

# Happy Birthday!

# Biloxi 325

## Celebrating Biloxi for 325 years

On Feb. 13, 1699 Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville and 14 men landed on the mainland at present-day Biloxi. This makes Feb. 13, 2024, the 325th Birthday of Biloxi.

1699-2024

## Fun Fact: Mardi Gras Day this year is Biloxi's 325th birthday

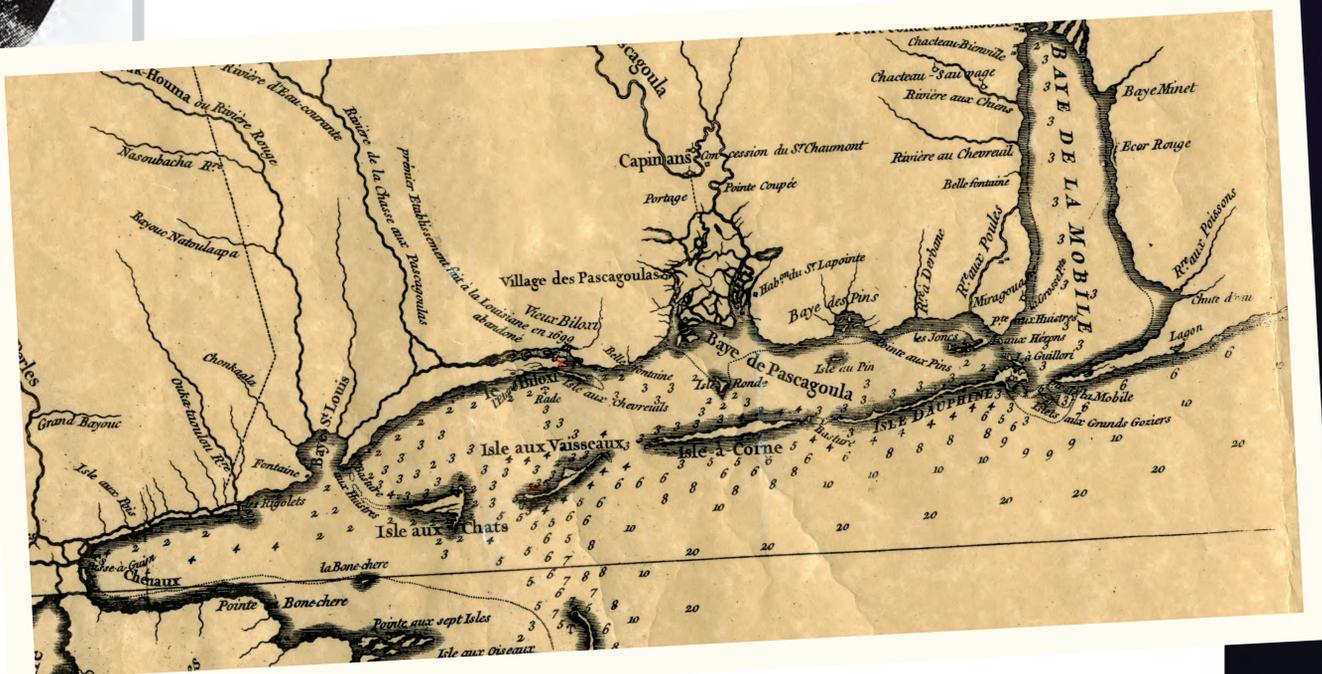


On September 5, 1698 Iberville's expedition left La Rochelle, France. Iberville arrived at Ship Island on February 10, 1699. On February 13, Iberville and 14 men landed on the mainland at present-day Biloxi. After several days the French became friendly with the Biloxi Indians. The Biloxi's spoke the Sioux language and most likely migrated from the Northeast. There is some indication that they arrived along the Mississippi Coast a short time before the French.

▲ Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville, soldier, ship captain, explorer, colonizer, adventurer, privateer, and trader was the first person of Canadian birth to receive the French Cross of the Order of St. Louis, France's most prestigious honor.

► A portion of the 1732 French map Carte De La Louisiane shows the sheltered anchorage at the western end of the Isle aux Vaisseaux (Ship Island in English) where the French landed on February 10, 1699.

