

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

November 2022

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The guest speaker will be Pete Melby, a retired landscape architect professor from Mississippi State University. He will discuss the research for his book *Third in Line*. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call by noon on Wednesday, November 16**, to make your reservation in order to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people and to apprise us of the number of lunches to order. **Served at noon, lunch is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for nonmembers**, payable at the door. The catering order is submitted on Wednesday morning prior to the luncheon on Thursday. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call by 2 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the luncheon if at all possible so that the society does not incur unnecessary expenses. It is catered by Almost Home Catering, Michelle Nichols, chef. The lunch menu is whiskey glazed pork loin, cheddar cheese grits casserole, strawberry salad, dinner rolls, and pumpkin gooey butter bars.



Cedar Rest Cemetery
200 South Second Street
Bay St. Louis, MS

Annual Cemetery Tour Presented by the Hancock County Historical Society

By
Beverly Frater, Jim Keating, and
Eddie Coleman

The Twenty-eighth Annual Cemetery Tour was scheduled to be held from 4 p.m.—6 p.m. at Cedar Rest Cemetery on South Second Street on Saturday, October 29, 2022. However, because of inclement weather, the tour was moved inside the Lobrano House

at 108 Cue Street, and two performances were given one at 4:00 and one at 5:00. Guests were greeted by the Ethereal Curator, portrayed by Historical Society board member Ron Thorp. All of these citizens have, in one way or another, added to the rich fabric of the history of Hancock County, some through commercial ventures, some through local government, and others just by living and rearing families here.

The night's citizens in order of appearance were Kate Lobrano, Louise Crawford, Annie Graham, John Damborino, Tallulah Bowers, William Dolan, Jean Lafitte, Ellen Gray, and Pepe Carrio.



THE
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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
James Keating, 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.”

**ETHEREAL
CURATOR
(Portrayed by Ron Thorp)**

I am the Ethereal Curator who keeps constant vigil over the comings and goings here. The history of the cemetery is quite interesting.

Cedar Rest Cemetery was built in three stages. There were three separate deeds at three separate times. The northern section was given to the city by Jacques Baptiste Toulme in 1860. The middle section of the cemetery was a swap between St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and the city of Bay St. Louis in 1888. The south section of the cemetery was given to the city by Joan Newman Seal in 1891.

The plots were given to families in the manner of homesteads—free, but with the responsibility of claiming the plot by physical markings. To this day the City



Ron Thorp

of Bay St. Louis keeps the grass cut, but individual families are responsible for keeping the gravesites in order. The oldest grave is that of E. Meggs, who died in 1815, but the marker is gone. The oldest marked grave is that of Powhattan Robertson, a Native American, who died in 1820.

There are two vaults in the cemetery that are not marked and not used. The one in the north sec-

President’s Corner

I remember it was November 1973, and my parents decided that we would spend Thanksgiving in the Bay. This was a rare event because once we went back to the city [New Orleans] on Labor Day, it was usually Easter before we returned. The day was crisp and cool when we arrived, and the lack of humidity and coolness at night were a pleasant change from the sweltering days and nights of August.

The breeze had been blowing from the north, so we had one of those exceptionally low tides that uncovered all the mysteries of the bay bottom that were unseen during the summer. Walking on the rippled bay bottom to the end of the pier with dry feet was a wonderful and curious feeling. It was wonderful to see such a change in tides and a curiosity as to the cause of such extreme tides.

The long weekend was consumed with fall adventures, visits with cousins and Bay friends, and a trip to Winn Dixie with a shopping list.

Turkey .75 lb., whole ham .99 lb., pecan halves 1.99 lb., sausage 1.19 lb., brown sugar 1 lb. box .26, Velvee Brown and Serve rolls 3 packs .99, Folgers 1 lb coffee .99.

Those were the days!

Best wishes for a bountiful, peaceful, and joyous Thanksgiving to you and yours,

Chris Roth
President



Candee Canady

tion belongs to the Poullion family. The one in the south section was built for Mrs. Harriet Jordan. At the time of her death, her brother did not know she owned the crypt, and he buried her next to her son in a grave at another Cedar Rest location.

**KATHERINE LOBRANO
(1871—1921)
(Portrayed by
Candee Canady)**

Welcome to the Hancock County Historical Society's 28th annual Cemetery Tour. I am Katherine "Kate" Lobrano.

I was born January 3, 1871 here in Bay St. Louis. My parents were Rebecca Jane Douglas of Charleston, SC and George W.



