved with your society— IT'S FUN!

Please call 228-452-7254 or email [info@passhistory.org](mailto:info@passhistory.org) for more details or to sign up!

## The Original Inn-by-the-Sea by *Dan Ellis*

The Inn-by-the-Sea of the 1920s came about as an offspring from promotions that were taking place all along the transcontinental route from St. Augustine, Fla., to San Diego, Calif., that was called "Old Spanish Trail." Developers and business promoters were eager to make their mark along the highway and to welcome the anticipated droves of tourists. In Pass Christian, many of the early thriving hotels had met their demise in flames and ashes. One of these was owned by Ike Rhea, who visualized the heavy tourist traffic that would cross to and fro aboard the new ferry that was less than a half mile from his planned Spanish Colonial complex.

Timing was excellent. The Pine Hills Hotel at DeLisle was in process. Hotels were being built in Bay St. Louis and at Gulfport. The Old Spanish Trail promoters were broadcasting announcements widely throughout the United States.

The Pass Christian Isles Company, formed in 1926, was a planned \$6 million, 1400-acre development with seven miles of canals and lagoons. Additionally there was an inland yacht harbor basin that connected the waters of Bay of St. Louis with the inland lagoons and waterways.

The Inn by The Sea at Henderson Point was originated by Henry Bacon, who erected a two-story lodge located south of the L&N railroad tracks and then sold the venture to Mr. and Mrs. I.T. Rhea. Gradually, the new hostelry was expanded and grew into the Spanish Mission resort layout that was



popular in the late 1920s and throughout the early 1940s.

It was laid out in Spanish Colonial style, situated in the center of a beautifully landscaped 75-acre park, with a private white-silver sand beach extending from the very edge of the patio to the brackish waters of the Gulf of Mexico and St. Louis Bay.

Everywhere were exotic birds of every variety and color – flamingos, peacocks, parrots and more. The owners hand-fed the bugle birds adorned with gold and black plumage, along with the white cockatoos and beautiful macaws.

The Inn-by-the-Sea was a delightful hotel with spectacular views surrounded by cottages between the tall pines and moss-hung live oaks basking beside the shores of the Gulf at Henderson Point. It was a perfect vacation destination for people from New Orleans and beyond.

*Dan Ellis, a long-time Historical Society member, has published more than a dozen books in his heritage legacy series and is a contributing writer to several publications. His book "Inn-by-the-Sea" is available for purchase on Amazon. Find links to this and other titles at [www.danellis.net](http://www.danellis.net).*