Credit: Biloxi Public Library



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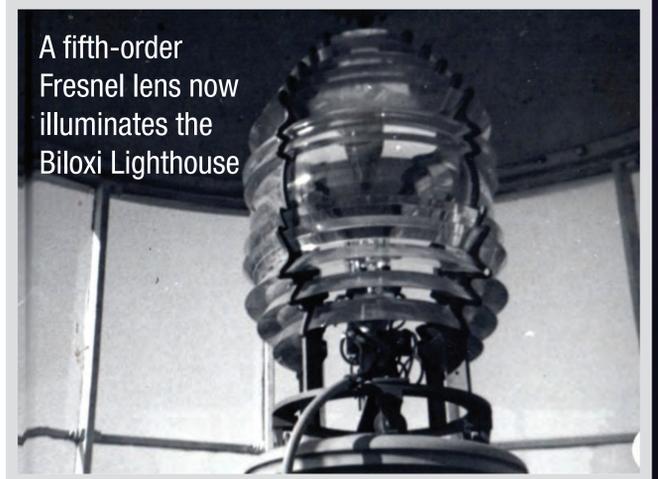
1699-2024

## Fun Fact:

The Biloxi Lighthouse was operated by female civilians for many years.



- The Biloxi Lighthouse was built in 1848 and was one of the first cast-iron lighthouses in the South.
- It is 64-feet tall and located in the center median of Beach Boulevard at Porter Avenue. The only lighthouse in the nation in the middle of a four-lane highway.
- The light was civilian operated from 1848 to 1939, and is notable for its several female lightkeepers, including Maria Younghans, who tended the light for 53 years. In 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard assumed responsibility for the light's operation.
- After being declared surplus property in 1968, the Biloxi Lighthouse was deeded to the City of Biloxi, which eventually opened it to public tours.
- Guided tours are available daily from 9 to 10 a.m., weather permitting with admission of \$5 for ages 12 and older; \$2 for ages 6-11; and free for ages 5 and younger.
- **Lighthouse cam:** It's a live feed streaming 24/7 from the lighthouse. Watch anytime by going to [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us) and clicking on the Lighthouse.



