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## The growth of the Biloxi Public School system

Stephanie C. Richmond

David Alfred Wheeler

Julia C. Guice

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THE GROWTH OF THE BILOXI  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

*The Mississippi*  
P. M. 1. . .

Julia C. Guice: Editor  
Stephanie C. Richmond  
David Alfred Wheeler

This project is part of a series of historical documents prepared for the citizens of Biloxi and generations to come. The other documents prepared in this series were: The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey; Harrison County Records of Marriages and Wills; and When Biloxi was the Seafood Capital of the World. The funds derived from the sale of these documents have been used to establish a revolving fund to be used for future publications.

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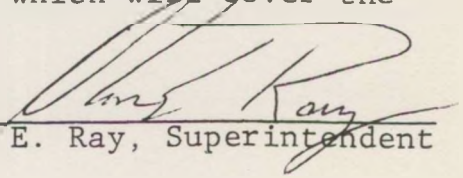
Julia Guice, City Historian, P. O. Box W, Biloxi, MS 39533

## PREFACE

The life of a school system finds its best expression in a history written by people who know the community served by the schools, who are aware of the needs and objectives of those schools, and who understand the background against which the schools developed. This history of the Biloxi Public Schools has been carefully and thoroughly prepared by people who meet these criteria.

The history of the Biloxi Public Schools is a proud chapter in the total story of Mississippi's schools--and, indeed, in the larger picture of American education. The written record--up to this time--has been fragmented and sketchy at best. Now, under the leadership of Mrs. Julia Guice, Historian of the City of Biloxi, assisted by researchers Mrs. Stephanie Richmond and Mr. David Wheeler, the history of the Biloxi Public Schools from the mid-1800s to 1924 has been written. Drawing upon all the sources available to them, the authors have presented an account of the Biloxi Public Schools which gives proper credit to the contributions of prominent Biloxians over the years, which outlines the steady growth of the schools, and which presents an interesting study of both the problems and the promises of public education in Biloxi.

It has been a rewarding experience to be a part of the development of this history. It is equally rewarding to assist in its presentation in final form so that others may read and better understand the history of the Biloxi Public Schools. We congratulate Mrs. Guice, Mrs. Richmond, and Mr. Wheeler upon the completion of the first section of this history project; and we look forward to continuation of this record, which will cover the years from 1924 through the present.

  
Olon E. Ray, Superintendent



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To Mr. Walter Blessey for sharing his valuable information on the old Biloxi Public Schools System with us.

To Ouida Maturri for sharing Mae Latimer's 1923 "Stunt Book."

And to all the citizens of Biloxi who called in to share their memories, scrapbooks, etc., with us.

Special thanks to Dr. Olon Ray, Mr. Zan Skelton, and Walterine Maddox.

## A CHRONOLOGY OF HISTORIC EVENTS

- 1860 Gaspard Didier, Arne and Adele Bernard, and Joseph Rousell donated the lot on the corner of Main and Railroad Streets for school purposes.
- 1886 City of Biloxi rented house from the Colored Baptist Church on Main Street for use as the colored schoolhouse. First record of white and colored trustees appointed -- L. Lopez, J. O'Donohue, and H. J. Meaut (white trustees); Bernard Cooper, Henry Clay, and Ben Seymour (colored trustees).
- 1888 Frank Turner Howard and Harry Turner Howard donated a public school building constructed on the Main and Railroad Streets site.
- Appropriation of \$100.00 was made "for the purpose of purchasing a lot on east side of Main Street on which to move present school building."
- Frank and Harry Howard wished to construct "a handsome building with all the modern appliances, and large enough to accommodate 250 pupils, on east side of Main Street; old building to be used for town purposes."
- Resolution establishing Biloxi as a separate school district.
- Sylvanie Leon was named first colored principal of the Colored Public School.
- 1889 Mayor Harry T. Howard and the City Council placed insurance on the new school building in the amount of \$5,000.
- 1891 The kindergarten method was introduced in the primary grades under the direction of a teacher who had studied this method.
- Citizens from the Point began circulating a petition calling for a school in that area, mainly for the factory workers, fishermen and their families.
- 1893 Beginning in 1893, a single Biloxi Board of School Trustees was established to handle all school matters.
- 1894 Biloxi was the site for the summer Normal School, a school for the teachers to share their knowledge and techniques of teaching. Teachers not only in Mississippi but also in New Orleans and south Louisiana attended.
- Two branch schools were established, one at Point Cadet and one at Back Bay. Buildings were located and rented for school use. Charles Redding furnished the building on the Point for \$6.00 monthly, and John C. Bradford furnished the building on Back Bay for \$5.00 monthly.



- 1896 Ordinance #54 made it unlawful for any child who had not been vaccinated to attend the free public schools of the city.
- Lazaro Lopez, Sr. donated the Point Cadet school and grounds on the corner of Oak and First Streets.
- 1898 Harry T. Howard donated the primary school building on the corner of Main and Water Streets; Lazaro and Julia Lopez donated the West End School and grounds on the corner of Porter Avenue and Cemetery Street; W. K. M. DuKate donated the Back Bay School; and William F. Gorenflo donated the ground on Main Street upon which this Back Bay School was built.
- 1902 Reverend H. W. VanHook established a free night school for the young men and women of the city who worked during regular school hours.
- Harry T. Howard donated the Point Cadet School building located on the corner of East Howard Avenue and Magnolia (Maple) Streets.
- 1908 By request of the students, the City Council passed a resolution naming the school on Main and Water Streets Harry Howard Primary School #1 and the school on East Howard Avenue Harry Howard Primary School #2 in honor of their donor.
- The Lopez Parents' and Teachers' Association was organized. First P. T. A. established.
- 1909 City of Biloxi constructed the Colored Public School on a lot on Nixon Street that was donated by the Parents' and Teachers' Social of the Colored Public School.
- 1912 City of Biloxi constructed the new Central High School building on Howard Avenue near Bellman Street with funds provided by the first bond issue in the city's history, on a portion of a tract of land donated by Frank T. Howard.
- 1919 The free public night school was opened again for the working class. The City Council also authorized a colored night school so that all the city's inhabitants could benefit.
- 1920 A Naturalization School on Point Cadet was established. The school was to provide the basic courses needed by the Austrians in the area before they could pass the naturalization test and become citizens.
- 1921 First women appointed to the Board of School Trustees, Mrs. Tonsmeire and Mrs. Devitt.
- 1924 City of Biloxi constructed three new ward school buildings with funds from school bonds, one on Lameuse Street named Gorenflo School, one on Howard Avenue near Benachi Avenue named Lopez School, and one on East Howard Avenue near Dorries Street named DuKate School.

BEFORE WE MAY BENEFIT FROM THE  
CANDLE OF KNOWLEDGE, WE  
MUST FIRST PROVIDE THE SPARK OF  
EDUCATION.

David Wheeler

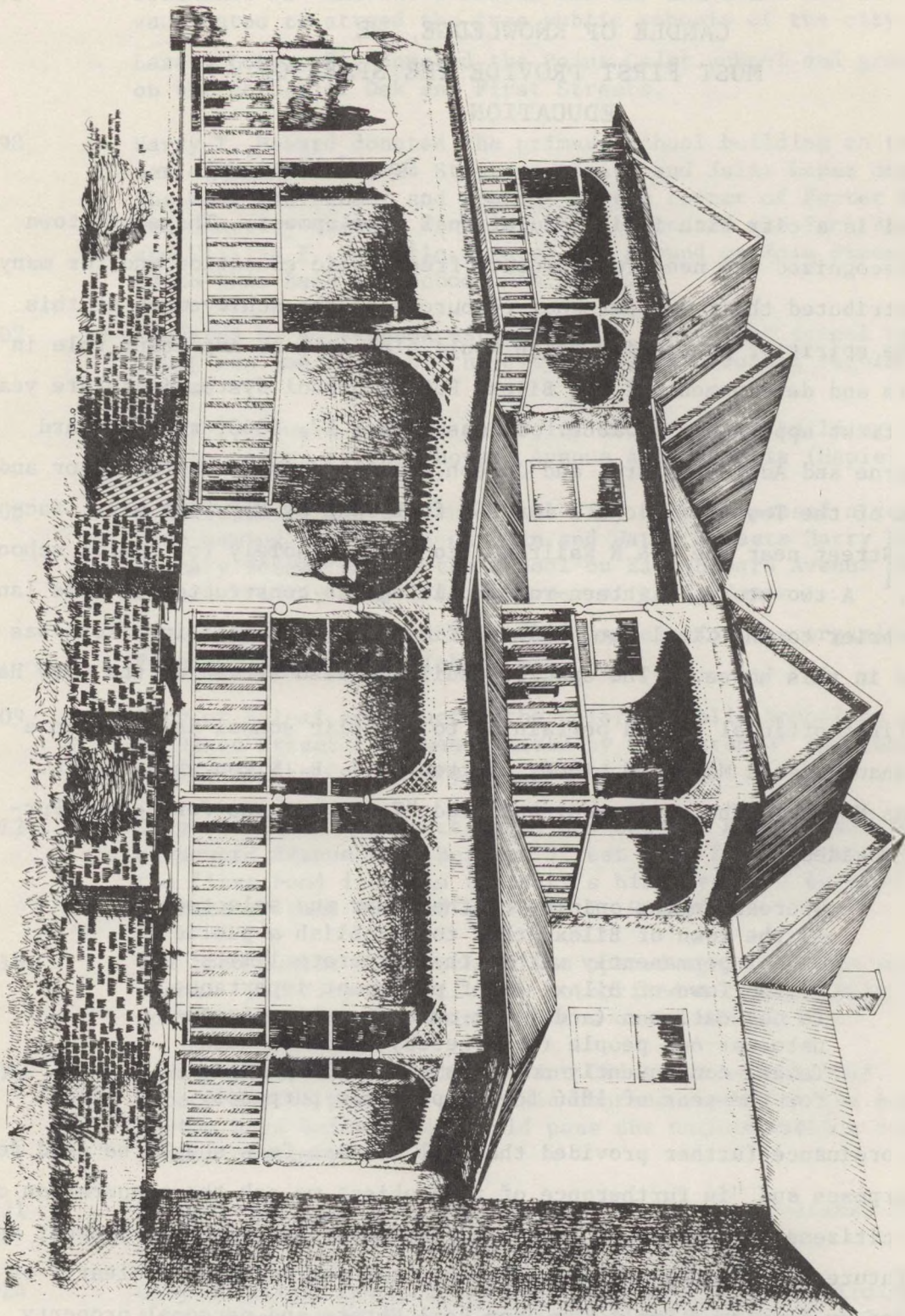
Biloxi is a city rich in its educational development. The early town leaders recognized the need for adequate free public education and for many years contributed their own personal resources to the achievement of this goal. The spirit of generosity which would play such an important role in the growth and development of the Biloxi Public School System in future years made its first appearance in 1860. It was on May 17, 1860, that Gaspard Didier, Arne and Adele Bernard, and Joseph Rousell donated to the Mayor and selectmen of the Town of Biloxi a lot 300 feet long by 270 feet wide, facing Main Street near the L & N Railroad, to be used solely for public school purposes.<sup>1</sup> A two-story, eighteen-room building was constructed on this land sometime prior to the Civil War, and the first public school in Biloxi was conducted in this house.<sup>2</sup> The spacious building also served as the City Hall.

The first official record pertaining to a public school is found in a city ordinance dated March 20, 1866, written by J. R. Nixon when John L. Henley was Mayor.<sup>3</sup> The ordinance, entitled "To Levy taxes for School Purposes," provided:

Whereas in the opinion of the Mayor and selectmen of the town of Biloxi that to establish a public school permanently within the corporate limits of the Town of Biloxi is of paramount importance to our citizens (and) that owing to the unfortunate war our people (are) hereby burdened with Taxes, consequently no taxes should be levied for the year of 1866 for corporation purposes.

This ordinance further provided that all license fees should be used for school purposes and "in furtherance of this object we ask the cooperation of all good citizens of this town, the object being as well for the present as for the future generations to come after us, and whereas we are clearly of the opinion by levying a Small Tax upon Real Estate and personal property in addition to our Licenses we can establish a permanent Male and Female School for the education of all children entitled to said School under our regulations."





FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL



The city leaders then established what appears to be the first permanent tax levied on the citizens to finance the public school system of Biloxi. A tax levy of  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  was declared on all real estate,  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  on all sales of auctioneers, and license fees declared on all classes of businesses and shows, such as a \$20 license fee for each billiard table, a \$10 license fee on nine and ten pin alleys, a \$20 license fee on hotels, a \$25 license on beer houses, and a \$50 license on itinerant peddlers.<sup>4</sup> From this rudimentary beginning, the public school system of Biloxi has evolved.

The building on Main Street served as the only public school for many years. In the infant days of education, students never graduated from school; they just attended for the required number of years and then their formal education ended.<sup>5</sup> The large building that served as the public school was also a source of revenue for the city. Notations in Minute Book #1 of the Town of Biloxi, which contains the minutes of council meetings from January 25, 1886, to April 18, 1892, show that C. D. Lancaster, the County Superintendent of Education and Principal of the Biloxi Public School, rented a room at the schoolhouse for \$2.50 per month from the Mayor,<sup>6</sup> who was authorized to rent the rooms for school purposes only.<sup>7</sup> Mr. Lancaster rented the room for private school purposes, apparently conducting private school lessons for paying patrons as well as performing his duties as County Superintendent of Education and Principal of the Biloxi Public School.<sup>8</sup>

The existence of a Colored Public School in 1886 is also evidenced in Minute Book #1 by a "Petition from patrons of the Public Schools (Colored)" for three new school trustees.<sup>9</sup> Although the trustees groups for the colored and white public schools were separate at first, they eventually were combined into one group, the Biloxi Board of School Trustees. Although there was a colored public school, there was no colored schoolhouse. The city rented a house from the Colored Baptist Church on Main Street for \$17.50 per seven-month term for use as the colored schoolhouse.<sup>10</sup>

On October 29, 1886, the Mayor and Aldermen of Biloxi adopted an "Act declaring the town of Biloxi a separate school District," beginning November 1, 1886, with a seven-month term of twenty school days each, starting November 3, 1886.<sup>11</sup> Prior to this Act, the public school system operated under authority of the State Constitution, which had created a state-wide system of public schools with the county as the educational unit and a school

term of four months.<sup>12</sup> Biloxi's Act was approved and adopted in Ordinance #21 on April 3, 1888, and this ordinance, along with Ordinances #22 and #24, formed the formal basis of our public school system. Ordinance #22 contains the body of the Act and the operational rules of the separate school district, and Ordinance #24 established a 5% Incidental School Fund and the initial \$150.00 appropriation to that fund, that amount being required by the City Charter for school purposes annually.<sup>13</sup> The teaching force for the 1886-87 school term was then elected to the following positions and salaries:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Principal	C. D. Lancaster	\$65.00 month
First Assistant	Mrs. S. Booth	30.00 month
Second Assistant	Miss T. Walthal	30.00 month
Third Assistant	Miss Rodenberg	25.00 month
Fourth Assistant	Miss Jane Henley	25.00 month
For colored school teachers		25.00 month <sup>14</sup>

Although there is no accurate count available of the number of educable children in the city for 1886-87, there are some county statistics available, which include the town of Biloxi. The following was taken from the report of the Superintendent of Education of Harrison County for the school year 1880-81:

	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>COLORED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of educable children	1,549	470	2,019
Number of teachers	21	3	24
Average salary		\$36.66 <sup>15</sup>	

Having a well-established, first-class public school with a full teaching staff, the city fathers soon recognized the need for physical as well as certain character improvements to the school and school grounds. In 1887 necessary repairs were made to the school building itself: the city jail was ordered removed from the schoolyard and the lumber used for firewood for the schoolhouse, and the "throwing of beef horns and bones within the school enclosure" from an adjoining slaughterhouse was prohibited.<sup>16</sup> The same teaching staff was re-elected by the Board of School Trustees at the same salaries for the 1887-88 school term.<sup>17</sup> School spirit among the children and adults of Biloxi was high at this time. At the end of the 1887-88 school term, a May Festival and school picnic was held at Gulf View Place. The school children celebrated the May Festival in courtly style,



crowning little Miss Mattie Theobald Queen of the May and placing her on a throne of flowers under the shadow of live oaks surrounded by knights of the queen's guard and her maids of honor. Miss Lillie Thompson received a silver medal from the queen, a reward for her excellent deportment and scholarship during the school year, and young Daniel Price delivered a praiseworthy oration. The total enrollment for the term was 240.<sup>18</sup>

It was at this point at the end of the 1887-88 school term, that official city records and local newspapers show that the Howard brothers wished to donate a new schoolhouse to the town of Biloxi.



Although Frank Turner Howard and Harry Turner Howard have always been credited with donating the Main School Building to the city in 1886, the earliest available records show that the Howard brothers' donation was made two years later, in 1888. The earliest existing city records, Minute Book #1, which contains the official minutes of all the City Council meetings from January 25, 1886, to April 18, 1892, has no mention of any schoolhouse donation in the year 1886. Many newspaper articles, books, and special features, such as the 20th Century Coast Edition of the Biloxi Daily Herald,<sup>19</sup> the September 7, 1898 edition of the Biloxi Herald covering the donation of three new schools to the city,<sup>20</sup> the January 17, 1929 edition of the Daily Herald covering the dedication of the new Howard II School,<sup>21</sup> and The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey<sup>22</sup> to name but a few, all maintain that the Main School Building was donated by the Howard brothers to the City of Biloxi in 1886. However, the first mention of the Howards' intention to construct and donate a schoolhouse did not appear until March 10, 1888, in a short article entitled "Public School House" in the Biloxi Herald. The article states that since the conditions of Frank and Harry Howard had been met, which were the election of "safe and good town leaders," the city would soon have a public schoolhouse

built.<sup>23</sup> Entries in Minute Book #1 and later articles in the Biloxi Herald further support the contention that the donation was not made until 1888. A minute book entry, dated June 23, 1888, orders that an appropriation of \$100.00 be made "for the purpose of purchasing a lot on the East Side of Main Street on which to move the present school building."<sup>24</sup> Paul W. Brielmaier eventually purchased the building for use as a private residence and the Brielmaier family lived in this house, which was located on the east side of Main Street,<sup>25</sup> until it was demolished in 1967.<sup>26</sup>

An article in the Biloxi Herald, also dated June 23, 1888, under the caption "The New Schoolhouse," states that Frank and Harry Howard wished to construct "a handsome building with all the modern appliances, large enough to accommodate two hundred and fifty pupils."<sup>27</sup> In his report to the State Superintendent of Education for 1888-89, C. D. Lancaster, Principal of the Biloxi White Public School, reported as follows:

#### BILOXI WHITE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

C. D. LANCASTER, PRINCIPAL.

Mrs. S. Booth, Misses F. H. Walthall, M. T. Rodenberg and Edna Holley, assistant teachers. The new school-house was completed during the term and occupied. The building was presented to the town of Biloxi by Messrs. Frank T. Howard and Harry T. Howard. It is a two-story frame building with octagonal tower, having a study hall and two recitation rooms in each story, besides cloak and hat rooms.



### SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The study halls will seat 200 pupils each, and are furnished with latest improved single desks. All rooms amply provided with blackboards and maps. The water is supplied from an artesian well.

Teachers are elected by the board of trustees, and paid principal, \$60; 1st assistant, \$35; other assistants, \$30 each. This is not strictly a graded school. Only public school branches taught.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of pupils enrolled.....	116	126	231
Average monthly enrollment... ..	83	98	181
Average daily attendance.....	61	70	131

The term of seven month, monthly cost, \$185. Cost per pupil average daily attendance per month, \$1.41. The school is supplied with a telescope of six inch glass, globe, lunarian and tellurian.

The greatest drawback to his school has been irregular attendance.

The school yard is about 200x300 feet, and divided into two equal parts by building and picket fence. The girls have one side and the boys the other. C. D. Lancaster has been principal of this school for the past eight consecutive terms.