Maynard of St. Louis, MO. My father was a Confederate war veteran, and at the time of my birth, he was Town Marshall.

I married Frank J. Lobrano from Plaquemines Parish, LA, on August 4, 1891. Frank and I met when he came to the Bay area to purchase lumber to build homes for his workers in his business in Louisiana. We lived and began our family of six children in Bay St. Louis in a large house on the corner of Main and Cue Streets, but because Frank maintained his Louisiana residency, we also had a home in Point a la Hache, LA. Frank was elected Clerk of Court there. He also served as Justice of the Peace and Postmaster.

Frank gained notoriety as the founder and developer of the process by which oysters are domestically cultivated and was quite successful. However in 1915 the government cut openings in the banks near the mouth of the Mississippi River and the fresh water infusion killed the oyster beds. The business failed, and we were forced to sell the large house here. We retained the small house behind, now known as the "Kate Lobrano House," which my family donated to the society in 1989.

In December of 1917 I was stricken with skin cancer. My mother was also ill, so she and I lived in the small house. I succumbed to the cancer on January 19, 1921, at the age of fifty. I now invite you to meet some of my neighbors who rest here with me.

**LOUISE CRAWFORD
(1880-1965)
(Portrayed by Kathy Terrell)**

Hello. I am Miss Louise Crawford. I was born in Mount Vernon, Indiana, in 1880 and came here in 1912. I worked for the L&N Railroad, as did my brother Owen. When the United States entered the war in Europe in 1917, I became a founding member of the Red Cross here in Bay St. Lou-



Kathy Terrell

is and served as its first secretary. We had 177 members at first, but by the next year, we had over 1500. We sewed gowns and robes for the sick and wounded and made bandages and dressings. Many of us, including men, knitted hats and socks for the soldiers.

As Chairman of Supplies, I organized shipments of needed goods overseas. During the Spanish Flu epidemic, I was a nurse's aide. The Red Cross formed the Home Services and Civilian Relief Committee to teach local women to care for the sick.

We comforted families whose loved ones were wounded, captured, or killed in the war, and after the war, we cared for the wounded and sick who did return.

In 1934, as part of a WPA project, I was asked by officials in Jackson to form a library system in Hancock County. We called it the Hancock County Free Library. I had no formal training in the field, but was delighted with the challenge. The first location was on the second floor of the Hancock Bank Building on the corner of Beach and Main. The library had little funds and just a few books.

My first territory covered five areas within the county with nineteen branch centers, which I visited every two weeks

Ten years later, the bank needed the space, and the library moved to the Knights of Colum-

bus Hall, which was plagued with mildew and rodents. So a campaign was launched to secure permanent quarters, and in three weeks \$20,000 was raised. In 1953, the library purchased the Plunkett home at 123 Court Street. I retired in 1959, died in 1965, and rest peacefully in Cedar Rest Cemetery.

**JOHN KORCINSKY
DAMBORINO
(1909-1987)**

(Portrayed by Cecilia Wanko)

I was born in New York City on December 10, 1906. My parents Annie and Michael Korcinsky were Polish immigrants and very poor, so when I was three weeks old, they left me at the New York Foundling home. When I was three years old, I was sent on an Orphan Train to Bay St. Louis where I was indentured to and adopted by Alex and Lena Damborino.

I worked in the newspaper business most of my life. During high school at St. Stanislaus, I started working at the *Sea Coast Echo* and continued at the *Echo* for twenty-eight years. I then established my own newspaper *The Hancock County Eagle*, which I ran for twenty years before selling it.

My wife Margaret Heitzmann and I had two daughters.

I died on my eighty-first birthday and am buried here with



Cecilia Wanko and Marilyn Frater



my adoptive parents who gave me such a wonderful life.

**ANNIE RICHTER
ADAM GRAHAM
(1906-1991)**

(Portrayed by Marilyn Frater)

My name is Annie Graham. I was named Annie Richter when born in New York City on December 9, 1906. My parents had emigrated from Europe, but after I was born, they decided to return to their European home and left me at the New York Foundling Home. I was sent to Bay St. Louis on an Orphan Train when I was twenty-one months old.

I was indentured to and adopted by John Sherry Adam and his wife. The number "205" was sewn in my underwear so that my new parents could identify me. My parents only spoke French. My first grade teacher spoke French. I learned English in the second grade. After eighth grade I went to work in the Peerless Oyster Factory. At eighteen, I took a job at the Bell Telephone Company, where I worked for thirty-two years becoming a supervisor. I married William Bryan Graham. We had no children. I died at the age of eighty-four in 1991.

