



Where the Pass Meets the Present

From the Canary Islands to the Mississippi Gulf Coast

A family tale by Ike Edwards - President

The saga of the American family and their collective experiences has largely become one of those uncertainties. In documenting a family history, hours upon hours of dutiful research are required to uncovering "truth." Once a "truth" has been uncovered, the researcher must be careful to understand nuance, culture, and context of each shred of evidentiary material.

Domingo Fleitas (4th great grandfather) was born in 1750 in the Canary Islands, son of Juan Fleitas and Juana de Vera, in Santa Cruz de Tenerife. He died in New Orleans in April 1819. He was a Medical Doctor who served in the Galvez expedition against Manchac and Baton Rouge in 1779. He was medic-in chief of the Royal Hospital (which became Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 1783).

On the 4th of April, in the 74th year of his age, Mr. Berthe Grima, merchant, was an old inhabitant of this city. Finding himself indisposed in the middle of the night, he sent for Dr. Domingo Fleitas, who in two minutes, after feeling the pulse of his friend, fell down, and they both expired at the same instant. A neighbor coming in soon afterwards fainted away, either from the shock of such a spectacle, or some other unknown cause, but recovered in a little time. (New Orleans, paper).

Domingo was married to Marie Joseph Guesnard, who died in 1834. Their four children were: Juan Manuel (died 1873), Francis Barthelemy (died 1858), Pauline Joseph (died 1852) and Virginia Constance.

Francis Barthelemy married Marie Modeste Doretha Cucullu. Their children were Francis Barthelemy Fleitas, Jr., Marie Rose Fleitas, Angelina Fleitas, John Dominique Fleitas, Jackson Emmanuel Fleitas, Louise Augusta Fleitas, William Fleitas and Louis Fleitas.

Pass Christian's War Memorial Park site was originally sold in 1834 for \$1,000 to Modeste de St. Germain, widow of Simon Cucullu, Sr. by Charles Asmar, a free man of color, who originally owned most of downtown Pass Christian. The deed appears in the courthouse at Gulfport, Book 8, pages 389,390.

The daughter of Madam Cucullu, Marie Modest Dorothy Cucullu married Francis Barthelemy Fleitas, Sr., from whom the name of Fleitas avenue was derived. For 58 years the War Memorial Park property was to remain in the hands of the Cucullu-Fleitas family. Francis Barthelemy Fleitas, Sr died on January 9, 1858, at the age of 71. His widow, Marie Modeste Dorothy Cuculla-Fleitas, lived to be of great age, finally passing away on Dec 10, 1898.

(Sources: Cabildo, Dept of Archives and "New Orleans Facts and Legends" by Raymond Martinez and Jack, D.L. Holmes, Hope Publications, New Orleans).

Additional notes regarding Ike Edwards family:

Juan Manuel Fleitas, (1794-1873), the brother of Barthelemy, (3rd great grandfather) had a child with Marie de la Concepcion Eyssalenne a native of Cuba and a resident of New Orleans. (source: Baptism record).

Fall 2022 PCHS Newsletter

www.passhistory.org

228 452 7254

201 Scenic Drive Pass Christian Mississippi 39571

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info@passhistory.org

Beep!! Party Parking!! Beep!!

Follow Signs to Parking area off Hackett St just east of Party house then walk the lighted walkway to backyard!

PASS CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

!!Annual Holiday Membership Party!!

December 5, 2022

6:00-8:30 PM

Home of Jimmy Rafferty

722 E. Second St., Pass Christian

Your 2023 Membership may be renewed at the party or by mailed-in check or PayPal!

Not a member? Come join the PCHS!!

www.passhistory.org (PayPal)

PO Box 58, PC, MS, 39571 (Mail)

We remember Our Favorite Poet of The Pass

Our beloved Jessie Hebert Heitzmann passed away November 19, 2022. Let's all reflect back on how much she meant to Pass Christian's history by recreating all of Billy Bourdin's collection following Katrina. Jessie grew up in New Orleans but she spent her summers in The Pass with her aunt. She got her first kiss as a teenager from a handsome local boy who claimed her as "his girl" as they sat on a bench under the big tree that once stood at the bottom of Davis Ave across from the harbor. She also had many fond stories of her buddy, Tom Bourdin, who she recently mourned his passing. She absolutely loved Pass Christian. We loved her.



Please make time to visit the historical society in the coming year and read Jessie's books. They are wonderful. What a treasure she left us. Rest In Peace, Jessie.

On this and the next page see all the interesting and fun activities we have had so far this year! We hope you will support the PC Historical Society by becoming a member or renewing your memberships.

Please see additional information on our Membership page at

www.passhistory.org.

