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HISTORIAN

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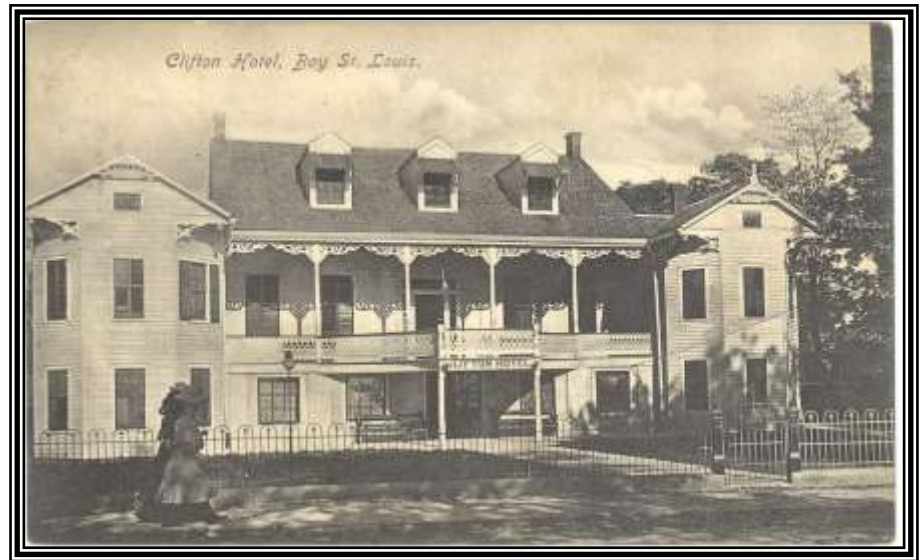
OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

Mississippi's Bicentennial
1817—2017

September 2017

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker will be Marlin F. Torguson, founder, CEO, and majority owner of Casino Magic, who will speak on the history of modern gaming in Hancock County that began on September 22, 1992. It is the organization's twenty-first anniversary. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. **Respectfully we must request that you please call by noon on Wednesday, September 20,** 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. Lunch is \$12.00, payable at the door, and it is catered by Almost Home Catering, Michelle Nichols, chef.



The Clifton Hotel was located at 214 South Beach Boulevard.

The Hotels of Bay St. Louis

By
Eddie Coleman

The city of Bay St. Louis was once referred to as one of the "five sisters" because people from New Orleans, upland Mississippi towns, and other places came to the Gulf Coast especially in the summer months to visit the tourist areas of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Travel by steamboat in the mid-1800's and train in the later 1800's provided easy transportation to these Gulf Coast towns and health spas.

In 1894 a group of tourists traveled by rail along the Gulf of Mexico from New Orleans, LA, to Mobile, AL. They visited the cities of Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Long Beach, Mississippi City,

Handsboro, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Scranton, Pascagoula, Moss Point, and Mobile. A travelogue of their experiences in these cities as well as photographs of various sites of interest to them were published under the title *Along the Gulf*. The following account of the Clifton Hotel is taken directly from this book.

The Clifton Hotel

"Near the Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church is one of the prettiest little hotels on the coast, the 'Clifton House' which is now being run under the management of Miss M. C. Markey, a bright and intelligent Southern woman, who for many years was at the head of that celebrated academy of learning, situated on Esplanade Avenue in the City of New Orleans, and known as the Markey-Picard Institute. Miss Markey has devoted an ordinary life-time to the duties of the class-room; and wishing to

ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

Halloween looms! It's time to make final plans for the Hancock County Historical Society Halloween tour. The 23rd Annual Cemetery Tour will be held on Halloween night, Tuesday, October 31, 2017, at Cedar Rest Cemetery. Needed are volunteers to prepare the cemetery for the tour, to portray citizens buried there, and to act as guides. To volunteer, please call 228-467-4090. All actors and guides must be members of the Historical Society.

THE
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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
James Keating, Publisher

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“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.”

vary the monotony of her situation, which although pleasant and congenial in itself, was nevertheless tiresome and fatiguing on account of the manifold duties devolving upon her, she determined to dispose of her interest in the school and enter a new field of adventure. Accordingly her brother, Mr. John F. Markey, a prominent citizen of New Orleans, purchased this piece of property at the “Bay” and installed her as manager of the [hotel], which she will no doubt fill to the credit of herself, and the satisfaction of all who may take up their [abode] under her hospitable roof.