A fifth-order Fresnel lens now illuminates the Biloxi Lighthouse



▲ Maria Younghans



▲ Miranda Younghans

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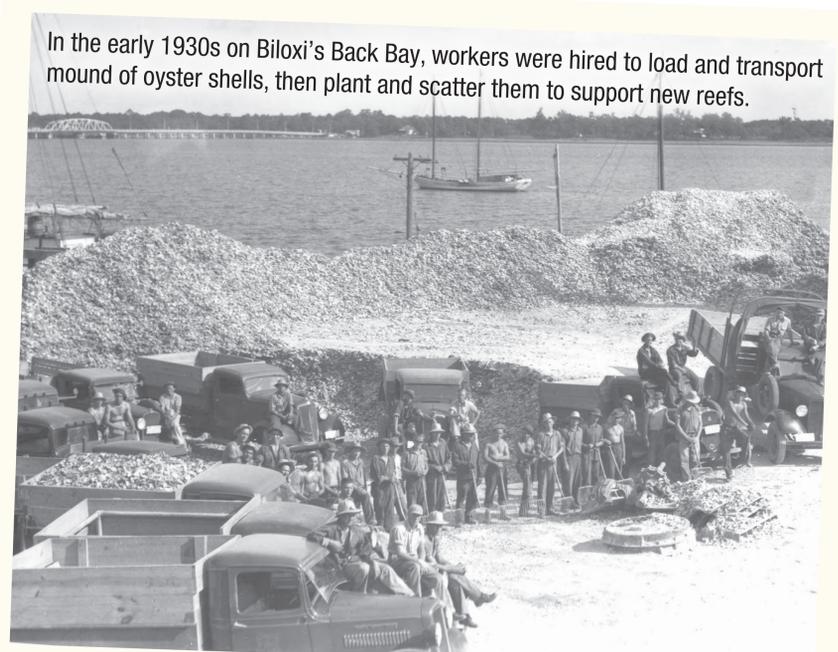
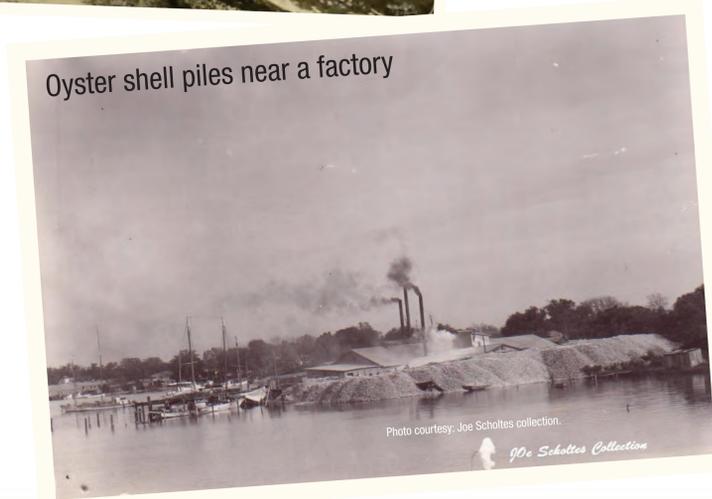
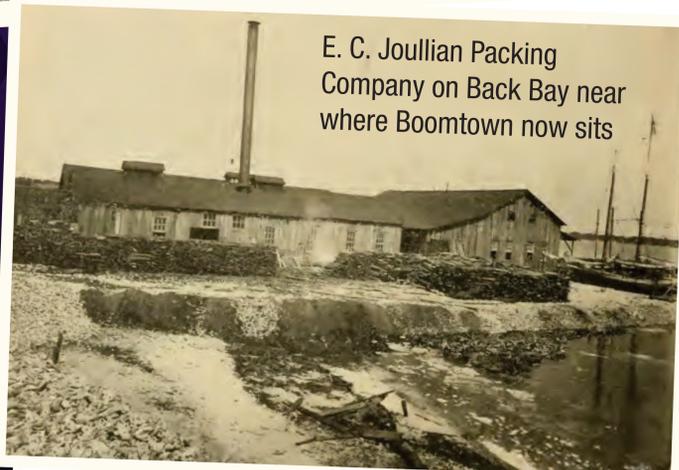
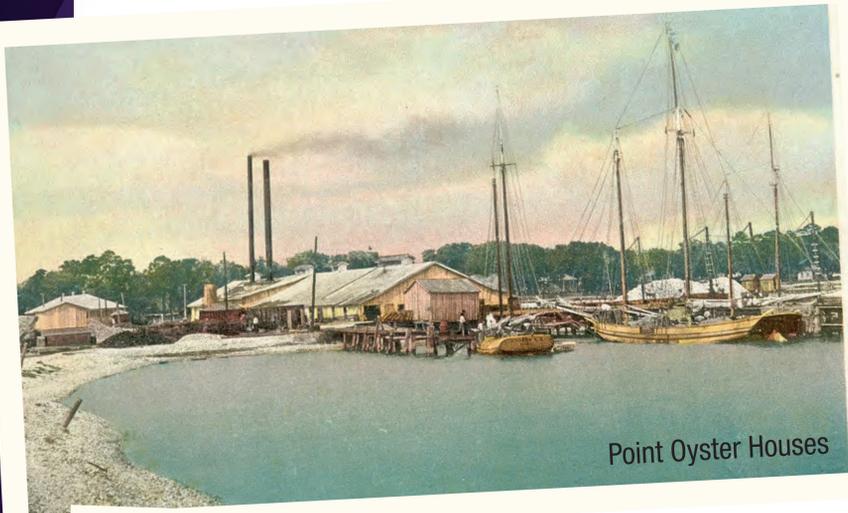
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## Fun Fact: Biloxi was once the seafood capital of the world



- Biloxi's location and abundance of seafood was a prime location for factories and canneries.
- Its location brought in a diverse mix of ethnic groups who traveled to the coast and made a living from the bounty of the Gulf.
- In 1872 the L&N Railroad established the Seashore Camp Ground in Biloxi as a flag stop.
- In 1881 Lopez, Elmer and Company became the first seafood cannery in Biloxi and by the end of the decade four additional canneries were established.
- By the turn of the century Biloxi had become the Seafood Capital of the World.
- In the 1920s there were more than 40 seafood factories occupying the two cannery districts.

