

HILDA HOFFMAN

CLUNIE/HOFFMANN

MEMORIAL

ARCHIVE, INC.



HERITAGE

LIBRARY

Jan-Feb-Mar 2016

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Volume 11 - Page 1

Mardi Gras and Family History by Mike Fitzwilliam

My interest in my family's history began one day in 1974 or 1975. While I was roaming an uptown New Orleans bookshop owned by Roulhac Toledano on Prytania Street, I asked the shopkeeper, Mr. Esmond Grosz, to call me if he ever came across some publication whose name I cannot remember. My wife Carol and I resided only a few blocks away on Chestnut Street at the time. When I wrote my name for him, he asked "Fitzwilliam? Are you related to these Fitzwilliams?" as he pointed up to a matted lithograph of Mardi Gras floats.

I told him that I thought we were the only ones in town and asked him to not sell it until I called him back. I went home and telephoned my Aunt Fannie Fitzwilliam, asking "Did we ever have any relatives in the printing business?" She responded "OH, yes, my father and my grandfather..." and began telling me things about a business and people that I had never heard mentioned in any family conversations.

Shortly after that conversation, I telephoned my father in Houston and asked the same thing, to which he offered a similar response: "Yeah, my father was and so was Grandpa and I think one more back there." I asked him, "Why have I never heard about this?" I returned to Toledano's bookstore and bought the lithograph, a 1911 rendering of the Krewe of Proteus parade which, as it turns out, was the last year that Proteus had their float designs printed by T. Fitzwilliam & Co.

In that moment, I knew that my family's name was related to memorabilia seemingly important in New Orleans culture: Mardi Gras ephemera. As a result, I became determined to find out more about my ancestors. That quest has led me to libraries, archives, and to meeting and

corresponding with "new" relatives all around America. From these beginnings, I ultimately decided to publish a history about the immigrant Fitzwilliam families who all have a connection to the city of New Orleans.

The year 1872 marked the formation of the Rex carnival organization and its first parade. New Orleans was still under some political and social stress due to Reconstruction. The Rex founders thought that a celebration, in conjunction with the visit of the Russian archduke Alexis, would bring positive attention and visitors to the city. Lithographed posters and handbills were circulated around the United States, and the festival was a great success. During the 1880s, T. Fitzwilliam and Co. was the primary lithographer and Daniel Buechner the primary artist for numerous *Daily Picayune* Carnival Edition prints (also known as bulletins). Prior to their being published by the *Daily Picayune*, at least one year's bulletin was printed by T. Fitzwilliam on behalf of the competing *New Orleans Times-Democrat*.

Included were those of the Rex organization (or School of Design, as it is formally known), as well as Comus, Proteus, and the Knights of Momus. An image of the credit portion of the 1901 Rex bulletin appears below. For a number of years, there were only four parades: Rex, Comus, Momus, and Proteus.

In 1974, Time-Life Books published a revision to its previous history of the United States. In its section on the recovery of New Orleans from Reconstruction, it displayed two pages of photographs entitled "The imaginative gaiety of Fat Tuesday" that included portions of Mardi Gras bulletins. Both were from parades of the Knights of Momus, 1884 and 1887. Clearly evident in the

1887 bulletin's masthead is "Lithographed by T. Fitzwilliam & Co., New Orleans." Also displayed was a photograph of an invitation to the 1890 Rex ball. It is highly likely that the artist for the ball invitation was Daniel Buechner, who was still an employee of T. Fitzwilliam at that time. The inclusion of these images testifies to the quality of workmanship and the lasting effects that the bulletins have on carnival history.