“The Clifton House is situated on the beach at Bay St. Louis, within a stone’s throw of the ‘[long] bridge’ and a few minutes walk from the depot. It contains 14 rooms in the main building besides other accommodations in out buildings, etc. The architecture of the place, as may be seen from the photograph which is herein reproduced [p. 1] is of that quaint old Creole style so noticeable in many portions of the French Quarter of New Orleans and consists of a raised cottage and attic, with large halls running through the entire length of the building. The house stands about fifty feet back from the beach road [South Beach Blvd.] with a beautiful lawn in front, and shaded on the sides by large and elegant trees. A nicely paved walk, margined with flowers and shrubbery of all kinds, leads from the front gate to a wide veranda which extends along the entire front of the building; from this gallery you enter a 12 foot hall running through the house, on either side of which are situated large and commodious bed rooms. At the end of the hall another flight of stairs leads to the upper story, which contains large and airy sleeping apartments with their picturesque dormer windows looking out upon the broad and expansive waters of the ‘Bay.’ In the lower portion or basement is the dining hall, which occupies one side of the basement, the opposite side being taken up with four of the neatest and coziest bed rooms that any one could wish to occupy. The dining room is separated from the surrounding lawn by frames of lattice work, which render the place delightfully cool and

pleasant. The house is indeed an ideal summer home, as every room is provided with sufficient openings to admit the invigorating winds from the Gulf in front, or the odor laden breeze from the pine forests in the rear, yet withal it is a comfortable and compact winter resort, as the building is provided with heaters, which give to the place a glow and warmth sufficient to leave our winter visitors under the impression that they are enjoying spring weather on the borders of the Gulf of Mexico. The place is supplied with an extensive smokeless gas machine, and there is gas in every room in the house. There is a large orchard on the place, plentifully stocked with fruit trees; and oranges, pears, peaches, figs and grapes of many varieties may be gathered in abundance. Miss Markey has her own cows, and therefore pure milk, cream cheese and fresh butter can be had at all times. The table is always supplied with the best the market affords, and the terms are reasonable and within the means of all.”

[Ed. *The Clifton House Hotel was lost in the 1907 fire which also burned thirty other buildings including the Osoinach Opera House, Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, and St. Joseph Academy.*]

SOURCE:

Dyer, Charles Lawrence. *Along the Gulf*. New Orleans: William E. Myers, Pub., 1894.
Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana’s Loss, Mississippi’s Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Pub. Co., 1999.

The Bay Saint Louis
Hotel

One of the early hotels in the city was the Bay St. Louis Hotel, owned by Mrs. Annie Allen, a former resident of New Orleans where she had operated a hotel for twenty-five years. Her Bay inn consisted of eleven buildings located at the corner of Beach Blvd. and Union St. next to St. Stanislaus College.

During the summer months, the hotel was always crowded with

guests, Mrs. Allen being able to accommodate one hundred people comfortably. During the winter season, the hotel received many patrons from the northern and eastern United States.

SOURCE:

Dyer, Charles Lawrence. *Along the Gulf*. New Orleans: William E. Myers, Pub., 1894.

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Pub. Co., 1999.



The Gilmore Hotel was located on the corner of Railroad Ave. (Blaize) and Keller St. Bay St. Louis, MS across from the depot.

Crescent /Pickwick Hotel

One of the first hotels built in Bay St. Louis was the Crescent, owned by Captain J.V. Toulme. Its location on the beach and only an eight minute walk from the depot made it attractive to visitors to the Bay.

Captain Toulme was able to accommodate one hundred guests at one time. The hotel's spacious grounds were covered with numerous shade trees affording facilities for playing lawn tennis, croquet, and the like, with many beautiful spots to swing hammocks. The hotel had one of the finest artisan wells in the state on the lawn, with sparkling water celebrated for their medicinal qualities. Captain Toulme was a lifetime resident of the city and served as mayor for a couple

of terms. He was the son of the late John B. Toulme who had the distinction of being the first merchant to establish himself in business at Bay St. Louis.

After the 1890's the name of the Crescent changed to the Pickwick and ownership passed to John Shansy and later to Horatio Weston.

SOURCE:

Dyer, Charles Lawrence. *Along the Gulf*. New Orleans: William E. Myers, Pub., 1894.

The Gilmore Hotel

The Gilmore Hotel stood at the corner of Keller Street and Railroad Avenue (currently Blaize Ave.) from the 1890's until the mid-1940's. Located across the street from the train depot, it offered lodgings as well as spirits and tobacco to boarders. The proprietor was James Gilmore Fayard, Sr. Information about the hotel and its history comes from family history, a couple of brief newspaper entries, and the Sanborn maps of 1893—1944.

