

History of the City of Pascagoula

1539 - Legendary visit of a priest from the DeSoto expedition to the Indians at the mouth of the Pascagoula, which resulted in the first "Mysterious Music" legend.



The Fort is Oldest Building in the Miss. Valley
Now known as the Old Spanish Fort

1730 - Franz Von Krebs, rumored to be an Alsatian nobleman, bought land near La Pointe and married La Pointe's daughter Marie Jeanne.

1768 - The George Gauld map of **1768** shows anchorages in Krebs Lake, just north of a complex labeled "Krebs Plantation."



House built by Valentine Delmas, ca. 1814, From St. Pascagoula

1800 - Valentine Delmas arrived from Dominica

1810 - West Florida rebelled against Spain and declared themselves to be the Republic of West Florida. The Bonnie Blue flag waved over Pascagoula for 74 days

1811 - January 02 - the United States flag said to have been raised at Pascagoula

1812 - May 14 - Pascagoula and Biloxi Parishes were added to the Mississippi Territory
December 18 - Jackson County documents signed as part of the Mississippi Territory

1817 - Mississippi granted statehood



Louis A. Frederic de St. Ferol
Early School Master, Postmaster
Surveyor of Pascagoula Streets

1820 - Engineer Louis- Frederic de St-Ferol, employed by the Delmas family, opened the first school in Pascagoula.

1836 - First Round Island Lighthouse placed into service

1838 - Sawmills began to emerge along the Pascagoula River



The Business that Brought the South back into Prosperity

Logging Scene near Pascagoula

1842 - The Krebs family has a small commercial shipyard on their property

1861 - January 9 - The State of Mississippi seceded from the Union and became the Republic of Mississippi. Also, 3000 Union troops landed in East Pascagoula and marched to Mobile. Troops retreated due to lack of supplies.

1871 - County seat moved to Scranton from Americus

1874 - Newspaper "THE STAR OF PASCAGOULA" established in Scranton

1699 - April 6 - French Explorers Iberville & Bienville, accompanied by Andre-Joseph Penigault, encountered the name Baye de Pascagoula. Later both Iberville and Penigault ascended the river, and encountered the Pascagoula Indians, establishing a lasting alliance

1727 - Governor Perrier from New Orleans visited the Pascagoula River and heard the "Mysterious Music."

1763 - The area south of Parallel 32 - 28 between the Mississippi River and the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee Rivers (except the Isle of Orleans) was reorganized into British West Florida. Pascagoula was in this colony during the seventeen years of British occupation.

1772 - Bernard Romans was shown a machine constructed by Hugo Krebs which could gin seventy or eighty pounds of cotton a day. A complete description of the machine, which predated Eli Whitney's by 20 years, can be found in Romans "Concise Natural History of East and West Florida." Also reported by Bernard Romans was that the Krebs family built boats in their backyard, however, the shipbuilding industry traces its origins to the Pascagoula Indians who built dug outs.

1805 - The Spanish commandant of the Pascagoula Post armed the villagers against the invasion of an English corsair sitting off the coast

1810 - December - West Florida came under the jurisdiction of the United States by annexation to the territory of Orleans, having been declared by President Madison to be part of the Louisiana Purchase

1811 - January 04 - General Claiborne of the Territory of New Orleans created the Parish of Biloxi extending from the Pearl River to the Bay and River Biloxi, and the Parish of Pascagoula to extend from the River Biloxi to Bayou LaBatre, later extended to the Perdido River

1812 - British occupied nearby Horn Island hoping to reclaim their territory; however, New Orleans was their ultimate goal.

1829 - Valentine Delmas and Louis-Frederic de St Ferol began to lay out the streets that were to make up old Pascagoula

1838 - On February 9, 1838 Pascagoula was incorporated as a municipality (the charter was revoked just before the Civil War)

1839 - Captain John Grant, a native of Baltimore, came to Pascagoula from Mobile, and dredged the East bank of the Pascagoula River, resulting in the development of the area as a deepwater port.



Capt. John O. Grant
(Father of Port of Pascagoula)

1845 - A school was opened in association with the East Pascagoula House and advertisements suggested parents bring their children "and keep them at this school and give them the benefit of pure air and genuine salt baths."

1863 - A company of 160 black Union soldiers fought their way to East Pascagoula Hotel. They were later forced out by troops from Mobile.

1870 - The railroad superintendent, Scranton, is said to have been confused by the proximity of East Pascagoula (along the Beach) and West Pascagoula (now Gautier). Rather than add to the confusion with a third Pascagoula, he supplied his own name to the station;
November - The New Orleans, Mobile & Chattanooga Railroad began service to Pascagoula (Scranton);
Also, a depot and a Western Union station erected on Delmas Avenue

1872 - Scranton Post Office established with Cadmus H Alley as Post Master



Old Scranton Courthouse
Was located S.W. Corner of Delmas & Magnolia

1875 - March 1 - 2nd
Courthouse burned

1877 - A Mobile newspaper noted that at Pascagoula alone (including Moss Point) there are some twenty first-class sawmills and this busy port ships annually between thirty five to forty million of (board) feet, the large portion of it to Europe, and in its bay is always quite a fleet of vessels. Besides the timber and lumber business, the "steamers and the elite of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama come to Pascagoula to enjoy its recuperative healthfulness and natural offerings."

