

THE

HISTORIAN



OF HANCOCK COUNTY

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

November 2023

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The guest speaker will be James Keating who will speak on the history of the Bay-Waveland Yacht Club. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call by noon on Wednesday, November 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 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 bourbon pork chops, corn pudding, caramel apple salad, rolls, and pumpkin gooey butter bars.



Cedar Rest Cemetery
200 South Second Street

The Twenty-ninth Annual Cemetery Tour Presented by the Hancock County Historical Society

By

Beverly Frater,
Jim Keating, and
Eddie Coleman

The Twenty-ninth Annual Cemetery Tour was held from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. at Cedar Rest Cemetery on South Second Street on October 28, 2023. Guests were greeted by the Ethereal Curator, portrayed by Ron Thorp. All of the citi-

zens 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 theme of this year's tour was to recognize persons and families buried in Cedar Rest who have streets, avenues, or other roadways in Hancock County named after them. All of the families portrayed except the Lobrano family have a street in Hancock County named after them. We always begin our tour with Kate Lobrano because the home of the Hancock County Historical Society is her former house on Cue Street.

THE
HISTORIAN
 OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
 James Keating, Publisher

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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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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.”



**THE 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 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 section belongs to the Poillion family. The one in the south section was built for Mrs. Harriet Jordan. At the time of

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

October and November are full of HCHS historical events. In late October we received the full shipment of *Growing Up Downtown* by Pat Murphy and are busy with book mailings and folks picking up their prepaid editions. This followed by both the very successful Halloween /Cemetery Tour and the Saint Augustine Centennial Celebration.

Online shopping on our website was activated in October, and you may now shop for books online and have them mailed to you. There will be other product offerings soon, so stay tuned.

Space Day in the Bay, Saturday, 11 November at Kate Lobrano House, 1:30 and 3:15 will feature videos and speakers from families who were displaced by the establishment of Stennis Space Center. The founding of SSC was a transformational event for Hancock County.

Chris Roth
 President



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 M. LOBRANO
Portrayed by
Candee Canady

I was born on January 3, 1871. My parents were Rebecca Jane Douglass of Charleston, South Carolina, and George M. Maynard from St. Louis, Missouri. I married Frank J. Lobrano, a direct descendant of Jacinto Lobrano, a captain of Jean Lafitte's privateer navy.

We had homes in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, where my husband served as Clerk of Court, and we reared our five children. My husband was the founder and developer of the process of using empty oyster shells to cultivate oysters domestically in the bay bottom in Plaquemines Parish.

I died on December 19, 1921, and was buried in this plot in Cedar Rest Cemetery in Bay



St. Louis. Family members have joined me in this tomb.

GEX FAMILY
Jan Vest
Portraying Walter Gex

I am Walter Gex, Sr., and I was born in New Orleans on January 25, 1878. My parents were Lucien Myrtle Gex and Marie Victoria Demoruelle, and they moved to Bay St Louis circa 1885. They opened the L. M. Gex General Mercantile and Country Produce store on the corner of Sycamore and Hancock Streets.

Their sons Emile and Lucien, Sr., established the law firm of Gex and Gex. In addition Lucien also founded the Merchants Bank and Trust Company, owned a sawmill and amassed large tracts of timberland and mineral rights.

Walter, Jr., also became an attorney and was president of Gex-Cue Construction, executive vice president of the Merchants Bank, and a state staff member to five governors. He owned 5,500 acres of timber, most of which later became the



city of Diamondhead.

Other members of the family joined the law firm. In fact four streets in Hancock County carry the Gex name—one in Bay St. Louis, one in Waveland, and two in Diamondhead.

ULMAN FAMILY
Jim Codling
Portraying Alfred Ulman

I am Alfred Augustus Ulman, and I was born in New Orleans in 1846. At age sixteen, I joined the Confederate army. When I returned home, I became an apprentice in a machine shop and soon became quite an expert. I married Mary Whitteker. At about age twenty-seven, I moved to Waveland and bought four thousand acres of land on Nicholson Avenue just north of the railroad tracts. The sheep industry was thriving in Hancock County at that time. I opened a very successful business there called the Ulman Woolen Mill.

As a result of my success, the area became known as Ulmanville, and the train stop at Nicholson Avenue was labeled as such. I was elected alderman and then Mayor of Waveland, be-

ing reelected two times, and was credited with much of Waveland's prosperity and growth during my tenure. Unfortunately, I died in 1893 at the age of forty-seven during my third term.