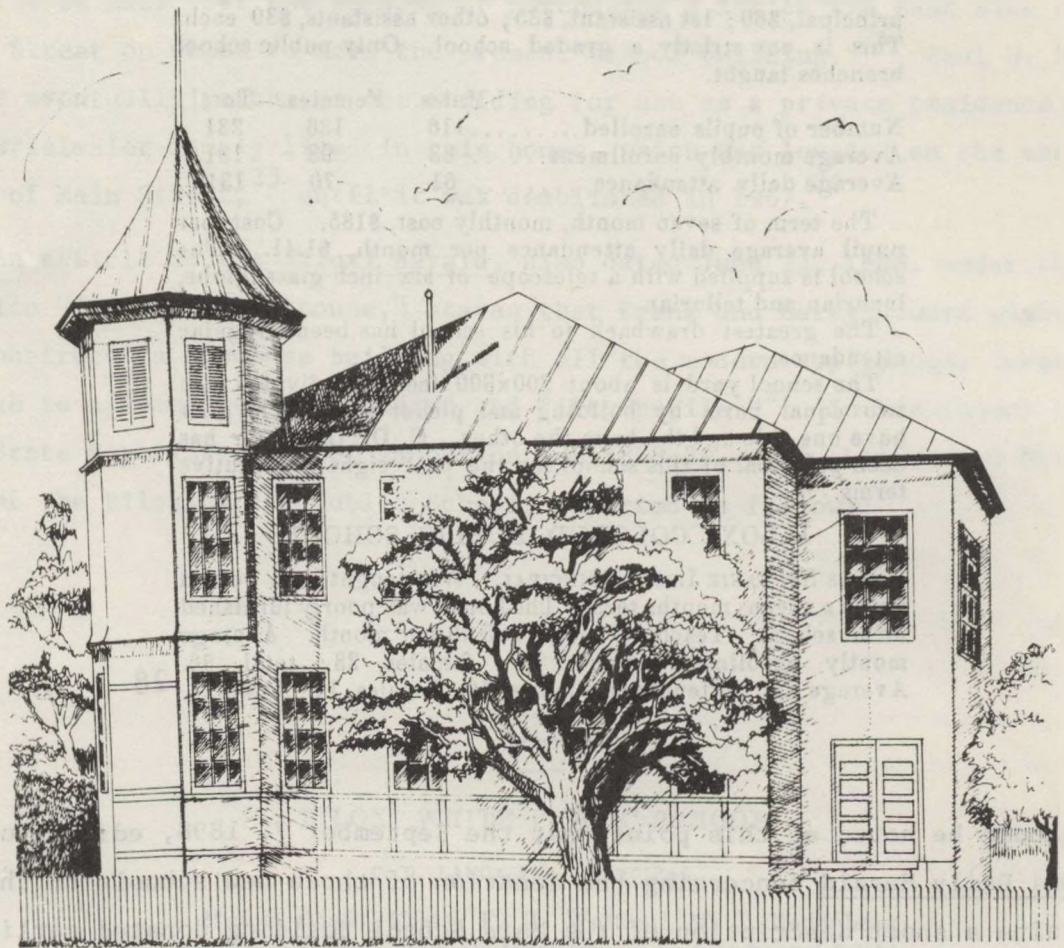
### BILOXI COLORED PUBLIC SCHOOL.

MISS SYLVANIE LEON, PRINCIPAL. Was taught in a rented house a seven months term. The house was poorly furnished for a school. Teachers' salary \$35.00 per month. Average montly enrollment—males, 13; females, 23; total, 36. Average daily attendance—males, 10; females, 14; total, 24. 28

It should be noted at this point that the September 7, 1898, edition of the Biloxi Daily Herald concerning the donation of three new schools to the city contains a short description of the Main School Building donated earlier by the Howard brothers, which is as follows:

The main building, located on Main Street, near the L and N R. R., donated by Messrs. F. T. and H. T. Howard, is a splendid structure. From the outside it presents an imposing appearance, being full two stories with many architectural beauties. Inside there are four large rooms with a capacity for fifty pupils each, with smaller rooms admirably arranged for recitation, library and museum.<sup>29</sup>

The following page contains the picture of the Main School Building which appears in that article.



## MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING

It can be seen at first glance that this building, described in the caption as the one donated by the Howard brothers in 1886, is a two-story structure with what appears to be an octagonal tower, the same thing described by C. D. Lancaster in his 1888-89 report covering the schoolhouse built and donated by the Howards during that school term.

Although all these sources indicate that the Main School Building was donated in 1888, there can be no absolute certainty that the school was not



given in 1886. As was noted earlier, the oldest city minute book presently available begins on January 25, 1886. It is conceivable that the schoolhouse was built by the Howards sometime prior to January 25 and donated to the city between January 1 and January 24, 1886. However, such an event seems unlikely in view of the fact that documentation proves that Frank and Harry Howard donated a schoolhouse to the city in 1888. If the Howards in fact donated a schoolhouse in 1886 and then again in 1888, there would have been two schoolhouses built on the same section of ground within two years of each other and donated by the same men. Such an event would seem highly improbable in view of the prevailing conditions of post-Civil War Biloxi. In any event, it is known that Biloxi received a new schoolhouse from Frank T. and Harry T. Howard during the 1888-89 school term.

The earliest available financial report of the Public School Fund, reproduced below, gives many interesting statistics about our early school system and the cost of running it:

Report on the status of the public school fund for the year ending October 1, 1888

Amount due for tax on realty 3 mills, amount due for tax on personalty 3 mills, amount due for polls, less insolvencies and delinquencies and collector's commissions deducted	\$1,318.60
Amount due on State distribution funds, including fines	<u>496.50</u>
Total amount due for year ending October 1, 1888	1,815.10
Less county and town treasurer's commissions	<u>145.20</u>
	1,669.90

CREDITS

Cost of white school, 7 months at \$175 per month	1,225.00	
Cost of colored school, 7 months at \$35 per month	<u>245.00</u>	<u>1,470.00</u>
Balance due Biloxi district		199.90
For year ending October 1, 1888, after paying commissions in full to county and town treasury		
Town treasurer's commissions		<u>90.75</u>
Amount actually due by county to town		<u>290.65</u>

ANNEXED STATEMENTS

Total State distribution 1887	2,529.47
Total number of educable children, Harrison County	3,571
Total number of educable children, Biloxi district	702

Amount due each educable child	70 5/7¢	
Amount due Biloxi district, 702 children		496.50
Total Assessment of Biloxi for 1887		
Realty		389,190.00
Personalty		<u>36,544.00</u>
		425,734.00

LESS

Total erroneous personalty	\$500	
Total erroneous realty	<u>200</u>	<u>700.00</u>
		425,034.00
School tax on \$425,034.00 @ 3 mills		1,275.10
To this add polls		<u>258.00</u>
		1,533.10
Deduct insolvent polls	\$141.00	
Deduct insolvent personalty	<u>4.11</u>	<u>145.11</u>
		1,387.99
Tax collector's commissions @ 5%		<u>69.39</u>
Total amount due Biloxi for 1887		1,318.60

1888-89

Total land roll for Biloxi, 1888		388,990.00
Total personal roll for Biloxi, 1888		<u>38,035.50</u>
		427,025.50
On this sum, @ 3½ mills, the school tax is		1,387.83
Polls added		<u>354.00</u>
		\$1,741.83 <sup>30</sup>

This financial report shows that Biloxi generated funds to operate the public school by a tax levy on real and personal property and a poll tax, along with the city's share of the State distribution.

The Board of School Trustees re-elected C. D. Lancaster principal for the 1888-89 school term at a salary of \$60.00 per month and also selected the following assistants:

First Assistant	Mrs. S. Booth	\$35.00
Second Assistant	Miss F. H. Walthall	\$30.00
Third Assistant	Miss Edna Holley	\$30.00
Fourth Assistant	Miss M. T. Rodenberg	\$25.00 <sup>31</sup>

Miss Sylvanie Leon was selected as principal for the Colored Public School at a salary of \$35.00 per month.<sup>32</sup>



Realizing the need for protection of the newly acquired schoolhouse, the City Council in the first few months of 1889 authorized Mayor Harry T. Howard to procure insurance on the new school building in the amount of \$5,000.<sup>33</sup> The construction cost of the new schoolhouse was approximately \$7,000.<sup>34</sup> The City Council also authorized the construction of a jail in the old school building located across the street from the new building. By 1890, the enrollment in the Biloxi Public School for the term, according to a report submitted by the Board of School Trustees (White), had reached 1,561, with an average term attendance of 1,327. This number included children attending the city school from outside of the district, such as children from across the Bay and unincorporated areas surrounding the city, as well as children of tourists who visited the "Queen City of the Coast."

The non-resident pupils in the city school paid a tuition of \$1.20 per month for the privilege of attending the public school. The salaries of the five teachers for the seven-month term was the staggering sum of \$1,540.00, and the total cost of running the school, including the teachers' salaries, was \$247.55 per month, or \$1,732.85 for the entire school year.<sup>35</sup> However, this was during a time when Bagnetto's Lunch and Coffee Saloon served a roast beef and salad dinner for 10¢, phone numbers were only two digits, gingham and French-colored fabrics sold for 10¢ and 25¢ per yard at T. P. Dulion and Company, and Piso's Cure for Consumption cost only 25¢!<sup>36</sup> The school child population of Biloxi increased at a rapid pace in these early years. By 1890 the budget for the public schools was \$2,000. This money was derived from the poll tax, the State pro rata distribution, and 2½ mill tax on each \$1,000 of assessed real and personal property within the corporate limits of the city.<sup>37</sup>

The teachers' salaries were increased slightly, but it soon became apparent that more teachers would be needed for the ever-increasing number of children attending the public schools. By the end of the first month of the 1890-91 school term, enrollment had reached the high mark of 271 pupils, a number so large that a sixth teacher was employed.<sup>38</sup>





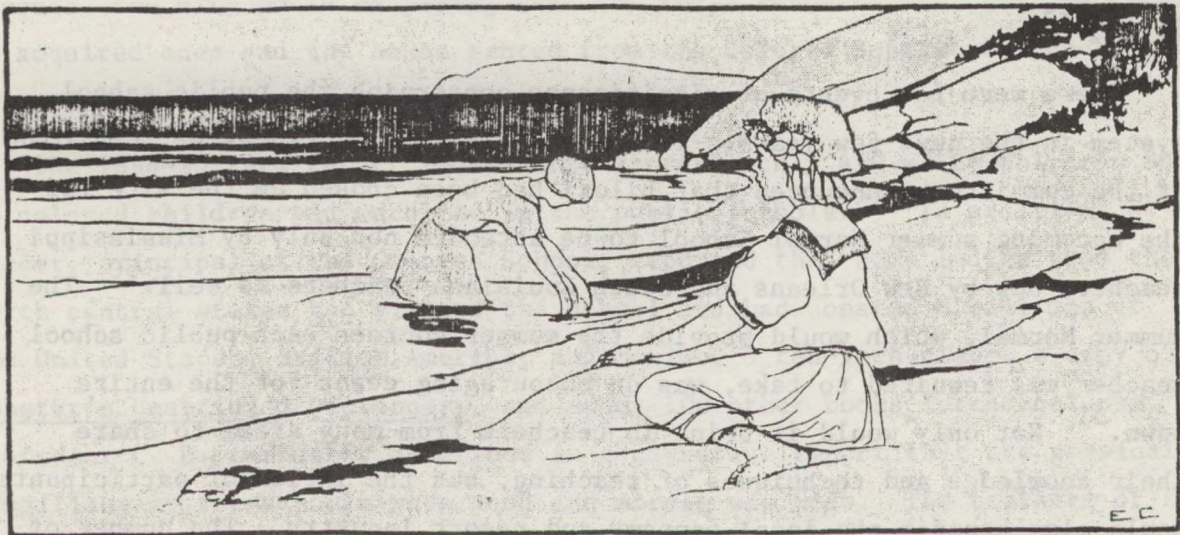
Enrollment in the Colored Public School was also up, so another teacher, Miss Anne Bell, was hired for \$35.00 per month.<sup>39</sup> Although a formalized system of grading such as we now have in the public schools had not yet evolved, the students were graded each day in both scholarship and deportment on a scale from 1 to 10, and those with an average of 9 or over had their names inscribed on a "Roll of Honor" and published by teachers' rooms in the weekly newspaper.<sup>40</sup> This seems to have been a highly sought honor, since the Roll of Honor that appeared in the Biloxi Herald had an average of 50 to 70 names per month. The final examinations given during those early days of education were also somewhat different from the examinations modern students are given. J. L. Ladd, the principal of the public school in 1891, announced in a newspaper article that a public oral examination was to be conducted Monday, June 1, through Thursday, June 4, so that the parents could "ascertain whether their children have been honestly dealt with -- whether pupils have been diligent and teachers faithful to their several duties." The subjects of examination were spelling, reading, rhetoric, arithmetic, history, geography, grammar, physiology, and natural philosophy.<sup>41</sup>

By 1891 the school budget had increased \$200<sup>42</sup> for the upcoming term, and new methods of instruction were introduced. The recitation rooms were separated from the study rooms in the higher grades to provide a quieter atmosphere, and the kindergarten method was introduced in the primary grades under the direction of a teacher who studied the method an entire summer in preparation for the new term. Interest in education seemed to be on the upswing in Biloxi among the children as well as the adults. Many articles appeared in the Biloxi Herald urging parents to enroll their children in the public schools. An article declaring the aims and expectations for the upcoming term described many of the great strides made by the educated men of our nation. The electric light, the telephone, phonograph, electric motor, and typewriter had all been recent developments and this was the first generation of young minds to have the advantage of learning technology which made these "modern marvels" available to the common folk of our land. Perhaps Principal Ladd best expressed the general feeling of the time toward education, which still holds true today, when he said,

"The parent who sends his child into the world uneducated and without skill in any useful art or science, does a great injury to mankind as well as to his own child; for he defrauds the community of a useful citizen and bequeaths to it a nuisance."<sup>43</sup>



The growing number of children attending the public school yearly soon made it painfully apparent that more school space would soon be needed. The 1890-91 school term had the largest enrollment and attendance ever, notwithstanding an epidemic of measles. The total average enrollment reached 259 and the average daily attendance was 190, or 32 pupils for each of the six teachers.<sup>44</sup> The city finances at this time, however, were at a low level. The citizens that lived in the Point Cadet area started the first public move for more school room and teachers to meet the increasing demand for education among the citizens of Biloxi. In December of 1891 a group of citizens from the Point began circulating a petition calling for a school in that area. The factory workers





and fishermen who predominated the area seemed to hunger for education for their families, perhaps so their children could live better lives when the time came for them to leave home and start families of their own. The Biloxi Herald supported the drive for an additional school, frequently running editorials on the subject. One such editorial, striking the core of the need for more schools, pointed out that if 50 or more children from Point Cadet were to enroll in the Main School, an additional teacher would be needed in any event to handle the increased number of pupils. The citizens soon gathered enough support to present a petition to the City Council, asking them to provide a teacher for a schoolhouse on the Point which the citizens offered to provide and furnish.<sup>45</sup> However, due to low finances and lack of funds, the request was turned down.<sup>46</sup> The balance in the city treasury, composed of the General Fund and the School Fund, was only \$943.61.<sup>47</sup> So the public school continued as it had in the past, in a rather crowded state. A census of the educable children of Harrison County, done by the County Clerk in 1892, showed that the Biloxi Separate School District had 1,467 educable children, 1,237 white and 230 colored.<sup>48</sup> The report of the White School Trustees, however, showed a slight drop in the number actually attending school. The 1891-92 school term had an average enrollment for the term of 250.8 pupils, the net expense per pupil for the term was \$10.18½, and the net expense per pupil per month was only \$1.45½.<sup>49</sup>

There were few events of significance concerning the public school system in the next few years. In April of 1894 C. D. Lancaster, chairman of the committee, announced that Biloxi had been chosen as the site for the upcoming summer Normal School to be attended not only by Mississippi teachers but by New Orleans and south Louisiana teachers as well.<sup>50</sup> The summer Normal, which would provide the summer courses each public school teacher was required to take, was an encouraging event for the entire town.<sup>51</sup> Not only would it bring in teachers from many areas to share their knowledge and techniques of teaching, but the influx of participants would also benefit the local economy and resort industry. The number of children that regularly attended the public school had steadily climbed so that at the close of the 1893-94 school term the public school report for the term showed a total enrollment of 360 pupils.<sup>52</sup> This increase in

enrollment, however, had not been accompanied by an increase in school capacity or school teachers. Thus, by the beginning of the 1894 school term Biloxi was faced with the problem of too many children and not enough space.

The city's finances were still at a low point. The idea of issuing bonds to construct an additional schoolhouse either had not occurred to the City Council or had already been dismissed as unfeasible. They did take steps to alleviate the overcrowded conditions at the public schoolhouse, however. On October 1, 1894, two branch schools were established, one at Point Cadet and one at Back Bay. In order to provide these schoolhouses and yet stay within the city's limited budget, suitable buildings were located and rented for school use. Charles Redding furnished the building on the Point for \$6.00 monthly, and John C. Bradford furnished the building on Back Bay for \$5.00 monthly.<sup>53</sup> These additions to the public school system provided relief for the teaching staff, furnishing them with better teaching conditions and room for further increase in the number of children that could be comfortably taught. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, there was no corresponding increase in the number of teachers. Instead, two teachers were reassigned and placed in charge of these two suburban schools, as they were first called. Mrs. Booth was selected as principal of the Back Bay School and Miss Santini as principal of the Point Cadet School.<sup>54</sup> With the addition of these two schools, the city would be paying rent for three schoolhouses, the two recently acquired ones and the house rented from the Colored Baptist Church as the Colored Public School.

The 1894-95 term report showed that approximately 450 white children and 65 colored children had enrolled in the public schools.<sup>55</sup> In addition, W. P. Locker, principal of the Colored School, reported that some ladies from the north central states had visited the school and had donated a wall map of the United States, British America, and Mexico, a ten-inch globe, a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, and about 100 other books for school use.<sup>56</sup> Professor C. D. Lancaster described in a narrative report that the physical conditions at the schools were good and morale was high. The teachers of the day ruled with a stern hand. They were present on the playgrounds during all recesses to eliminate disputes or the use of bad language and required the students to march to and from all recitations and upon entering and leaving the school. The various grades were designated by letters and, in an apparent



departure from old methods, in 1895, grades D, E, F, G, and H (4th to 8th) were given examinations in writing.<sup>57</sup>

The Biloxi teaching staff numbered eight in 1895, six in the white schools and two in the colored school. A monthly public school report in November of 1895 showed the existence of an additional public school, called the Forest Park Public School, under the charge of Miss Mollie T. Rodenberg.<sup>58</sup> Although the article did not state the location of the school, it is highly probable that it was on the West End. This school report was the first mention of Forest Park as a public school. There was no mention of a donation of this school nor any authorization by the City Council for the School Board to rent an additional school. There was also no evidence showing that the city had purchased the school or constructed it. Due to lack of information and records, nothing certain can be said about the origin of Forest Park as a public school. However, certain information found in the city minute books leads to the conclusion that Forest Park was also a rented schoolhouse.

The record of bills authorized for payment in Minute Book #2, which covers the 1894-95 school term, shows that three rent payments were made for schoolhouses: Charles Redding for the Point Cadet School, the Colored Baptist Church for school rent, and J. C. Bradford for the Back Bay School.<sup>59</sup> In Minute Book #2 and #2½, which cover the 1895-96 school term, there are four rent payments in the record of bills authorized for payment: the Colored Baptist Church, J. C. Bradford for the Back Bay School, Mrs. Gazzo for the Point Cadet School, and T. F. Gill.<sup>60</sup> Unlike the other three entries, which name the school rented, the T. F. Gill entry simply states "house rent for school."<sup>61</sup> The year the first recorded rent payment is made to T. F. Gill, 1895, is also the year Forest Park was first listed as a public school. Only three rent payments were made during the following term of 1896-97, but this is the same term that Lazaro Lopez, Sr. donated the Point Cadet School. The payments during the term were made to the Colored Baptist Church, J. C. Bradford, and T. F. Gill.<sup>62</sup> No payments were made for the Point Cadet School rent, because Mr. Lopez had built and donated to the city a public schoolhouse on Oak Street between the beach and Howard Avenue for the children of that area.<sup>63</sup> During the following term, rent payments were made to the Colored Baptist Church, J. C. Bradford, and S. C. and M. T. Gill.<sup>64</sup> During the 1898-99 school term, no rent payments were made, because the city re-



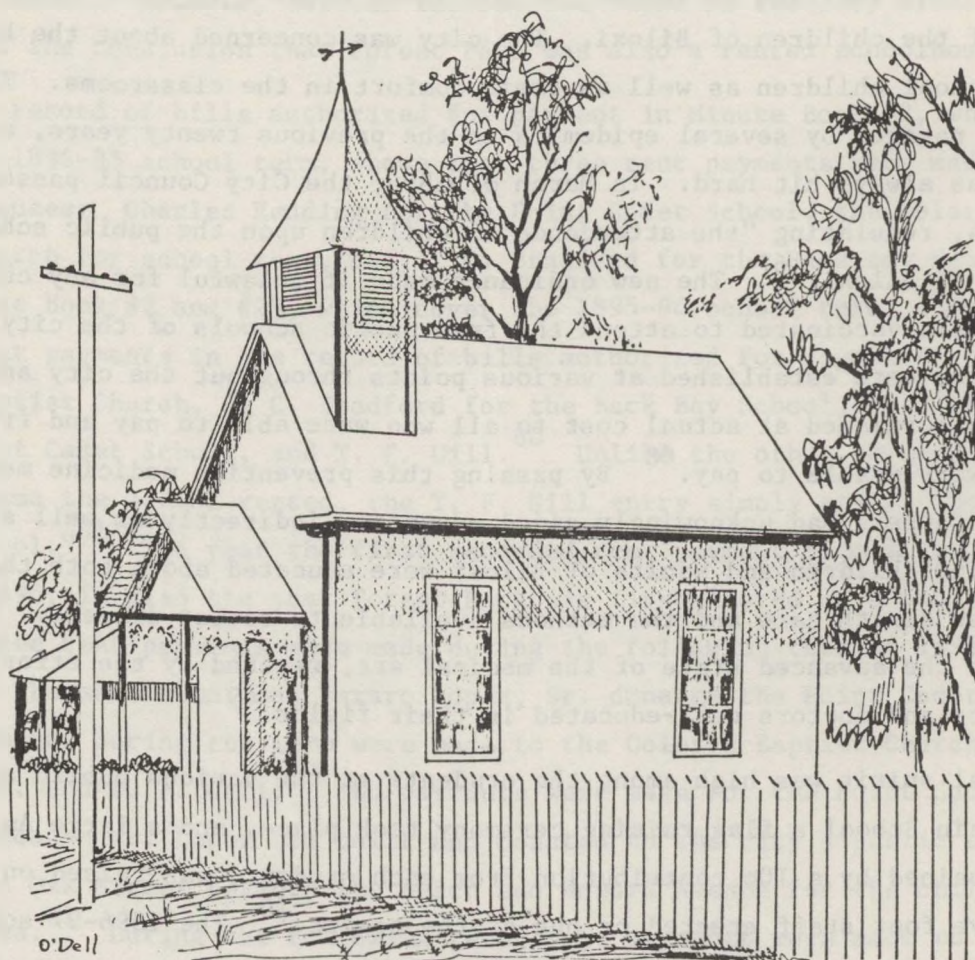
ceived three new schoolhouses through the generosity of four of her leading citizens. From this information, the most probable conclusion that can be reached is that beginning in 1895 the city rented an additional school in order to provide a public school for the children of the 3rd Ward on the west end of town. This would then furnish a city school system of a public school in each ward, with one centrally located main school.

