

THE

# HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

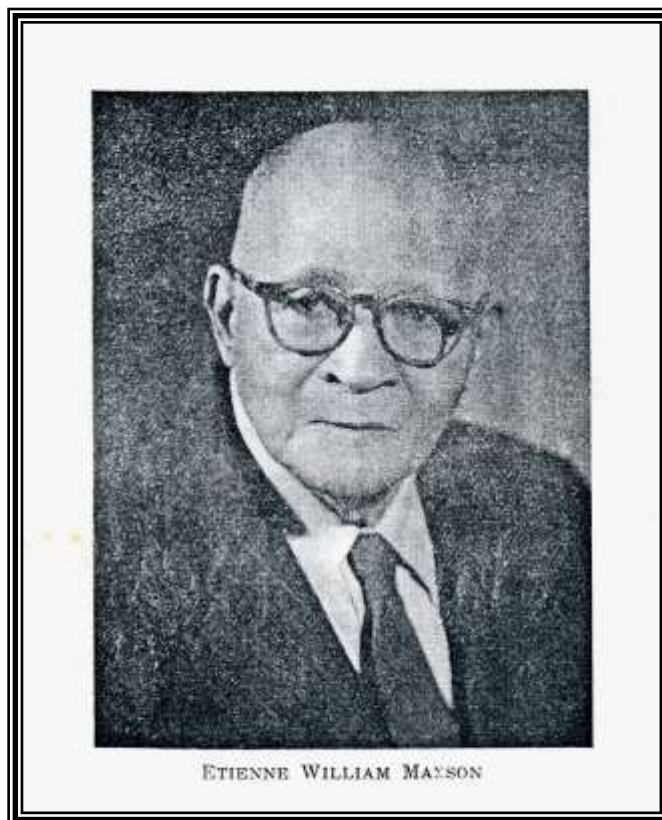
February 2016

## COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speakers for the program will be Tim Kellar, Chancery Clerk of Hancock County. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. **Respectfully we must request that you please call by noon on Wednesday, February 17, 2015**, 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 lunch is \$12.00.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

It's time for current members to renew their memberships in the Historical Society and to encourage family and friends to join us too. The price of membership has risen to **\$30.00** per year. If your membership is due, your address label will read "Time to renew your membership." Please mail your renewal checks to Hancock County Historical Society, P. O. Box 3356, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.



## *The Progress of the Races*

Compiled and edited by  
Eddie Coleman

The son of former slaves, Etienne William Maxson, was described by Gail C. Fusco, his great-grandniece, as "a short, thick man, with green eyes and a rim of white hair." Prominent not only in Hancock County but also in Washington, D. C., Mr. Maxson was a one-time school teacher, who also served as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue at New Orleans

from 1891-1892 and as Commissioner of Elections of Hancock County from 1892-1894. In 1900 he was appointed postmaster at Pearlington and continued at this post until 1917. The seventeen years and five months term he served was longer than any other postmaster on the Pearl River. During his time in office, the postal service on the steamboat route increased from two to four mails a day. In addition, he convinced the post office to install boxes with locks, and gross receipts exceeded those of his predecessors.

In 1917 Maxson lost his job as postmaster during the administra-

THE

**HISTORIAN**

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor  
Ellis Cuevas, PublisherPublished monthly by the  
**HANCOCK COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY****2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Charles Gray, Executive Director  
Marco Giardino, President  
Jim Thriffiley, First Vice President  
Jackie Allain, Second Vice President  
Lana Noonan, Secretary  
Georgie Morton, Treasurer  
Scott Bagley, Publicity  
John Gibson, Historian  
Ames Kergosien, Member at Large**MAILING ADDRESS:**P. O. Box 3356  
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**

108 Cue Street

Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090

**Email address:****hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net****Website:**[www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com)  
Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**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.”

tion of President Woodrow Wilson. Subsequently, he moved to Washington, D. C., and worked for the Air Service Bureau of the War Department. After World War I he was employed by the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

In addition to these accomplishments, Mr. Maxson wrote a small book entitled *The Progress of the Races*. In it he gives brief histories of the towns along the lower Pearl River including Pearlington, Logtown, Napoleon, and Gainesville, and he lists prominent black schooner captains, engineers, carpenters, bricklayers, etc., of the time. Moreover, he helps us understand the interaction of the races, black and white, during the later part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The following passages are taken from Mr. Maxson's book. [ed. note: I have edited very little of Mr. Maxson's work.]

