

HILDA HOFFMANN

CLUNIE/HOFFMANN

MEMORIAL

HERITAGE

ARCHIVE, INC.

LIBRARY

April-May-June 2014

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Volume 4 - Page 1

FAMILY

by Don Wicks

Who we are fades into the shadows of ancestral memories, forgotten in time, unless a caring soul or relative intervenes. Many lucky families have what they call their family historian who documents the family tree and its associated histories. For some, large volumes are produced, even newsletters, but for most of us the records are meager, if any at all. Of course, lore sometimes passes down, but it too it also dies with time. The famous have their successes (or failures) chronicled in the media, but even those narratives often leave out the personal stories and as time passes, even those records are not easily retrieved. Don't we all deserve something more than a piece of granite and a small plot of ground to remember us by?

Part of the problem is that we often wait until late in life to consider our own legacy, much less, those of our parents and siblings and other relatives and regret sets in. Wouldn't it be great if we could foster interest in our young to take an interest in and therefore chronicle their family's history and their own? This would take an effort by us, our schools and the general public to instill in them the dedication and respect needed for such an important undertaking. Those of us who are committed should strongly consider this and make an effort to foster this idea. If we don't do it, who will, and if we don't it's business as usual.

Some have caught up on family research soon enough, and for a few, God Bless them, they start at an early age. Hilda Lou Formby Hoffmann was one of those. Lore has it that as a teen, while

documenting her Stockstill ancestors at the Stockstill Cemetery, she looked around at all the other graves and wondered: "Who are those people," and began a lifelong search for answers.



Picture of young Hilda Lou Formby Hoffman

After graduating from High School Hilda worked at local businesses until WWII.

she went to work for a shipbuilder in Pascagoula, MS. Actually, she was a courier for the Navy, employed on what today we call the Secret Service. One story she told was that before boarding a ship on a ladder wearing a skirt with men following her, she hesitated thought a minute and then murmured to herself "For God and Country" and proceeded on.

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She was in New Orleans when a German U-Boat was sunk. While going to work one day the Bay St Louis Bridge was blockaded. No one was allowed to drive or walk across it. She talked the soldiers into pushing her car across the bridge in her car so she could go to work.

She described herself to one Picayune resident as a "flaming redhead with a body to die for," which probably helped in convincing the soldiers.

Once she said she had to play the role of a prostitute and another time she met Winston Churchill in Canada. (If you have any other stories about Hilda, please forward them to us.

Hilda met her husband Emile James Hoffmann while working for the Navy and after the war she continued her search for family histories, her own and many others in the community and beyond. She died on July 4th, 2010.

As her legacy she left behind over 200 boxes of binders plus five file cabinets full of genealogical and historical information about her family and thousands of her neighbors.

Her collection resides with us at the Hilda Hoffmann Memorial Archive Inc. and is open for business Monday thru Friday, 10am - 3pm at 301 Williams Ave., Picayune, MS 39466 (across from the new City Hall), 601-799-5671.

We are a non-profit organization and rely on membership dues and donations to pay our monthly bills. Our hope is that we can increase our staff to help us organize our files as well as offer research assistance to those who are unable to visit us, but we cannot do this without your help. Please be considerate in helping us to increase our membership and donations.

Also, please send in any genealogical information from your family research to add to our library. Come visit us, you never know what's in Hilda's files. If you're from around here chances are you'll be pleasantly surprised.

REMEMBER

When you could get 5 gallons of gas for a dollar?

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**MOST FAMILIES USE "CREDIT CARDS" FOR EVERYTHING - THE ONLY ONE WHO STILL PAYS "CASH" IS THE "TOOTH FAIRY" .....**  
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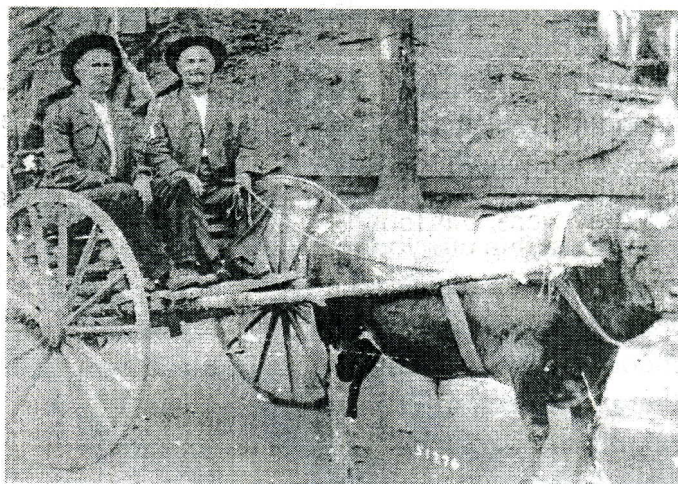
DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?

