

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

November 2014

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Plans for the guest speaker are still being finalized. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. **Respectfully we must insist that you please call by noon on Wednesday, November 19 2014,** to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.



Cedar Rest Cemetery
200 South Second Street
Bay Saint Louis, MS

The Twenty-first Annual Cemetery Tour Presented by the Hancock County Historical Society

By
Eddie Coleman

The Twenty-first Annual Cemetery Tour was held from 5:30 until 8:00 P. M. at Cedar Rest Cemetery on South Second Street on October 31, 2014. Guests were greeted at the front entrance of the

cemetery by Society member Faith Gibson. Members of the Society acted as guides and led the attendees along the lighted path, stopping at various grave sites as the apparitions of those long gone citizens materialized to relate events of their lives.

The night's citizens in order of appearance were Ida Tudury, Henry Chapman, two orphan children, Inez Labat, Ginger Paradise, Ana Carco, Anita Taconi, Roger De-deaux, Oswald Gilbert, Modena Chadwick Weston, Louise Crawford, Andrew Manieri, and Katherine Lobrano.

It is time to elect board members to serve from January 2015 through December 2016. Final selections will be made in elections at the November meeting.

Our nominating committee will submit its recommendations, but we are also asking the general membership for nominations. If you would like to serve or to recommend someone, please call 467-4090 or nominate from the floor at the November meeting. The offices being filled this year are first vice president, secretary, treasurer, and member at large. Thank you to those who served on the board during these past two years.

THE HISTORIAN OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
Ellis Cuevas, Publisher

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LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

“TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.”



Tina Richardson as Ida Saucier Tudury

IDA SAUCIER TUDURY

Portrayed by Tina Richardson

I am Ida Saucier Tudury, the daughter of Henry and Victoire Toulme Saucier. If you are in the know about Hancock County and Bay Saint Louis history, you can tell that I am related to just about everyone in the area. Here are some examples.

In 1858 John B. Toulme, son of the original John B. Toulme, was the first secretary of the town of Shieldsboro and later its mayor. As the years went by, he accumulated a fortune. In 1860 he reserved the Cedar Rest Cemetery as a burying ground (where I am now). The Saucier family settled on their Spanish land grant in what became Hancock and Harrison Counties. Two of the Saucier brothers married two of the Toulme sisters creating a firm and lasting friendship between the families. One of the brothers was my father Henry, and

Victoire Toulme, one of the sisters, was my mother.

My husband Peter comes from a family who has been in Bay Saint Louis for a long time. Two brothers of Castilian descent left Spain to come to New Orleans. Some of their sons settled in Bay Saint Louis on Union Street, and their land purchases on Main Street and other lots helped Bay Saint Louis grow.

My husband Peter and I had eight children. We had wonderful years, and some sad ones too. Our son Henry fought in the Great War and was decorated by General Pershing leading to a Distinguished Service Cross. He also received the Croix de Guerre and Medal of Honor. He was Mississippi’s most highly decorated soldier of World War I. All of our children were civic minded, and we Tudurys have grown up along with Bay Saint Louis and interwoven our history with the city’s.

I remember so much. Years ago the lamplighters lit the gas street lamps at dusk. Wars have come and gone, and in 1958 I received a special honor. During the 1958 Bay Saint Louis Centennial, I was named as the oldest native of our city. Our mayor, John Scafide, stopped during the parade, walked up the steps of my front porch, and presented me with a bouquet of flowers, a lovely tribute for a life well lived.

HENRY CHAPMAN

Portrayed by John Gibson

I’m 2nd Lt. Henry Buckley Chapman, born in New Orleans in 1893; the family moved to Bay St. Louis soon after that to 620 N. Beach Blvd., right near the intersection of the bridge and Beach Blvd.



John Gibson as
Henry Chapman

In 1917, I joined the army in Texas. Because I had an interest in flying, I was transferred to March Field in California, where I soloed after four hours of training. In 1918 after being promoted to 2nd Lt., I became a flight instructor, training pursuit pilots to go to France to fight the Germans.

After discharge from the Army, I flew and helped map the first airmail route in California, from San Diego to Sacramento to San Francisco. Later in 1919, I left flying and became an automobile salesman.

After losing my life's savings in a hardware store, I worked for a steamship line in New Orleans, eventually attaining the rank of Captain of an ocean going vessel.