In any event, beginning with the 1895-96 term, Biloxi had four white public schools and one colored public school. By December, the enrollment in the white public schools had reached 406.<sup>65</sup> The school census conducted by the county showed that Biloxi had a total of 1,501 white and colored children of school age.<sup>66</sup> Since the 1892 school census, the proportion of educable children that actually attended school rose to about 27%, an increase of 10%. This increase reflected the continued growing interest in the education of the children of Biloxi. The city was concerned about the health of the school children as well as their comfort in the classrooms. The Coast had been ravaged by several epidemics in the previous twenty years, and Biloxi was always hit hard. In March of 1896, the City Council passed Ordinance #54, regulating "the attendance of children upon the public schools in the city of Biloxi."<sup>67</sup> The new ordinance made it unlawful for any child who had not been vaccinated to attend the free public schools of the city. Vaccine points were established at various points throughout the city and the serum was furnished at actual cost to all who were able to pay and free to all who were unable to pay.<sup>68</sup> By passing this preventive medicine measure, the city fathers had unknowingly aided education indirectly as well as directly. The children and adults of Biloxi were educated about both the need for proper health care and the methods available to combat disease. It also reflected the advanced state of the medical art, reached by the efforts of scientists and doctors well-educated in their fields.<sup>69</sup>

School spirit was high among the students at the various public schools. At the Main School a flag raising ceremony took place, and a large American flag, obtained by a 10¢ contribution from each student, was raised on a forty-five foot staff erected on one of the towers.<sup>70</sup> The 1896-97 school term began with an increase in the number of teachers and a new principal. Mr. J. M. Taylor was selected as Superintendent and Principal of the Main School, and eight teachers were selected: Miss M. J. Rodenberg, Miss Josie

Santini, Mrs. S. Booth, Miss R. Andrews, Miss Edna Holley, Mrs. J. M. Taylor, Miss May Brooks, and Miss E. G. Smiley. James A. Burns was selected as Principal of the Public Colored School.<sup>71</sup> In his monthly report, Professor Burns cited an enrollment of 94, predominantly girls, which taxed the school capacity and the two teachers to the limit.<sup>72</sup> It would be several years, however, before the overcrowded situation in the colored school would be remedied.

Just prior to the start of the term, the city was relieved from the burden of renting one of its public schoolhouses by the generous act of one of her leading citizens. In an article appropriately entitled "A Want Filled," the Biloxi Herald announced the generous construction and donation by Mr. Lazaro Lopez of a fine building on the corner of Oak and First Streets, between the beach and Howard Avenue, to be used for school purposes.<sup>73</sup>



POINT CADET SCHOOL



The Point Cadet School was close to the Lopez factory on the beach, furnishing a permanent school for the children of the fishermen and factory workers within a convenient distance of their homes. By December, a ninth teacher was employed. The teachers received \$40.00 per month, and J. M. Taylor received \$125.00 per month for his duties as principal and superintendent.<sup>74</sup> The Board of School Trustees, composed of W. K. M. DuKate, president; F. W. Elmer, secretary; and Dr. D. A. Nash, G. Hann, and J. Nielsen, elected the same teaching staff for the 1897-98 school term for the white schools but took no action on the colored school teachers due to lack of applications for positions.<sup>75</sup>

The number of children attending the free public schools continued to increase faster than the capacity of the school facilities. By 1897, Biloxi officially reported to the State Superintendent of Education an enrollment of 471 white children, 108 colored children, 10 white teachers and 2 colored teachers.<sup>76</sup> Seeing the need for expansion, the Board of School Trustees began to examine the feasibility of expanding the school term to nine months. The idea quickly gained support among the school trustees as well as the City Council. A tax levy of 1½ mills was passed to finance the expansion,<sup>77</sup> but the outbreak of a yellow fever epidemic forced the school trustees to postpone school openings from September 20 until December 1.<sup>78</sup> As a result, the 1897-98 term was again seven months long. The beginning of the nine-month school term would be postponed to a more appropriate time. This attempted innovation was not the only event of importance in 1898, however, because it was that year that the City of Biloxi received a present of three new school buildings in one day from five public-spirited citizens who saw education as the key to the future prosperity and growth of Biloxi.

The year 1898 began with a report by the school trustees on the need for repairs in the public school. There was also a sad lack of room in the primary department at the Main School Building. At this time, the Main School contained both the primary department for the central ward of the city in addition to all the advanced grades from the various ward schools. At the first Council meeting, on January 4, the City Council had just authorized the Public Building Committee to have the old school building put in proper condition for use as the primary department, when Mayor Harry T. Howard offered to build and donate a school building to be used as the primary

department for the public school system.<sup>79</sup> A special committee appointed to select a site for the new school<sup>80</sup> recommended the lot of Mrs. M. E. Maycock on the northwest corner of Main and Water Streets, which the city purchased for \$1,500.00.<sup>81</sup> With the addition of this school to the public school system, the primary department would be separate from the advanced grades and the Main School would eventually become the high school proper of the system. In a weekly report on the progress of the city schools Jackson H. Owings, principal of the schools, reported an enrollment of 451 in the white public schools by January 15.<sup>82</sup> The enrollment in the colored public school was 102 and the total enrollment for the 1898-99 term had reached an all-time high of 630.<sup>83</sup>

Although there is little information specifically covering the subject, 1898 may have been the first year public school children in Biloxi faced the sometimes agonizing chore of bringing home a report card. In his same weekly report describing the enrollment for the term, Professor Owings notified the public that reports containing an exact record of each child's school life were being prepared to be sent to the parents.<sup>84</sup> This was the first time it was announced that individual progress reports would be sent home. That innocent sounding bit of news may well have been the beginning of a tradition that even today some students fear and some anticipate, but all greet with relief when it is over.

The spirit of generosity demonstrated by Mayor Howard's offer was quickly caught by several other prominent citizens. By August it was known that Biloxi would receive not one new public school but three. The Lopez family again showed their concern for the children of the city. Prompted by the same spirit of generosity that led Lazaro Lopez to build and donate the Point Cadet School in 1896, Lazaro and Julia Lopez announced their intention to donate a school building and grounds on the corner of Porter Avenue and Cemetery Street to the City for the use of pupils below the third grade who lived west of Cuevas Street. The building would consist of one large room, with two smaller ones, together with a spacious hallway and cloak rooms. This building was called the Forest Park School Building in the Biloxi Herald issue which reported the donation, but no records can be

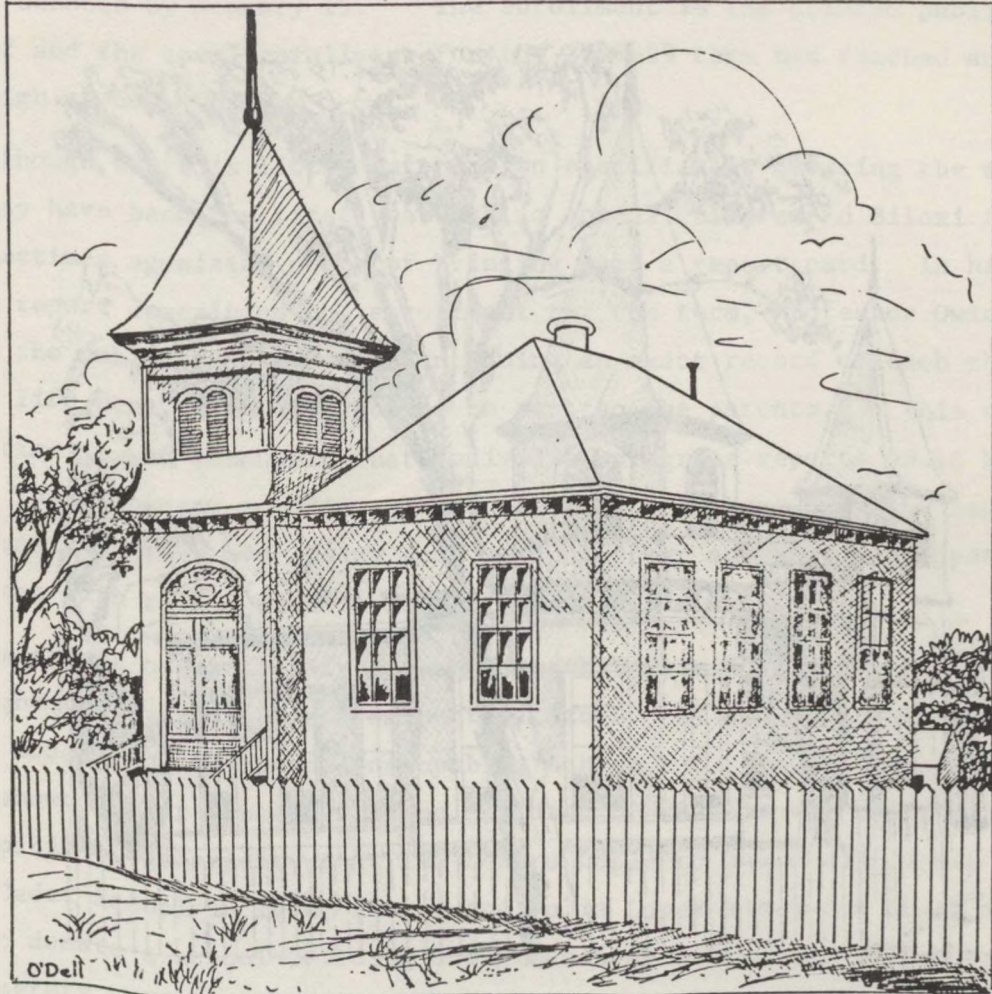


found to indicate that this was the same Forest Park School the city apparently rented from 1895 to 1898.



FOREST PARK SCHOOL

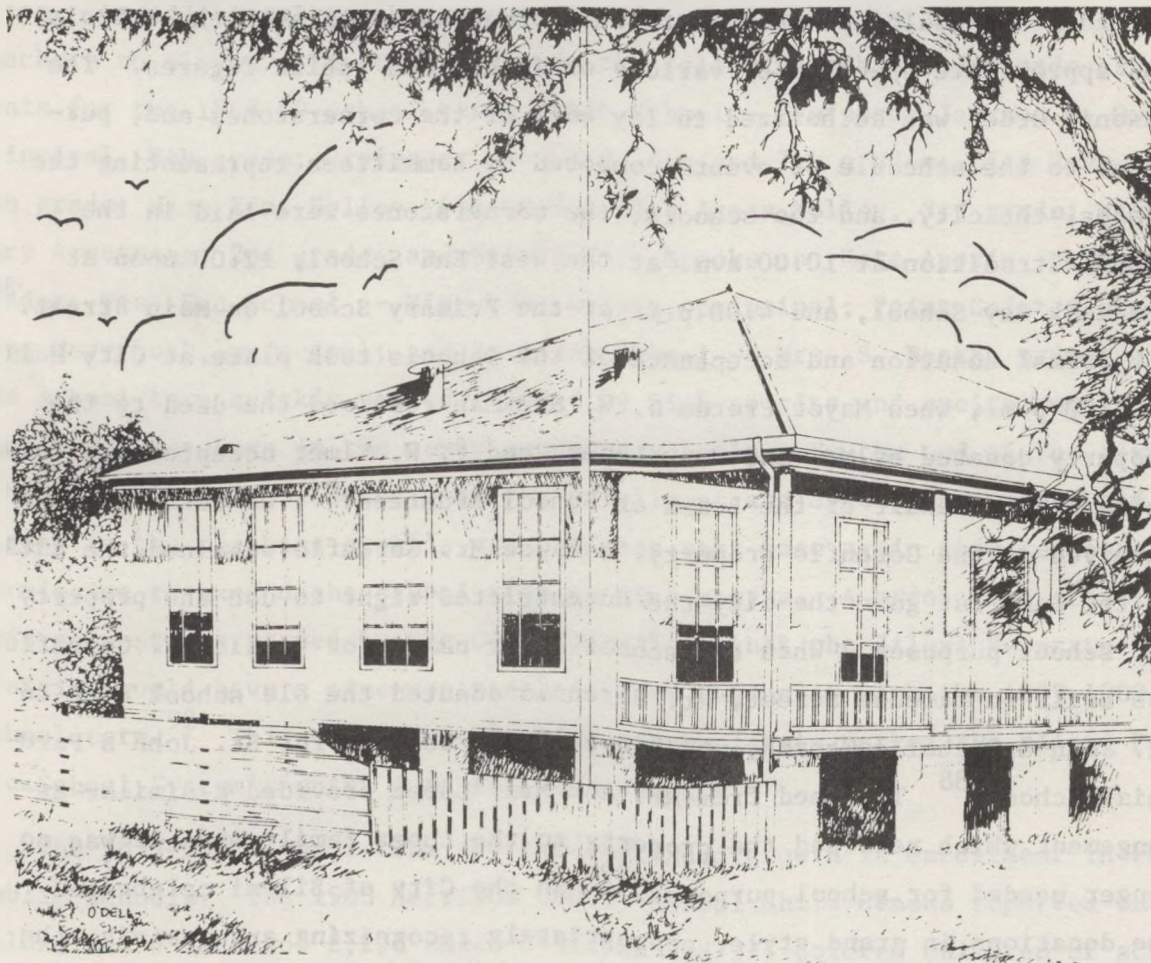
The third new school was provided by the efforts of two other prominent local figures, W. K. DuKate and William F. Gorenflo. Mr. Gorenflo furnished a lot on Main Street near Back Bay and Mr. DuKate constructed the building.



BACK BAY SCHOOL



The new primary school that Mayor Howard was to construct would consist of four rooms that would have a capacity of 52 pupils each in a one-story building, heated by a furnace, built eight feet above the ground in order to provide a playground for the children in inclement weather.<sup>85</sup>



PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

Mr. Lopez, Mr. Gorenflo, and Mr. DuKate were members of the Board of School Trustees and worked untiringly for the improvement of the public school system. The City of Biloxi would later immortalize these men's efforts, along with Frank and Harry Howard, by naming four of the city's public schools in their honor.

In late August and early September of 1898, preparations were made to appropriately recognize the donation of these three buildings to the city. Activities were planned for Tuesday, September 6, which would last all day long and would culminate with the formal acceptance of the schools and appropriate speeches by various officials and public figures. The Masonic Order was authorized to lay each of the cornerstones and, pursuant to the schedule of events composed by committees representing the Masons, the city, and the schools, the cornerstones were laid in the Masonic tradition at 10:00 a.m. at the West End School, 12:00 noon at the Back Bay School, and 4:00 p.m. at the Primary School on Main Street.<sup>86</sup> The formal donation and acceptance of the schools took place at City Hall at 8:00 p.m., when Mayor Protem J. W. Swetman received the deed to the property donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lopez, and F. W. Elmer accepted the three buildings on behalf of the Board of School Trustees.<sup>87</sup> No deed was ever received on the Gorenflo property, because Mr. Gorenflo retained the title to the land but gave the city the unrestricted right to use the property for school purposes. When the school later named for William F. Gorenflo was built on Lameuse Street, Mr. Gorenflo donated the old school site to St. John's Catholic Church, which eventually used it for St. John's Parochial School.<sup>88</sup> The deed from Mr. and Mrs. Lopez provided a similar arrangement which returned the property to the Lopez family when it was no longer needed for school purposes.<sup>89</sup> So the City of Biloxi celebrated the donations in grand style, appropriately recognizing and praising the philanthropic actions of her leading citizens. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution making the entire day's activities part of the official minutes of their regular meeting on September 6 and adjourned the meeting to the grandstand erected in front of the City Hall to participate in the activities.<sup>90</sup> Indeed it was a day for celebration. Now Biloxi had a public school system in the fullest sense of the word. With the donation of these three schools, each ward of the city now had its own



primary school, and the city had a centrally located school for the advanced grades, which soon became known as the Central High School, in addition to the Colored School. From the beginning of the public school system in Biloxi, the city had used public funds to purchase only school grounds, not buildings. This need had been fulfilled in the past by public-spirited citizens and it would continue to be met in the same way until the early part of the 20th Century.

The Board of School Trustees wasted no time in making use of the new facilities. An additional teacher was employed, raising the total number of white teachers to eleven. The trustees made the following school and grade assignments for the 1898-99 school term: Main School - Professor Jackson H. Owings, principal, 8th grade; Professor Woodward, 6th and 7th grades; Miss Rosa Andrews, 5th grade; Miss Edna Holley, 4th grade; Miss Agnes Kelley, 3rd grade; Miss Mary Armstrong, 2nd grade; and Misses Mary Brooks and Kate Austin, primary grades; West End School -- Miss Lucy Walker, principal; Point Cadet School -- Miss Mary Lock, principal; and Back Bay School -- Mrs. S. Booth, principal.<sup>91</sup> The school term quickly passed, marked by high spirits and excitement in the pupils and teachers in the newly acquired schools. By the end of the term the School Board was so pleased with the enrollment and attendance record and confident in the teaching staff's capabilities that once again they requested permission to expand the school term to nine months. A resolution granting this request was passed by the City Council so that the Biloxi Separate School District would have a nine-month school term beginning with the 1899-1900 school term.<sup>92</sup> This was an event which appropriately marked the Biloxi Public School System's entry into the 20th Century.

The 1899-1900 school term saw the continued growth in enrollment in the public schools. The 1900 Harrison County School Child Census reported that Biloxi had a total of 2,290 white children and 374 colored children of school age.<sup>93</sup> The report of the State Superintendent of Education for 1899-1900 showed that Biloxi reached a new peak in actual enrollment, with 623 white and 99 colored children, a total of 722, attending the city schools.<sup>94</sup> This enrollment represented approximately 27% of the total educable children reportedly living within the corporate city limits. The Biloxi School System now had a value of over \$20,000 in buildings alone.<sup>95</sup> This figure did not include the assessed value of the school grounds nor the equipment, which



MARGARET HANN - EMMA McCARROLL  
LUCILLE McCORMICK - HENRY SWAN - IOLA PAELEZ  
FIRST GRADUATING CLASS - YEAR 1900



would have increased the value to approximately \$50,000.<sup>96</sup> The continued increase in enrollment, however, soon made further expansion necessary. In September of 1901, just prior to the opening of the school term, the Board of Trustees reported that an annex was being built at the Point Cadet School to give that school additional seating capacity,<sup>97</sup> and a \$200.00 laboratory was purchased and set up in the city high school.<sup>98</sup> Professor J. H. Owings was named Superintendent of Education for Biloxi and Principal of the Central School, and an additional teacher, Miss Hann, was hired to work in the expanded Point Cadet School.<sup>99</sup> The enrollment for the first week of the term was 113 more than the first week's enrollment of the 1900-01 term.<sup>100</sup> The School Board was very pleased with this increase, but it soon became apparent that again overcrowding would be a problem. This time the high school was affected.