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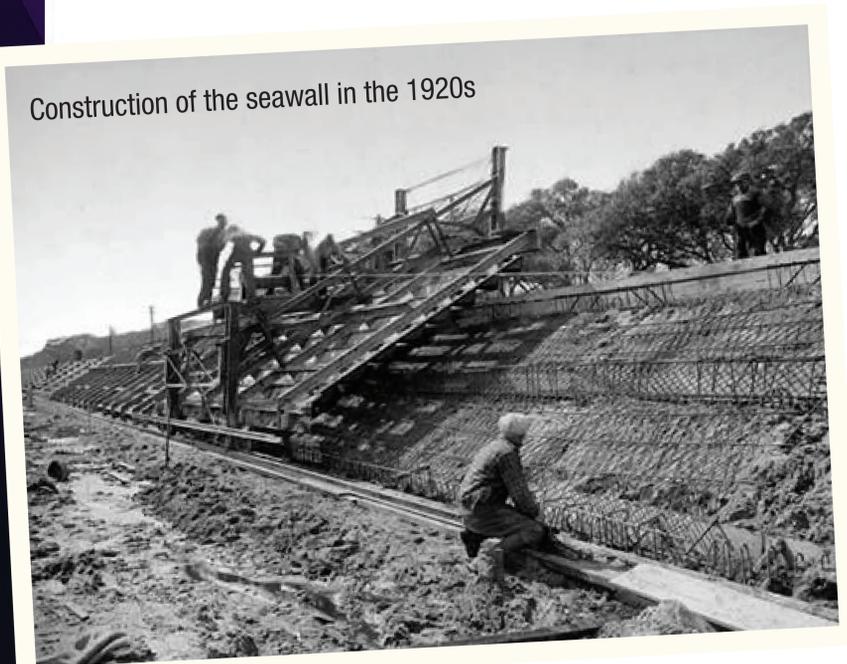
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1699-2024

## Fun Fact: Biloxi has a seawall that runs along the beach



- In the 1920's, the seawall was constructed throughout Biloxi along Beach Boulevard, also known as Highway 90. The sturdy reinforced concrete edifice offered opportunities for crabbing, viewing sunsets, and lots of romantic interludes.
- Hobart D. Shaw was the designer and supervising engineer for the Harrison County project. It was completed in 1928 at an estimated cost of \$3,400,000. It was funded by a gasoline tax.
- A dedication was held on May 10, 1928 and featured movie star Johnny Weissmuller, who play Tarzan and was also an Olympic swimmer.
- These concrete stairs are still along the beach but have been covered up by sand.
- Most recently, they were exposed during construction of the 1-mile, 10-foot-wide walkway between Oak Street and the Small Craft Harbor.



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**FAT TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

# Biloxi 325

**1699-2024**

# Biloxi Trivia

**325TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF BILOXI**

By Jane Shambra

## Who was Biloxi named after and what does our namesake mean?

**Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville**  
He named Biloxi after the first Native Americans that he encountered. Biloxi means "First People."

## What language did d'Iberville speak?

French

## When and where was d'Iberville born?

1661 in what is now Montreal, Canada

## Where is d'Iberville buried?

In Havana, Cuba in 1706

## Which governments represented Biloxi's Eight Flags?

1. France
2. England
3. Spain
4. Republic of West Florida
5. Mississippi Magnolia Flag (1861)
6. Confederate States of America
7. United States Stars and Stripes
8. Flag of the State of Mississippi

## What was the name of the main east/west throughfare in downtown before it was called Howard Avenue?

Pass Christian Road – In 1896, the Biloxi Board of Aldermen changed the name of Pass Christian to Howard Avenue in honor of Charles T. Howard of New Orleans. Mr. Howard was a significant benefactor to the City of Biloxi and the Biloxi Schools.

## Who named the nearby islands, Ship, Deer, Cat?

d'Iberville – The islands were first penned in French on old maps.

## Are any other places named Biloxi?

Biloxi, Miss. is the only city. But, there are two other significant places called Biloxi:

1. The town of Biloxi located in King County Washington
2. Biloxi, TX in Newton County, not far from Beaumont

## When was the Biloxi lighthouse built and of what?

1848 – It is made of cast iron with its interior walls lined in brick.