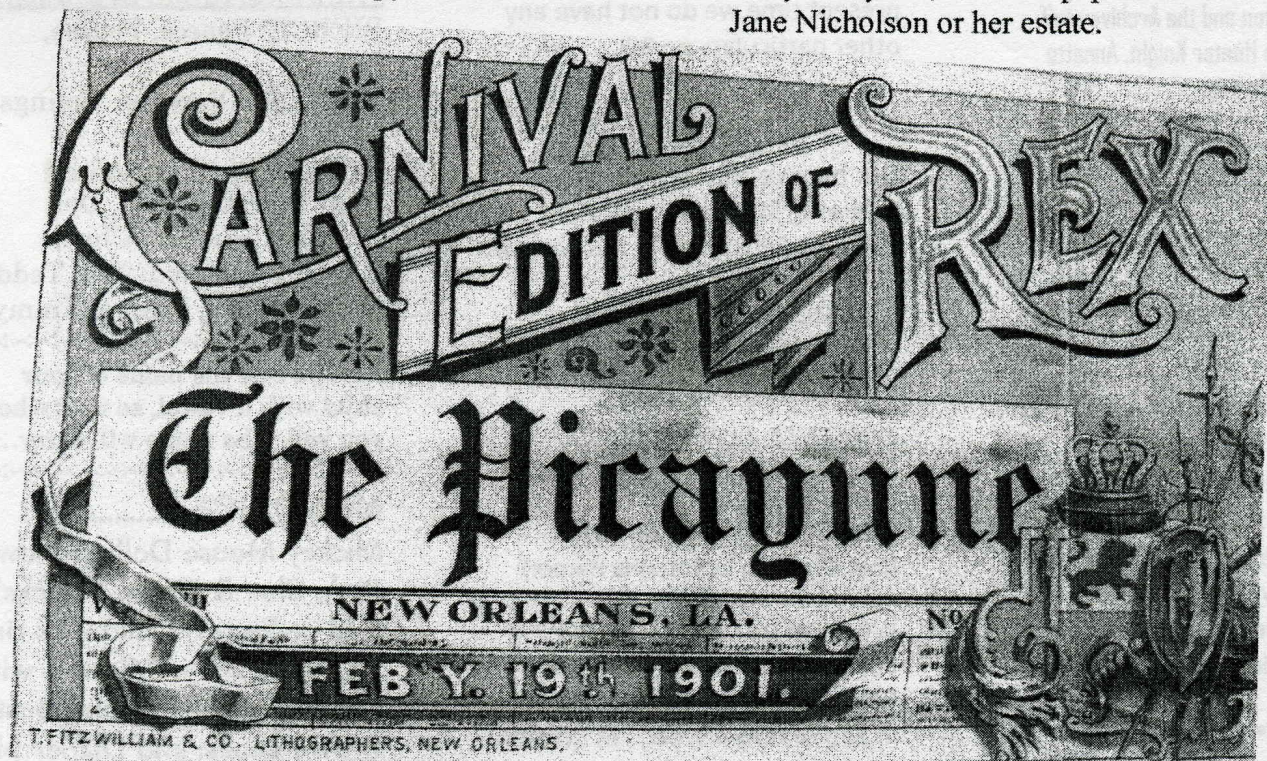
The parade bulletins achieved nearly instant success and *The Daily Picayune* made a point to send copies of them to newspapers around the region. They were sold as inserts to the *Daily Picayune* on the day of the parade or separately for 10 cents. In 1886, the *Picayune* published correspondence from many of those entities, some of whom gave just praise to both artist and printer, including for the publication of a book about the Proteus organization, for which T. Fitzwilliam printed every bulletin between 1886 and 1911:

From the Morgan City (La.) Free Press: **A Credit to the Designers** The New Orleans *Picayune* has our thanks for a copy of their Proteus

book. The book is certainly a credit to the designers, and it is pleasant to record the fact that the art work was done at home, Messrs. T. Fitzwilliam & Co., being the printers and lithographers.

From the St. Tammany (La.) Farmer: **They Reflect Credit.** We return thanks to the proprietors of the New Orleans *Picayune* for copies of their Proteus book and paper. Copies of the book will be mailed on receipt of 25 cents, and the paper for 12 cents. They are indeed works of art, and reflect credit upon the printers, T. Fitzwilliam & Co., as well as upon the enterprise of the old reliable *Picayune*.

A number of the T. Fitzwilliam lithographs survive today. Those that do are either in private collections and rarely offered for sale or they have been donated to institutions that include the New Orleans Public Library or Tulane University. Some family members have personal collections of them. Throughout the entire period in which T. Fitzwilliam printed the lithographs on behalf of *The Daily Picayune*, the newspaper was owned by Eliza Jane Nicholson or her estate.



Mike Fitzwilliam is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in New Orleans, LA.

Mike is an active member of the Hilda Hoffman Memorial Archive, Inc., and is a former Board Member of the *Picayune* Chamber of Commerce. He is currently Secretary of the Pearl River County Genealogy Club and is Treasurer for the Senior Center of South Pearl River County and recently was awarded Board Member of the Year by the Senior Center here in Picayune, Mississippi.



EDITORS NOTE

We hope your New Leap Year of 2016 has started out full of hope and good health.

Our special "Thanks" to all of you who continue to help us by sending your dues and extra donations in a timely manner.