The increase in enrollment that had been happening over the past few years resulted in an increasingly large number of students advancing to the Central High School. Since the ward schools conducted only primary work, students in the 4th grade and above attended the Central School. By October of 1901, the situation had reached such proportions that F. W. Elmer and E. C. Joullian of the School Board and Principal Owings recommended building two additional rooms, employing two additional teachers, and obtaining more seats and desks for the Central High School. In an effort to fully investigate the matter to determine the specific wants and needs of the public schools, the City Council appointed a committee composed of Aldermen Heidenheim, Bradford, and Lopez.<sup>101</sup> The committee returned a favorable report, and soon authorization was given to have plans and specifications drawn up and bids advertised. With the addition project apparently well underway, it seemed that the school system was finally operating at its maximum level. However, another demanding need soon surfaced, which, like previous demands made on the school system, would initially be met by the public-spirited generosity of the citizens of Biloxi.

The Biloxi Daily Herald first reported rumors of a movement in Biloxi to establish a public evening school in 1902 to provide free education for the young men and women of the city who worked during regular school hours. Reverend H. W. VanHook, pastor of the Methodist Church and originator of the night school idea, quickly gained support. He announced that there would be

no charge for admittance and the teachers -- Reverend VanHook, Professors Owings, and Partridge, and Miss Armstrong -- would be volunteering their time and talents to the project.<sup>102</sup> It soon became apparent that there was growing support for the first free public night school in the city. The City Council ordered three rooms in the Central School building to be wired for the use of the night school, and Mr. Glennan of the Biloxi Electric Company said there would be no charge for the work.<sup>103</sup> On behalf of the company, he further offered to furnish the lights for the night school free of charge.<sup>104</sup> The idea of a free night school also seemed to appeal to the working class. On January 6, 1902, the first free night school in the city opened with an enrollment of eighteen boys. The school was held each week night at 7:00, and instruction was given by the four volunteer teachers in arithmetic, English grammar, penmanship, geography, and bookkeeping.<sup>105</sup> The night school soon grew to be a huge success. Men, women, and children who had to work during the normal school hours found that they now had an opportunity to acquire an education. By the end of the first year of the night school, enrollment had reached 100.<sup>106</sup> So in 1902, the Biloxi School System earned another feather of accomplishment in its hat. The school system, however, was not in the best of conditions physically.

In early June of 1902, the special committee appointed to recommend locations for school additions made their report to the City Council. The report was not what the Council or the School Board had expected. Due to the fact that the city had very limited funds to spend on school improvements, the committee submitted three propositions to the Council: raise the Howard Primary School to a sufficient height to allow construction of three to four rooms underneath; build an addition to the Main School building; or rent the Fireman's Hall for one school term.<sup>107</sup> The Council was not pleased with these alternatives, so they ordered the committee to continue, with the understanding that the city would furnish a lot suitable for a school building should any person desire to donate a building for school purposes.<sup>108</sup> It seems that the concept of issuing bonds to erect a school building still was not considered feasible, although the Council had authorized bonds to construct other public structures in the past. The question of a bond issue never came up, however, because again the generosity of an individual



answered the city's call.

On June 18, 1902, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen received a communication from Harry T. Howard expressing his desire to construct and donate another school, this time in the First Ward.<sup>109</sup> In addition, Alderman J. B. Chinn reported that Mr. Howard would also contribute \$6,000 toward the construction of a Central School Building if the city would provide an additional \$4,000 and a suitable lot.<sup>110</sup> The Council quickly passed a resolution accepting Harry Howard's philanthropic gesture and thanking him on behalf of the city. Soon the school system would be expanded to a size greater than ever before. At the same time, Alderman Lopez announced that he intended to increase the capacity of the present Point Cadet School so that more pupils could be accommodated.<sup>111</sup> This school would continue in use for quite a while to come.

Meanwhile, plans for the new Point Cadet School proceeded rapidly. Mr. Howard had placed the construction of the school in the hands of Mr. Joe Ott of the Point. In July, the city purchased three lots from John and Peter Ott for \$650.00 to be used as the new school site, and construction soon began.<sup>112</sup> This site on the corner of Howard Avenue and Magnolia Street (presently Maple Street), would later be the site of the present Howard II Elementary School. Professor J. H. Owings submitted specifications and diagrams for the proposed school at the request of Joe Ott. The principal was asked to do this because it was felt that he was more qualified than anyone else to design a schoolhouse best suited for the convenience and comfort of the students, since he had made a life study of schools and school room conditions. The new school would be a one-story building with three recitation rooms, with a capacity of 40 pupils each, three cloak rooms, and a gallery facing Howard Avenue. Upon completion of the building, one hundred desks, located at the existing Point Cadet School donated by Mr. Lopez, would be transferred to the new larger structure.<sup>113</sup> With construction underway on the new schoolhouse, all that remained for the city to do was to find a suitable lot for the new Central School.

A special committee was formed by the City Council (the town leaders were very fond of committees in this early time of bureaucracy) to investigate

suitable sites for the proposed school building. By August, several lots were found and purchase prices obtained. However, the committee postponed any action on these offers, because Frank Howard had notified a City Council member that he might be able to help the city find a suitable site. Mr. Howard was to notify the councilman after he communicated with his brother, Harry,<sup>114</sup> who was in Canada at the time. No word was received from either of the Howards for several weeks until August 18, when Alderman Joe Ott announced that he had received a telegram from Harry Howard. The telegram, sent from Ontario, notified the City Council that Mr. Howard was temporarily withdrawing his offer of \$6,000 for the construction of a Central High School.<sup>115</sup> No reason for the withdrawal was given, and the communication caused much surprise among the city and school officials. The consensus seemed to be that Harry Howard wished to personally handle the matter,



since he indicated he would take it up on his return. So it appeared that the public schools would begin the 1902-03 term in the same crowded condition as the previous year. However, some measure of relief for the primary department was soon forthcoming. On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1902, amid a festive day of parading and an old-time barbeque picnic, the Mississippi Grand Lodge of Masons laid the cornerstone of the East End School building. The Masons, who had laid several cornerstones in other public school buildings, were represented by L. R. Bowen, P. G. W. M., who had been deputized by Harry Howard, the present Grand Master, to act in his place for the occasion. The ritual, furnished a beautiful ceremony as the crowning event of the day's activities.<sup>116</sup> This was truly a day



of thanksgiving for the citizens of Biloxi. Not only were personal lifestyles and living conditions improved over previous years, but the spirit of generosity which seemed to be the lifeblood of the public school system was still alive and well in the Queen City of the Coast. The new school would alleviate the crowded classroom conditions in the First Ward and the official donation of this building on February 2, 1903, would mark the sixth schoolhouse donation to the school system and the third from a member of the Howard family.<sup>117</sup>

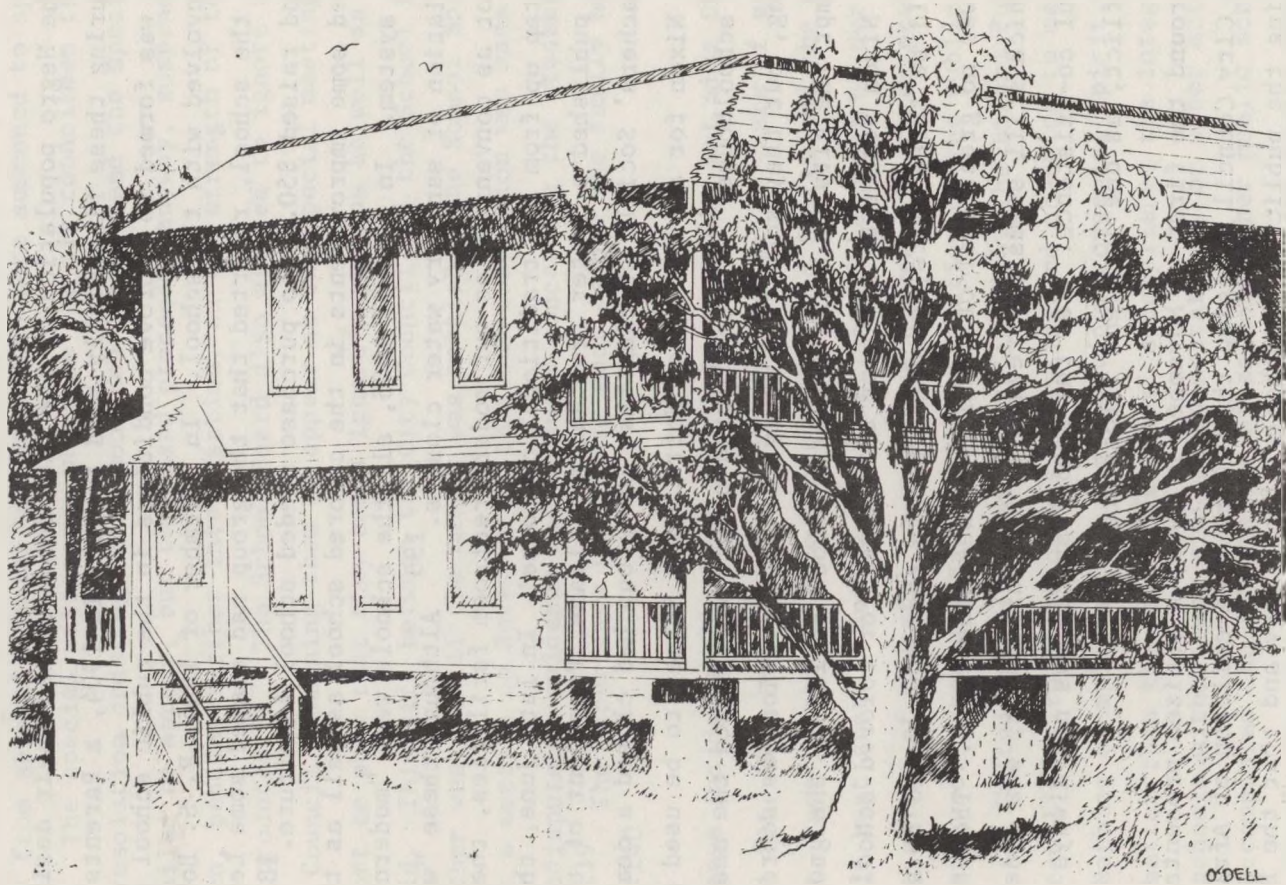
As the start of the 1902-03 school term drew near, Reverend VanHook again appeared before the City Council on behalf of the free night school. After citing figures from the enrollment and attendance records which reflected the past success of the program, he appealed to the Council to make the night school permanent. The Council was so impressed with the school's past record that it granted Reverend VanHook's request, ordering an appropriation of 37½¢ per hour for each teacher, not in excess of four, who assisted the night school.<sup>118</sup> So the school system again entered a new term, offering complete educational services day and night to all the inhabitants of the city. The total school enrollment for the 1902-03 term was 825,<sup>119</sup> approximately 28½% of Biloxi's total number of educable children. This increase of roughly 1½% over the 1900 report entitled the Biloxi Separate School District to \$4,921.52 in state appropriations for the term.<sup>120</sup> This money, along with the poll tax, school tax levy, and other receipts, provided the school system with its yearly operating capital. Most of this budget, however, was consumed by the teachers' salaries, even though these salaries were relatively low. Ten of the fourteen teachers making up the teaching staff were paid \$45.00 monthly; one was paid \$30.00; James A. Burns, the only colored teacher, was paid \$40.00 monthly; Professor Owings was paid \$120.00 monthly, and his assistant, Professor Partridge, was paid \$100.00 monthly.<sup>121</sup> The inadequacy of these salaries was painfully apparent when they were compared with 1886 teachers' salaries. In more than fifteen years, the salaries had increased only \$15.00 to \$20.00.<sup>122</sup> It seems that more emphasis was placed on buildings and equipment than on proper compensation for the teachers' unique talents. However, the teachers of the day did not complain too much, and the school system and teachers continued their efforts to provide the finest education possible for the children. Perhaps life in

Biloxi was part of the teachers' compensation. This was a time when the resort industry as well as the seafood industry was thriving. One teacher went so far as to resign her higher paying position at an Indiana school so that she could teach in Biloxi and be with her family on the beautiful Gulf Coast.<sup>123</sup>

The growth of the school system had reached a level period. The 1903-04 term began with about the same enrollment as the previous year. The night school was again opened in November, this time with an appropriation of \$7.50 per month for each of the four teachers and \$30.00 per month for Professor Owings, who was to organize the school and teach every night of the four-month term.<sup>124</sup> Professor Owings made a favorable report on the attendance and enrollment at the night school at the end of the second month of operation. The enrollment was over 40 by the end of the first week, but he stated that there were more than 75 other boys who should have been attending the school. The problem was that many children were being used as child labor during the day and night and had no opportunity to attend either the day or night school. Professor Owings called upon the City Council to pass a resolution requesting all businesses which employed boys under 14, or those over 14 who could neither read nor write, to compel those boys to attend the school at least three nights a week. This resolution was never passed or even discussed by the Council, but Professor Owings continued in his efforts to, as he said, "influence some who are profiting by child labor to take steps to have their employees secure at least the rudiments of an education."<sup>125</sup>

The term continued at a steady pace, interrupted only by the holidays. The pupils and teachers of the Point Cadet School celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees in the schoolyard,<sup>126</sup> and twelve eager students at the high school looked forward to graduation in May.<sup>127</sup> The problem of overcrowding again was brought up, and talk began about building an addition to the Primary School on Main Street. Again Harry Howard demonstrated his unbounded generosity by constructing the addition at his own expense, which cost was \$3,314.08,<sup>128</sup> and formally presented it on January 2, 1905, "to the children of our town . . . as a late Christmas present."<sup>129</sup>





PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING  
AFTER BEING RAISED

The financial condition of the city was improving, and the school budget increased along with it. The total receipts and disbursements reported for the term increased from approximately \$10,000 in 1904<sup>130</sup> to a little more than \$15,000 in 1905.<sup>131</sup> Most of this increase, however, was spent on necessary repairs rather than expansion.

The Negro population of the city demonstrated their desire for improvement during these financially hard times. In 1904, a Parents' and Teachers' Social was formed to improve conditions in the public school and get the parents more involved with the school. In December of 1905, P. S. Bowles, the principal of the school, reported that the group had staged some Leap Year entertainment and raised \$50.00 to purchase needed school furniture.<sup>132</sup> The city also provided some improvements in the colored school as well as the rest of the school system. In June of 1905, all the schools were "modernized" by the installation of sanitary water closets.<sup>133</sup> Although these "water closets" were not as convenient as our modern restroom facilities, they were definitely a step up from the traditional outhouse! In late June, the Biloxi Daily Herald published a letter from Julia Williams, President of the Parents' and Teachers' Social, stating that the group had closed a deal with Miss Pinkie Nixon for a \$300 lot on North Nixon Street to be used as a site for a public schoolhouse.<sup>134</sup> The colored people recognized the need for a school building, but they knew that money for construction was scarce. In an effort to prompt the city to build a public school building, the group donated the lot on Nixon Street to the city to be used for colored school purposes.<sup>135</sup> It would be three years, however, before the money would be appropriated. There was no great deal of tension between the races. The attitude of the day, which still seems to prevail on the Gulf Coast, was generally one of peaceful co-existence. Yet the school system was not always totally free of conflict, as one incident illustrated.

Around the first of November in 1905, a citizen presented a statement to the City Council alleging that there were children of African descent attending the public white schools of the city and that the Board of Trustees had not taken any action on the matter.<sup>136</sup> At the time this accusation was presented to the Council, the Board of Trustees was investigating several such charges. In response to the accusation, the City Council passed a



resolution ordering the School Board to appear at a special Council meeting on November 16 to show cause why the condition was allowed to continue.<sup>137</sup> The Board of Trustees chose instead to continue with their investigation, probably thinking that they were the proper authority to handle school matters such as these. They met in an adjourned session on November 15 to receive testimony from several special witnesses who were summoned to appear at the meeting. The special witnesses, who were the six councilmen that had submitted the resolution ordering the School Board to attend the special council meeting, failed to appear, but the Board proceeded anyway, suspending several children, pending further investigation, on the strength of the evidence thus far produced.<sup>138</sup> The School Board also elected to ignore the resolution of the Council summoning them to appear at the special meeting, probably in an effort to show that they could ignore a summons as well as the councilmen could. This rift between the City Council and the School Board lasted for another week, until the matter was settled. The School Board announced after a meeting on November 21 that one suspension was made permanent after indisputable evidence was produced concerning the student's racial pedigree.<sup>139</sup> The other case had become moot, since the family had moved to New Orleans.<sup>140</sup>

Although these incidents show that race relations were not what Christian precepts called for, they were rare. Even today, after 74 years of growth and advancement, race relations throughout the United States and the world are not in their best state. But we of Biloxi should be proud of our accomplishments. The spirit of peaceful co-existence between the races prevails and has even improved. When orders for the integration of the public schools came down from the United States Supreme Court in 1964, the Biloxi Public School System complied with these orders, adapting and changing to meet the new demands. Nothing exemplified the peace-loving, congenial spirit which prevails here better than the fact that Biloxi accomplished the integration of her public schools without any riots, demonstrations, or other acts of violence that accompanied the integration of so many other public schools throughout the South. We should indeed be proud to be the living continuation of Biloxi's great culture, which gave birth to the Queen City of the Gulf Coast.

The 1905-06 school year marked the beginning of another period of growth

in the city and its school system. Professor J. H. Owings reported an enrollment by the end of the first week of 790 in the white schools alone.<sup>141</sup> This large increase in enrollment was anticipated and the teaching staff had been increased to meet the demand. The school system now employed 19 white teachers and two colored teachers at an average salary of \$57.10 per month.<sup>142</sup> This may not seem like an adequate salary, but prices of the day were not exactly what one would call inflationary. At Picard's Emporium, ladies' skirts sold for \$1.50,<sup>143</sup> men's summer suits were \$3.50,<sup>144</sup> and boys' suits were \$1.38.<sup>145</sup> Coal was only \$4.75 per ton, delivered,<sup>146</sup> and four quarts of Hayner's Private Stock Rye Whiskey could be ordered by mail for \$3.20.<sup>147</sup> These were the days when a dollar went far; that is, when a dollar was available.

Even though the school budget had increased, there still seemed to be too little money for expansion of school facilities. The increased enrollment again caused overcrowding in the public schools. Discussions soon began on the feasibility of building additions or rearranging rooms to meet the increased demand for room in the schools. Some measure of relief for the Central High School resulted from the addition of a fourth grade at the Point Cadet School.<sup>148</sup> Prior to this, the children from the school would begin attending the Central School after completing the third grade. The Point Cadet School was the first ward school to expand to primary department and break with the old system. Another development, which unfortunately offset this measure of relief and contributed to the overcrowded condition in the Central High School, was the addition of another grade to the curriculum in 1904. Now there were ten grades, excluding kindergarten, from beginning to graduation. This year there were fourteen potential graduates in Professor Roane's class, the largest number yet to graduate from the public high school.<sup>149</sup>

The public school system had grown in educational as well as monetary and physical terms over the past 40 years. By the early 20th Century, our school system had earned a high reputation throughout the state as one offering exceptional educational advantages. At the beginning of the 1905-06 school term, Professor Owings had to turn away eight pupils (some of whom were children of parents who moved to Biloxi and bought property so their



children could enjoy the city's educational advantages as well as its healthy climate) due to enrollment beyond the schools' physical capacities.<sup>150</sup> This time the enrollment had increased so much that additions to the various schools would not help. It became obvious that a more permanent solution, requiring a substantial outlay of capital, would be needed to remedy the situation. A bright young State Representative from the district saw this need and immediately took steps to meet it. In the early months of 1906, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed a bill introduced by Representative E. M. Barber authorizing the City of Biloxi to issue \$50,000 in bonds for the construction of a central school building and \$25,000 in bonds for the erection of city waterworks. Upon learning of this action, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen became enraged. The Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning the action of the House of Representatives as a surreptitious assumption of power on their part and asking Senator H. Bloomfield from this district to take appropriate action to defeat the legislation.<sup>151</sup> This action of the City Council, however, soon spurred howls of outrage from citizens and civil organizations, as well as the Board of School Trustees. The Board held a special meeting on February 12 to discuss the matter. With the exception of one member, the entire Board supported Representative Barber's action. W. K. M. DuKate, longtime president of the Board, heartily supported the bill, which would finally give the school system its chance to fulfill a long felt need. F. W. Elmer, however, stood firmly against the bill, stating that the present facilities were sufficient and that under existing conditions, the city would not be able to bear the tax burden. Mr. DuKate reminded Mr. Elmer that Biloxi had never paid one cent for her school buildings and stated that an "investment in schools should never be regarded as a burden . . . nothing speaks so well of a city and its progressiveness as its educational facilities."<sup>152</sup>

Other groups soon began rallying against the Council's action. Many felt that the only reason the Council had issued the resolution was because their pride and dignity had been injured by not taking the matter up personally with them first. Finally at a Council meeting attended by all the members, a committee from the Commercial Club, and a number of progressive citizens, the controversy was resolved. The meeting was marked by lively debate between the waning factions. Mayor J. C. Bradford called the meeting to order and W. K. M. DuKate, chairman of the Commercial Club committee, began the session by

describing the inadequacies of the school and the need for larger, better buildings. Reverend VanHook said the schools should be a monument to the city's progressiveness, but instead the buildings used in Biloxi were pitiful when compared with those of other cities. Mr. I. Heidenheim agreed with Mr. DuKate on the need for more room, stating that he had tried to have biology and technology taught in the schools but had failed so far due to lack of rooms and teachers. Alderman Swetman finally voiced the feelings of most of the Councilmen, when he said that he favored education and had no desire to see it wane but it was the methods used to pass the bill that insulted him. It seemed that all but Alderman Glennan would relent. A lively exchange took place several times between Mr. DuKate and Mr. Glennan, spurred by what the Herald described as "a stubbornness, born of injured dignity." Finally Alderman Balthrope suggested that the bill be amended by striking out the provision for the waterworks bonds. The recommendation was acted upon and a unanimous resolution asking Senator Bloomfield to so amend the bill was passed. It was noted that unless a petition from 20% of the taxpayers of Biloxi was presented to the City Council protesting the bond issue, the city would have full authority to issue the school bonds.<sup>153</sup> The petition was never filed, and the city of Biloxi, for the first time in its history, now had official authority to issue city bonds for public school purposes.