“Doubtless the first white settler at Pearlington was Simon Favre, a Frenchman, who was sent there from Mobile by the United States Government, as a pioneer about 150 years ago [c. 1780's] to civilize the Indians.

“Mr. Favre settled on a farm just above Pearlington, which extended about a mile above to a landing on Pearl River known as ‘The Gin’ (afterward named Favreport). Among the most prominent of his descendants were Captain Joseph A. Favre and Honorable Theophilus M. Favre, better known as ‘Off Favre.’ Captain Favre was vice-president of the Poitevent & Favre Lumber Company, was president of the J. A. Favre Lumber Company, and manufactured lumber at Favreport on the old farm first owned by his grandfather. He was also president of the board of supervisors, and treasurer of Hancock County for a number of years.

“The Honorable T. M. Favre, the brother of Captain Favre, was a partner in the mercantile department of the Poitevent & Favre Lumber Company. He also ran a turpentine business of his own. He was the Representative of Hancock County in the Mississippi Legislature along in the ‘seventies and Collector of Customs at Bay Saint Louis, Miss., under President Cleveland.

“Before the Civil War, all of the cotton raised on Pearl River was brought down the river on flatboats to the old farm and ginned at the historic landing known as ‘The Gin,’ after which the cotton was shipped to New Orleans on schooners and steamboats.

“Etienne Maxson, the father of the writer, when a boy, rode the mules that turned the mill to gin the cotton. The first dry-dock used for the construction and repair of ships at New Orleans was built at this landing.

“‘Calker’ Harrison, one of the oldest calkers in the shipyards on Pearl River and on the coast of Mississippi, who had nearly reached the century mark when he died in New Orleans about twenty years ago [early 1900's], calked on this dry-dock. Usan Vaughn and Sylvester Marchand, though slaves, worked as carpenters on this dry-dock.

“New Orleans first supplied the carry-log for the timber-getter of Louisiana and Mississippi. The carry-log wheels originally had a narrow tread about four inches wide, but was improved by Usan Vaughn, a colored slave owned by Nezan Favre, at Pearlington. Vaughn's improvement expanded the tread on the carry-log wheels to eight and ten inches, and increased the height or diameter, which enabled the timber-men to haul any size log or stick of timber of the yellow pine that grew so large and

abundantly on the Pearl River in antebellum days. For every pair of carry-log wheels Vaughn's master received \$100, exclusive of the axle, tongue, and tackle. He supplied all of the timber-getters on Pearl River with these wheels, and the carry-log on this wise continued in use in Louisiana and Mississippi until the log truck was invented.

"Vaughn bought his wife, Annie, from her master while he remained a slave, but the martyred President Lincoln's Proclamation of Emancipation set him free, and he had the pleasure of enjoying freedom with his beloved wife a few years before their decease.

"Sylvester Marchand was owned by the same master as Vaughn, but was sold to a man at Bay Saint Louis, who owned many houses that he rented on the coast of Mississippi and in New Orleans.

"Marchand, being a splendid carpenter, his new master assigned him the job of building and keeping his houses in repair, alternating between the coast of Mississippi and New Orleans. These colored men were constructive geniuses, even in slave time. It is interesting to note also that the first ship built in America was built by Negroes on the coast of North Carolina.

### African-American Captains

"The Poitevent & Favre Lumber Company was the first on Pearl River to employ colored captains and engineers on their schooners and boats, first to have colored sawyers in their mills, and [first to employ them] as contractors and stevedores. As early as 1869 they began to favor colored employees in this way, and the precedent set by this company has been followed by all of the lumbermen on Pearl River



Carry-log

and by some on the coast of Mississippi and in Louisiana.

"Captain Willis Vaughn and Henry Willis were the first colored men to own a schooner on Pearl River. They owned the barge *Vina* and usually loaded wood and coal at Napoleon for New Orleans.