Please know it is greatly appreciated, Thank You.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please feel free to communicate with us -Let us know things you might be interested in having in the newsletter and send us any deaths, stories, family news and information etc., information you have! Send to: Marilyn Weston, Archive News, HHMA, 301 Williams Ave., Picayune, MS 39466.....

We hope you enjoy our Jan-Feb-Mar Archive News" and God willing we'll be back again in June.

Marilyn Weston and the Archive staff:
Don Wicks, Helen Hunter Knight, Annette
James & Gloria Penton,

DECEMBER 2015 "ARCHIVE" UPDATE

Since we went to press the first week in December 2015, we were unable to list December's HHMA Happenings and so here they are:

DECEMBER "ARCHIVE" VISITORS

We were delighted to greet the 8 visitors who stopped by the Archive in December. They visited from Poplarville, Ms., Pearl River, LA, and Baton Rouge, LA, the rest were from Picayune & Carriere, MS.

HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR DECEMBER DONATIONS IT'S SO APPRECIATED!

THANK YOU - Carol Holden Lund,
and Mary Jean Faison Walker.

WITH WARM REMEMBRANCE

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following families.

OBITUARIES:

Richard Lee Cottrell passed away December 11, 2015, at his home in Slidell, Louisiana.

Rick was the husband of Meredith Weston Cottrell, and son-in-law of HHMA member Marilyn Weston of Picayune, MS.

Rick was the son of the late Aletha "Delores" Greer and Vernon Eugene Cottrell of Iowa.

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William K. Sheldon passed away on Friday, December 11, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 90 years.

William "Bill" was the husband of Board member Sara D. Sheldon.

We are sorry, but at the present time we do not have any other particulars on Bill.

MEMORIALS

Our humble thanks go to the following for their Memorial Contributions given in Memory of:

SHELDON, WILLIAM "Bill"

(Dec. Donation by Lorraine Harper)

(Dec. Donation by Ernest Serpas)

COBLENTZ, ALVIN & LEONA

(Dec. Donation by Irene A. Blaine)

FITZWILLIAM, MURIEL RITA

(Jan. Donation by Lorraine Harper)

We value receiving donations at any time and any amount to HHMA as a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers, etc., in memory of any one you might choose. If you are interested contact Lorraine Harper at HHMA, 301 Williams Ave., Picayune, MS 39466, and she will be delighted to help you.

OLD-RARE ARCHAIC WORD "REVELRY":

Merry Making!

SOME SURNAMES MEMBERS

ARE RESEARCHING

BARKER - CHAPMAN
DUGAS - HALL - PENDLEY
RENEWAC - WHITNEY

Keep in mind, that other HHMA members might be researching the same family that you are. The Archive might also have information in our files that can help you. If we can be of help to you please let us know.

.....It takes about 5 years for a tree to produce nuts - but this doesn't apply to a Family Tree.....

VARIABLE NAME SPELLINGS

PIERCE: Pearce, Pearse, Peers

ROLLINS: Rawlins, Rolings

COMMON NICKNAMES

Adaline: Addy, Ada, Dell
Charles: Charlie, Chuck
Edward: Ed, Ned, Ted, Teddy
Emeline: Em, Emma, Emmy
Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell - the name will carry....

MEMORIES.....

Mickey Mouse Dolls; Yellow, Pink, Blue & Green "Chicks" sold at Easter; Children's tiny wax coke shaped Bottles with various colored drinks; Buster Brown shoes; and Diaper pins with plastic designed (bunny, rabbits, etc.) catch.

~~*~*~*~*

Charity begins at home.....

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THANK YOU....We would like to send a special Thank You to Dusty Dearman, WRJW News Director for the article he wrote, "Where Did You Come From?", regarding the Hilda Hoffman Memorial Archives, Inc., in the Holiday 2015 issue of Southern Senior. The very nice article appeared on Page 23 along with a picture of the front entry room to our Archive/Library.

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"HHMA - ARCHIVE" JANUARY VISITORS

We want to thank all our 21 visitors that stopped by the archive in January. One person was from Poplarville, MS, the rest were from Picayune and surrounding towns.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A BIG WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED US IN JANUARY:

RANDAL & REMONA RICHBOURG, of Panama City, Florida. Randal is the son of the late, Mildred Penton Richbourg, who was a HHMA member since 2010-2011.

BARBARA MUNSON, St. Rose, Louisiana, who visited our Archive the last of January and joined us.

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Be a voice – not an echo!

