

THE

# HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

April 2023

## COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The guest speaker will be Theresa Marigal from the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport. She will speak on coastal wildlife and the work of the institute. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call by noon on Wednesday, April 19** 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 noon 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 chicken and white wine sauce, roasted garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables, yeast rolls, and triple chocolate brownies.

### UPDATED

#### LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY  
10:00 — 3:00  
WEDNESDAY—10:00—5:00  
SATURDAY—1:00—3:00



John Gadsden Shaw (1819-1885) and his wife Annie Ladner Shaw (1831-1911) were two of the first pioneer settlers in Crane Creek. They homesteaded their farm in 1847.



## CRANE CREEK

By  
James Keating, M.D.

Crane Creek is a tributary of the Wolf River, and it is also the name of a scenic community in the same area in the northeast part of Hancock County. The Shaw Family has resided in Crane Creek since 1847, and this location has also been called Shaw Town by the locals, as well as Crane Creek, over the years.

One of the first pioneer settlers to this beautiful place

was John Gadsden Shaw (1819-1885). John was born in Mayville, South Carolina, on a farm. Around 1846 John and his brother drove a wagon load of cotton from their family farm to New Orleans, hoping to sell their produce for a better price than they could get in South Carolina. They sold the cotton, but after receiving the money, they were robbed by local thieves. John was forced to attempt to work his way back home. He got as far as Pass Christian, MS, before he needed to find temporary employment to generate additional travel money.

Because John was educat-

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**LOBRANO HOUSE  
HOURS**

MONDAY — FRIDAY  
10:00AM — 3:00PM  
WEDNESDAY—10:00AM—  
5:00PM  
SATURDAY—1:00PM—3:00PM  
  
CLOSED 12—1 (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.”

ed, Carlos Ladner, a store owner in Pass Christian offered him work. He hired John to tutor his children who needed further education than they had previously received. One of these children was a fifteen-year-old daughter, Annie Ladner (1831-1911). Accordingly, Annie and John married in 1847. The couple moved to what is now known as Tally Shaw Road in Harrison County, which is on the east side of the Wolf River, just off Highway 53. They homesteaded a farm and had their first child in 1848. John and Annie had a total of fifteen children. Today, the Shaw Family can boast of hundreds of descendants from this couple that resided all over the country. John and Annie are buried in the small, private John G. Shaw Cemetery located at the site of their homestead on a lovely hillside.

An important source of family lore is a fourth generation Shaw descendant, Robert Doug-



John and Annie Shaw are buried in the small private John G. Shaw Cemetery on a lovely hillside at the site of their original farm.

las (Doug) Stewart (b. 1940), who lives on Stewart Lane in Crane Creek. Doug’s mother, Birdie Shaw (1918-2003), is the link in this generation chain to the Stewarts. Doug grew up mostly in the Crane Creek area. He graduated from Sellers High School in 1958 and graduated from Pearl River Junior College in Poplarville in 1962. In college he studied drafting programs and worked in New Orleans for Texaco as an assistant engineer for thirty-four years.

While on scholarship at

President’s Corner

The Lighter Side of History

Historians speculate that April Fools Day dates back to 1582 when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. In the Julian calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1. News spread slowly back in the day, and many continued to celebrate the new year during the last days of March through April. These folks became the butt of jokes and were called “April Fools.”

In modern times people have gone to great lengths to trick the “April Fools” with BBC reporting Swiss farmers having record spaghetti crops and showing people harvesting noodles from trees. Taco Bell announced that it purchased naming rights to the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell and Burger King advertised a “Left-handed Whopper” with clueless customers requesting the fake sandwich.

