

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

March 2016

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker for the program will be Basil Kennedy who will speak on the history of the Bay Waveland Yacht Club. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. **Respectfully we must request that you please call by noon on Wednesday, March 16, 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
PLEASE SEE PAGE 4



General John J. Pershing awarding Private Henry J. Tudury the Distinguished Service Cross on March 18, 1919

Henry Jetton Tudury

By
Eddie Coleman

Too often the tradition in literature has been to romanticize the exploits of soldiers and heroes on the battlefield. In fact, it was not until Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage* that American authors began to write of the horrors, tragedies, and hardships of war. In this same vein, Henry Jetton Tudury wrote in his diary an account of his experiences in World War I. Even though the

diary contains the minutia of daily life in the trenches of France and Germany, it also gives the reader a vivid account of battle and its *everyman* soldier.

Born in Bay Saint Louis, MS, in 1885, Henry Jetton Tudury enlisted in the army on April 24, 1917. After training he was assigned as a mess sergeant to the 59th Infantry and transferred to Camp Greene, Charlotte, NC. In December of 1917, he became part of the newly formed 12th Machine Gun Battalion (MG), 8th Infantry Brigade, Fourth Division American Expeditionary Force (AEF). Even though he had

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
Scott Bagley, PublisherPublished monthly by the
**HANCOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY****2016 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
Marianne Plum, 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.”

been denied leave to return home in December, he took “French leave” (AWOL) and traveled to Bay Saint Louis to marry Zelma Bermond on December 27, 1917. Unfortunately upon his return to camp, he was demoted from sergeant to private.

In late April, he and his unit left Camp Greene for New York. On May 7, 1918, they sailed aboard the ship *Aquitana* bound for Liverpool, England, before crossing the English Channel for France. Tudury noted that all soldiers were required to wear their life vests at all times aboard the ship, which followed a “zig zag” course to avoid the German U boats surrounding the British Isles. After docking at Liverpool, the soldiers traveled eastward by train to cross into France at the Strait of Dover. Here they could hear the big guns across the channel in Flanders.

After arriving at Calais, France, on May 16, 1917, Tudury’s unit sometimes traveled by train, but more often than not they marched, or as he put it used “hobnail” transport. Even a sprained ankle he had suffered aboard the transport ship did not exempt Tudury from marching with his unit while carrying a full pack.

After the servicemen had received training on the Hotchkiss gun, a standard machine gun used by the French Army in the war and also used extensively by the AEF, the doughboys arrived at the Chateau-Thierry front to aid the French in the Second Battle of the Marne. During the three day period from July 18 to July 20, 1917, his unit encountered heavy fighting. As Tudury recorded in his diary, “I was gassed two or three times, but stuck to my post until I ran into a gas shell, and don’t know how I left the battlefield, was taken to Base Hospital 46 and was so weak could

not stand up but gained strength, and was back with my company in two weeks, they were preparing for St. Mihiel sector of Verdon Front [sic].” In addition to fighting the enemy on one front, Tudury’s company also provided “covering fire” for French troops, who were relieving American soldiers.

Pushing deeper into German territory, Tudury’s company joined French forces moving into the woods surrounding Verdun. While Tudury was sleeping in a French dugout there, the Germans lobed a high explosive shell in his direction which blew him out of bed. Although his comrades thought him lost, Tudury was unharmed by the blast.

From September 25, until October 23, 1918, Tudury and his company were engaged in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, commonly referred to as the Battle of the Argonne Forest. During this time period, he wrote of participating in taking “Dead Man’s Hill,” a stronghold the Germans had said would never be taken. Further, he recorded that he and his men were “wet for about 20 days and ...were just loaded with German Cooties [sic].”

Even though Tudury had been gassed and bombed previously, it was in the Argonne that he received his final wound. His diary reports that soldiers all around him were being killed by direct fire and that he was hit on the head by a three inch shell. Further, he said the shell probably didn’t hit him at full speed because it just bent his helmet leaving him dazed for about five minutes with a “hickey” on his head.

The last major German offensive on the western front began with the Second Battle of the Marne and ended with Allied forces pushing Germany eastward to be engaged at the Battle of the Argonne

Forest. This conflict led to the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

For service to his country during World War I, Henry Tudury received a Purple Heart and numerous battle bars. Combined with the two most acclaimed medals he received, the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) and the Croix de Guerre, he was the most decorated Mississippi soldier of the Great War. Pinned by General John Pershing, Tudury received the DSC on March 18, 1919. On July 18 of that year he received the Croix de Guerre from General Pétain of the French Military Forces.