Now that the School Board knew that adequate resources were available, they began to work toward the goal of building a new central school. The search began for a suitable lot, and on February 5, 1907, the City Council passed a resolution authorizing the issuance of \$50,000 in city bonds for the purchase of a site and the construction of a new high school building.<sup>154</sup> Overcrowding, however, continued to plague the existing schools. The total enrollment in the white schools alone had reached 1,017 by February, with overcrowding prevalent in all of the schools except the Back Bay School. The Central High School was affected more than any other. When originally constructed in 1888, its capacity was 200 students. The 1906-07 term saw an enrollment of 296 students in that school.<sup>155</sup> The overcrowded conditions again touched the philanthropic spirit of Harry Howard. The City Council received a communication via Alderman Ott stating that Mr. Howard planned to construct a \$3,000 addition to the Point



Cadet School by adding a second story. This would provide some relief to that school, which was as overcrowded as the rest of the schools. But this was not the only donation to come from the Howard family.<sup>156</sup> In March of 1907, Frank Howard donated a large tract of land to the city to use for school and park purposes which ran from Howard Avenue to Back Bay, a distance of approximately 3500 feet.<sup>157</sup> This land would eventually be used as the site for the new Central High School and in the future would provide the sites for the high school gymnasium, the Biloxi stadium, and city housing projects.

Work began on the Point Cadet School, and committees were formed to coordinate other improvement activities. After receiving a request for a colored public school building, the Public Building Committee recommended that the city construct a building on the lot on Nixon Street donated by the colored people for that purpose. The committee further recommended postponing construction until the following fall, when a levy should be passed that would be sufficient to cover the cost of construction.<sup>158</sup> Meanwhile, the old high school was to be moved to another location and continue in use until the new central school was built. This idea was later discarded. Instead, additional land adjoining the West End School and the primary school was purchased to provide room for future expansion and playgrounds for the children.<sup>159</sup> By May, no further action had been taken on the new school. Although Ordinance #391 authorizing the issuance of the \$50,000 school bonds was passed and bids accepted on them,<sup>160</sup> no bonds were ever issued. For reasons known only to the officials at that time and not included in the official record books, the first school bonds and the new school itself would not become a reality until 1912.

The 1906-07 school term had been one of the most successful ever for the Biloxi School System. The 9th annual commencement exercise of the Biloxi High School on June 3, 1907, was both a happy and sad occasion. Eight young women and one young man received their well-earned diplomas from Professor J. H. Owings who, after ten years of faithful and productive service, was leaving Biloxi for other fields. During Professor Owings' ten



years "on the helm of the ship of education" <sup>161</sup> the public school system had grown from a handful of teachers and a few hundred students to a well developed school system employing 25 teachers to instruct an expected 1,600 students. The teachers' salaries had also increased along with the enrollment over the past years. In a report to the City Council, F. W. Elmer, secretary of the School Board, reported that the teachers' salaries would be increased 10% for the coming term, and soon additional teachers would be needed. His report showed that during the past term the school system had employed twenty white teachers at a total salary of \$9,050 to teach 1,162 white students and two colored teachers at a total salary of \$585 to teach 268 colored students. This total enrollment of 1,430 children was the largest in the history of the public school system, yet a higher enrollment was expected for the coming term. This expected increase would in turn demand an increase in the school budget. Mr. Elmer pointed out that the increased expenses could be met by an increase in the school tax levy from 2½ mills to the legal limit of 3 mills without the necessity of calling a municipal election. <sup>162</sup> This recommendation was not favorably received, however, so the school tax levy remained the same. <sup>163</sup>

In 1908, J. M. Young was selected as City Superintendent of Schools. <sup>164</sup> The school year began as it had the previous year, with the buildings still in need of repair. Overcrowding continued, except at the Point Cadet or East End School, which now had a newly constructed second floor. The students of that school had requested Harry Howard to pose for a photograph to be placed in the school. In early February the City Council, taking their cue from the school children, passed a resolution naming the school on Main and Water Streets Harry Howard Primary School #1 and the school on East Howard Avenue Harry Howard Primary School #2 in honor of their donor. <sup>165</sup> The term continued uneventfully and, unfortunately, without the needed expansion. The colored citizens appeared before the Council and again renewed their request for a \$1,000 appropriation to construct a school. The Council promised to provide the necessary funds and also approved a trade of the lot for a more suitable one. <sup>166</sup> In September, the city gave Miss Pinkie Nixon \$75.00 and the colored school lot for another lot on Nixon Street just south of Division Street, to be used for colored school purposes. <sup>167</sup> The construction, however, would again be delayed due to lack of funds. It was



during these years when public funds were scarce that the first Parents' and Teachers' Associations were organized in the white schools.

Prior to 1908, the only school service organizations that were in existence were Mothers Clubs and the Colored Parents' and Teachers' Social. In 1908 the Lopez Parents' and Teachers' Association was organized and later, in 1928, was awarded a prize for being the oldest such organization in Harrison County. The next year, the Gorenflo P. T. A., the Howard II P. T. A., and the Mothers Club of Howard I were organized. These groups worked to beautify the school grounds and buildings by planting shrubbery and trees, provided necessary items such as drapes, supplementary readers, pianos and athletic equipment, and assisted in the Health and Hygiene programs conducted in the schools.<sup>168</sup> Eventually each of the schools organized a Parents' and Teachers' Association which assisted in various ways and developed into the P. T. A.'s of today, whose work still continues to be an invaluable aid to the entire school system.



The colored citizens, represented by Professor E. M. Perkins, the new colored principal, again brought up the subject of the promised appropriation for the new colored school.<sup>169</sup> The city administration was ending its term of office, so it only passed a resolution referring the matter to the newly-elected City Council. The request was referred to various committees until finally action was taken. In April of 1909, a contract was awarded to W. H. Byers for the construction of a colored school building on the lot on Nixon Street acquired for that purpose. The entire cost of construction was \$1,475, but the colored people had already raised \$525, which they donated to the city to apply against the cost.<sup>170</sup> The new colored school was finished by July and insurance placed on the furniture in the building. However, this was the only improvement made in the entire school system that year. The city again was in a period of low finances, and the total school expenditures had dropped from approximately \$22,000 during the 1907-08 term<sup>171</sup> to approximately \$17,000 during the 1908-09 term.<sup>172</sup> Although the Education Committee submitted many reports describing the need for repairs, no major work was done to any other

schools. Portions of the land donated by Frank Howard were rented in 1910 in an attempt to furnish some revenue for educational purposes.<sup>173</sup> So the city and her public schools managed to survive during those lean years as best as possible. The enrollment had again stabilized, so the problem of overcrowding did not aggravate the situation. In fact, the curriculum was even increased in 1911 when the City Council adopted Alderman Heidenheim's recommendation that biology and technology be taught in the city schools.<sup>174</sup> It soon became apparent, however, that conditions would have to change.



### 1910 GRADUATING CLASS

Top Row, Left to Right: PRISCILLA RITCH - FLORENCE HOLLY - KATHERINE JONES  
JUANITA MOORE - KATIE EIKEL - RUBY PICARD

Bottom Row, Left to Right: ALBERT MANGIN - OSBORNE HUNTER - FRANCIS MATHIAS



At the end of the 1910-11 school term, School Board secretary W. F. Gorenflo reported on the bad condition of the public schools. All the schools were in need of some type of repair, and overcrowding was again expected to be a problem. These expectations soon became a reality as shown in Secretary Gorenflo's report at the beginning of the 1911-12 term. In addition to the various repairs that were still needed, especially sanitary work, the overcrowding in the Central High School had reached such high proportions that the Bass Building at the corner of Washington and Main Streets had been rented for use as a school for the overflow of students.<sup>175</sup> Although it was recommended that the building should be leased for the remainder of the term, with an option to lease in future years, it was apparent that the city would have to furnish a more permanent solution. In the midst of this situation, the citizens of Biloxi received more bad news. Frank T. Howard, the man who had so often shown his love for Biloxi and especially her children by his many generous donations to the school system and the city, died on Wednesday, October 24, 1911, at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York.<sup>176</sup> The city and all the inhabitants were shocked and grieved at this news. The City Council sent its deepest condolences to Mrs. Howard and Harry Howard and all the schools were closed on the day of the funeral in honor of Frank Howard.<sup>177</sup> The school children of the city banded together to show their respect and honor for the man whose generosity benefited them all by sending a floral offering to be placed on his grave in New Orleans.<sup>178</sup> Frank T. Howard had contributed much to the development of the Biloxi Public School System during his life and he continued to do so even in death. When his will was probated in New Orleans, it was learned that Frank Howard had bequeathed \$5,000 to the schools of Biloxi for general improvement purposes.<sup>179</sup> This gesture exemplified the spirit of generosity that characterized the public school system at its inception and during the growth.

The sad event of Frank Howard's death, together with the poor conditions of the public schools, may have brought the city leaders to a point of decision. Prior to this time, the need for improvements in the various schools had been a common topic of conversation. Finally, some action was taken. On December 12, 1911, the City Council passed a resolution calling for the construction of a new Central High School and by December 28 notice of the

intention to issue \$50,000 in school bonds to cover the construction cost was published.<sup>180</sup> The school system would finally be getting the relief it had so desperately needed for so long. The construction of this new school would mark two important events. Not only would this be the first major construction undertaken since Harry Howard donated Howard II ten years earlier, but this would also be the first time in the history of the public school system that city bonds would be issued to pay for the construction and furnishing of a school building. Although the city had furnished the grounds for previous schools in some cases, before 1912 no city funds, with the exception of the \$950 spent in building the Colored School in 1909, were used to provide school buildings. Since the maximum bonded indebtedness of the city allowed by law had not been reached yet and no protest was received on the proposed bond issue, on March 3, 1912, the City Council unanimously passed Ordinance #448, the first city ordinance to provide funds by means of city bonds for the construction of a public school building.<sup>181</sup> With the passage of this ordinance, the City of Biloxi and all her citizens took upon themselves the burden of providing free public education to all who desired it.

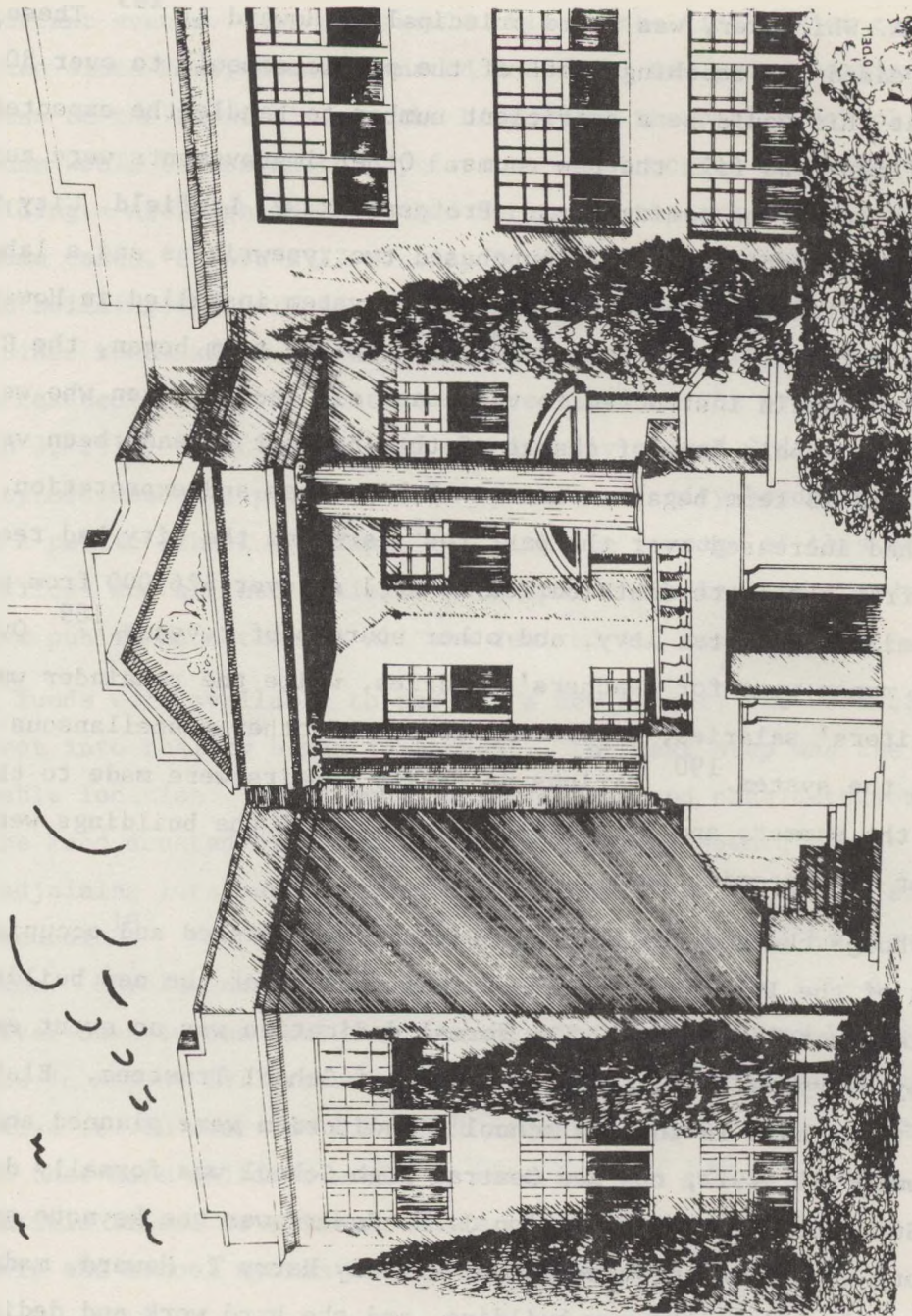
Now that funds were available to pay for a new school, the work of bringing the concept into reality began in earnest. The next step was the search for the suitable location. After much investigation and consideration, a portion of the land donated by Frank T. Howard fronting Howard Avenue and two smaller adjoining lots purchased by the city were chosen as the site for the new school.<sup>182</sup> The decision to construct a new school had come at the proper time. Enrollment was expected to be higher in the 1912-13 term than it had ever been in the past. An enumeration of the educable children of Biloxi done in May of 1912 revealed a total of 3,310 children of school age, an increase of 700 over the last such count.<sup>183</sup> Not only would this increase mean that more children would be entering the public schools, it would also entitle Biloxi to a larger share of the state distribution and thus would help the school system meet its expenses.

All that remained by June was the awarding of the contract for the school building itself. After several contractors had submitted their bids. S. E. Dupree and Son were awarded the contract on their bid of \$43,000.<sup>184</sup> The building was to be completed in 150 working days from June 25, 1912. Now



that all the prerequisites to construction had been done, the School Board returned again to the routine task of preparing for the upcoming school year. Eight additional teachers were employed for the coming year, and one of them, Mrs. M. A. Whittaker, was named principal of Howard II.<sup>185</sup> These new teachers increased the teaching staff of the public schools to over 30. It was felt that this would be a sufficient number to handle the expected increase in enrollment and fill the new rooms. Other improvements were authorized in anticipation of the coming term. Professor R. P. Linfield, City Superintendent of Education since 1911, purchased two typewriters and a laboratory outfit for the schools<sup>186</sup> and had a heating system installed in Howard Primary #1 to replace the old wood heaters.<sup>187</sup> Before the term began, the City Health Officer was again instructed to vaccinate all the children who were to attend the public schools free of charge if they had not already been vaccinated.<sup>188</sup> So the 1912-13 term began on a note of happiness and expectation. The school budget had increased over the past few years and the city had received almost \$7,000 from the state distribution as well as over \$26,000 from poll taxes, the 2½ mill school tax levy, and other sources of revenue.<sup>189</sup> Over \$16,000 of this money went for teachers' salaries, while the remainder was used to pay janitors' salaries, repair expenses, and other miscellaneous costs of running the system.<sup>190</sup> Various necessary repairs were made to the schools during the summer, and by the fall of 1913, all the buildings were in readiness for the upcoming term.

Although the new Central High School was finished and occupied by the beginning of the 1913-14 term, the formal opening of the new building did not take place until November. The formal dedication was an event eagerly anticipated by everyone, especially the Board of School Trustees. Elaborate ceremonies to be held in the new school's auditorium were planned and at 2:30 p.m. on November 14, 1913, the new Central High School was formally dedicated. State Superintendent of Education J. N. Powers was the keynote speaker and he, along with other prominent men, notably Harry T. Howard, made fine speeches praising education, the new building, and the hard work and dedication of the people of Biloxi which had made it all possible. Mr. Howard's speech was directed mainly to the 300 plus students who filled the right side of the auditorium. He spoke to them in a fatherly manner, recalling his own school days and his life in Biloxi among the children's parents and grandparents.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



The speech ended with Mr. Howard asking the children to remember him as a step-father and speak to him when they saw him on the street. Professor Linfield ended the dedication ceremonies with a speech praising the Biloxi School System and its growth over the years. Biloxi had finally entered a stage where the entire city had truly donated a school to the children of the city. It seems appropriate that this event should have been attended by such prominent figures in education and especially fitting that Harry Howard, considered by some to be the "Father of Education" in Biloxi, should be present at such a momentous occasion.<sup>191</sup>

The remainder of the 1913-14 term seemed anti-climactic in the wake of the lavish dedication ceremonies. Routine school work kept the teachers and pupils busy, but some enterprising students found time to report some of their own "school news" in the local paper. One such article tells of the monthly tests, called "only written lessons" by one teacher, current events discussion in senior history classes, and various other day-to-day events in the lives of the school children. One "reporter" related the reason behind a mystery that puzzled all the children on one occasion. It seems that one Monday all the teachers were in very good spirits all day long, an event that verges on the brink of a miracle even today. Upon investigation, an answer that even the school children could appreciate was found for the teachers' odd behavior -- Professor Linfield had gone through the rooms and handed each teacher a pay check!<sup>192</sup> Events such as these were the high marks of the year, at least from the students' and teachers' point of view.



Eventually the much anticipated summer months arrived and the school children once again were out on vacation. The summer was not a time of vacation for everyone, however. During that time, the School Board again set about the task of preparing for the next year.

Additional land was purchased during the summer, and an addition was

built at the Back Bay School in order to provide more room.<sup>193</sup> As the 1914-15 school term drew near, more changes were made in the school curriculum. A department of Domestic Science was established and would be under the charge of Mrs. Estelle Cottman, a graduate in Domestic Science from Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans.<sup>194</sup> This new department would cost practically nothing to equip because of the generosity of several local businesses. The Gulfport and Mississippi Traction Company, the Coast Gas Company, and a number of citizens donated \$1,200 worth of equipment for the new department, consisting of sewing and cooking equipment, and the City Council furnished \$75 worth of cooking utensils to complete the necessary equipment.<sup>195</sup> In addition to these donations, 75 volumes consisting of sets of histories, reference books, fiction, and a set of Kipling's works were donated to the Central School Library by public-spirited citizens.<sup>196</sup> These generous gestures demonstrated the continuing public interest in the school systems of the city.

The school year opened with both the enrollment and the budget increased over previous years. The actual expenditures during the term were a little more than \$32,000, with teachers' salaries accounting for \$18,000 of this amount,<sup>197</sup> and the total enrollment was 1,266 by the end of the first week of the term.<sup>198</sup> Additional rooms were set up in the Central High School and more teachers were hired during the term. Discussions soon began on the feasibility of selling the old Central School building to provide more revenue. The idea was dropped after it was learned that legal arrangements made when the building was transferred to the city prevented the sale. Another solution was soon reached, however, that worked to the satisfaction of all concerned. In November, the city entered into an agreement with W. J. Thomas of the Carnival Association which leased the old school building to that organization for five years at a rent of \$10.00 per year.<sup>199</sup> By this means, the city found a constructive use for the building, while providing support for the newly organized Carnival Association of Biloxi.

