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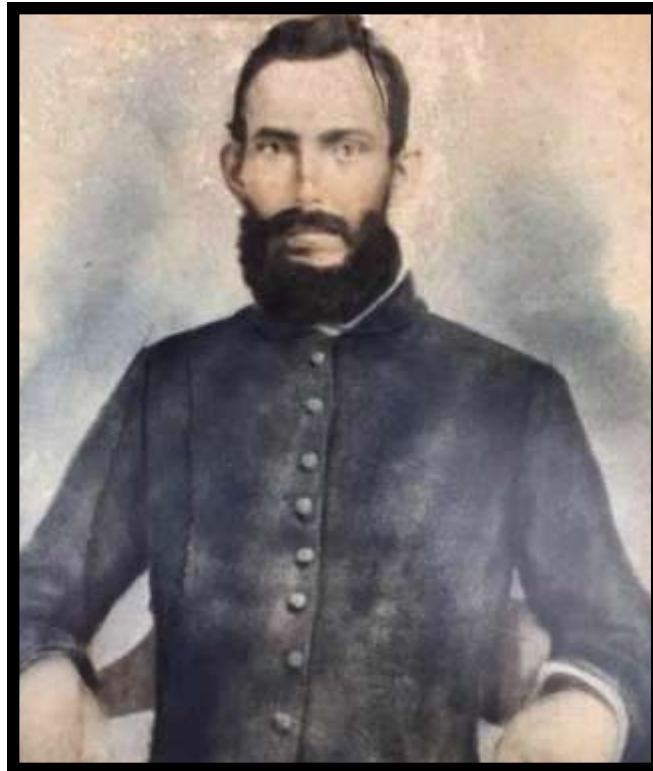
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Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

March 2023

## COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The guest speaker will be Jim Codling, the Historian and Parliamentarian of the Society. He will speak on the Great Depression and its effect on Hancock County. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call by noon on Wednesday, March 15**, to make your reservation. Seating is limited to forty-eight (48) people, and we need to order the correct number of lunches. **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 at noon prior to the luncheon on Thursday. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call by 2 p.m. on Wednesday 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 lasagna, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and gooey butter bars.



As a young man, Thomas "Tom" R. Smith (1842-1929) was a United States Soldier, First Regiment New Orleans, Louisiana. Tom was also a farmer in Sellers, who is remembered always riding around town on a big beautiful white horse.

## SELLERS

By  
James Keating, MD

There is a historic neighborhood called Sellers in the northeast part of Hancock County located on Highway 53 between Dead Horse Bay and Buzzard Bay. Ten generations of the Smith Family take great pride in the history of this community. They resent that their mailing address reads "Perkinston, Mississippi" instead of Sellers. Perkinston is the name of the postal zone in

this area, although Perkinston is a town in Stone County near Wiggins. That said, the history of Sellers goes back two hundred years, and the community still thrives today as a neighborhood rich in beauty of the land and rich in the cultural heritage of its inhabitants. At one time there was a post office and a vote box named Sellers, but that is true no longer. Nonetheless, the residents of Sellers cherish their special identity and history.

Nimrod Smith (1768-1855) was one of the original settlers in the neighborhood now known as Sellers. Nimrod was in

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day

THE HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor  
James Keating, Publisher

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P. O. Box 3356  
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

108 Cue Street  
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Email address:

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MONDAY — FRIDAY  
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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.”

General Andrew Jackson’s army in 1814 that traveled overland from Mobile to New Orleans to fight the British at Chalmette, Louisiana. Jackson’s army marched on the Old Federal Road and then through Sellers before it split into three separate divisions that went through Ford’s Fort, Henleyfield, and Gainesville on their way to New Orleans. Nimrod Smith was so impressed with the lovely countryside in Sellers that he vowed to return after the War of 1812. Subsequently, Nimrod returned to Virginia, gathered his family, and migrated overland to Sellers. He is buried in the Old Smith Cemetery in Sellers. He has at least ten generations of descendants in Sellers today including Lloyd and Linda Anderson.

The Sellers community was named after an early preacher in the neighborhood. The local school also shared the name. Sellers is a tight-night community in which practically everyone

is related. Next to Sellers is another neighborhood, Crane Creek or Shawtown. One of the original settlers to this place was John Gadsten Shaw. A descendant, Calvin Shaw, promoted a dairy farm in the 1930’s, and at one time there were thirteen dairy farms in Crane Creek alone. The Shaw Fish House in Sellers has the best fried catfish on the Gulf Coast, according to people who have eaten there. Crane Creek is a tributary of the Wolf River. Many inhabitants of Sellers attend the Crane Creek Baptist Church. The preacher is Brother Harry Davis.