In 1932 I flew air services in Latin America, and in 1934 I started Chapman Air Service at Shushan Airport, now New Orleans Lakefront Airport, where I taught flying, flew mail and passengers, and even flew air circus among other things. In 1939 I set a new long-distance world record for light sea-

planes, flying non-stop from Floyd Bennet Field in New York to Lakefront in New Orleans.

During World War II, I trained navy pursuit pilots. According to air museum curators at air museums in Alabama, Louisiana, and California, I was the only known instructor to train both World War I and World War II fighter pilots.

In 1947 I married Juanita Gelpi Chapman, widow of my brother Alfred and became a land surveyor in Hancock County, retiring from that in 1964. In 1968 I died of a heart attack on a motor trip to Canada. Here I rest.

**ORPHAN TRAIN
CHILDREN
ANNIE RICHTNER
GRAHAM &
JOHN DAMBORINO**

Portrayed by
Cayla and Jay Kelton



Cayla and Jay Kelton as
Annie Richtner Graham &
John Damborino

I am Annie Graham, and I was born on December 9, 1906, in New York City. I am John Damborino, and I was also born in New York City on December 10, 1906.

We are not related but have a special bond. You see we were both Orphan Train Children. We were given up by our parents because they could not take care of us. We were taken to the New York Foundling Hospital, which is operated by the Sisters of Charity. This organization has been taking care of abandoned children since 1870. In 1873 the Sisters joined with the Children's Aid Society to find better homes for the children and came up with the idea of sending children westward on Orphan Trains to be placed with farm or other families as indentured servants or as adoptees.

We were both on trains that came to Bay Saint Louis. I, Annie, was only twenty-one months old when John and Mary Adam took me in. They did adopt me. My underwear had the number 205 sewn in to identify me to my adoptive parents, and later when I married, my husband chose that number for our post office box. I went to school here and worked in the Peerless Seafood Factory and later for the Bell Telephone Company. I married in 1931, and my husband and I had no children.

I, John, was one of the first children to be placed in Bay Saint Louis. I was three when I was adopted. I had a wonderful life and worked for the *Sea Coast Echo* for twenty-eight years. Then, I started my own paper, the *Hancock Eagle*, which I later sold to the *Echo*. I married Margaret Heitzmann in 1927. As a teenager I suspected I was adopted, but my mother said no, and then she burned the adoption papers. When I grew up, I went back to New York and did find

my original birth certificate, but nothing else about my roots

INEZ RITA LABAT

Portrayed by
Mary Labat

I am Inez Labat, the oldest of thirteen children. As the oldest I was tasked with the responsibility of assuring that all of my siblings became well educated. I was passionate with this responsibility.

Recognizing the educational limits of my parents and their current family responsibilities, I charted an educational program for each of my brothers and sisters. My efforts in directing and guiding them to educational, social, and financial independence led to the success of each one.

In addition, I introduced my siblings to intellectuals and artists who helped mold their character, and I arranged travel both within the United States and internationally



Mary Labat as
Inez Labat

which would further develop their competitiveness.

At the same time I became well respected in the educational community in New Orleans as a teacher and principal. Much of my success was a result of mentors who encouraged me to pursue levels of education that would eventually lead to my professional successes.

As a result of my initiatives, I was able to attract to my home- stead in Bay St. Louis many prominent individuals, both domestic and international. Many of these persons made major contributions to the development of their communi- ties and the nation as a whole. The results of my efforts are reflected in the contributions of the current gen- eration of Labats to the Bay com- munity and the State of Mississippi.

GINGER BURKE PARADISE

Portrayed by
Kathy Higgins

I am Ginger Burke Para- disie, the Gypsy Queen. I was born on September 27, 1924, in Fort Worth, Texas, and later married Tony Paradise of Rt. 1, Bay St. Louis.

Little is known about my life, but my death is another matter. In 1967 at age forty-three I was hospi- talized in the Bay and died three days later. Because I was a gypsy queen, a large, celebratory funeral was held at the site of my burial in Cedar Rest. Unfortunately for peo- ple living today but fortunately for me, the actual site of my grave is unknown. Following gypsy custom, the grave has no identifying marks in order for the queen not to be tak- en from her resting place.

Also following custom, the gypsy king conducted my service, and I was buried in a robe of bright gypsy green with a wax cross in my



Kathy Higginne as
Ginger Burke Paradise

hand and family jewelry adorning my body. In addition I was buried with a comb, a brush, work clothes (needed on the other side), and other necessities to make the trip across the River Styx.