In April, Superintendent Linfield invited the City Council to attend the unveiling and official placing of life-sized portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Lazaro Lopez at the West End School in appreciation of their donation of that school.<sup>200</sup> The term ended and school officials were again faced with estimated increases in enrollment for the next term. During the summer



months, an additional room was built at the Back Bay School, additions were built at the Colored School<sup>201</sup> and the West End School,<sup>202</sup> and a "continuous flow of water" was put in at all drinking places at the schools that did not already have such facilities. Although enrollment during the 1915-16 term had reached 1,413, these improvements were sufficient to solve the problem of overcrowding for the remainder of the year.<sup>203</sup> But by September of 1916, Professor Ned Kocher, newly elected Superintendent of Education, had to have a room built in the basement of the Central School to accommodate the overflow of students there.<sup>204</sup> A new principal was also selected for the Colored School in 1916. Professor M. F. Nichols, who had been teaching public school in Ocean Springs, came to Biloxi at the request of representatives of the colored people to assume charge of the school. Professor Nichols brought innovative ideas with him. He raised the number of grades in the Colored School to nine and organized various clubs for the children, such as a garden club, a fishing club, and a cooking club. Eventually, he would increase the school curriculum to twelve grades and conduct commencement exercises.<sup>205</sup> The overall situation in the school system was again declining, and by the end of the term, it had become obvious that overcrowding would again be a problem that could not be solved by temporary measures.

The School Board met in late May to discuss alternative solutions to the problem of furnishing room for the rapidly increasing number of students attending the public schools. The Board finally agreed that a six-room annex should be constructed at the Central High School, together with a gallery for the high school auditorium with an additional seating capacity of 200, and fire escapes, desks and increased heating should also be installed.<sup>206</sup> This recommendation was given to the City Council, which quickly acted on the matter. On July 3, 1917, Ordinance #482 providing for the issuance of \$22,000 in city bonds for school improvement purposes was passed.<sup>207</sup> This second school bond issue was also authorized by resolution, after no petition of protest was presented to the Council. Now that some measure of relief would be forthcoming for the physical problems of the schools, the School Board turned to the problem of providing more teachers. Three new teachers were added to the teaching staff, including another domestic science teacher, and the following individuals were named as principals by Superintendent Kocher

and the School Board: Professor W. T. Harris, principal at Central High School; Mrs. M. A. Whittaker, principal at Howard II; Miss Inez Hall, principal at Howard I; Miss Alma Ritch, principal at Back Bay School; Miss Floy Robbins, principal at West End School; and Professor M. F. Nichols, principal at the Colored School.<sup>208</sup> With the addition of these new teachers, the Biloxi Public Schools' teaching staff numbered 36 white teachers and four colored teachers.<sup>209</sup> The city treasurer's report showed that out of \$40,922.68 spent during the 1917-18 term from the School Fund account, \$23,231.25 went for teachers' salaries alone.<sup>210</sup> The importance of providing protection for the city's school buildings had not been overlooked by the Council. Although insurance had previously been taken out on the various schools, rising prices and the new improvements increased the value of the school system's physical holdings. In order to adequately insure the buildings, the insurance coverage was increased from \$45,700 to \$74,000.<sup>211</sup> Now that the Central High School Annex was complete and the needed improvements were made to the various ward schools, it appeared that the school system was ready to adequately meet the coming school year.

The 1918-19 school year was somewhat uneventful. The new annex and other improvements furnished enough room for the increased enrollment. Biloxi reported 4,409 educable children, which entitled the city to \$11,000 in state distributions.<sup>212</sup> However, this amount, together with the funds provided by the city, proved to be inadequate to meet all the expenses of the school system. In December of 1918, when the city tax levy for the coming year was passed, provision was made for a 5 mill tax levy for school purposes.<sup>213</sup> This measure provided sufficient funds for the school year, with enough left at the end of the term to provide the funds to open a public night school again. On June 2, 1919, at 8:00 p.m., the free public night school was again opened for the working public. The classes met Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights to receive instruction in courses ranging from reading, spelling, and arithmetic to bookkeeping and typewriting.<sup>214</sup> The school was as big a success as it had been in previous years. On the first night of the term, 130 eager students enrolled.<sup>215</sup> Many people were interested in the night school, as demonstrated by the pupils, who ranged from businessmen and housewives with a thirst for more knowledge to children who were trying to catch up before the next school term



started. Interest in the night school was so great that the City Council also authorized a colored night school so that all the city's inhabitants could have an opportunity to improve their education.<sup>216</sup>

This increase in school activity caused a corresponding increase in the cost of running the school system. The School Board's 1919-20 budget request was \$50,715, but \$39,510 of this was earmarked for salaries.<sup>217</sup> The City Council approved this budget but found that more revenue would be needed to provide the necessary funds. Discussion on this subject finally ended with a resolution ordering an election to determine whether the school tax levy should be increased from 5 mills to 8 mills. Apparently the citizens of the city felt that such an increase was unnecessary, so the school tax levy remained 5 mills.<sup>218</sup> This proved to be insufficient, and the City Council again called for an election, this time to determine whether the school tax levy should be increased by two mills. This time the proposed increase was favorably received by the taxpayers of the city and on December 6, 1920, the school tax levy was increased from 5 mills to 7 mills.<sup>219</sup>

The extra funds generated by the tax levy were to be used for general school purposes only. One such use was the establishment of a Naturalization School on Point Cadet in 1920. Miss Margaret Speir, who had joined the Biloxi school system in 1918, was in charge of the school. The purpose of the school was to provide the basic courses needed by the Austrians in the area before they could pass the naturalization test and become citizens. The school, which was held at night from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., only lasted one year, but in that one year it served its purpose. Miss Speir stated that the city leaders wanted her to conduct this school so that the Austrians in the Point could become voting citizens by the next election.<sup>220</sup> This purpose was accomplished and the school was discontinued, never to be re-opened.



The early Twenties was a time of abundance and growth in the United States as well as on the Gulf Coast. The school system had grown beyond any of the early organizers' dreams. In 1921 the school system demonstrated its amenability

to social and political change also. On April 5, 1921, Mrs. E. C. Tonsmeire and Mrs. T. K. Devitt were appointed to the Biloxi City School Board. This was an important move, as well as a very liberal one at that time, because the appointment of these two women gave Biloxi women their first representation in municipal affairs as qualified voters and officeholders in South Mississippi since the Women's Suffrage Amendment was passed. They worked long and hard for the school system and were eventually responsible for having music instruction adopted as a regular course of study.<sup>221</sup>

The school system had expanded at an incredible rate in order to keep up with the rising enrollment. A. L. May, the new Superintendent of Education, introduced some new techniques in the various schools. Miss Margaret Speir was selected as Supervising Principal of the Ward Elementary Schools, leaving Superintendent May free to work primarily in the high school.<sup>222</sup> Miss Speir was instructed to periodically visit the various ward schools and have all the teachers prepare weekly work plans, something that had never before been done by the elementary teachers.<sup>223</sup> The physical facilities of the school system had also expanded, but this was accomplished by piecemeal additions built as the need arose. The new Central High School was the only new major construction done since the turn of the century. By the middle of the 1922-23 school term, it was apparent that the ward schools would no longer be sufficient in their present conditions. The City Council acted quickly and passed a resolution calling for an election to determine whether the city would issue \$100,000 worth of city bonds for the erection of two ward school buildings, the purchase of the necessary grounds, and the construction of additions to the high school and the ward schools.<sup>224</sup> There was a great deal of popular support for the proposed bond issue, so it was easily passed. The bonds were issued and the search for suitable sites for the two proposed schools, one on Back Bay and one on East End, began. Before construction began on the two new schools, it became obvious that the West End School, which had been in use for over 25 years, would also be inadequate for future years. The latest bond issue, however, provided enough funds for only two new school buildings.<sup>225</sup> Confident that the citizens of Biloxi would again respond favorably, the City Council called another election to determine whether additional bonds would be issued.<sup>226</sup> As expected, the bond issue passed, and the additional funds



BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS

Biloxi Central School

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1923

8:00 p. m.



Processional.

Invocation - - - - Rev. John Campbell

Violin Solo—Berceuse, from Jocelyn - George Godard  
Miss Ada Moore

Vocal Solo—The Shadows of the Evening Hour  
- - - - F. G. Rathburn  
Mrs. H. N. Canty

Baccalaureate Address - - - Hon. L. J. Wills

Hymn—Selected.

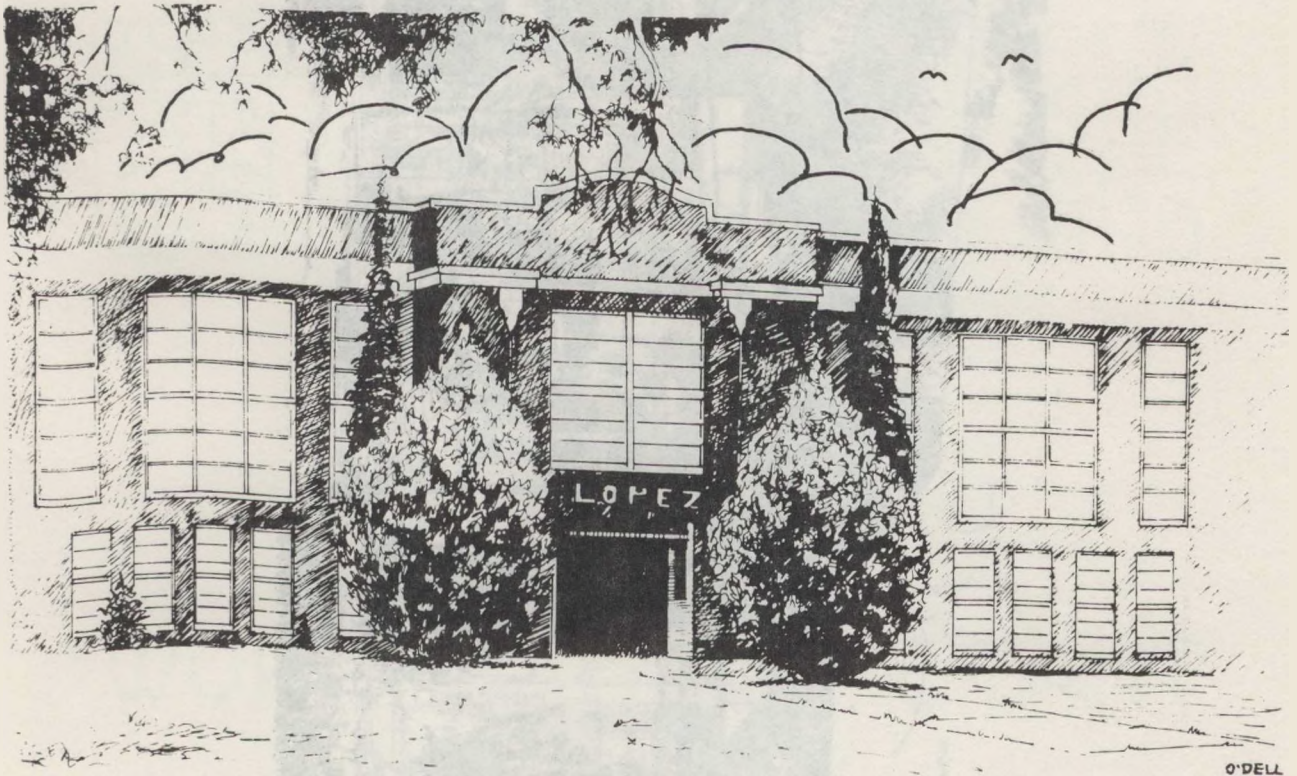
needed to construct a new West End School were soon available.<sup>227</sup> The Board of Trustees found suitable lots for two of the proposed schools quickly. A lot on East Howard Avenue was purchased from Louise Johnson Dorries for the East End School,<sup>228</sup> and the Bradford property on Lameuse Street was purchased as the site for the Back Bay School.<sup>229</sup> These new buildings were indeed badly needed by the school system. The 1923 Harrison County Census showed that Biloxi had 4,674 educable children.<sup>230</sup> This increase of approximately 265 children over the 1919 count was the chief cause of overcrowding in the ward schools. The new buildings would provide more than enough room for future increases.

The contract for the new Back Bay School, which was to be an eight-room building with a brick auditorium with a stucco trimming, was awarded to Collins Bros. of Biloxi on their bid of \$41,474.25.<sup>231</sup> Construction was to begin immediately so that the school would be ready for the 1924-25 school year. On March 12, 1924, the day after the Back Bay School contract was awarded, O. E. Thompson of Biloxi was awarded the contract for the East End School on his bid of \$48,900.<sup>232</sup> According to the building plans, the structure would be an eight-room brick building, containing an auditorium and a basement which was to be used for playgrounds, luncheon buffets, and a bicycle room.<sup>233</sup> With these two structures under construction, all that remained was to award the contract for the new West End School. The School Board had decided to move the school to a new location so construction on it would be postponed until a suitable site could be located. Although the contract for the West End School was awarded to A. C. Sanford on May 14, the site for the new school on West Howard Avenue near Benachi Street was not purchased until June 2, 1924.<sup>234</sup>

The purchase of the West End School site and the construction of the three new ward schools marked the end of an era for the Biloxi public school system. The "old school system" had begun more than 60 years earlier, when the first piece of land was donated to the city for public school use. The old system was characterized by the donation of almost all the school buildings by public-spirited individuals such as Harry and Frank Howard, Lazaro and Julia Lopez, W. K. M. DuKate, and William F. Gorenflo. Now these old

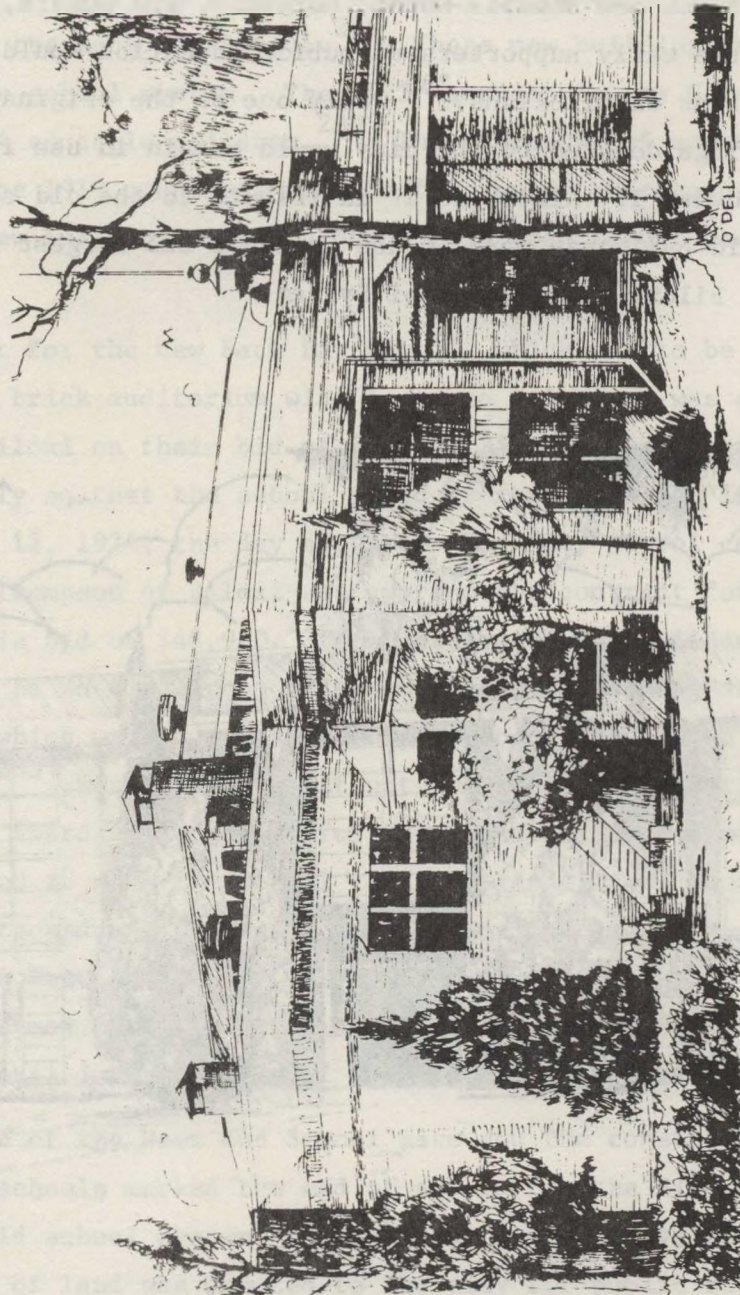


school buildings would be retired from use, but the memory of their donors would live on through the new buildings. Two public schools already carried the Howard family's name, so on September 5, 1924, the Board of Trustees officially named the three new schools Lopez, Gorenflo, and DuKate, so that the generous acts of the early supporters of public education would be remembered by future generations of Biloxians.<sup>235</sup> Only one of the original pre-20th Century school buildings donated to the city would remain in use in the "new school system," Howard I. Almost as if in tribute to the old system, the last year that these old buildings were in use produced the largest graduating class in the history of Biloxi's Early School System.



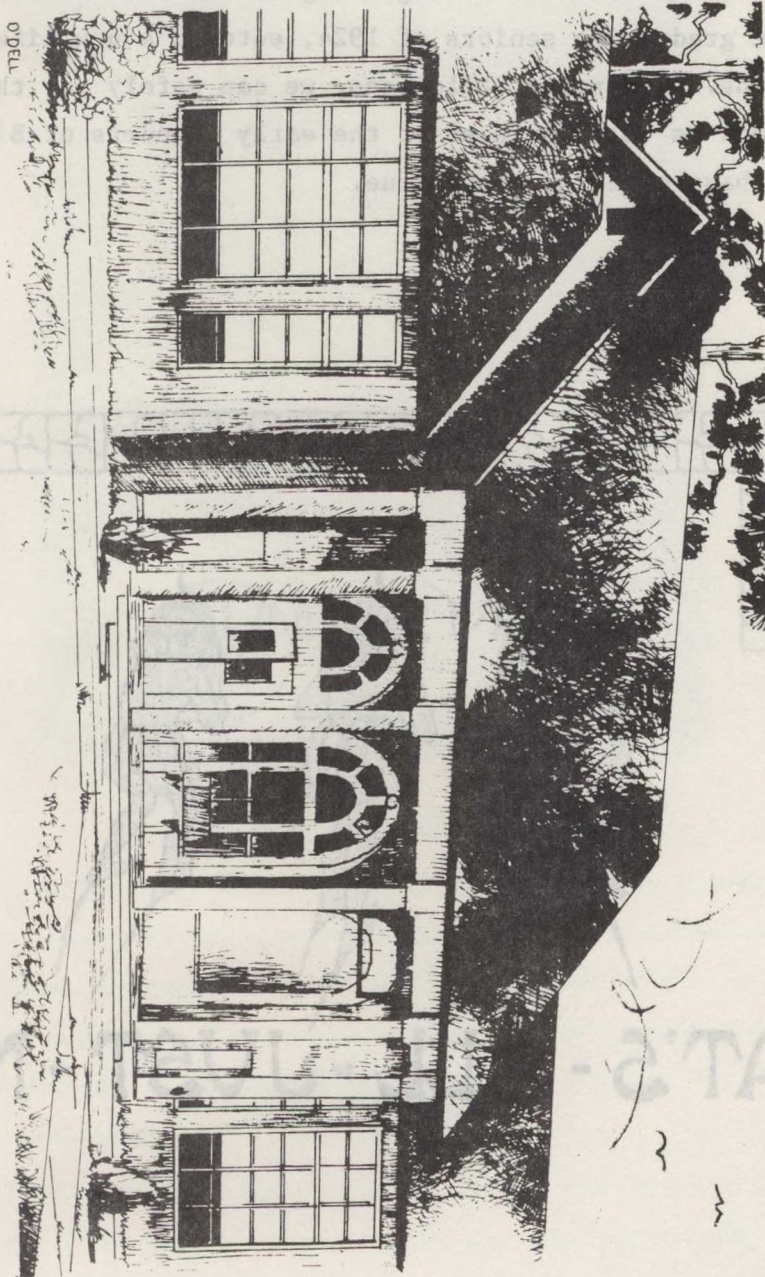
LOPEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





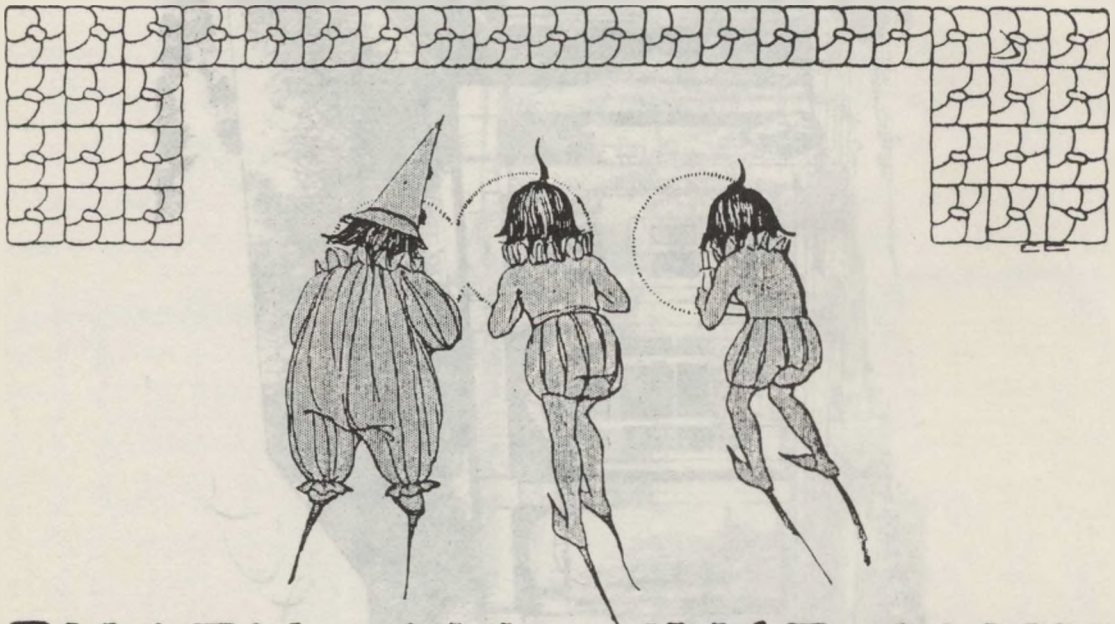
DUKATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





GORENFLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On May 23, 1924, under the direction of Superintendent A. L. May, 53 eager seniors received their high school diplomas and started out on a new life full of dreams and expectations.<sup>236</sup> Their graduation was a fitting tribute to the public school system. It not only marked the end of the old school system, but it also heralded the beginning of our modern school system which, along with the graduating seniors of 1924, entered a new life full of dreams and expectations. As present Biloxians, we can safely say that those dreams and expectations as well as those of the early founders of Biloxi's Public School System have more than come true.