Lloyd Winfred Anderson was born in Sellers and was delivered at home by Dr. Goss of Caesar in 1950. Lloyd attended the Sellers School through third grade. In 1959 he attended a new consolidated school in Rocky Hill. Lloyd graduated from Hancock County North Central High School. He was a

President’s Corner

Charles Harry Gray was featured posthumously as the Grand Marshall by the Mystic Krew of Seahorse at their Lundy Gras Parade. Dressed in Charles’ style, I rode in his stead and delivered the key note address at the pre-parade celebration. The parade watchers were many, and the weather was ideal as we paraded down Necaise to Main Street. It was on Main Street that there was an indication that my role as Grand Marshall was coming to an unplanned end. As we approached Toulme St., a stream of white smoke flowed out from under the hood of the classic Mustang Convertible. At this point we were forced to abandon the parade, humbled but very pleased to have been a part of recognizing Charles’ many accomplishments as Executive Director of the Hancock County Historical Society.

The Society and MKOSH have partnered over the years to preserve and celebrate the rich history of our area and once again the “What Floats Your Cardboard Boat” race will be part of the Pirates Day in the Bay celebration Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20.

Chris Roth

President



Lloyd and his sister Linda are two of the tenth generation of the important Smith Family who were some of the original pioneer settlers of Sellers.

very successful businessman who built and managed the *Can't-Be-Beat Fence Company*, also known as the Anderson Fence Company. This enterprise in Sellers is a multimillion-dollar operation. It is the largest fence company on the Gulf Coast. Lloyd is now retired, and his wife, Meridith Leigh Smith (b. 1952), now runs the company.

Meridith comes from Delisle and is a descendant of the Pavolin Family who were historically boat-builders. Lloyd and Meridith had four children: Davy, Vicky, Dusty, and Owen. Owen Anderson is presently the Prosecutor for Hancock County. When the Andersons started the fence company, they asked their employees for a suggestion for a company name. One worker remarked, "I don't know what to call it, but I'll bet it can't be beat." Lloyd thought *Can't-Be-Beat Fence Company* was a great name and incorporated it for the family business.

Linda Gayle Anderson Buckley (b. 1952) is the younger sister of Lloyd Anderson. Linda graduated from Hancock North Central High School also. She married in 1969 and had four children. Later in 1988, she married a man from Lawrence

County, MS, Kenneth Buckley. Linda was a police officer in Bay St. Louis for several years in the 1980's. She worked under Chief Ray Murphy and enjoyed the mission of helping people, especially battered women. Linda later worked as a Transportation Security Administrator (TSA) supervisor at the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport. She has four children: Shannon, Callie, Lynn, and Sherman. Inspired by his Uncle Lloyd's entrepreneurial spirit, Sherman started his own business, DMR Industrial in Wiggins, MS.

The father of Lloyd and Linda was Winfred Lloyd Anderson (1917-1956). Winfred served in the army in the Pacific Campaign of World War II and saw combat in Guadalcanal, the Soloman Islands, and the Philippines. He worked at Ingalls Shipyard and started a dairy farm in Sellers. His wife was Nora Lee Bosarge (1927-2012) from Bayou La Batre in Monroe County, Alabama. Wilfred and Nora met in a bus station in Gulfport.

Two veterans from Sellers who lost their lives in World War II were Elgin De-deaux and Burnett Wallace

(Buster) Anderson. The names of these patriots are inscribed on the WWII Memorial in front of the Hancock County Courthouse in Bay St. Louis. Another local veteran, Monroe Shaw died in combat in the Korean War.

A grandfather of Lloyd and Linda was Olen Lacar Anderson (1879-1964), who was from Lamar County, MS., but he resided in Crane Creek. Olen was a leather worker who fashioned whips and reigns for oxen yokes and wagons. His leather reigns were in great demand by the timber companies because they used oxen and mules to haul heavy tree trunks out of the forest. Owen was famous because he was the only driver in the county that could harness or manage with his yokes eighteen teams of oxen (thirty six oxen) at one time, which he did on occasion at the Buzzard Bay logging community. Olen married Candice "Burbie" Smith (1896-1976) from Sellers. She was a direct descendant of the aforementioned original settler, Nimrod Smith. Burbie is the connection between the historic Smith Family and Lloyd and Linda Anderson.