"In 1869, the Poitevent & Favre Lumber Company employed Gilbert Burton as the first colored captain on Pearl River. He mastered the schooner *Emma Jane*. It is true that colored men ran their masters' vessels in slave time on Pearl River and Lake Pontchartrain, carrying commodities into New Orleans, but they were mere sailing masters and not full-fledged captains, because a white man had to be on board to clear the law.

"But Captain Burton was the first colored captain with a colored crew who was master from stem to stern. Captains Smith King and Anatole McKan were next employed by the same company. Captain King ran the schooner *Alice McGuigin* and steamer *Major White*. Captain McKan succeeded Captain Burton on the schooner *Emma Jane*. He ran the *Emma Jane* twice and the schooners *Lillie Schmidt* and *Ella C. Andrews*. The *Andrews* was the largest lake vessel plying the waters of Pearl River, Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne, and the Mississippi Sound. Captain McKan ran this vessel outside to Ship Island, Miss.; Fort Eads, La.;

Galveston, Tex.; and Key West Fla. He was probably in the employ of the Poitevent & Favre Lumber Company about twenty-five years.

"Captain McKan [was] a unique character. He was born a slave at Covington, La....the same year [1841] that the *Charles Morgan* was built at New Bedford, Mass., the oldest sailing wooden ship afloat today.... He was a soldier in the Civil War... [and] trained most of the colored sailors on Pearl River.

"Captain McKan's first wife, Rosa McKan, gave to him sons and daughters. His second wife, Malinda McKan, helped to raise his children and to acquire property. They owned five schooners at different times and some good real estate. They ran their business on a fifty-fifty basis. Captain Annison Thompson and Captain Stanford Thompson, whom he trained to be sailors, were his brothers-in-law. His sons, Captain Stanford McKan and Captain Nicholas McKan, whom he also trained, are splendid sailors. The former is a ship carpenter.

"When Captain McKan's advanced years made him quit the lakes, his sons ran his schooners and he handled the business end of the cargoes and kept the vessels in running order. His two oldest daughters married men who afterward became captains, namely, Captain Dudley Cloud and Captain John Peters.

"Captains Anatole McKan, Annison Thompson, Augustus Lolow, Alexander Wooten, and Stephen Peters ran the largest schooners on Pearl River, and for sometime the largest on the lakes and sounds. They ran to what was called outside, which meant outside of all the lakes and sounds into the Gulf of Mexico, to Ship Island,

Horn Island, Port Eads, Galveston, and Key West.

“The colored captains on Pearl River were said to be the best sailors in these waters and carried the best crews. They ran some of the fastest vessels. Their cargoes were chiefly lumber. To say that a man was from Pearl River was all the recommendation that he needed to get a job to handle lumber anywhere.”

[Editor’s note: Mr. Maxson lists eighty-nine Negro captains and the vessels they mastered in his book.]

**SOURCES:**

Fusco, Gail C. *Mama Nettie’s Time To Love*. LaVergne, TN: Xulon Press, 2010.

Maxson, Etienne William. *The Progress of the Races*. Washington, D.C.: Murray Brothers Printing Co., 1930; reprinted Nashville: Mc-Quiddy Printing Co., 1955.

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana’s Loss, Mississippi’s Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Corp., 1999.

**Comments from Our President**

Our own Charles H. Gray, Executive Director, has been selected by the Mississippi Historical Society (MHS) as the recipient of the prestigious Dunbar Rowland Award. The award recognizes lifelong contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi history. Charles will be presented his award in Jackson during the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society. The award banquet is to be held on Saturday, March 5 at noon. The meeting and banquet will be held at the King Edward Hotel in Jackson. Coincidentally, it will be Charles’ birthday! Please contact me through the HCHS if you would like more information on this event. Speaking of Charles, his home will be a featured site during the upcoming Spring Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Bay-Waveland Garden Club. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 between 12:00 and 4:00 P. M.