Last Archives News, we had a picture of a cute young girl with her doll buggy. Thanks to Mrs. Mary Davis who says the young girl is: "Jane Herman" about 5 years old. Her father was a Pharmacist and they lived next door to the High School....

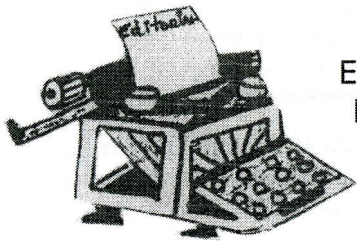
THANKS MARY!

This time we have someone else, we'd like to find their names. The two very well attired gentlemen being pulled by an oxen!

Although the reproduction is not as good as we would have like, even the original picture must have had a slight tear in it, we thought it was still a very interesting picture.



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Memories: Howdy Doody, Studebakers, Wash tub wringers, Using hand signals for cars without turn signals, and ignition switches on the dashboard.
DO YOU KNOW SOME MORE?



**EDITORS
NOTE**

We would like to personally "Thank" the Board Members for financing the mailing of our newsletters by the U.S. Postal Service for the balance of this 2013 year.

Our Thanks go to Volunteer, Helen Hunter Knight for her continued help in assembling, folding, sealing & putting address labels on our "Archive News".

And lastly, we also want to Thank those members who have also donated to help in the printing and paper cost for newsletters in the past, we can still use more donations. - BUT PLEASE, MARK ON YOUR DONATION, THAT IT IS FOR THE "NEWS LETTER" COST.....

We welcome any comments and suggestions or articles that might interest you. Just write us.

It has been mentioned that some members might like to have their newsletters sent electronically, if you are one of them, please send us a note & tell us and we shall do so.....

Have a great Summer! We'll be back again in the Fall!

Editorial Staff: Marilyn Weston & Gloria Penton & Don Wicks

A WARM WELCOME TO:

NEW MAY MEMBER: Lillian Galyle McCants (Bogalusa, LA)

MAY HAPPENINGS

MAY holds several important dates to get out the red-white-blue, such as: "VE Day" on the 8th, "Armed Forces Day" on the 17th, & "Memorial Day" observed this year on Monday the 26th. If you are flying a flag, remember, on Memorial Day, the flag should be 1/2 staff till noon.



Mother's Day is always the 2nd Sunday in May and this year we hope you remembered yours on that 11th!

THOUGHT: MAY, This Year: Seems the weather in parts of the country is clear & still - Clear up to your waist and still coming down.....

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS

**May 5, 2014 at Archive -
Saturday 1:00 PM**

Members Present: Helen Clunie, Lorraine Harper, Gloria Penton, Ernie Serpas, Wade Stewart, Marilyn Weston, Don Wicks, & Sara Sheldon (by telephone).
Absent: Carol Phares.

The Board voted to have a yard sale November 1st, and they also voted to sponsor the 3 quarterly newsletters for the rest of the year. Each Board Member personally contributed \$10 each, so it can be sent out by U.S. Postal Service.

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OLD TIME  
OCCUPATIONS  
Chiffonnier: Wig Maker  
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**PEARL RIVER COUNTY
GENEALOGY CLUB MEETS AT
HHMA-ARCHIVE
Wednesday, May 21, 2014

We were honored and pleased to welcome members of the Pearl River County Genealogy Club who held their monthly meeting at our Archive on Williams Ave.