My brother James B. Ulman a Waveland native, owned a successful store on Nicholson Avenue across from the mill—the only mercantile store in Waveland at the time.

Our father, James A. Ulman, born in 1819, came to Bay St. Louis in the mid-1850's. He served as Mayor of Bay St Louis and was in office in 1886 when the city charter was ratified by the of Mississippi.

In the 1920s, Hwy 90 crossed the first bridge over the Bay of St. Louis at Ulman Avenue, named for this family.

BOARDMAN FAMILY

Jim Keating

Portraying Captain William
(Billy) Boardman

I am Billy Boardman. The Boardman Family came to Hancock County in the 1880's. The first member to migrate from Leominster, Massachusetts, was A. P. Boardman. He commanded steamers between New Orleans and Mobile and Montgomery and Mobile. His son, Captain William "Billy" Tyler Boardman (1834-1894), was also a Steamboat Captain who commanded his first steamboat at age nineteen. Captain Billy built and owned several steamboats, and he operated in the west, up the Red River and the Mississippi/Missouri rivers and as far north as North Dakota. Captain Billy was bringing supplies and passengers to the military forts and base camps that the wagon trains could resupply along the trail to



the Pacific Northwest. His most famous steamboat that he built was the *Dacotah* that traveled from New Orleans to North Dakota. Another famous member, Roderick Boardman, ran the Pearl River from English Lookout to Pearlinton to Logtown. His two steamboats were named *Pelican* and *Margaret*.

Captain Billy did not marry until age fifty-five, when he married Henrietta "Rita" Agatha Mary Ann Leonard (1868-1939) who was twenty-one at the time. Billy sought her parents' consent, and they married, having two daughters and a son, who sadly died in infancy.

William T. Boardman died of Bright's Disease in 1894. When the city of Bay St. Louis cut North Beach Blvd., the Boardman family and the Leonard family each received a street



near the Bay-Waveland Yacht Club named in honor of each family.

DE MONTLUZIN FAMILY

Bonnie Cooper
Portraying Reine de Montluzin

I am Reine Helluy de Montluzin, born on June 12, 1833. I married L.A. de Montluzin in 1847 at age fourteen.

In 1856 two of my children and I emigrated to America to join my husband and oldest son in Convent, Louisiana. In all we had a total of six children. Because my father was a candy-maker of Polish descent, I learned the delicate art of candy-making.

My husband suffered a heart attack in 1874 so we moved to Bay St Louis, Mississippi, to retire. At the request of our son Alfred, my husband opened a drug store on Main Street in 1878, which survived until it was destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

My husband died on December 26, 1909, and I followed him less than a month later.





IOOR FAMILY
Tom Stone
Portraying John B. Ioor

I'll bet you are wondering how to pronounce my last name. I-o-o-r is pronounced E-oor. My ancestors were Huguenots expelled from France who settled in South Carolina. Originally the family name was spelled J-o-o-r.

My name is John B. Ioor. I was born in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, in 1845, served for the South in the Civil War, and came to Bay St. Louis afterwards.

I was appointed Justice of the Peace by the Governor in the early 1880s and was subsequently re-elected. In 1888 I was elected the assessor and tax collector for Hancock County and served several two-year terms for twenty years until my death in 1905.

I lived on Hancock Street with my brother Harry and my two sisters Ella and Maria. Ella was postmaster from 1885-1894.



In 1897 I bought a large tract of land on the south end of Beach Blvd., and Professor F. C. Bordages, Sr., and I developed what later became known as Clermont Harbor. Unfortunately, I died before completion.

There are three streets with my name in Hancock County. One is located on the south side of Hwy 90 going toward Old Spanish Trail, and another runs north of Hwy 90 to Washington Street. A third Ioor was in Clermont Harbor.

BOOKTER FAMILY
Annette Minninger
Portraying Emma Bookter

I am Emma Bookter, born in England circa 1834, and married Frederick A. Lorymer in London. Soon after our daughter Emily Cecilia was born, my husband died. My daughter and I then immigrated to America.

After we arrived, I met and married Alexander Bookter, who loved Emily as if she were his. He was from a prominent Louisiana family. We moved to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, bought land on the west side of



St. Stanislaus, and had two more daughters, Frannie and Ettie. We donated a portion of our property to the city so that a street could be created—Bookter Street.