Chris Roth

President



Doug and Mary Emma Stewart met while attending Pearl River Junior College and married after college. They represent the fourth generation of the Shaw Family in Crane Creek.

college, Doug met a beautiful cheerleader, Mary Emma (1941-2022) from Hattiesburg. Mary had jet black hair and shared Doug's love of sports. Mary was on scholarship as well and studied music. Doug and Mary married after college. Mary was an active member and officer of the Parent Teacher Association and a kindergarten teacher. In addition she also worked for Lockheed Martin at Stennis Space Center and Texaco in New Orleans. She was a self-taught genealogist researching and documenting the descendants of the John Gadsden and Annie Ladner Shaw Family. Doug and Mary reared five children: Robert, Sharan, Kirk, Michael, and Valorie. Doug retired from Texaco in 1996 and moved back to Crane Creek, living on the family farm. He has been on the local school board for ten years and served as President of the Mississippi School Board Association. Doug and Mary were instrumental in organizing family reunions that hosted as many as two hundred participants at one time. Many of these were from other states. Sadly, Mary died of heart disease in

2022,

Doug's father was Robert Stewart (1916-1984) who was born in Pearl River County, graduated from Savannah High School, and worked for the International Paper Mill in Moss Point, MS. He also worked in a shipyard in New Orleans and was a residential contractor across the Gulf Coast. Robert died of heart disease and is buried in the Crane Creek Cemetery. The mother of four children, Doug's mother, Birdie Shaw, was a homemaker, an expert gardener, and a seamstress at two different clothing factories, one in Gulfport and one in Poplarville, at different times. Birdie died of a stroke at age eighty-six and is also buried in the Crane Creek Cemetery.

Doug's maternal grandfather was Calvin Shaw (1870-1943) who served on the Hancock County Board of Supervisors for twenty-five years. He was a farmer who lived in Crane Creek and increased the acreage of the family farm. He cut timber and raised cattle, sheep, and hogs. Calvin married Cenith Ladner (1872-1950) who was a

small-figured lady who was very active in the Crane Creek Baptist Church. She and Calvin had eleven children.

During the mid-twentieth century, a cluster of Shaw and Hariel Family farmers in Crane Creek established a local dairy industry. The Crosby Creamery in Picayune co-partnered with these dairy farmers by offering them loans to finance the purchase of Jersey cows, and the creamery bought the raw milk from the farmers. Nevertheless, the industry did not remain profitable after 1977, and most of these dairy farmers in Crane Creek converted their herds back to beef cattle. Incidentally, the Hariel Family is another family in Crane Creek. In fact, the post office there at one time was named Hariel. There are man-made picturesque lakes and ponds on these cattle farms that embellish this lovely rolling hills landscape.

The Crane Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1886. Services were held in an original building known as Alliance Hall. In 1912 a wood frame building was constructed at the site where the present facilities are located. In 1969, Hurricane Camille completely destroyed the church, and a new building was constructed with the help of church members such as Robert Stewart and community volunteers.. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina did considerable damage to this rebuilt church, but the basic infrastructure was intact. The aforementioned Brother Doug Stewart helped with the rebuilding efforts and disaster relief teams. Different workers, such as an Amish



Crane Creek Baptist Church

group from Pennsylvania, came to Crane Creek to rebuild the church. Finances were donated from various sources. The building was restored, and a prayer meeting was held in this beautiful, new sanctuary on May 26, 2006. The Crane Creek Baptist Church has survived through hard times for 137 years.

In conclusion, over the

years the Crane Creek Baptist Church brought social stability and support to the surrounding region. It provided help and assistance to its many members from Necaise Crossing, Sellers, Steep Hollow, and Dedeaux/Standard. In rural communities such as Crane Creek, a church can function not only as a religious center, but also as a cultural center. The church and its network of worshipers serve as cultural glue to the neighborhood society. The civil and social well-being of this region of Hancock County is interwoven with the vitality of this local church. The Shaw Family has played a key role in the history of Crane Creek and its church.