Family oral history from a granddaughter of Mr. Fayard provides some information about the business. She reports that her grandfather owned the hotel circa 1900, that it was located near the railroad tracks, and that it supposedly burned down. She says that her father, James Gilmore Fayard, Jr., was born in 1904 and spent summers in Bay St. Louis until at least 1919, traveling by train from New Orleans. His father lived and worked in Bay St. Louis, and his mother, siblings, and he lived in New Orleans for the children to attend school and for his mother to have medical care.

The granddaughter is unsure whether the hotel burned while her grandfather owned it or not because there is another version of the family



The Pickwick Hotel, previously the Crescent, was located on South Beach Boulevard next to the L & N train tracks. When the hotel burned in 1923, Court Street was built to run from South Beach to Second Street.

story. This rendering says that Mr. Fayard went bankrupt and lost the hotel when alcohol running ships could no longer transport liquor to it. This legend suggests that he had the hotel during Prohibition in the 1920's and that he lost it during that time.

In addition, information about Mr. Fayard and the hotel comes from two *Sea Coast Echo* articles, one dated May 20, 1893, and one dated October 7, 1893. The earlier entry reported that Mr. Fayard was the proprietor of the Railroad Exchange and kept "a quiet and orderly place," which he had had for four years. He sold various kinds of alcohol and tobacco products. Mr. Fayard was described as a "genial good fellow" who enforced the "rules of the house." This date gives evidence that he had been in business since 1889.

The later article in the *Echo* reported that Mr. Gilmore Fayard, the "live and wide-awake proprietor of the Railroad Exchange, had plans drawn for a magnificent saloon and hotel building to be erected in the rear of the railroad depot." However, the Gilmore Hotel was located *across* the street from the depot. Is this the area described as "in the rear of the railroad depot"?

Further information comes from the Sanborn maps of Bay St. Louis. A building appears at the corner of Keller Street and Railroad Avenue from 1893 until 1944 as evidenced by the

Sanborn maps of these years. In 1893 and 1898 a rectangular building, labeled "saloon" appears on the map. However, its footprint is different from the structure which appears in 1904, noted as the Gilmore Hotel. The 1909 map labels the same property as the Bancard Hotel. Subsequently, this property is identified as "saloon, rooms, and barber" in 1917, given no notation in 1924 [Perhaps, it was closed at this time?], labeled a hotel in 1930, and cited as "vacant" in 1944.

Since the footprint of the hotel remained the same from 1904—1944, one wonders if the saloon of the earlier maps is the Railroad Exchange. One also wonders if Mr. Fayard owned the hotel when it was named the Bancard. According to the granddaughter, he did because her father spent summers in Bay St. Louis until 1919. The question about when the hotel burned can be answered in a general way. The fire must have occurred sometime between the 1944 map and a subsequent update in 1963, for the latter map shows the corner of Kellar and Railroad Ave. as vacant.

An interesting aside about James Gilmore Fayard comes from long-time resident Edward "Buster" Heitzman. He remembers that Mr. Fayard gave wallets in the shape of beer kegs as souvenirs. Unfortunately, Mr. Heit-

zman lost his keepsake in Hurricane Katrina.

[Editor's note: If you have further information concerning the Gilmore Hotel, please get in touch with the Historical Society either by mail, e mail, or phone.]

SOURCES:

"Fayard, Gilmore." Vertical file. Hancock County Historical Society.

Sanborn Maps. *Bay St. Louis, MS*. New York: Sanborn Map Co., Ltd., 1893—1963.

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Corp., 1999.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Hancock County Historical Society would like to express its appreciation to the Bay-Waveland Garden Club for its donation of \$200.00 toward landscaping for the grounds of the Kate Lobrano House.

NEW MEMBERS

Noemi Antin
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Mel Thekiot
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George R. Trotter
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The Hancock County Historical Society is grateful to Ronald Ladner, our Second Vice President, for the hard work and long hours he puts in upgrading the Lobrano House and the grounds.

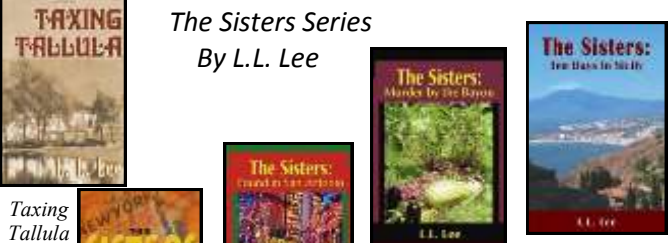
Are you looking for a Christmas or a birthday gift? You're in luck. The Hancock County Historical Society will be raffling off a Men's GX Genesis bicycle. The drawing will be held at the Christmas Tea in December. Tickets can be purchased for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 at our monthly luncheons or weekdays at the Lobrano House.



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