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PLEASE NOTE

Don Wicks, Board Chm. has asked that we enclose a complimentary HHMA Brochure in this issue of your Newsletter to give those of you, who may not have visited us a chance to see just how much "your continued support" has helped us change and grow from our 2010 start. Visitors often remark on all the rooms, including office and enclosed back porch that is "chuck full" of hundreds of family information waiting to be used.

HILDA HOFFMAN MEMORIAL ARCHIVE, INC. HOLDS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 9, 2016

Wade Stewart, Board Chairman called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members, and several HHMA active members.

Year-end reports were given by: Secretary: Gloria Penton; Treasurer: Lorraine Harper; Archive News Editor: Marilyn Weston; State of the Membership Report: Marilyn Weston; and Volunteer in charge of Obits: Mae Foster.

Three Board Members whose 2 year terms were expiring declined to return: Wade Stewart, Helen Clunie & Ernie Serpas (Helen & Ernie declined due to Health.)

Votes were tallied and those members elected to 2 year terms on the HHMA Board of Directors were introduced: Carrie Byrd, Lorraine Harper, Carol Lund, Donna Seal, Sara Sheldon and Don Wicks. They are joining William "Bill" Edwards, Gloria Penton and Carol Phares who are serving their second year on the Board.

The meeting was adjourned and those present enjoyed the snacks and refreshments that were provided.

JANUARY OBITUARIES:

Muriel Rita Miranne Fitzwilliam passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at Highland Community Hospital in Picayune, MS.

Muriel is the mother of HHMA Member-Donor, Mike Fitzwilliam of Picayune, MS.

Muriel was the daughter of the late Irene Miranne Stokes and Alfred C. Miranne, Sr.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH OUR BOARD MEMBERS

"QUARTERLY SPOTLIGHT"



CARRIE BYRD

We would like to welcome Carrie, to our Board of Directors. She is one of our new Board Members and resides in Poplarville, MS, on a farm that her grandfather, Joel homesteaded in the 1870's, and where Carrie was raised and grew up.

Carrie worked in Gulfport after finishing schooling where she met husband, William Byrd. They have lived in North Carolina and Florida before moving back to Mississippi to the family farm in 2000.

Carrie & William had four children, losing one to cancer in 2011 and at present have one granddaughter, a grand-son and a great-grandson.

Carrie says they usually have something growing in their garden all year. She and husband enjoy square and round dancing.

Carrie has been an HHMA member since November 2012, and started doing Genealogy in the 1990's.

FEBRUARY VISITORS

We were delighted to welcome 13 Visitors braving the very cold weather to stop by the Archive in February. Member Percy Roach, Salt Bayou, LA visited again, and two others from Louisiana: Metairie and Slidell also visited. The other 10 visitors were from Picayune and surrounding areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

**SALK POLIO VACCINE WAS
FIRST USED FOR MASS
INOCULATION ON FEBRUARY
23, 1954.**

An unusual way of recalling the past is to force open a crammed drawer. Something just might fall out that could often be very entertaining and/or interesting....

HOW BLESSED ARE YOU?

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

-57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere (both north and south) and 8 would be Africans
-52 would be female & 48 would be male
-70 would be non-white & 30 would be white
-70 would be non-Christian & 30 would be Christian
-89 would be heterosexual & 11 would be Homosexual
-6 would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth
And all 6 would be from the United States.
-80 would live in substandard housing
-70 would be unable to read
-50 would suffer from malnutrition
-1 would be near death
-1 would be near birth
-1 would have a college education
-1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for both acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

And, therefore.....

.....You are richer than 75% of this world :

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep.

.....You are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy:

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace.

.....You are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week:

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.

.....You are ahead of 500 million people in the world:

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation.

.....You are more blessed than three billion people in the world:

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death.

.....You are very rare, even in the United States:

If your parents are still alive and still married

.....You are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all:

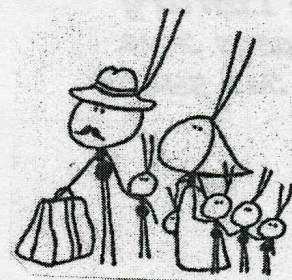
If you can read this message

(Author unknown)

A THOUGHT TO PONDER!

And all our families were immigrants

Your car is German...
Your vodka is Russian...
Your pizza is Italian
Your kebab is Turkish...
Your democracy is Greek...
Your coffee is Brazilian...
Your movies are American...
Your tea is Tamil...
Your shirt is Indian...
Your oil is Saudi Arabian...
Your electronics are Chinese...
Your numbers are Arabic...
Your Letters are Latin...



Immigrants