**TALLULAH POSEY
BOWERS
(1876-1953)**

(Portrayed by Bonnie Cooper)

Good evening. I am the ghost of Tallulah Posey Bowers, and I came here tonight to tell you about the day in 1881 that the most famous world celebrity actress, Sarah Bernhardt, came to Bay St. Louis. Sarah was a French stage actress that toured in the United States nine times. Her acting was remarkable because of her grace, beauty, and charisma coupled with a flamboyant style of acting that relied on lavish decors, exotic costumes, and pantomimic gestures. Her notorious reputation of having many lovers, which was probably true, only added to the enchantment.

Sarah arrived in the Bay one day not to perform in our town, but because of a broken metal train wheel. Their layover of several hours gave Mayor Toulme the opportunity to invite Sarah Bernhardt and the other passengers to lunch at our grand Crescent Hotel. One of the hastily recruited waitresses was my mother who was terrified by the tempestuous cursing in French by Sarah and the other guests. Unfortunately for Sarah, most of the local citizens



Bonnie Cooper

citizens spoke fluent French, and they were horrified and insulted by this bad European behavior. Sarah and her crew apologized and all was forgiven...but not forgotten; 120 years later, I can tell visitors to this graveyard a tale about Sarah Bernhardt, who was a legend in her own time.

**WILLIAM DOLAN
(1892-1954)**

(Portrayed by Jim Keating)

Who am I? I was buried in this grave as William A. Dolan in 1954. My body was found floating in the Mississippi River attached to a creosote piling. I was the man accused in Pascagoula as “THE PHANTOM BARBER,” for cutting the hair of little girls in the middle of the night, although I was tried for another crime. I was born in New York City and had a long criminal record. I was arrested in Bay St. Louis on July 9, 1942, at the height of WWII, and was tried, convicted, and sent to prison for ten years.

After my release, I lived in Bay St. Louis for a while and then disappeared. After the body was found in the Mississippi River, and identified by family and friends, it was brought to Bay St. Louis for burial. I was waked for three days at home and then buried in this unmarked grave, BUT when my fingerprints were checked with the FBI they proved that I was not William Dolan.

Who am I in this grave?
No one knows!

A book by Sandra Moncrief, The Phantom Barber, gives further details.

**JEAN LAFITTE
(c.1782-c.1823
(Portrayed by Tom Stone)**

Argggh! I am the notorious pirate Jean Lafitte. Little is known about my life. I was born about 1780, and I like to tell different stories to different people. Was I born in France, or was I born in what is now Haiti or perhaps the bayous of Louisiana?

My brother Pierre and I had a band of pirates, and our plundering was a lucrative trade of goods and slaves. Legend holds that I had dealings here in Hancock County at the Pirate House in Waveland.

I was in my early twenties when I first arrived in New Orleans in 1809 where my brother Pierre and I operated a warehouse for smuggled goods. But shortly we moved our operations to Barataria, Louisiana, to escape the embargo imposed in the city.

In Louisiana there was a reward for my capture. But during the War of 1812, my men and I



Tom Stone

helped Andrew Jackson defeat the British at the Battle of Chalmette. As a result, President Thomas Jefferson granted us all pardons. We moved our operations to Galveston, TX, and resumed our plundering ways there. We also served as spies for Texas in its War for Independence from Spain.

According to history, I married, possibly twice, and had several children.

It was reported that I died around 1823 and was buried in the Yucatan in Mexico. But recent studies reveal that I perhaps faked my death and possibly came to this area with my wife Clarisse. I'll never tell!

**ELLEN GRAY
(1855-1913)
(Portrayed by Allison Hess)**

I am Ellen Gray. I am buried here beside my daughter, Cora. I was born in May 1855, the eldest daughter of Samuel Favre and Elizabeth Frazier. On May 2, 1877, I married Captain Charles Courtney Gray, Sr.

Charles and I had two daughters, Cora and Wilma, and three sons, Samuel, Horatio, and Charles, Jr .

In June of 1909, a very



Jim Keating



Allison Hess

frightening thing happened when a thief entered our home on Kellar Street in the middle of the night. When my husband confronted him, the intruder stabbed him. Fortunately, the wound was not fatal, but it was a very scary night for all of us. The authorities caught the man the next day in New Orleans.