1879 - 3rd Courthouse completed; June 4 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis addressed the Mississippi Press Convention in Pascagoula; Lumber shipments from the Port of Pascagoula over the past four years averaged 45 million board feet per year

1882 - The community's first bank chartered by W H Bumble

1891 - Peak year of the lumber boom when 170 million board feet were cut in the area, making Pascagoula second only to Pensacola in the number of board feet shipped from a Gulf port. Vessels flying flags of Great Britain, Norway and Sweden as well as the United States could be seen in the port. Shipments commonly went to Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa. A large number of lumber shipments were also made by rail; Five to six passenger trains were bringing visitors daily to Pascagoula.

1896 - East Pascagoula incorporated as a town; Southern Bell Telephone offering service to general population



Trolleys on Krebs Avenue, Pascagoula

1903 - Pascagoula Street Railway and Power Company inaugurated a streetcar line that ran from on the West end of East Pascagoula Beach, down Farnsworth (then called Commerce), up Pascagoula Street to Krebs, where it went into town, with a loop near the depot. It continued up Pascagoula Street, past its barn, and North to Dantzler Point in Moss Point, and then to the Dantzler Shipyard. Anderson Park was established to provide amusement for the increasing number of visitors; It was a show place for the trolley company electric company, featuring the wonders of electricity, and had a restaurant, open air theater, pavilion and bathing pier

1918 - International Shipbuilding Company opened a plant in Pascagoula. Homes were built to entice workers to bring their families

1924 - The concrete seawall was built



1929 - Building The Seawall.

1940 - June 8 - Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation, which went on to become Mississippi's largest single employer, launched the world's first all welded ship the EXCHEQUER

1948 - War Memorial Stadium built



Pascagoula Football Team - 1919
Front row, l-r: "Black" Perry, James P. Morris, James Higgins, J. C. Young, Fritz Brash, Frank J. Courtney, Otto Claborn
2nd row: August P. Blalock, Abraham, Monty Richards, Walter Grant, G. P. Wilkes
(Capt.), Mic Morgan, Dab Herson, Edger Hall, T. Glassner Cowan.

1956 - The Jackson County Port Authority was created and purchased thousands of acres for the Bayou Cassotte Industrial Park

1962 - Standard Oil Refinery went on line, joining Mississippi Chemical Company and HK Porter (site now part of the Chevron complex) in the Bayou Cassotte Industrial Park

1968 - Lipps Propeller Company, now part of Rolls Royce, located on Industrial Road

1984 - Naval Station Pascagoula located on Singing River Island built.

1875 is considered to be the beginning of the development of the modern port. That year Congress appropriated \$100,000 for a lighthouse, a customhouse, and dredging of the harbor, and declared Pascagoula a Port of Delivery
First public school, Scranton Academy, opened at the corner of School and Pascagoula Streets

1878 - Name of newspaper changed to "DEMOCRAT STAR". The local paper reported that business at local shipyards was good, with recent launches including two schooners at Pol & Frenz's, a barge at Smith's, and a schooner at Irving's Shipyard. The Gulf Coast's first shrimp cannery was built in Pascagoula in 1878, by which time, the towns fishing industry was well established



P. K. Mayer - Journalist
Owner of The Democrat Star

1882 - The community's first bank chartered by W H Bumble

1886 - Scranton incorporated as a town; A single telephone line was established between Captain Castner's house in Pascagoula and Denny & Company in Moss Point

1893 - Replacement for Scranton Academy opened; Sanborn map of Scranton illustrated five mills. The Farnsworth Mill was one of the largest. The map illustrates only two shipyards: P Blanchard and AG. Frenz. Other banks opened during this period included the Merchants Bank, Pascagoula National Bank, Merchants & Marine Bank, and People Bank of Pascagoula



Farnsworth Lumber Co. Office - Pascagoula
Where Quaker Oats stands at River

1899 - There were several theaters and halls for concerts, the largest being the 705 seat Odd Fellows Hall and the 400 seat Smith Hall. Pascagoula became known as "the best show town between New Orleans and Mobile."

1904 - Scranton and East Pascagoula consolidated as City of Pascagoula with a population of 4,063. The city guide listed two banks, two newspapers, eighty-eight businesses and twenty professionals. New Beach School opened corner of Washington Avenue and Buena Vista

1909 - Lake School opened on Kell Street, corner Pine

1921 - The Pascagoula Street Railway & Power Company was shut down as the automobile had replaced the demand for mass transit; The great fire devastated most of downtown, destroying twenty-five businesses and twenty five homes

1939 - New Pascagoula High School opened on Pascagoula Street



PASCAGOULA HIGH SCHOOL
1929
1st row: Noel Burns, Camille Evans, Catherine Grant, Eva Goff, Cora, Nell Kell, Agnes Wadsworth, Lynd, Edmund Jans
2nd row: Alva Krebs, Edith White, Frances Jane, Cora Belle Grant, McGrath, Loretta, Fran, Nell, Susan, Grace
3rd row: Albert Blalock, Clarence Clinton, Katherine Varnado, Arthur Olsen, Travis White, Thomas Stout.

1941 - 1944 Maritime Administration built 5000 homes and barracks for shipyard workers due to the shortage of housing in the area

1953 - Eastlawn Elementary School built

1961 - Ingalls family sold the shipyard to Litton Industries

1967 - Ingalls West Bank, on the west bank of the Pascagoula River constructed

1969 - August 17 Hurricane Camille, the post powerful storm recorded to date, came ashore at Pass Christian, and evoked havoc over the entire coast including Pascagoula

1997 - New Pascagoula High School Opened