

# PASS CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

www.passhistory.org • facebook.com/passhistory • Society Building 201 East Scenic Drive, Pass Christian MS 39571

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

*Dear Members and Friends,*

Because of a scheduling issue, the venue for our Christmas Party has been changed. Margaret Loesch has graciously agreed to host the party at her lovely home on Scenic Drive! Thank you, Margaret. The date for the party remains the same: Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, and invitations will be going out in mid-November. Please continue to invite friends who are not Society members to join and attend this fabulous party. As in the past, dues can be paid and new members can join, at the door on the evening of the party. Be certain that you "save the date."

Trustees whose term will expire at the end of 2018 are Virgil Harris, Lauri Wood and Joy Burke. In accordance with Society By-Laws, a Nominating Committee has been appointed to provide a slate of candidates to fill these vacancies and to report those named candidates at the General Membership Meeting on Monday, Oct. 8, 2018. At that meeting, Society Members will also be given an opportunity to make additional nominations of candidates from the floor. The new Trustees will be elected at the General Membership Meeting on Nov. 12, 2018.

*Your Board of Trustees*

*Welcome, New Members!*

Darla and Keith Goodfellow  
Julianne Huber & William Sewell  
Nancy Smith  
James Davis Wilkinson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, Oct. 8, 7pm: October General Membership Meeting. "Do You Know How Picayune Got Its Name?"**



Our speaker will be Mike Fitzwilliam, who is the author of the book *Do You Know How Picayune Got Its Name?* and his talk will be on the same topic. The presentation will include the fascinating history of Eliza Poitevent Nicholson (aka Pearl Rivers).

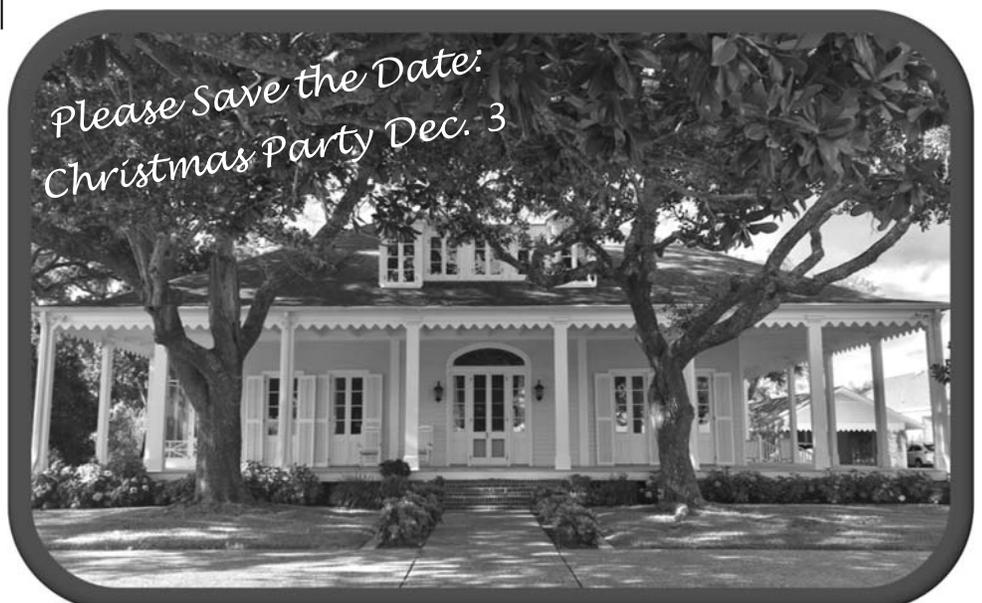
**Monday, Oct. 22, 12pm: October Luncheon. "On the Shores of Vera Cruz"**

Our speaker will be our own historian, Becky Orfila! Becky will share with us the interesting story of Christine Northrop of Pass Christian, who witnessed the U.S. blockade of Vera Cruz port during the Mexican-American War (1862-1867). This presentation focuses on the blockade and the Northrop-Hadsell family experience.

The cost for lunch is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. To reserve, call 228-452-7254 or email [president@passhistory.org](mailto:president@passhistory.org). Please reserve by Oct. 19 at 3 p.m.

**Monday, Nov. 12, 7pm: Membership Meeting and Annual Meeting**

**Monday, Dec. 3: Christmas Party**



# A Life of Adventure, Cut Short: Christine Northrop Hadsell

*From "Under the Oaks: A History of Live Oak Cemetery"*

*This week's history is a short excerpt from a forthcoming book published by the Live Oak Cemetery Association, "Under the Oaks." The following excerpt tells the fascinating history of the Northrop-Hadsell family, which is also the subject of the October monthly luncheon. We thought it might offer an interesting appetizer to this month's program!*

Christine Northrop Hadsell was born in 1876 to Abner K. and Helena Northrop of Pass Christian. In 1908, she married Walter Elias Hadsell in Laredo, Tex.

Christine may have not intended to be an adventurer, but her travels with her husband took her around the world. Walter was a geologist and an avocational photographer and lived near various mining concerns in the United States and Mexico. By 1911, Walter and Christine were in Vera Cruz, where he was working for a mining company.

Fascinated by the emerging technology of cameras and photography, Walter purchased a Kodak



*Gravestone of Christine Northrop Hadsell in Live Oak Cemetery (photo from "Under the Oaks")*

store in Vera Cruz and was able to capture in photographs an important piece of early 20th century history: the United States blockade of Vera Cruz of 1914.

The events that led to the blockade began in April of that year, when several sailors from the crew of the ship USS Dolphin - anchored in a restricted dock area in Tampico,

Mexico - were arrested by Mexican authorities. This led President Woodrow Wilson to demand an apology from the Mexican government. A naval task force was sent to occupy the port of Vera Cruz.

Walter Hadsell documented the blockade, as well as life in Mexico at the time, in his photographs, many of which survive today as postcards.

The Hadsells had three children during their marriage. Christine died of dysentery on Jun. 20, 1914, at the age of 37 in Vera Cruz, while Walter and she were planning to evacuate the city during the blockade. Christine's body was shipped to Pass Christian where she was buried in Live Oak Cemetery (Plot 105/4). Walter Hadsell returned to New Orleans with his children a few months after Christine's death. He remarried and is buried in New Mexico.

*"Under the Oaks" will be available for sale at the Historical Society luncheon this month, or by calling the Live Oak Cemetery Association at 228-223-5479.*

*The photos below are from a presentation, available online, by author Susan Toomey Frost, called "Walter Elias Hadsell: A Mining Engineer and Photographer in Mexico (1906 - 1915)" presented at the 4th Mexican Postcard Congress (link will be on our website)*