THAT'S - ALL - JUST - NOW

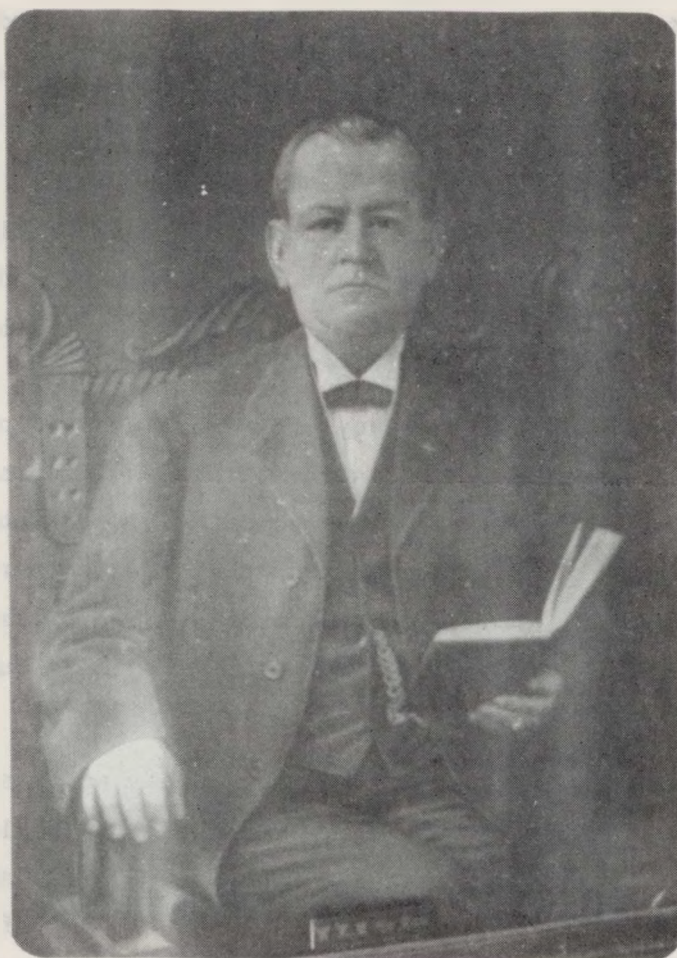


## BIOGRAPHIES

### WILLIAM A. R. SCOTT

William A. R. Scott was born on August 22, 1914, in a small farming community in the northwestern part of the state. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in 1936, and his master's degree in 1938. He spent the next few years in various capacities in the U. S. Forest Service, and in 1942 he joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota. He has since been in charge of the Department of Game and Insect Control, and has also served as Director of the Minnesota Game and Insect Control Commission.

From 1942 to 1944 he served as Assistant Director of the U. S. Forest Service. He then returned to the University of Minnesota where he has since been in charge of the Department of Game and Insect Control. He has also served as Director of the Minnesota Game and Insect Control Commission. He has been a member of the American Society of Mammalogists, the American Society of Zoologists, and the American Society of Naturalists. He has also been a member of the Minnesota Academy of Science and the Minnesota Academy of Natural History. He has published numerous papers on the biology of game animals and insects, and has also written several books on the subject.



### WILLIAM K. M. DUKATE

William K. M. DuKate was born on August 10, 1853, in Fredericksburg, Indiana. He came south in 1875, engaged in the railroad business. He first came to Biloxi about a year later and soon after, on April 27, 1878, he married Miss Linda R. Lienhard of Biloxi. They were the parents of seven children: William, Eula, Elbert, Vera, Ola, Irma, and Beula. William and Eula did not live to adulthood.

From 1879 to 1883 William DuKate was an agent for the L & N Railroad in Biloxi. His first private business venture was his entry into the seafood canning business with Lazaro Lopez, Sr., F. W. Elmer, William Gorenflo, and James Maycock. These men organized the first seafood packing plant on the Gulf Coast, known as Lopez, Elmer and Company. Mr. DuKate traveled to Baltimore to purchase the machinery needed to establish the enterprise. In 1884



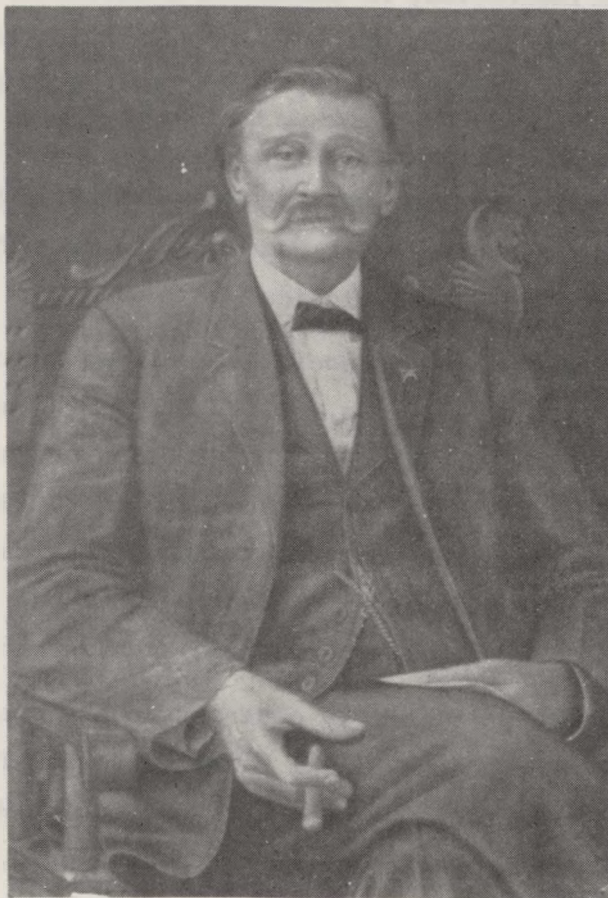
Mr. DuKate and Mr. Lopez withdrew from the firm and joined with F. B. and G. H. Dunbar of New Orleans to form Lopez, Dunbar's Sons and Company. A later firm known as Lopez and DuKate Company became the largest oyster and shrimp packing company in the world.

Apart from his interest in the seafood industry, William DuKate was involved in other business enterprises as well as social and community organizations. At the time of his death he was president of the First National Bank of Biloxi, secretary of the Biloxi Artesian Ice Mfg. Co., and a director in the Columbia Ice and Power Company; the Pearl Realty Company of Columbia; T. J. Rosell Mfg.; and the Gulf Coast Life Insurance Company of Beauvoir. Mr. DuKate was a past president of the Biloxi Board of School Trustees and the Biloxi Commercial Club, the predecessor of the Chamber of Commerce. He was also a member of Biloxi Lodge No. 606 B. P. O. Elks and the Biloxi Masonic Lodge. The DuKate Theatre was built by William DuKate to provide for the cultural development of the community.

One of Mr. DuKate's greatest gifts to the city was his donation of the Back Bay School Building in 1898. Mr. DuKate had the building constructed at his own expense on land donated for that purpose by William F. Gorenflo. When W. K. M. DuKate died on March 29, 1916, at the age of 63, the entire city mourned the loss of a great entrepreneur and philanthropist. On the day of his funeral all the public schools in the city were closed in honor of one of Biloxi's great public benefactors.

#### SOURCES:

Along the Gulf - 1895 - pp. 7 & 8  
Cemetery Records - Book C, p. 7 - Book D, p. 129  
John H. Lang, History of Harrison County, Ms.  
The Biloxi Daily Herald - 11/24/1894, 9/7/1898, 9/10/1898  
The Daily Herald - 3/29/1916  
Twentieth Century Coast Edition - 1902



## WILLIAM F. GORENFLO

William F. Gorenflo was born on June 5, 1844, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. He came to Biloxi at the age of eight. During the Civil War, Mr. Gorenflo served with the Third Mississippi Regiment, Confederate Army, and was in a number of battles, including the siege of Vicksburg. He escaped from Fort Morgan, where he was held prisoner, and returned to Biloxi.

On April 9, 1874, William Gorenflo married Teresa Llado of Biloxi. Seven children were born to them: William, Frank, Henry, Daniel, Alfred, Aline, Ernestine, and Nora Gorenflo. Teresa Gorenflo died on January 23, 1892, apparently in childbirth, at the age of forty-three. Later that year, on July 9, her infant son Alfred also died.

William Gorenflo was one of Biloxi's early pioneering citizens. Along with



Lazaro Lopez, he was probably the first to ship oysters from Biloxi in sacks. After months of experimentation, he developed a method of successfully canning shrimp by inventing new improvements in preserving can linings. On June 13, 1882, he registered the patent of the method with the United States Patent Office.

By 1886 Mr. Gorenflo had his own factory in Biloxi, known as William Gorenflo and Company. He later built factories in Brunswick, Georgia; Houma, Louisiana; and Fernandino, Florida.

William Gorenflo was active in social as well as business areas. He was a life member of Biloxi Lodge No. 606 B. P. O. Elks and was a member of the building committee in charge of the erection of the Biloxi Elks Lodge. He was also a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner. He contributed both his time and personal resources to the building of the Masonic Temple. He was one of the organizers and vice-president of what was to become the First Mississippi National Bank. He also served as an Alderman at one time.

William Gorenflo was particularly generous in the area of public education, serving as a member of the Biloxi Board of School Trustees. In 1898 he donated a section of land on Main Street, upon which W. K. M. DuKate built the Back Bay School. Later, as the need developed, a new school was built on Lameuse Street and named in his honor. For many years the old Back Bay School remained vacant. Since the city had no further use for the old school site and Mr. Gorenflo had never deeded the land to the city, he donated it to the Sisters of Mercy, who eventually established St. John's Parochial School.

On February 17, 1932, William F. Gorenflo died at the age of 89, Biloxians mourned greatly and hundreds of Coast residents attended the funeral. Members of the Knights Templar in uniform were the guards of honor. The student body and the teachers of Gorenflo School lined the sidewalks as the funeral procession passed the school. The same gesture of respect was repeated at St. John's School. Representatives from all the city schools attended the funeral, along with members of the School Board, to honor this generous benefactor of the city and the city school system.

SOURCES:

- Along the Gulf - 1895 - p. 11
- Harrison County Marriages - Book 6 - p. 272
- The Biloxi-Gulfport Daily Herald - 2/17/1932, pp. 1 & 2
- The Herald -- 1/30/1892 and 7/9/1892
- United States Patent Office Copy
- The Biloxi Daily Herald - 2/19/1932



## FRANK TURNER HOWARD

Frank T. Howard was born on May 31, 1855, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the son of Charles T. and Florestille Boullement Howard. In 1861, when Frank T. Howard was six, his family moved to Biloxi and stayed until 1865. Frank later inherited some property his father had purchased on East Beach near the Church of the Redeemer and used it as a summer residence.

Frank T. Howard was educated in New Orleans, then studied three years at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and one year at Renesselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Due to a physical disability, he did not remain for graduation.

Frank T. Howard was an active businessman in New Orleans. Aside from his many interests in several large corporations, he and John H. Pike were partners in the banking and brokerage firm of Pike and Howard. In 1880 Mr. Howard married Emma Corey, daughter of William S. Pike, of Pike Bros. and Company, which was the largest banking house in the South for many years. They had two sons, Edgar Billings and Alvin Pike Howard. Emma Howard died on January 9, 1898. Mr. Howard was later married to Elizabeth Fairchild, daughter of Louis H. Fairchild of Fairchild and Hobson.

The city of Biloxi is indebted to Frank Howard for his many gifts. The Central School Building that was located on Main and Railroad Streets was a gift from him and his brother, Harry T. Howard. He also donated a strip of land running from Howard Avenue to Back Bay to the city for park and school purposes. The Central High School was later built on a portion of this land in 1912. Along with his brother Harry, Frank Howard also donated two of the first artesian wells in Biloxi, located in front of the old City Hall on Howard Avenue.

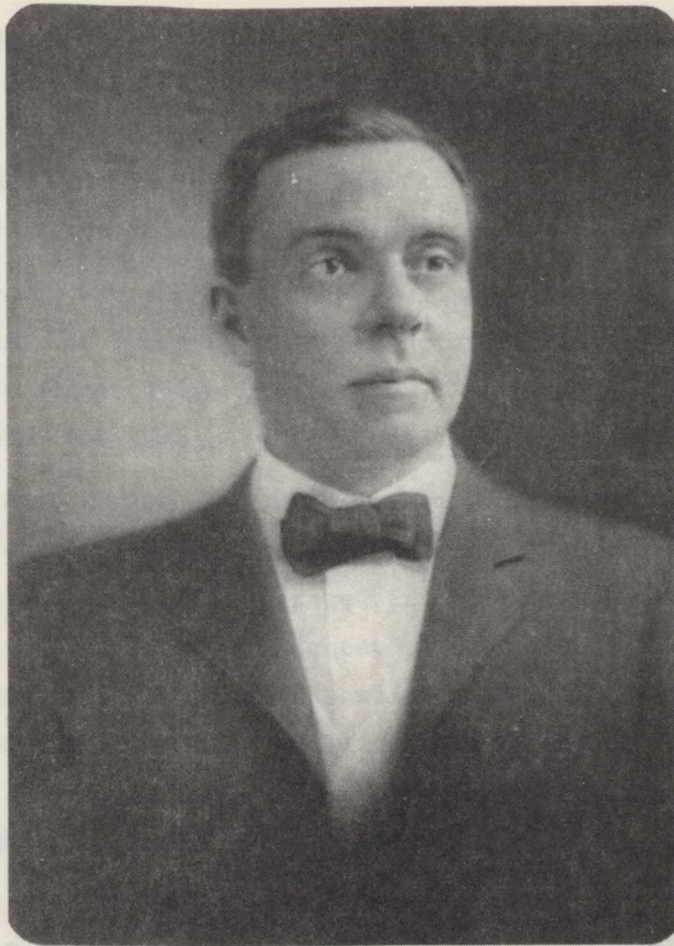
On October 24, 1911, Frank T. Howard died in a New York hospital at the age of 61. The City Council sent telegrams to his widow, expressing the city's deepest condolences. On the day of his funeral in New Orleans, a beautiful floral offering, purchased with contributions from all of the school children of Biloxi, was placed on his grave. All the public schools in the city were closed on this day in honor of one of Biloxi's great public-spirited citizens.

SOURCES:

The Daily Herald - October 25, 1911  
Tulane University Library - Biography (H) - 77178  
The Biloxi Herald - January 15, 1898







HARRY TURNER HOWARD, SR.

Harry T. Howard was born on July 28, 1858, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Charles T. and Florestille Boullement Howard. Like his brother Frank, he was educated in New Orleans and later attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. In 1861, when Harry was three years old, his family moved to Biloxi, where they lived until 1865. After 1865 they spent their time intermittently between their homes in Biloxi and New Orleans. Harry Howard became interested in the possibilities of Biloxi early in his life and soon became quite involved with the city.

After his father's death, Harry Howard and his family spent much of their time in Biloxi, living in a beautiful home he owned on East Beach. In 1877 he and his brother Frank donated to the city the first two artesian

wells, located in front of the old City Hall on Howard Avenue. Harry donated two buildings to the Kings' Daughters for their charitable work, and the Howard family also built the Church of the Redeemer on East Beach.

On February 14, 1884, Harry T. Howard married Florence Jurey of New Orleans. They were the parents of four children: Harry Turner, Jr., Louis Charles, Flores, and John J. Howard.

Harry T. Howard was very active in business, civil, and social areas. In the political field he was Mayor of Biloxi three terms, first in 1889, then in 1896 and 1897. He was also a prominent Mason, being the only past Grand Master of the Masonic Order on the Gulf Coast in Mississippi.

A number of buildings in Biloxi stood as monuments to his love of Biloxi. Along with his brother Frank, in 1886 Harry donated the Main School Building located on the southwest corner of Main and Railroad Streets. In 1898 Harry also donated the Primary School Building on the northwest corner of Main and Water Streets. Still later, in 1902, Harry Howard demonstrated his love for Biloxi's school children by constructing another primary school at Point Cadet. These last two primary schools were later named Howard I and Howard II in his honor.

Harry Howard returned to New Orleans in 1906 and helped organize the Whitney National Bank. At the time of his death, he was vice-president of the bank. In 1919 Harry agreed to sell his residence on the corner of Elmer and East Beach to the Charity Hospital Association in Biloxi. The organization needed a larger hospital for its patients and also for a nurses' training school. The Association had some difficulty in raising the \$15,000 purchase price, so Harry Howard donated \$4,500 toward the cost. In October of 1919 the Charity Hospital Association opened the converted Howard residence as the Biloxi City Hospital.

During the last fifteen years of his life, Harry Howard worked closely with the hospitals for the insane in Louisiana, holding a position on the executive committee of the East Louisiana Hospital for the Insane at Jackson, Louisiana. He gave up his work with this hospital only a year before his death.

On February 19, 1930, Harry Turner Howard died in New Orleans at the age



of 74. The entire City of Biloxi mourned his death. Floral offerings from the Board of Trustees and from the various city schools were sent to his family. The Board of Trustees, the City Superintendent, and the teachers and students of the public schools all sent telegrams to Mr. Howard's widow expressing their grief. All flags at the schools were flown at half mast and memorial exercises were held in each school in respect and honor of the generosity of Harry T. Howard.