I was buried in a Wilbert Vault—a vault fit for a queen—of ultra high-strength concrete with a reinforced bronze interior to resist corrosion. Non-gypsies and gypsies alike attended the service, but no pictures were allowed because the gypsies believe that pictures steal one’s soul. A big celebration some- what like a wake was held with many friends enjoying food, drink, and dancing.

ANA CARCO

Portrayed by
Ava Sevin

My name is Ana Carco. This is Robert Carco, my great un- cle, and this is Henry Carco, my great, great uncle.



Ava Sevin as
Ana Carco

Our name has been spelled many ways: Carquotte, Carquot, Carcot, and lastly Carco.

Robert Anthony Carco was born on February 21, 1889, and baptized at Our Lady of the Gulf on May 5, 1889. His wife was Viola McCarty. They lived in Pass Christian and had two children. In addition they raised a niece. He died on January 6, 1968.

Corine Carco—she’s over there—married Robert’s brother, Joseph. Her parents were Ursin Ladner and Martha Bourgeois. They married on September 17, 1911. She and her husband had several children, but with each child she went berserk and was incapacitated. Finally she was put into a mental institution. One of her children—Maize—was adopted by Robert and his wife.

Henry Carso was born on May 18, 1840, and baptized at Nativity, B.V.M., Cathedral in Biloxi. His parents were Joseph Carco and Euphenie Buhour d’Angille. He never married. He served in the Civil War in Hancock County Com-

pany C, 3rd Mississippi Infantry. He died on February 7, 1911.

I am very proud of my kin.

ANITA TACONI

Portrayed by
Mary Ellen Murphy

Hello! My name is Anita Taconi. My husband Charles’ father, ‘Jambon,’ came over with his family from Italy and settled in Bay St. Louis. I’m from Violet, LA, but when I met Charles, I moved over here, and we got married. After we married, we built a house on Carroll Avenue. It’s still standing on the corner of Carroll and Toulme. Behind the house Charles built a little grocery store, and I had a garden and some fruit trees. We had five sons that we reared in that house. I had a little business selling my flowers and preserves.

As the boys got older, they worked at keeping the yard clean and picking fruit and flowers for me. Now, Charles ran the grocery and had quite a reputation for carry-



Mary Ellen Murphy as
Anita Taconi

ing things you couldn’t find anywhere else. He special ordered stock all the way from Italy, and we had a lot of people from New Orleans who came over just to shop in our store.

I remember the surrey we used to have. Now a surrey is a small carriage with a canvas top pulled by two horses. We were one of the only families that had one, and we used it to go all over town. I just loved traveling in that surrey.

Sadly, there was an accident one day when the horses got excited and reared up causing the surrey to overturn. Charles was permanently disabled after the accident. Unfortunately, I didn’t know anything about running a store, and the kids weren’t big enough at the time to help out. We had sold a lot to our customers on credit, and when people wouldn’t pay their bills, we had to close the store.

Of course I couldn’t see wasting such a wonderful space, so I turned the store into a nice bathroom and installed a wonderful big tub where I could soak for long periods of time. I missed the store, but the bathtub made it a little easier to take the sorrow.

ROGER DEDEAUX

Portrayed by
Richard Boice

The second child of six, I was born in 1892 in Fenton, MS, to Josephine Pucheu and Thomas Dedeaux. We lived in Cedar Point and attended St. Joseph’s Chapel.

I served as a baker in World War I and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant. This job in the army led to my life’s career. At various times I worked at bakeries in Louisiana and Hattiesburg, but I finally settled in Gulfport and became co-owner of a bakery there. I often provided bread



Richard Bolice as
Roger Dedeaux

for the nuns at a local convent in town, and I also developed a recipe for French bread.

I married Amelia Carver, and we had three children.

An interesting story I can tell is that when I got out of the service I bought a horse for transportation. However, every time I got on



Calvin Smith as
Oswald Gilbert

the horse, he would dance. What I didn't know at the time, and later found out, is that I had bought a circus horse!

On New Year's Day in 1934, I began having chest pains and sent my wife to the drug store to get me something for what we thought was indigestion. While she was gone, I lay across the bed to rest. Upon her return, she found me dead at the age of forty-two.