—Marco Giardino

The Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society  
*is proud to present*



*Celebrating the History and Culture of the Mississippi Gulf Coast*

Saturday, February 20th, 2016  
 Biloxi Visitors Center  
 1040 Beach Boulevard  
 9:00-3:00  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
*This Event is Co-sponsored by the City of Biloxi*

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Zita Waller  
 2016**

**NEW MEMBERS**

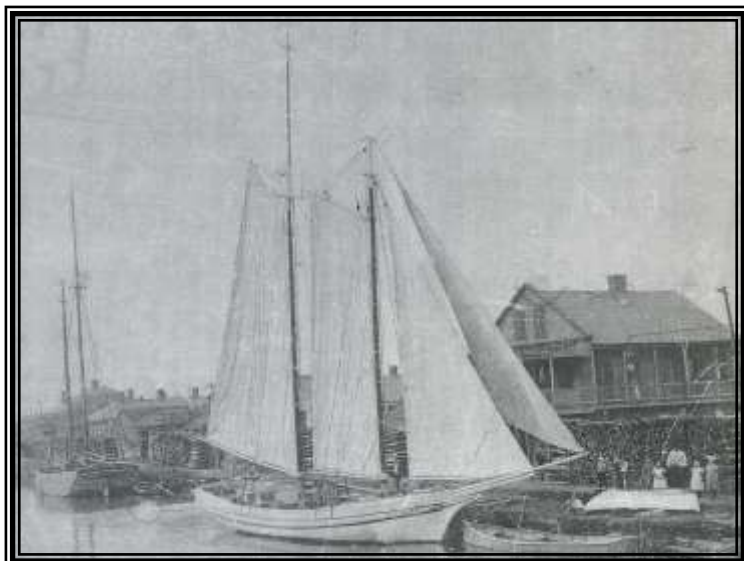
Mr. & Mrs. Armond Bontempo  
*Diamondhead, MS*

Lex and Kathy Mauffray  
*Bay Saint Louis, MS*

Jean Phillips  
*Bay Saint Louis, MS*

Chris and Connie Roth  
*Bay Saint Louis, MS*

Anita Warner  
*Bay Saint Louis, MS*



The schooner *Electric* is similar to those which plied the Pearl River and other coastal waters.

Competitive Pricing

One-of-a-Kind Pieces



Antique & Vintage Furniture

Estate Liquidation Services

**Blue Rose Estate Sales**

*Go Green! Invest in timeless treasures of the past*

442 Main St. Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520

BlueRoseEstateSales@gmail.com

BlueRoseEstateSales.com



**Jul Lee Pursley-Dedeaux**

Proprietor

**(228) 231-1396**

Estate Liquidation-Showroom-Appraiser

China

Art

Silver

Lamps & Lighting



Figurines

Fine Jewelry

Bronzes & Statuary

Collectibles

Coins

Vintage & Art Glass

Clocks



*The Forever Saints Fan Club*

By L.L. Lee

This new book by Ms. Lee is an inspirational tribute to four devoted Saints fans, to the team they loved, and to Saints fans everywhere.

Available at Bay Books, Amazon.com, Kindle, and the Historical Society

Contact Lee3731@bellsouth.net or Amazon.com/author/lllee

**Ford Realty Inc.**

Residential . TimberLand . Ranches . Commercial

1004 Memorial Blvd.

P.O. Box 418

Picayune, MS 39466

800.354.FORD(3673)

Ofc. 601.798.6202

Fax 601.799.0202



**CALL MARTHA**

cell 601-590-2988

home 601-798-0082

martyford@bellsouth.net

Established 1949



**Martha Ford**  
Broker-GRI-SFR

www.fordrty.com



**Strategic Communications**

How the public perceives your company is paramount to success. We use extensive research, thorough planning, and a thoughtfully crafted strategy to create comprehensive campaigns that work hand-in-hand with your business's objectives.

We find the best ways to manage your company's brand to help you build influence and become the leader in your industry. We build strong partnerships with our clients to understand their goals, and we implement our proprietary communications strategies to help them fulfill their objectives through a shared focus and consistent messaging.