One uncle in the Smith family named Chanley Smith owned an infamous mule which was very stubborn. The mule aggravated Chanley so badly that, when the mule finally died, Chanley buried it in the nearby pasture and placed a cement grave marker over the gravesite that read "May Your Soul Rest in Hell!" Years later, the grave marker was discovered by Stanley's descendants who did not know who was buried in this abandoned

and forgotten grave. The body was exhumed, perhaps to rule out a cold case unsolved murder of a human being, only to recover the bones of that stubborn mule. This anecdote is some of Sellers' favorite folklore oral tradition.

Sellers proudly boasts of several successful businesses besides the *Can't-Be-Beat Fence Company*. A cousin of the Andersons owns and operates the Cuevas Machine Shop. A rival fence company, Southern Exterior Fence Company, prospers. Hickman Mechanical Works and the aforementioned Shaw Fish House also contribute to the local economy.

For many years, almost everyone in the county, especially during Prohibition, distilled whiskey to make some much needed additional income during hard times. Although many counties in Mississippi were dry, the laws were not uniformly enforced. Our local industry gained a reputation for unusually fine quality moonshine. However, during the 1970's Federal Judge Cox started giving local citizens jail sentences for income tax evasion related to moonshine income. His father was a "revenuer" who was shot one night by a bootlegger. Judge Cox determined to terminate the local home-grown whiskey industry, and so he did.

Before 1908 Hancock County maintained about fifty small schools white and black. The Sellers School was formed in 1914 by consolidating the Crane Creek, the Cap Ladnier, and Stanford schools. The Sellers Vocational High School was built during the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) offering modern



Sellers Vocational High School

During the 1930s as part of the WPA, there were several vocational high schools built in the rural areas of the United States, and there were many built in Mississippi.

In addition to the usual "reading, writing, and arithmetic," the purpose of these schools was to teach students farming, home economics, basic business skills, and other things to help them in their adult lives. Some of these schools had dormitories if students needed to live away from home. In addition, some of them became the Junior Colleges—later Community Colleges—that formed throughout Mississippi.

seating and lighting as well as sanitary fixtures in the rest rooms. This school had a domestic science department and offered courses in agriculture.

The local economy that includes the Steep Hollow neighborhood in the adjacent Pearl River County contains cattlemen and farmers. Favorite crops are soybeans, cotton, wheat, and peanuts. Local citizens find employment in the health sector and many are self-employed in the building trades. Other commute to the Stennis Municipal Airport, the Stennis Space Center, and the Dupont Chemical Plant (now known as Chemours).

In conclusion, the Smith Family tree extends over ten gen-

erations in Hancock County. The early members of this proud clan are buried in the old Smith Cemetery in Sellers. Present day descendants Lloyd and Linda Anderson have shared their family history of ten generations of farmers, leather workers, World War II veteran heroes, entrepreneurs, police officer, and a frustrated mule keeper named Chanley.

#### SOURCES:

- Anderson, Lloyd Winfred and Linda Gayle Anderson Buckley. Personal Interview September 2, 2022.
- Clay A. Emma and Gierine, Edmond J. "Hancock County Schools: WPA Project 1937" *Vignettes*, Hancock County Historical Society, Bay St. Louis, MS.
- Scharff, Robert J. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Corp., 1994.



The Shaw Fish House in Sellers is very popular and a favorite restaurant for diners in the region who love fried catfish.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

### CANDEE CANADY

Archivist  
Hancock County  
Historical Society

Born at Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia, my father was from New Orleans, LA, and in the Army in Norfolk where he met and married my mother. (Mostly Navy personnel were located in Norfolk.) I was one of six children.

My parents moved from Norfolk several times to New Orleans and back before deciding to permanently reside in New Orleans. While at Fortier High School, I met Jim Canady, from New Orleans, and we have two daughters and six grandchildren. I studied Psychology at UNO while working. My parents had a summer home in Pass Christian, MS, where Jim and I enjoyed many summers on the beach. Jim and I purchased a home there after we were married, and that's when we fell in love with the Coast.

We enjoyed many family trips to visit family and amusement parks together. Our most enjoyable and memorable trip was a Disney Cruise to the Bahamas with the entire family. They still talk about it and want to go again. However, it will be really hard to get us all together again.