OSWALD GILBERT

Portrayed by
Calvin Smith

I am Oswald Planchard Gilbert, born on December 18, 1897, to Walter and Georgiana Gilbert here in Bay St. Louis.

I enlisted in the US Army on April 25, 1917, shortly after the United States entered World War I, and I was assigned as a PFC to Troop 1, 9th Cavalry. We were known as "Buffalo Soldiers." On January 21, 1920, I was sent to Ft. William McKinley, Manila, Philippines. Later, on August 20, 1920, I was sent to Lochiel, AZ, and assigned to Troop E, 10th Cavalry, which was also a part of the Buffalo Soldiers.

In 1866 through an act of Congress, legislation was adopted to create six all African-American army units. These units were identified as the 9th and 10th Cavalries. These first Buffalo Soldiers enlisted for five years and were paid \$13.00 per month.

The 10th Cavalry was formed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and recruited soldiers from the northern states. Colonel Benjamin Grierson was selected to command the 10th Cavalry. Colonel Edward Hatch was selected to command the 9th Cavalry, and he recruited soldiers from the South and set up his

headquarters in Greenville, Louisiana. The troops were led by white officers. Many officers, including George Armstrong Custer, refused to command black regiments and accepted a lower rank rather than do so. The black regiments could serve only west of the Mississippi River because of prevailing attitudes following the Civil War.

The Buffalo Soldiers' main mission was to protect settlers as they moved west and to support westward expansion. In the early 1900's, they were also sent to the Philippines to deal with insurrections against the United States government. The name *Buffalo Soldiers* has become interesting lore in itself. There seem to be three possible reasons for the name. One suggestion is that the curly hair of the soldiers reminded people of the buffalo. Another is the name was used because the fierce, brave nature of the soldiers reminded people of the way buffalos fought. Still, a third theory is that the soldiers wore thick coats made from buffalo hides during winter.

In 1923 I married Geraldine Whysant, and we had five children. I died on September 12, 1957.

MODENA CHADWICK WESTON

Portrayed by
Nancy Moynan

My name is Modena Chadwick Weston. I am the only woman soldier buried in this cemetery. Yes, I was a Yankee as is my brother, Major Charles Chadwick of the 38th Infantry in Iowa. I was an army nurse serving during the Civil War. We came south and evidently fitted well into the community since few people remember us. Ms. Mary Breath is a relative of mine on the



Nancy Moynan as
Modena Chadwick Weston

Chadwick side, and Mrs. Charlotte Johnson and Ms. Louise Lynch, who ran a drugstore in Waveland, are my relatives on the Weston side.

I have the prettiest headstone in the graveyard, and I'm so thankful that it hasn't been vandalized. The beautiful delicate rose wouldn't stand much abuse.

If you know anyone who knows more about me, I wish you would get him to record it at the Historical Society since I will probably be the only woman soldier in this graveyard for many years to come.

LOUISE CRAWFORD

Portrayed by
Penny Kelly

I am Louise Crawford, and I was born in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, on January 8, 1880. I moved to Bay St. Louis from Nashville, Tennessee, in 1912 and lived here until my death on October 30, 1965.

For a number of years I worked with my brother, Owen, for

the L & N Railroad and later worked for the American Red Cross. However in 1934 I was approached by officials in Jackson to establish a library system in Hancock County. Although I had no formal training in that field, I undertook the task with pleasure.

The system was started under the tutelage of the WPA [Works Progress Administration] and called the Hancock County Free Library. My first territory covered five areas in the county with nineteen branch centers, and I was required to visit each one every two weeks.

The first library location in Bay St. Louis was on the second floor of the Hancock Bank building on the corner of Main Street and Beach Boulevard. I was given twelve dollars and one hundred books! About ten years later the bank needed the space, so I moved into the basement of the Knights of Columbus Hall, where I was plagued with mildew and rodents.

With the promise of twenty thousand dollars collected from a campaign launched to secure per-



Penny Kelly as
Louise Crawford

manent quarters, officials were able to purchase the building at 123 Court Street, and the library moved there in 1953. I stayed at that location until my retirement in 1959; nonetheless, I maintained a lively interest in the library until my final illness in 1965.

In spite of its meager beginnings, the Hancock County Library System has grown to include five branches: Bay St. Louis, Kiln, Pearlinton, Waveland, and Diamondhead.