SOURCES:

Along the Gulf - 1895 - p. 2

The Biloxi-Gulfport Daily Herald - 2/19/1930

The Daily Herald - October 25, 1911

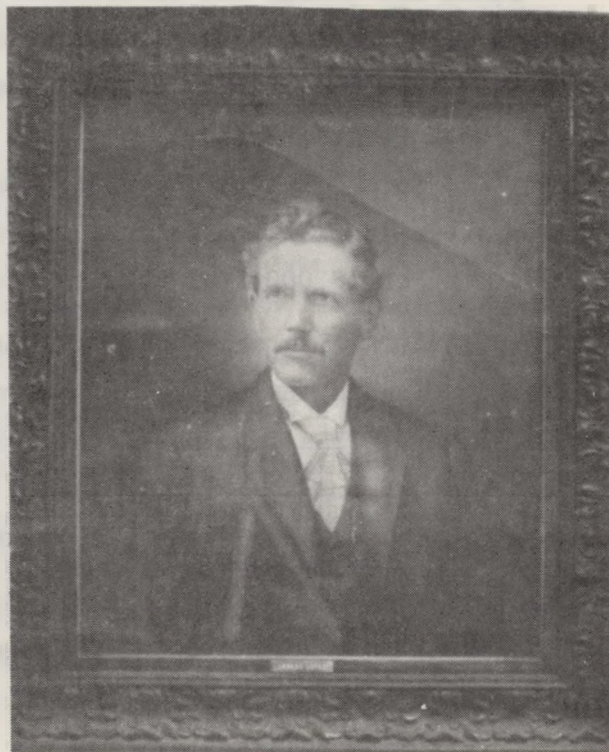
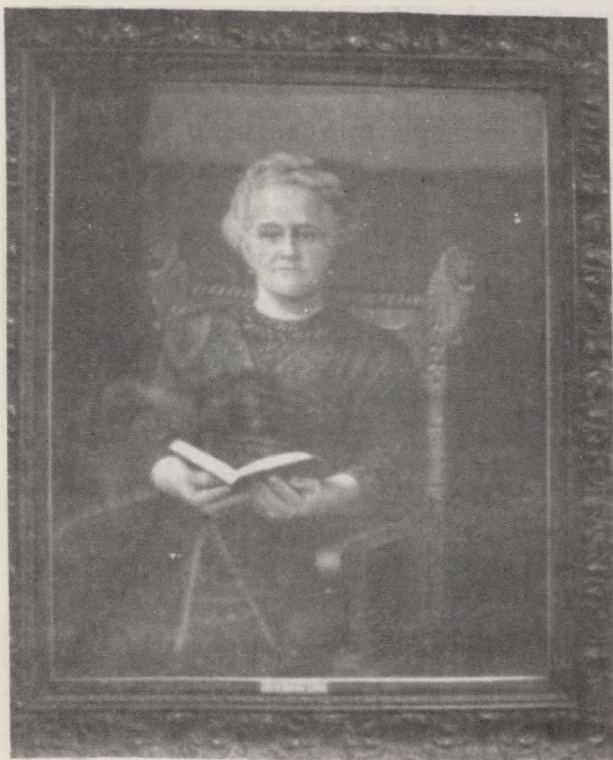
The Biloxi Herald - September 7, 1898

Harrison County Elected Officials - December 1853 through  
December 1914 - Julia Guice - pp. 50 & 65

The Journal of Mississippi History - Vol. XXXIX, November 1977,  
pp. 329 & 330

The Story of Louisiana - Lou R. 976.3D.24 - Vol. 3, p. 557

The Times-Picayune - 2/20/1930, p. 1



### JULIA AND LAZARO LOPEZ, SR.

Lazaro Lopez was born in Aviles, Spain, on October 11, 1850. He received very little education in Spain and at the age of 13 traveled to the New World to seek his fortune. He spent several years in Havana, Cuba, with his brother, Manuel, working with him in his mercantile business. From Cuba, Lazaro traveled to the coast of Texas and later, in 1868, he arrived in Biloxi. When he arrived, he had little knowledge of the English language and was practically penniless.

He married Julia Dulion, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnaud Dulion of New Orleans. She was born on May 25, 1857. Julia's parents came to Biloxi during the epidemic in New Orleans. Mr. and Mrs. Dulion soon opened a grocery store and were very well known and liked in Biloxi. Julia was 15 years of age at the time of her marriage on August 19, 1871. Julia Dulion Lopez was a devout Catholic and a faithful wife and mother. She was well known throughout the community for her many acts of kindness. Lazaro and Julia were the parents of ten children: Lazaro, Jr., Arnaud, Julius, Juanita, Josephine, Clara, Theresa, Erena, Rowena, and Noretta. Juanita, Josephine, and Clara did not live to adulthood.



Using the energy and intelligence which marked all his business ventures, Lazaro soon opened a grocery business on Howard Avenue, known as L. Lopez and Company. The canning of shrimp and oysters was unknown on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1881. That same year Lazaro Lopez joined with F. W. Elmer and formed Lopez, Elmer and Company, the first company to pack shrimp and oysters in Biloxi. The company was started with an initial capital investment of \$8,000 from the members of the firm.

In 1884, Lazaro and W. K. M. DuKate withdrew from the firm and joined with F. B. and G. H. Dunbar of New Orleans to form Lopez, Dunbar's Sons and Company. This firm was later known as Lopez and DuKate, the largest packers of shrimp and oysters in the world. Factories were established in Neptune, Violet, and Rigolets, Louisiana, as well as in Biloxi.

Apart from his grocery and seafood businesses, Lazaro Lopez also held an interest in Biloxi's two ice companies and was a senior partner with his brother-in-law, T. P. Dulion, in the T. P. Dulion and Company department store. He built Biloxi's first three-story building in 1898 to house the company's store on the corner of Howard Avenue and Reynoir Street. Lazaro was also an organizer and director of the Interstate Building Association and an organizer and the first Vice-President of the Bank of Biloxi. He was a director of the first plant in Biloxi to generate electricity, the Biloxi Electric Light Company, and served also as Alderman-at-Large for a number of years. Socially, he was president of the Commercial Club and an active member of the Masonic Order, where he was a Knight Templar.

The public school system of Biloxi benefited greatly from Lazaro Lopez's generous spirit. In 1896, Mr. Lopez donated the Point Cadet School and grounds, located on the southeast corner of Oak and First Streets, to the city. In 1898 Mr. Lopez, along with his wife, Julia, donated the Forest Park School and grounds, which later became known as the West End School, to the city for use as a primary school for children below the third grade. Years afterward, as the need for expansion developed, an elementary school was constructed on West Howard Avenue and named in honor of the Lopez family.

In 1900, Lazaro was chairman of the building committee in charge of rebuilding the Church of the Nativity after it was destroyed by fire. Along with his wife, Julia, he donated the bells in the steeple of the Nativity Church.

In the summer of 1903, Lazaro and Julia toured Europe with their three daughters and one of their sons. While in Rome, after visiting his parents in Spain, Lazaro suffered a kidney failure and died. His body was returned to Biloxi for burial. The entire city greatly mourned his death. Twenty-three committees were appointed to handle all the details of his funeral, and Mayor F. W. Elmer, head of the general committee, was Grand Marshal at his funeral. Numerous expressions of sorrow were received by the family from various organizations, which marched in a body at the funeral.

On October 19, the day of his funeral, all the city schools, public and parochial, and all public and private businesses were closed. His funeral was described by the press as the largest ever witnessed in the state. After Mr. Lopez's death, Julia Lopez donated the stained glass windows above the main altar in the Church of the Nativity in memory of her late husband and children. Mrs. Julia Lopez died fifteen years after Lazaro on June 30, 1918.

#### SOURCES:

Along the Gulf - Wm. E. Myers - 1895, pp. 6, 7 & 15

Booklet on the Church of the Nativity - p. 37

Julian Lopez, Lazaro Lopez, Sr. - pp. 1, 2 & 3

Know Your Coast - Ray Thompson - Biloxi's First Three Story Building - July 5, 1960

Cornerstone, Catholic Cathedral of the Nativity

The Biloxi Daily Herald - December 21, 1889; September 7, 1898; September 26, 1903; November 17, 1923; October 6, 1903; October 17, 1903; July 1, 1918

Harrison County Marriages - Book 6, p. 76

Oral Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Julius Lopez



APPENDIX A

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
 BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

1886	-----	WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Lazaro Lopez James O'Donohue H. J. Meaut
		COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Bernard Cooper Henry Clay Ben Seymour
1887	-----	WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	C. T. Theobald T. Fred McCaleb B. R. Clemens
		COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Henry Clay Levy Smith Eugene Bradford
1888	-----	WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	C. T. Theobald R. G. Hinsdale J. R. Harkness
		COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	E. W. Bradford Bernard Cooper A. Alexander
1889	-----	WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	J. R. Harkness G. E. Parks W. K. M. DuKate
		COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	E. W. Bradford Bernard Cooper A. Alexander
1890	-----	WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	J. R. Harkness H. J. Meaut G. E. Parks
		COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	A. Alexander C. Davenport Wm. Forbes
1891	-----	WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	J. R. Harkness G. E. Parks Ernest Desporte
		COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	A. Alexander C. Davenport Wm. Forbes

1892 ----- WHITE SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- F. H. McCaleb  
 W. K. M. DuKate  
 S. Cazeaux  
 G. W. Wilkes  
 J. C. Bradford

COLORED SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- Not available

Beginning in 1893, a single Biloxi Board of School Trustees was established to handle all school matters.

1893 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- F. Th. McCaleb  
 W. K. M. DuKate  
 S. Cazeaux  
 G. W. Wilkes  
 Th. T. Graves

1894 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- F. Th. McCaleb  
 C. Burton  
 J. Nielson  
 G. W. Wilkes  
 Th. T. Graves

1895 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- F. Th. McCaleb  
 C. Burton  
 J. Nielson  
 Wm. Gorenflo  
 F. W. Elmer

1896 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- G. Hann  
 Wm. Gorenflo  
 F. Th. McCaleb  
 F. W. Elmer  
 J. Nielson

1897 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- D. A. Nash  
 W. K. M. DuKate  
 F. W. Elmer  
 G. Hann  
 J. Nielson

1898 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- J. F. McCormick  
 G. Hann  
 J. C. Carraway  
 F. W. Elmer  
 W. K. M. DuKate

1899 ----- BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES ----- W. K. M. DuKate  
 F. W. Elmer  
 G. Hann  
 J. F. McCormick  
 J. C. Carraway



1900	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	J. H. Miller W. A. White E. C. Joullian W. K. M. DuKate F. W. Elmer
1901	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. A. White E. C. Joullian J. H. Miller W. K. M. DuKate Hy Gorenflo
1902	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. K. M. DuKate F. W. Elmer Hy Gorenflo W. A. White E. C. Joullian
1903	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Louis Bohn W. K. M. DuKate F. W. Elmer W. A. White E. C. Joullian
1904	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	E. L. Suter W. K. M. DuKate F. W. Elmer J. C. Bradford Louis Bohn
1905	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	F. W. Elmer W. K. M. DuKate E. L. Suter J. C. Bradford Louis Bohn
1906	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	F. W. Elmer W. K. M. DuKate E. L. Suter J. C. Bradford Louis Bohn
1907	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Edw. Bragg F. W. Elmer W. K. M. DuKate J. C. Bradford W. T. Harkness
1908	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. K. M. DuKate W. A. White L. R. Bowen J. C. Bradford W. T. Harkness

1909	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	L. R. Bowen W. K. M. DuKate W. A. White J. C. Bradford W. T. Harkness
1910	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. F. Gorenflo W. P. Kennedy L. R. Bowen W. K. M. DuKate W. A. White
1911	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. A. White W. P. Kennedy L. R. Bowen D. J. Gay W. K. M. DuKate
1912	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	L. R. Bowen W. K. M. DuKate W. P. Kennedy W. A. White D. J. Gay
1913	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	L. R. Bowen Chas. Redding G. A. Harkness W. K. M. DuKate W. A. White
1914	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Chas. Redding G. A. Harkness Not Available Not Available Not Available
1915	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	L. R. Bowen Not Available Not Available Not Available Not Available
1916	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	John Latimer Chas. Redding L. R. Bowen Not Available Not Available
1917	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. J. Grant Wm. Gorenflo John Latimer Chas. Redding L. R. Bowen



1918	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. J. Grant Wm. Gorenflo John Latimer Chas. Redding Not Available
1919	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. J. Grant Wm. Gorenflo John Latimer Chas. Redding Not Available
1920	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	W. W. Williams John Latimer W. F. Gorenflo Chas. Redding Not Available
1921	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Mrs. Sue Tonsmiere Mrs. T. K. Devitt Dr. Williams Chas. Redding W. F. Gorenflo
1922	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Mrs. Sue Tonsmiere Mrs. T. K. Devitt Chas. Redding W. F. Gorenflo W. J. Grant
1923	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Mrs. Sue Tonsmiere Mrs. T. K. Devitt W. F. Gorenflo W. J. Grant E. L. DuKate
1924	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Mrs. Sue Tonsmiere Mrs. T. K. Devitt W. F. Gorenflo W. J. Grant E. L. DuKate
1925	-----	BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES	-----	Mrs. Sue Tonsmiere Mrs. T. K. Devitt W. F. Gorenflo W. J. Grant E. L. DuKate

SOURCES:

Biloxi City Minute Books  
Board of Education Minute Books  
The Daily Herald

## APPENDIX B

TEACHERS' SALARIES FROM SELECTED YEARS  
IN THE  
BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

1887	C. D. Lancaster - principal		\$65.00/mth
	Mrs. S. Booth		30.00/mth
	Miss T. Walthal		30.00/mth
	Miss Rosenberg		25.00/mth
	Miss J. Henley		25.00/mth
1888	C. D. Lancaster - principal		\$60.00/mth
	Mrs. S. Booth		35.00/mth
	Miss T. Walthal		30.00/mth
	Miss E. Holley		30.00/mth
	Miss M. T. Rodenberg		25.00/mth
	Sylvonie Leon - principal (colored)		35.00/mth
1896	Miss G. A. Powell	11 days	\$11.00
	J. M. Taylor	teacher 1 mth	118.00
	Miss J. Santini	teacher 1 mth	40.00
	Miss J. Santini	teacher 2nd mth	40.00
	J. A. Burns	teacher 2nd mth	40.00
	Miss R. D. Andrews	2nd mth	40.00
	Mrs. S. Booth	2nd mth	40.00
	B. B. Taylor	2nd mth	40.00
	E. G. Smyly	2nd mth	40.00
	Miss M. T. Rodenberg	2nd mth	40.00
	Miss Edna Holley	2nd mth	40.00
1902	Prof. J. H. Owings		\$120.00/mth
	Prof. L. Partridge		100.00/mth
	Miss E. Holley		45.00/mth
	Miss L. Warren		45.00/mth
	Miss J. Enochs		45.00/mth
	Miss R. Cowan		45.00/mth
	Miss F. Morrow		45.00/mth
	Miss M. Brooks		45.00/mth
	Miss S. Hall		45.00/mth
	Miss C. Robbins		45.00/mth
	Miss M. Lack		45.00/mth
	Miss M. Hann		30.00/mth
	J. A. Burns		40.00/mth
1922	Mrs. Fred Burgess		\$95.00/mth
	Miss Florence Holley		110.00/mth
	Miss Abbie Mae Johnson		100.00/mth
	Mrs. Ruth Dawson		95.00/mth
	Miss Otta Belle Izard		100.00/mth
	Miss Ethel Arguelles		110.00/mth
	Mrs. Delphine Holloway		105.00/mth



1922	Miss Mabel Smith	95.00/mth
cont'd	Miss Clara Smith	95.00/mth
	Mrs. Harvey Greene	100.00/mth
	Mrs. L. P. Gaudet	100.00/mth
	Miss Evelyn Child	95.00/mth
	Miss Gertrude Edwards	110.00/mth
	Mrs. R. R. Dowse	95.00/mth
	Miss Priscilla Ritch	110.00/mth
	Miss Ione Dulion	110.00/mth
	Mrs. M. L. Hoffman	95.00/mth
	Miss Veronica Lacaze	110.00/mth

1922 - Colored teachers' salaries

M. F. Nichols	\$100.00/mth
Mrs. Fannie Nichols	65.00/mth
S. E. Palmore	65.00/mth
O. B. Morris	65.00/mth
Augustine Alcina	60.00/mth
C. M. Strong	60.00/mth
Leona Doyle	50.00/mth

1924 - High School

Miss Ellington	\$125.00/mth
Miss Cunningham	177.77/mth
Miss Sanders	125.00/mth
Miss Johnson	125.00/mth
Mr. Penglase	200.00/mth
Miss Clower	125.00/mth
Miss Porter	150.00/mth
Mrs. Michel	110.00/mth
Miss Bowen	110.00/mth
Mrs. Roof	110.00/mth
Miss Still	110.00/mth
Miss Llado	110.00/mth
Miss Watkins	125.00/mth
Mrs. Greene	105.00/mth

Howard School

Mrs. Gaudet	105.00/mth
Miss Edwards	110.00/mth

West End School

Miss Grayson	110.00/mth
Miss Land	110.00/mth
Mrs. Grayson	110.00/mth

Back Bay School

Miss Priscilla Ritch	110.00/mth
Miss Harvey	95.00/mth
Miss Lacaze	110.00/mth
Miss McShane	95.00/mth

East End School

Miss Holloway	110.00/mth
Miss Smith	100.00/mth
Miss Izard	105.00/mth
Miss Arguelles	110.00/mth
Mrs. Burgess	100.00/mth
Miss Holley	110.00/mth
Miss McLane	95.00/mth
Miss A. M. Johnson	105.00/mth

New Teachers

Mr. A. L. May, principal/High School	250.00/mth
Miss Marguerite Dacey, High School	100.00/mth

SOURCES:

Biloxi City Minute Books  
Board of Education Minute Books  
The Daily Herald



APPENDIX C

Sunday, August 26, 1979

Dear Mrs. Guice:

Following is the information I spoke to you about.

The first school house in the Fourth Ward, now the Gorenflo district, was a one-room school on the corner of Lameuse and Bradford Sts., where St. John's Church is today. Principal was Mrs. Ed Booth. When this room got too small, Mr. William Gorenflo donated the land for a new school on Main St., called the Back Bay school -- principal was Mrs. Cowan for a number of years -- then Miss Winnie Gorenflo for a few years until she was sent to Howard No. I. When she was transferred, Miss Alma Ritch was made Principal.

Mr. John Kennedy, our Mayor, and Mr. M. L. Michel, came to see my husband and me (J. P. and Stella Trochesset), to see if they could acquire our land, so they could have another entrance on Lameuse St. for a beautiful school. My husband signed the papers and went to the rest of the neighbors. The city informed us they would move us to other lots.

After they left, I thought of all the moving, and giving up my pecan trees and fruit trees, so decided to go see Mr. John Bradford, as he had mentioned to me the week before at my home, he was interested in selling. (Mr. Kennedy told me I was instrumental in getting the Gorenflo School there). Through my suggestion, Mr. Bradford immediately went to the City Hall and made a deal with the city -- the sight of the present Gorenflo School.

Trust this information will be of some help to you.

Sincerely,

Stella Trochesset  
2926 W. Beach

CLASS PICTURES

1914 - 1915

SCHOOL TERM

1914 - 1915















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-1915 Howard Ave





## FOOTNOTES

1. Harrison County Deeds of Trust, Book 9, p. 226.
2. Margaret Brielmaier Shimkus, private interview with authors, Biloxi, Mississippi, August 9, 1979.
3. The Biloxi and Gulfport Daily Herald, January 17, 1929, p. 14.
4. Zan L. Skelton, Jr., The Biloxi Public Schools - a History - 1866 to 1969, pp. 7 & 8.
5. The Press, Brielmaier Sash and Blind Factory, March 31, 1977, p. 11.
6. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, April 5, 1886, p. 11.
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Ordinance #22, April 3, 1888, p. 77  
Ordinance #24, June 9, 1888, p. 80
14. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, October 29, 1886, p. 33.
15. Reports of the State Superintendent of Public Education - 1880-1881, p.8.
16. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, September 5, 1887, p. 100.
17. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, October 10, 1887, p. 109.
18. The Biloxi Herald, May 19, 1888, p. 8.
19. The Biloxi Daily Herald - 20th Century Coast Edition, 1902.
20. The Biloxi Herald, September 7, 1898.
21. The Biloxi and Gulfport Daily Herald, January 17, 1929.



22. Julia Cook Guice, The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey.
23. The Biloxi Herald, March 10, 1888, p. 8.
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26. The Biloxi and Gulfport Daily Herald, October 16, 1967, p. 9.
27. The Biloxi Herald, June 23, 1888, p. 8.
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36. The Biloxi Herald, March 10, 1894, pp. 1, 4 & 7.
37. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, Ordinance #50, September 3, 1890, p. 277.
38. The Biloxi Daily Herald, December 6, 1890, p. 4.
39. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, November 3, 1890, p. 286.
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41. The Biloxi Daily Herald, May 30, 1891, p. 4.
42. The Biloxi Daily Herald, September 12, 1891, Ordinance #59, p. 4.
43. The Biloxi Daily Herald, November 14, 1891, p. 1.
44. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, July 7, 1891, p. 330.
45. The Biloxi Daily Herald, December 5, 1891, p. 1.
46. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, December 7, 1891, p. 349.

47. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, January 4, 1892, p. 350.
48. Harrison County Enumeration of Educable Children - 1892.
49. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 2, August 1, 1892, p. 10.
50. The Biloxi Herald, April 28, 1894, p. 8.
51. The Biloxi Herald, August 25, 1888, p. 1.
52. The Biloxi Herald, June 2, 1894, p. 1.
53. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 2, October 1, 1894, p. 108.
54. The Biloxi Herald, December 8, 1894, p. 8.
55. The Biloxi Herald, May 4, 1895, p. 8.
56. The Biloxi Herald, May 18, 1895, p. 1.
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58. The Biloxi Herald, November 9, 1895, p. 8.
59. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 2, 1894-1895 school term report, p.106.
60. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Books 2 and 2½, 1895-1896 school term report.
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63. The Biloxi Herald, October 3, 1896, p. 1.
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66. Harrison County Enumeration of Educable Children - 1896.
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68. The Biloxi Herald, Ordinance #54, March 21, 1896, p. 8.
69. City of Biloxi Minute Books, Book 1, Ordinance #54, Section 2, March 16, 1896, p. 13.
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71. The Biloxi Herald, September 19, 1896, p. 4.
72. The Biloxi Herald, November 21, 1896, p. 8.
73. The Biloxi Herald, October 3, 1896, p. 1.
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