After his celebrated return home, Henry Tudury lived a quiet life in Bay St. Louis with his wife and four daughters, seldom mentioning his trials on the battlefield and the outstanding bravery he had exhibited in facing the horrors of war. His daughters remember that they were not allowed to shoot firecrackers or make loud noises around him. As a result of his being exposed to mustard gas, Tudury suffered from general ill health including nervousness and bouts of excessive drinking for the remainder of his life.



The Distinguished Service Cross

SOURCES:

Bergeron, Kat. "Henry Tudury Was a Fighting Man's Fighter." *The Daily Herald* (Biloxi, MS), 29 Nov. 1981.

Sullivan, Charles, Ed. "The Diary of Henry Jetton Tudury: Mississippi's Most Decorated Doughboy of World War I." *The Journal of Mississippi History*, November 1985. Reprinted by the City of Bay St. Louis for the Second Annual Military Memorabilia Exhibit, November 12-13, 1999.

"Tudury, Henry J." Awards and Citations in *Military Times*, 26 Feb. 2016. <www.militarytimes.com>.

History Week in Biloxi

By
Eddie Coleman

The Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society and the City of Biloxi hosted the 26th Annual Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at the Bi-

loxi Visitors Center, located at 1050 Beach Blvd. across from the Biloxi Lighthouse. Previously the event had run for several days, but this year it was limited to one.

Organizations which presented exhibits were the Biloxi Fire Museum, the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Library, the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Beauvoir, the Biloxi Schools, Keesler Air Force Base, the Gulf Park Campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, the Ohr-Okeefe Museum, and the Department of Marine Resources. Historical societies participating were the Hancock County Historical Society, the Mississippi Coast Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Historical Society of Gulfport. Additionally, the following ethnic groups participated: the Fleur de Lis Ladies Auxiliary, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Greek and Russian), the Jewish Community, the Irish Cultural Society, and the Slavonian Ladies Auxiliary.

The Hancock exhibit included the Monte Walden Collection of Native American Artifacts, an 1857 map of the Bay of Saint Louis and Shieldsboro Harbor, a child's chair made by Prudent Mallard, noted New Orleans furniture maker, and the preserved *Book of Marks and Brands* for Hancock County. The items which drew the most attention in the exhibit were this *Book of Marks and Brands* and the Native American artifacts. In addition to the entries in the book, visitors were most intrigued by the handwriting and made many remarks bemoaning the loss of good penmanship nowadays.

History Day is held each February at the Biloxi Visitors Center around February 13, the date d'Iberville and Bienville set foot on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1699.

The citation for Henry Tudury reads, "The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Private Henry Tudury (ASN: *****), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company C, 12th Machine-Gun Battalion, 4th Division, A.E.F., near Courchamps, France, July 18-20, 1918. Engaged as a runner, Private Tudury made repeated trips through intense shelling and machine-gun fire. On July 18 he was gassed, but bravely continued with his heroic work until he fell exhausted on the 20th."

SCENES FROM HISTORY DAY 2016



Hancock County
Historical Society



Keesler Air Force
Base



Mississippi Coast Historical
& Genealogical Society



Maritime and
Seafood Museum



Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox
Church



Biloxi Fire
Museum



Historical Society
of Gulfport



Julie Suarez, Event
Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS

George and Kathleen Becker
Bay Saint Louis, MS

Micheline Cazayoux
Diamondhead, MS

James Hemsley and
Maureen M. Evans
Bay Saint Louis, MS

Robbie and Lisa Kroger
Bay Saint Louis, MS

Eddie Miller
Gulfport, MS

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to salvage old Hancock County records dating from 1853. If you can give an hour or two or more to help preserve these valuable documents, please get in touch with Jerry Heitzmann at 228-255-4100 for more information.

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

Vintage & Art Glass

Lamps & Lighting



Figurines

Fine Jewelry

Bronzes & Statuary

Collectibles

Coins

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



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

Baria-Jones

Making Things Right

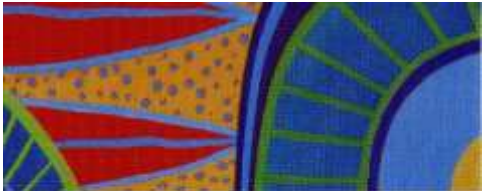
David W. Baria
Attorney

544 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

T: (228) 270-0001 | F: (601) 948-0306

dbaria@barialaw.com

BariaLaw.com



MANIERI
REAL ESTATE, LLC

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.