**B. R. Hawkins**

134 Aiken Road | Waveland, MS 39576

(228) 6781-9065 | br@brhawkins.com

**LOCAL COLOR**



**PAINTING & PRESSURE CLEANING**

**Dan Bader**

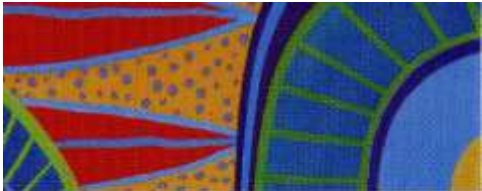
228.466.5165

baybeau@live.com

528 State Street

Bay St. Louis MS 39520

PLACE YOUR AD HERE.



**Joey G. Manieri ® Broker**

Sales  
Property Management  
Vacation Rentals  
Residential Rentals

501 Main Street Suite #3  
Bay St. Louis, MS. 39520  
228-466-4793 (Office)  
228-216-5750 (Cell)  
228-466-4794 (Fax)  
manierij@bellsouth.net  
www.manierirealestates.com



**Steve B. Treutel**

**Vice President  
Senior Financial Advisor**

Mississippi Gulf Coast  
(228) 385-6307

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.  
AD-06-12-0048 ARSOT2V1-10-11 Code 453007PM-0612

**Todd N. Thriffiley**  
Attorney at Law

Phone: (228) 467-2400

**Court Appointed Special Advocates  
CASA of Hancock County**

**Volunteers  
Needed**



**I am for the child™**

... Advocating for the  
abused and neglected  
children in Hancock County ...

a community problem. a community solution.

**228.344.0419**

[www.casahancockcounty.org](http://www.casahancockcounty.org)

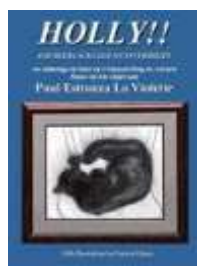
READ! ESCAPE! ENJOY!  
SUPPORT YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY



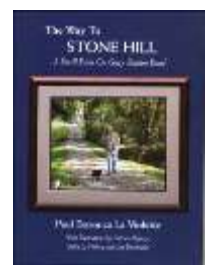
\$25.00



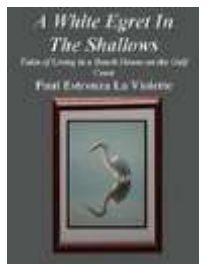
\$20.00



\$20.00



\$20.00



\$20.00

BOOKS BY  
PAUL LAVIOLETTE AVAIL-  
ABLE AT THE HANCOCK  
COUNTY HISTORICAL

**SUE ASHMAN**  
 ABR, CRS, GRI, SRS  
 BROKER

418 Highway 90  
 Waveland, MS 39576



Office: (228) 467-5454  
 Fax: (228) 466-4561

Cell: (228) 216-7864  
 Email: sueashman@aol.com

[www.Ashman-Mollere.com](http://www.Ashman-Mollere.com)



**Bay Cottages**

Historic Bay St. Louis Ms.  
 Vacation Rental

**305 Main**

[www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com) (ID #313124 & 400259)

**228-466-4793**

**DOORS OF BAY SAINT LOUIS**



JANICE HALL GALLERY 126 MAIN STREET BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS 228.342.7020

**JOHN "CORKY" HADDEN**

Financial Advisor

**RAYMOND JAMES®**

T 228.466.9888 837A Highway 90  
 T 888.465.9968 Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520  
 F 228.466.9978 [corky.hadden@raymondjames.com](mailto:corky.hadden@raymondjames.com)  
<http://www.RaymondJames.com>

Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC

Bay St Louis:  
 412 Hwy 90  
 228-466-4498

Biloxi:  
 2505 Pass Rd  
 228-385-1177

Diamondhead:  
 5400 Indian Hill  
 228-467-2272



**SOUTHGROUP**  
 INSURANCE SERVICES  
 GULF COAST

- We offer Personal, Business, Life and Health Insurance
- We help our clients save money and get more value.
- We are Trusted Choice and have been awarded the Best Practices Designation.