Joey Manieri as
Andrew Manieri

ANDREW MANIERI

Portrayed by
Joey Manieri

Good evening. I am Andrew Manieri, the son of Octave and Catherine Cospolich Manieri. My father emigrated from Genoa, Italy, to New Orleans to escape political purges of post-Napoleonic restoration in my home country. He established his fruit, vegetable, and confectionary business in New

Orleans.

After rail service was established across the Gulf Coast with the completion of the rail bridge across the Bay of St. Louis in 1870, my father moved his business to Bay St. Louis and located it in the area which later became North Beach Blvd. near where the Dunbar and Peerless seafood packing plants would later be built. I was born shortly thereafter.

Because of the destruction of our restaurant in the October Hurricane of 1893, we moved it from its original location on North Beach Boulevard to the rapidly rebuilding business section of town at the end of Washington St. We chose a nice structure which had a wharf behind it for our new restaurant and we added a training center for boxers. The club became popular not only for New Orleans boxers, but also for local ones as well. My son Russell, who gained fame as an outstanding prize fighter, trained for many of his important bouts in this gym.

On September 29, 1915, another intense hurricane struck the area resulting in great destruction along the beachfront—washing away the beach road and destroying all of the wharves and warehouses on the beach. Fortunately, Marnieri's Restaurant survived; however, we decided to relocate and dismantled the structure using some of the wood to build a temporary structure on the corner of Bookter St. and Blaize Ave. A short time later, we resettled in a more permanent structure at the corner of Keller St. and Blaize Ave. We moved into the old Gilmore Hotel which had been vacant for a short time. We put the restaurant downstairs, accepted boarders upstairs, and added a pool hall at the rear of the structure.

I also had an ice cream wagon which was pulled by a famil-

iar old horse with jingle bells around his neck. The noise of those bells was music to the ears of children, waiting patiently for their sound which announced the arrival of the "Ice Cream Man." Every summer for over thirty-five years, practically every man, woman, and child bought ice cream from this wagon, which was driven up and down the streets of the town. Later my son, Sidney, drove the wagon, but after the ice cream cone came out, competition was too great and the wagon finally gave way to drugstores and other places selling the nickel cone.

In 1933 the restaurant in the Gilmore Hotel burned. At this time the area around the intersection of Beach Blvd. and Main St. was fast becoming the central business district, so we relocated here. We added a gift shop and discontinued the pool hall and ice cream wagon.

I lived a full life and died in 1945 at the age of seventy-five.

KATHERINE M. LOBRANO

Portrayed by
Geri Bleau

I am Katherine M. Lobrano, fondly called Kate, and I was born on January 3, 1871, to Rebecca Jane Douglas, formerly of Charleston, South Carolina, and George W. Maynard, a Confederate War Veteran formerly of St. Louis, Missouri. At the time of my birth, my father was the Town Marshal of Bay St. Louis.

On August 4, 1891, I married Frank J. Lobrano, a direct descendant of Jacinto Lobrano, a captain of Jean Lafitte's famous privateer navy. My husband was the founder and developer of the pro-

cess of using empty oyster shells to cultivate oysters domestically in the bay bottom in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

After our marriage Frank and I made Bay St. Louis our home and began our family which produced five children. With the help of my father, Frank purchased our family residence on the corner of Main and Cue Streets on October 1, 1892. Later that month on October 15, Frank sold the property in its entirety to me.

My husband maintained his official domicile in Plaquemines Parish in Louisiana and was elected Clerk of Court there. So he and I maintained residences here and in Pointe a la Hache, LA. He also served as Justice of the Peace in Plaquemines Parish.

In December 1917, I was stricken with skin cancer, and we made a decision to sell the Bay St. Louis property. Instead of selling the entire plot, I decided to sell just the section fronting Main St. and keep the back section with a smaller house on it for my mother. After my death various family members lived in the house, but it was vacant for several years before my grandchildren gave it to the Historical Society to use as its headquarters.