THE TOULME FAMILY
Beverly Frater
Portraying Mrs. John Victor Toulme


I am the wife of John Victor Toulme. My husband and his family left France during the religious wars and went to Santo Domingo when my husband's grandfather lost everything during the native uprising. Immigrating to the U.S. with \$25 and his wife, son, and slaves, he moved to Bay, St. Louis.

My father-in-law was the first postmaster and first merchant in the Bay. My husband inherited the Crescent Hotel which was located on the corner of the Beach Road and the railroad tracks. It was a first-rate hotel that could hold 100 guests and had the finest artesian well water in the area (said to have medicinal qualities.)

My husband was the postmaster from 1857-1865. He helped organize the *Shieldsboro Rifles* during the Civil War. He was attached to the Confederate 3rd Regiment. They were responsible for protecting the Gulf Coast from Yankee troops who were anchored off the barrier islands. The Confederates used his schooner the *Montebello* to transport supplies and troops up and down the rivers until the Yankees found out and stole the schooner in the middle of the night, towing her out to the sound for their own use.

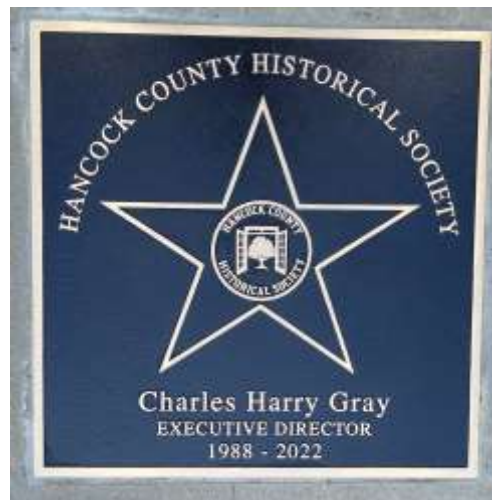
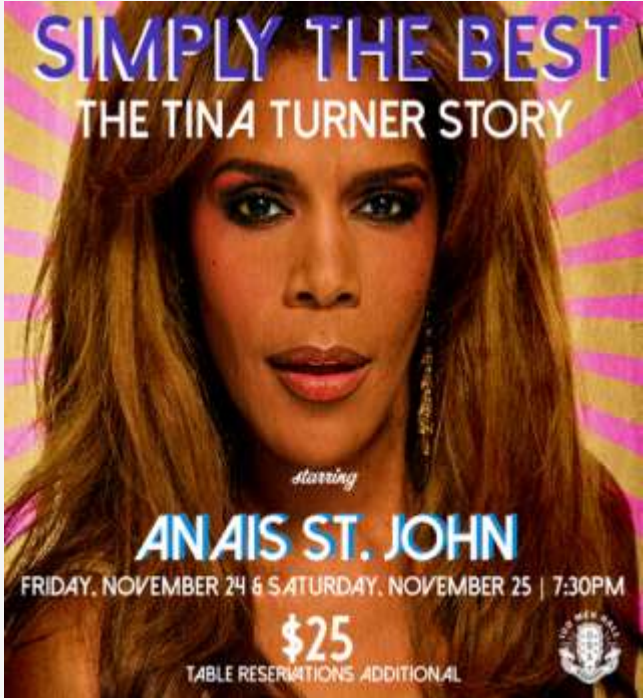
He was also a Mayor of Bay St. Louis and was re-elected for several terms. During his time as mayor, he fought for the rights of the people even if it meant going against popular opinion. In fact he faced an indictment from the Grand Jury for "misappropriation of funds" when he chose to use public money funds to build the first public school in Bay St. Louis. He was never indicted.

My husband and I donated the land to the Methodist Church where the children's day care and educational center now stands. After my death, my husband married two more times, and he had six children. He, all three of his wives, and two of his children, are buried near one another on our family plot.



SPACE DAY IN THE BAY

Saturday, November 11 at the
Kate Lobrano House in Bay St. Louis
Videos at 1:30 and 3:30 and speakers from
families who were displaced by the establish-
ment of Stennis Space Center.

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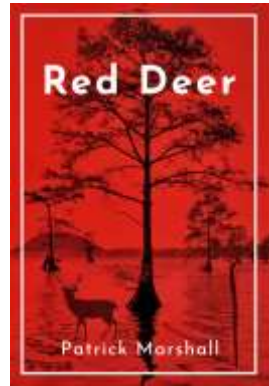
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