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.southgroupgulfcoast.com](http://www.southgroupgulfcoast.com)  
 central fax: 888-415-8922



Kristen E. Thwait, CPA  
 President  
 SouthGroup Insurance  
 Gulf Coast

PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

**Charles B. Benvenuti**  
 Certified Public Accountant

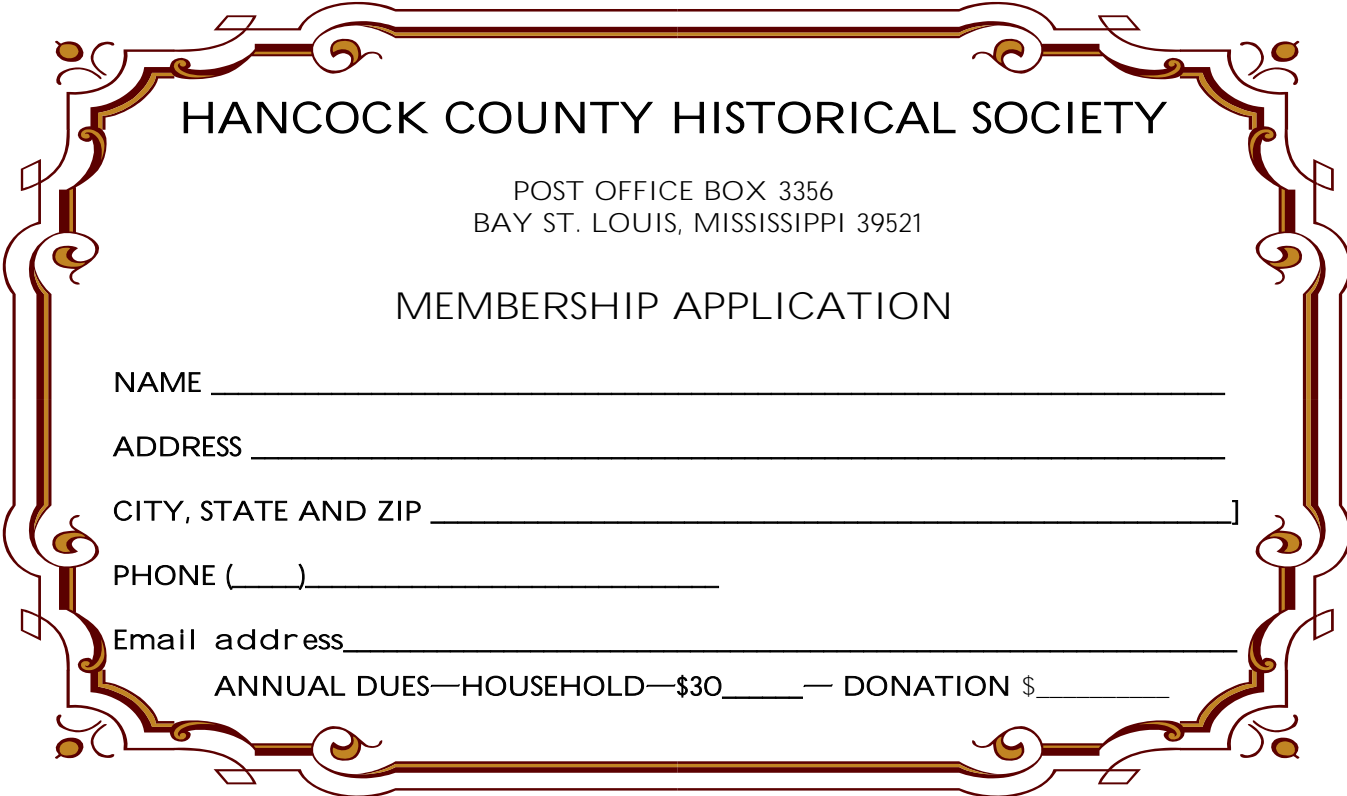
Charles B. Benvenuti, CPA, PA  
 831 Highway 90  
 P.O. Box 2639  
 Bay St. Louis, MS  
 39521-2639

228-467-1402  
 Fax 228-467-2594  
 E-mail: [Chuck@Benvenutticpa.com](mailto:Chuck@Benvenutticpa.com)

**HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P. O. BOX 3356**  
**BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521**

**NON-PROFIT**  
**ORGANIZATION**

U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 87  
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS



**HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

POST OFFICE BOX 3356  
BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39521

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE AND ZIP \_\_\_\_\_]

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES—HOUSEHOLD—\$30\_\_\_\_— DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_