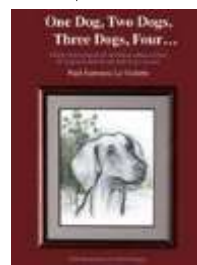
228.344.0419

www.casahancockcounty.org

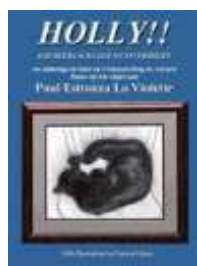
READ! ESCAPE! ENJOY!
SUPPORT YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY



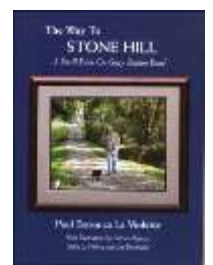
\$25.00



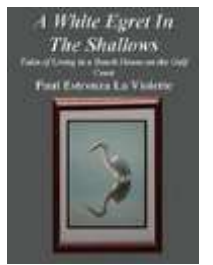
\$20.00



\$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



Bay Cottages

Historic Bay St. Louis Ms.
Vacation Rental

305 Main

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
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
central fax: 888-415-8922



Kristen E. Thwait, CPA
President
SouthGroup Insurance
Gulf Coast

PLACE YOUR AD HERE.

Charles B. Benvenuti
Certified Public Accountant

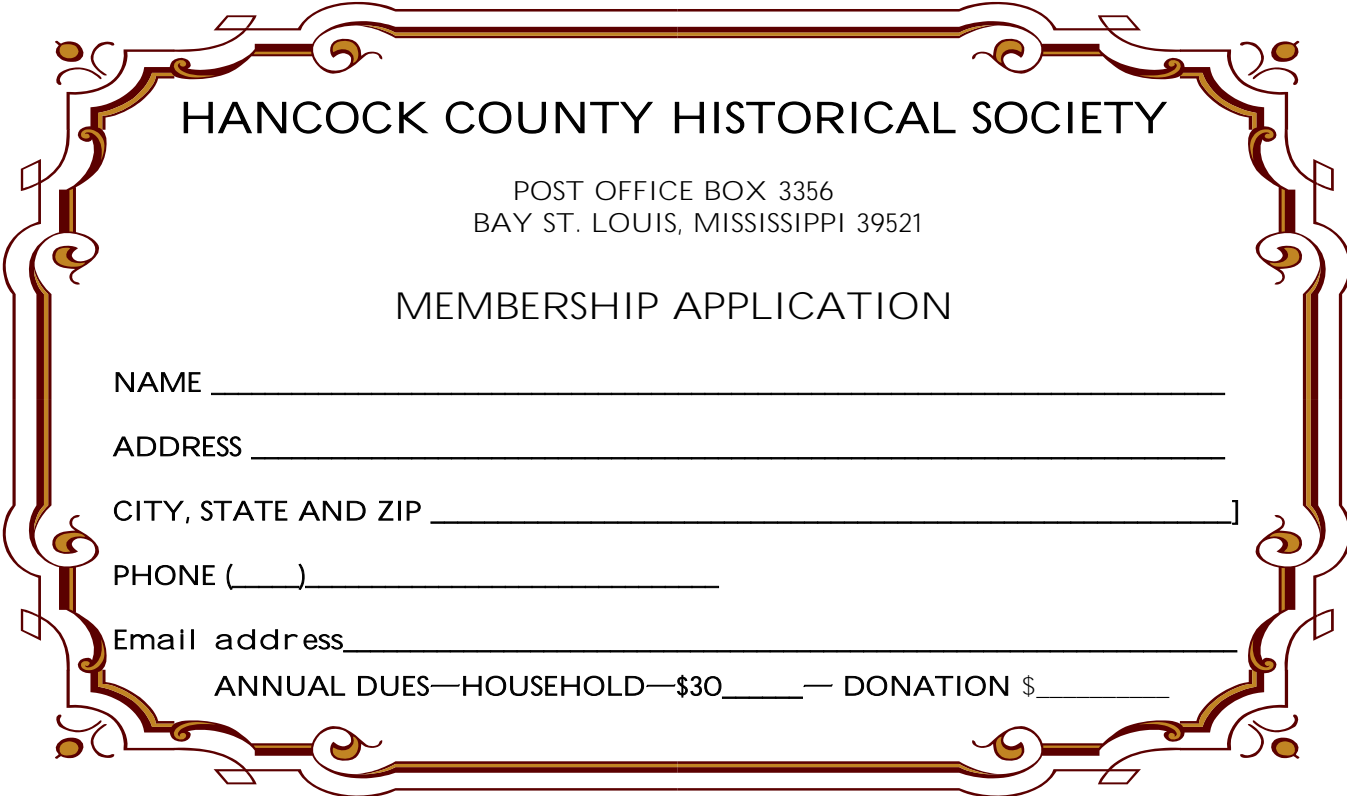
Charles B. Benvenuti, CPA, PA
831 Highway 90
P.O. Box 2639
Bay St. Louis, MS
39521-2639

228-467-1402
Fax 228-467-2594
E-mail: Chuck@Benvenutticpa.com

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 \$ _____