If you are missing your newsletter email, please check your spam folder and click "Not Spam".

The child, Emma Fleitas (2nd great-grandmother (11/8/1821-1892 married Apollinaire Perrault. Their son was Louis Numa Perrault, Great grand father (1852-1923). His son, Louis Charles Perrault, Maternal grandfather, had a daughter, Bertha Perrault Edwards, my mother (1911-1957).

Calendar of Events December 2022 - January 2023

Unless otherwise noted:

Monthly General Membership Meetings are on the 2nd Monday at 7P. each month.

Monthly Luncheons are on the 4th Monday of the month at 12N. **Please note that reservations are required.** Additional information regarding reservations follows the calendar entries.

Monday, November 14, 2022, 7P

Membership Meeting - Election of Trustees
American Indian Peace Medals in Art, History, and Memory with Dr. John Winters from USM

Friday, December 2, 2022, 5P

Christmas in the Pass Parade Viewing. BYOB and a snack to share!!

Monday December 5, 2022, 6P - 8:30P

Holiday Membership Cocktail Party

Monday, January 23, 2023 12N Luncheon

"Asian Cajun Fusion: Shrimp from the Bay to the Bayou" with Don Davis

Please Note the following regarding luncheons.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION by Friday 5 PM prior to Monday luncheon!
\$12.00 Members/15.00 Non-members.

Call 228-452-7254 or Email: reservations@passhistory.org.

Please cancel by Sunday so PCHS does not incur the cost of an unused lunch.

Welcome New Members!!

Susan Barber	SuSu and Whit Kellam
Ann Blount	Macey Moyer
Florice Bradley	Ralph Nix
Jeannie Burnam	Elizabeth Register
Zack Butterworth	Sandra St. Pierre
Michael Christovich	Kristine and Vincent Scott
Genie and Ron Hendry	Rebecca and Corey Tisdale
Susan and David Jones	Lolita Welch

A shout out to our Dedicated Docent Team!

Gail & Fabian Wambsgans
Wednesdays, 10-12

Laura & Doug Welsh
Thursdays, 1-3

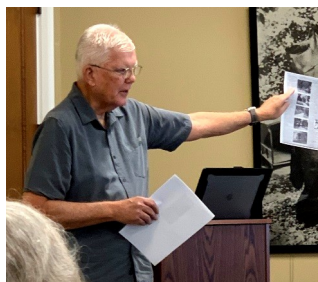
Bruce Stinson, Archivist
Thursdays, 10-12
(Many other days/times working on records!!)

Thank you, Docents!!

Want to join the Dedicated Docent Team?
Email: Info@passhistory.org
or call: 228-452-7254.

We need YOU!
Thank you!!

Below are some of the interesting and fun events we have had!



Bruce Stinson spoke at our July luncheon on "Nineteenth Century Pass Christian," as revealed through pre-1900 newspaper accounts.

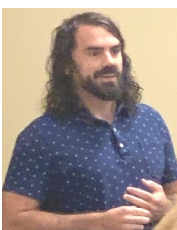
While the broad outline of our history is well known -- the colonial land grants, the arrival of the Americans, the antebellum resort, the "Battle" of Pass Christian, -- newspaper accounts add a lot of texture.

In August, Dan Ellis led a group of people along the route of the Old Spanish trail. The Pass Christian Historical Society hosted the travelers who were reenacting an event that took place over a hundred years ago.



At our August luncheon, Richard Ward and Sally James gave an interesting first hand account of the unique history of the Old Town Library..

Dr. Adam Rydbeck who lives in our community and also works as an



oceanographer with the Naval Research Lab at Stennis Space

Center spoke at our September Member meeting. The subject for his talk was "Tropical Thunderstorms in Our Backyard and Across the Globe".



At the September luncheon, Vincent Scott, a retired US Navy cryptologist. spoke about Cryptologic History - US military signal intelligence operations in the 20th Century.



At our October Membership Meeting, Catherine Ladnier spoke about how in 1943, the British troop ship, HMT Rohana, was hit by a new weapon of War. Thirteen sons of Mississippi (one of whom was from Pass Christian) died.



At the October luncheon, Jan Van Meerveld and Carter Hillyer recounted the story of how Mr. Van Meerveld journeyed from the Netherlands to Pass Christian. The story is set out in the memoir "The Dutchman's Journey".



Billy Bourdin Memorial Library

Visitors are always welcome to peruse our collection of books and artifacts in the Billy Bourdin Memorial Library during our open hours Wed 10a-12n and Thurs 10a-12n & 1p-3p.
Also by appointment.

We are on the web!

www.passhistory.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES GALORE!!

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US!!

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