Several of our HHMA Volunteers who are also members of the Club were on hand to proudly take members on a tour through the rooms of the Archive. Genealogy members were invited to look through any of the records that might pertain to their local families. They were amazed what a collection we had accumulated thus far and how it was displayed.

Volunteers who are also Genealogy Club members attending were: Mae Foster, Gloria Penton & Marilyn Weston.

Volunteers Marsha Ladner and Don Wicks were also present and answered questions, etc.

Snacks and drinks were served. The group was presented a copy of our last HHMA Archive Newsletter along with a handout of "Some Interesting Web-Sites" to each Genealogy Club Member.

The Extinction of Some Given Names?

Names including Gertrude, Bertha, Willie and Cecil are at risk of dying out, while others such as Cyril and Mildred are becoming less popular, a new study has revealed.

An analysis of millions of birth records from 1905 revealed that some forenames have virtually disappeared, with many others being increasingly ignored.

The report by family history website Ancestry.co.uk showed the most "endangered" names included Gertrude, Bertha and Blodwen for girls and Willie, Cecil and Rowland for boys.

Norman, Horace, Leslie, Doris, Hilda and Edna were among the most popular names in 1905, but have become much less popular over the years, said the report. (source: The Genealogy News - Weekly Edition)

Variable Name Spellings:

PATTON: Paton, Patten, Paten
OSBORN: Osborne, Osbourn, Osbourne, Osburn, Ozburn, Ausburn

Given Names & Nicknames:

WINNIFRED: Winn, Winnie, Winny
FRANCES: Fran, Franny, Fannie
RICHARD: Dick, Rich, Ricky, Ricardo
FRANCIS: Frank, Frankie

SOME SURNAMERS MEMBERS ARE RESEARCHING

Alexander, Bounds, Davis, Dearman, Hall, Jones, Ladner, Mitchell, Parker, Smith, Spiers, Stewart, Stockstill, Tate, Wheat, and White. It's possible we have some information in our files that can help you.

JUNE

IMPORTANT DATES:



Hurricane Season Begins, D-Day (06), Flag Day (14), 1st and the all important Day - FATHER'S DAY the 3rd Sunday. In June.

JUNE SEEMS TO BE A MONTH WHEN VACATIONS ARE ON MANY OF OUR MINDS, which reminds us of the saying... "As the Crow Flies"... Do you ever wonder why it is that the crow always gets the shortest route????

.....**We'd like to take a moment of silence to remember Hilda Lou Formby Hoffman, who passed away, 4 years ago on July 4, 2010.**

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH OUR 9 BOARD MEMBERS

"JUNE SPOTLIGHT" HELEN CLUNIE

A native of Pearl River County, Mississippi, and a 1946 graduate of Pearl River Community College.

Twenty years later, she began teaching on a permit in Hancock County at Charles B. Murphy Elementary School. During her tenure there, she received the honor as one of the "Outstanding Elementary Teachers" of America and also the "Teacher of the Year" in Hancock County. In 1968, taking night classes at William Carey College and in 1973 received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education.

Entering the graduate program of USM, she received her Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education in 1975, and began

teaching in 1978 at Pearl River Elementary School and retired from teaching in 1992.

Helen & husband, Bob Clunie served twelve years as hospice volunteers & completed training and became ordained Stephens Ministers.

Helen's list of achievements and memberships in DAR and various clubs & organizations are numerous.

Her ancestry includes her great, great grandfather Poplar Jim Smith, whom the town of Poplarville was named, she's also descended from Moses Strahan a Revolutionary War patriot, two Civil War veterans, Ebenezer Stewart & Carlos Alexander, and she has Native American roots where she is a member of the Four Winds Tribe, Cherokee Nation, DeRidder, LA.

After the death of friend, Hilda Hoffmann, she was asked to help in the preservation of Hilda's lifelong collection of genealogical and historical records. The vast collection of material was stored in a climate controlled facility. Almost a year later a repository was found and Helen purchased the home on Williams Ave., and renovations started. All the material was moved to the Williams Avenue location. Helen has not faltered either in her enthusiasm nor interest, she is always available.

NOTE: HELEN has donated her Family History Collection to HHMA Archives and if you are related, you sure want to check her Family out.