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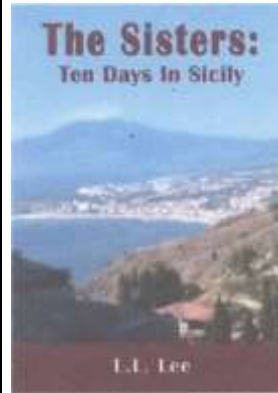
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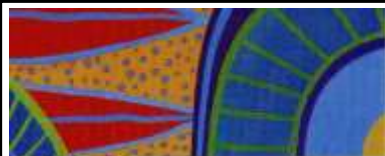
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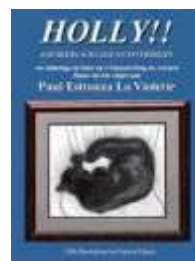
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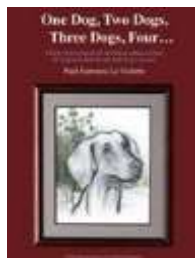
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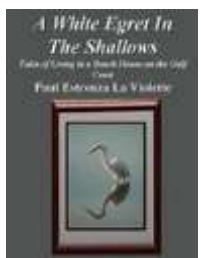
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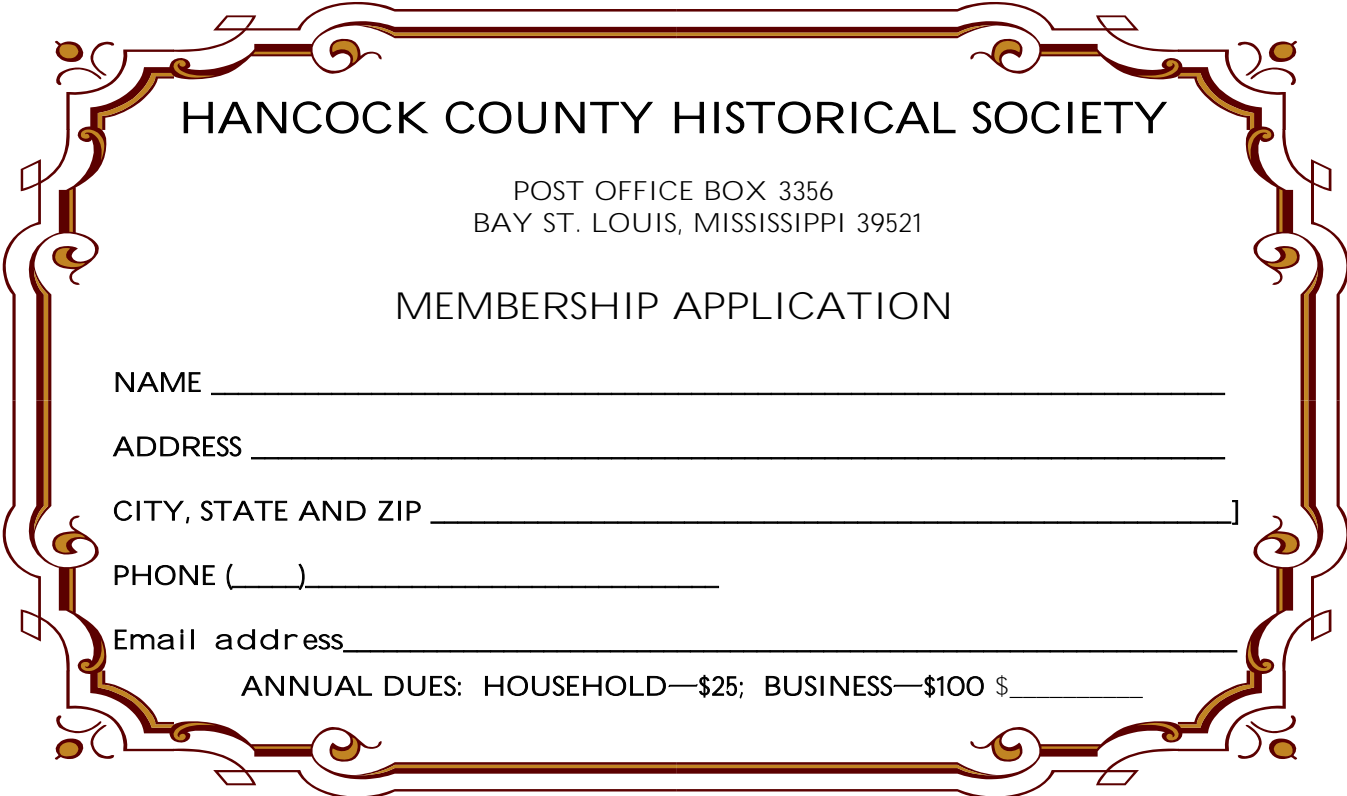
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