I worked in retail sales for over thirty years, in insurance claims for twelve years and in home health & hospice for eight years before retiring. We lived in Metairie until we retired permanently in 2008 to Waveland.

Jim volunteers at the



Candee Canady

Hancock County Historical Society making Southern live oak tree plaques and hanging them for the Tree Registry. I am currently volunteering as Archivist at HCHS. I am a member of the Our Lady Of the Gulf Flower Ministry, OLG Ladies Auxiliary, and AARP Tax Aide Counselor.

We currently enjoy attending sports that our grandchildren are enrolled in: St. Stanislaus football, golf, and soccer games; Our Lady Academy volleyball, OLA softball, and club volleyball. Two granddaughters are attending LSU, and our eldest granddaughter graduated from the University of Alabama where she met her fiancé. They were married recently.

I enjoy walking the beach, bike riding, and playing tennis with my granddaughters.

## ARBOR DAY

By  
Anita Warner

Arbor Day, literally *tree day*, is celebrated annually in all fifty states. The timing of Arbor Day is dependent on the optimal time to plant trees depending on the geographical location of the state. The most common date is the last Friday in April. In Mississippi Arbor Day is celebrated on the second Friday in February. Because of Mississippi's hot summer climate, trees should be planted when they are dormant so they can adjust to their new setting before the stress of the state's long hot summers.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska, when J. Sterling Morton, a newspaper editor and secretary of the Nebraska Territory advocated for citizens and civic groups to plant trees. As the country expanded its westward expansion, the people moving into the Nebraska Territory and the adjacent great plains missed the trees they left behind. They needed trees for fuel and building materials, for winters to keep soil in place, and for shade from the hot sun. Morton proposed a tree planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. It was first celebrated on April 10, 1872, when it has been estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

While more holidays look to the past and celebrate something that has already happened, Arbor Day represents a





Planting the crepe myrtles along Coleman Avenue in Waveland are left (standing on the grass) Ginny Littlefield, President of the Bay Waveland Garden Club and Anita Warner, Chair of the Live Oak Tree Registry. Next to them (standing on the sidewalk) are Waveland city workers. Standing at the back are Mark and Lori Winklehake assisting Bryan Thereof, chair of Keep Waveland Beautiful.

*Photo courtesy of The Sea Coast Echo*

hope for the future. The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow to provide clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthier communities, and endless natural beauty, all of which provides a better tomorrow.

This year the Bay Waveland Garden Club in conjunction with Keep Waveland Beautiful (KWB) planted twenty crepe myrtles on Coleman Avenue in Waveland from Central Avenue to the beach. Bryan Thereof headed up the KWB group assisted by Mark and Lori Winklehake. Ginny Littlefield, president of the Bay Waveland Garden Club and Anita Warner, Chair of the Live Oak Registry (a joint project of the Bay Waveland Garden Club and the Hancock County Historical Society), both assisted in installing, trim-

ming and mulching the crepe myrtles on Arbor Day.

The Live Oak Registry mission is to register live oak

trees that are one hundred years or older in Hancock County. The sponsors promote and conserve these natural resources that promote historical events, aesthetic value, and environmental significance. To date the Registry has listed over eight hundred live oak trees in Hancock County.

### CHILI/MAC-N-CHEESE COOK-OFF

The Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis held its Annual Chili/Mac-N-Cheese Cook-Off on Thursday, February 9, 2023 from 5:00-8:00 pm. For the first time, the Hancock County Historical Society entered the cook-off and thoroughly enjoyed the chili prepared by society members Gretchen Thorp and Connie Roth. Many people came back for more!



Members of the Hancock County Historical Society dressed in period costumes at the Chili/Mac-N-Cheese Cook-Off Fundraiser.

L-R: Gretchen Thorp, Candee Canady, Bryan Frater, Beverly Frater, Bonnie Cooper, Jim Keating, and Ron Thorp



Charles Harry Gray was featured posthumously as the Grand Marshall by the Mystic Krew of Seahorse at their Lundy Gras Parade. President Chris Roth represented Charles at the parade. Riding along with Chris is a statue portraying Charles' closest friend, his dog Maxwell



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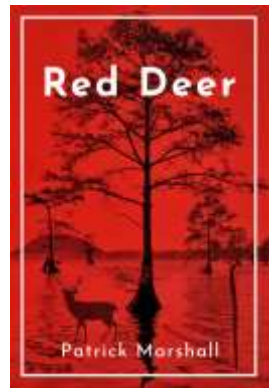
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