My husband Charles, was a lumber dealer and manufacturer and served a term as a Bay St. Louis Alderman. He was well-loved and respected in the community, and this horrible event resulted in a great outpouring of well wishes.

Please notice my daughter Cora's headstone. She was a member of the Woodmen of the World Auxiliary. The Woodmen of the World was and still is a fraternal organization and private insurance company. As a member of the Auxiliary and as an honor to her, Cora's headstone is built in the form of a tree trunk. Century Hall, the building near our graves, was built by the Bay St. Louis chapter in 1910.



My son Sam married young, but his wife died shortly after the birth of their son Loyd, whom Charles and I took into our home to look after.

As well as his father, Loyd served in World War I, but tragically died in Germany in a gun accident shortly after the armistice was signed. After the war, Sam worked in the American Embassy in Paris. Unfortunately in 1922, he passed away while traveling in England.

My daughter Cora never marries, but she devoted her time to various charitable organizations such as the Woodmen of the World and was a devoted member of the Methodist Church. Sadly she died in 1909 after a brief illness at the age of twenty-five.

In 1913, I was paralyzed, probably with a stroke, and died still grieving the death of my beautiful daughter Cora four years earlier. Charles is not buried here with us. He traveled a lot in his jobs and eventually remarried.

JOSEPH "PEPE"

CARRIO

(1826-1908)

(Portrayed by Jim Codling)

Hello. My name is Joseph Carrio, but people call me "Joe" or "Pepe." I was born on February 26, 1807 either in Louisiana or Mississippi, perhaps on the Mississippi side of the Pearl River. I lived near Mulatto Bayou when I was young. I later moved to Waveland where I lived for the rest of my life.



Jim Codling

My family was of Spanish descent. Carillo was probably the original form of my name.

In my early years, I was a farmer and seaman. Then I became a carpenter.

My parents owned a large schooner that carried people and goods along the coast between Mobile and New Orleans. I met my first wife on one of those trips. Her name was Mary Ann Crowley, but people called her "Annie." She was an Irish immigrant who was traveling from New York to New Orleans. It was love at first sight when we met in Mobile, and we married in 1852. We had 6 children who gave us forty-seven grandchildren!

Sadly, Annie died in 1894. I married Mahela Harral the following year. We had no children.

I did not serve in the Civil War because of an injury to my hand, but I did contribute to the cause by making salt. Through evaporation, I recovered salt from the coastal waters.

My grandson Seymour, who is buried nearby, tragically died of meningitis in France. He was serving in the army at the time and was listed as Hancock County's first WWII casualty in France.

My exact death date is not known. I am buried here with Annie. Seymour and his parents are nearby.

Thank you to Candee and Jim Canady who beautified the horse trough in Cedar Rest Cemetery with fall flowers.



Hancock County Tourism Mardi Gras Museum

For Sale

Selected Items from the *Yancy Pogue Estate Collection*

Select items from the large collection of jewelry, collectibles, and artwork (excluding Mardi Gras items) will be for sale through the Hancock County Tourism Mardi Gras Museum in Bay St Louis, MS.

Any person interested in viewing and/or purchasing the items can make an appointment by calling the Hancock County Tourism Bureau.

Proceeds are designated by the Pogue family to benefit the Mardi Gras Museum as a tribute to Yancy Pogue and well-known Mardi Gras costume designer and maker, Carter Church.

CONTACT:

tourism@playonthebay.org
(228) 463-9222

NEW MEMBERS

Michelle Bezou
Waveland, MS

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Bay St. Louis, MS

Leah Preble Holmes
Diamondhead, MS

Gussy and Monica Ladner
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An inspirational tribute to four New Orleans Saints fans and to the team they loved. This book is for anyone who is an avid Saints fan or who has lost a loved one who loved and was devoted to the Saints team. It is a joyful memoir and is sure to bring pleasure to Saints fans everywhere as it explores the life lessons learned by giving and receiving unconditional support and love. The Forever Saints Fan Club is about joy, hope, courage, devotion, love and faith.

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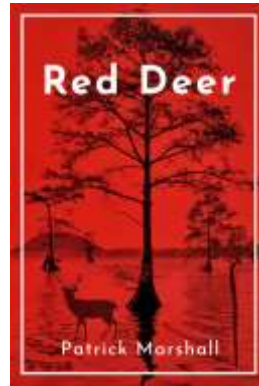
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