**SOURCES:**

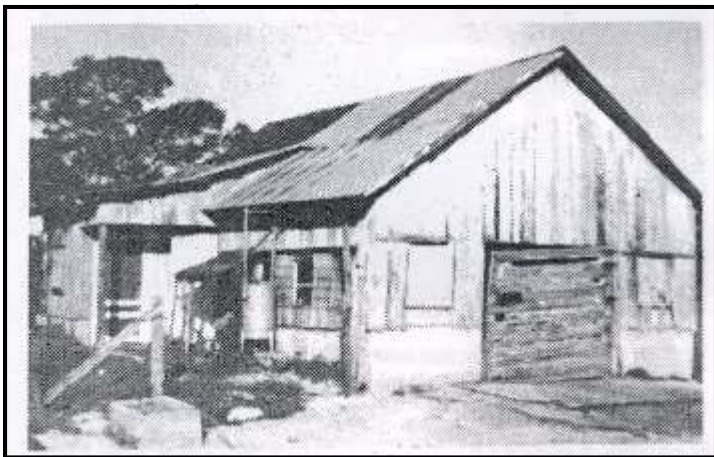
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Built in 1932, this dairy farm was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Seaborn Shaw. It was one of the first four barns built in Hancock County. Seaborn was the son of Joseph Shaw

These cans of fresh milk are ready to be loaded onto the truck and sent to the creamery. Notice the number 193, denoting the dairy from which the milk came, on the can at the right.

(This 1945 photo comes from the Sea Coast Echo, 05/29/1977.)



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Tad and Lindsey Shaw  
*Perkinston, MS*

Doug Stewart  
*Perkinston, MS*

SECOND SATURDAY  
HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 4-7 p.m., the Hancock County Historical Society was the 2nd Saturday “Hot Spot.”

Upon entering the front yard of the Kate Lobrano House, visitors were greeted by HCHS board members, Ron Thorp and Jim Codling, both dressed in their soda jerk hats. Almost immediately, guests were quite taken by music played by society member Clyde Holzbaue. In addition, the younger visitors were invited by Jim to engage in a friendly game of checkers.

Entering the house, guests were enchanted to find society volunteers dressed in soda jerk hats and 1920’s attire. Volunteer, Gretchen Thorp, and board member, Candee Canady, offered each guest a dish of ice cream— vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry. Browsing through the house, visitors learned some of the history of Hancock County from Lobrano House Director, Eddie Coleman, board member Jim Keating, president Chris Roth, board member Bryan Frater, and volunteer Bonnie Cooper. Music inside the house was presented by board member Bert Young. On of the most enjoyable things for the visitors was viewing the HCHS slide show, containing photos of Hancock County’s past.

Before leaving the Historical Society, guests were invited by board member Beverly Frater to have their photos taken in the front room of the historic 1897 Kate Lobrano House.





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### Hancock County Historical Society



*For Information:*

**Chris Roth 228-323-1105**

*Rules, Construction Tips, Registration*

<https://hancock39520.wixsite.com/my-site>



SAVE THE DATE

Orphan Trains: Next Stop **Bay St. Louis**  
September 9 and 10, 2023

The Hancock County Historical Society is excited to announce that it will present an original play about Orphan Trains and the children who arrived in Bay St. Louis in the early 1900's. Those children were Tom Luc, John Damborino, Annie Adam Graham, Margaret Fayard Cuevas, and Willie Adam. If you are a descendant or relative of one of these people, please get in touch with the Society by phone at 228-467-4090 or email at hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net. We would appreciate all information and pictures you can share.



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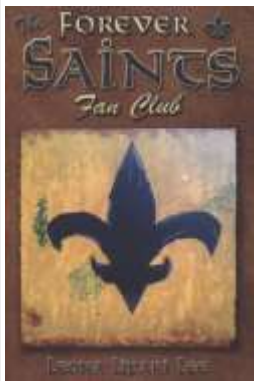


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All Proceeds Support the Mardi Gras Museum

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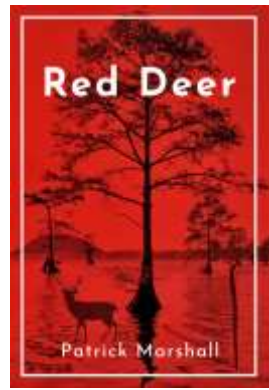
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