## When did Biloxi take ownership of the lighthouse?

1968

## Which Biloxi church is "The Fishermen's" church?

St. Michael's Catholic Church

## Where is a statue of our founder Pierre Lemoyne d'Iberville?

Southwest side of the Biloxi Visitors Center – It was designed by Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson for the tricentennial in 1999 and repaired and reinstalled after Hurricane Katrina in 2013.

## What is Biloxi Bacon?

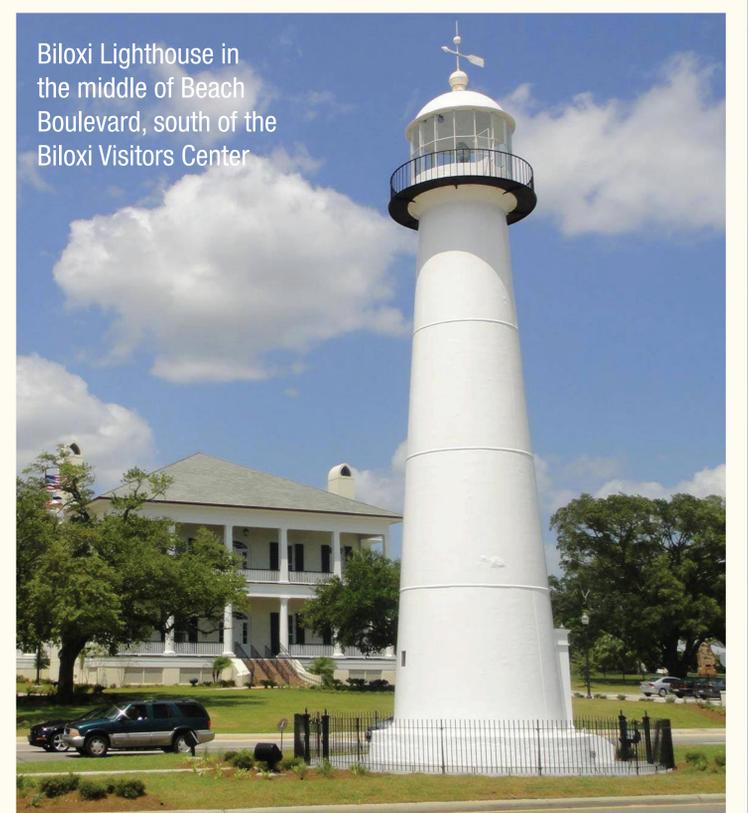
Mullet – Its mass catches saved Biloxians from starving during the Civil War, when there was a blockade of imports to our shores.



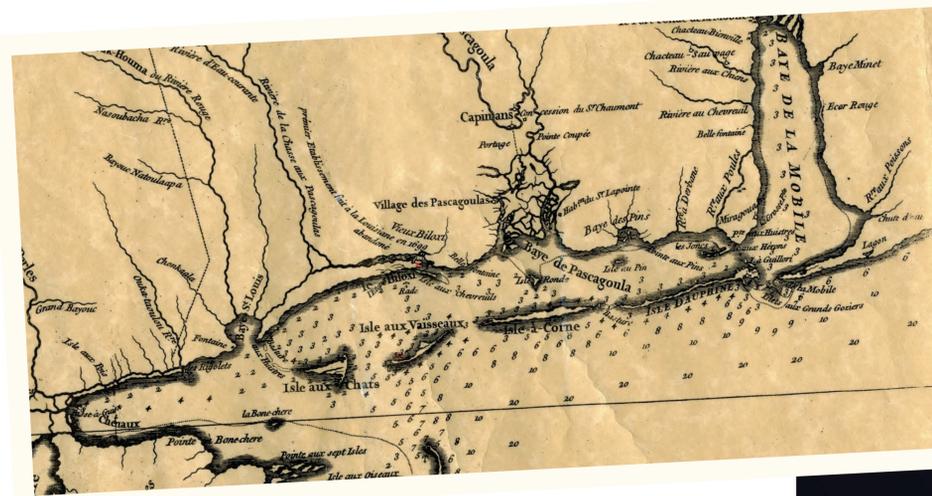
▲ Pierre LeMoyne d'Iberville



▲ 1732 French map of the islands south of Biloxi



Biloxi Lighthouse in the middle of Beach Boulevard, south of the Biloxi Visitors Center



▶ A portion of the 1732 French map Carte De La Louisiane shows the sheltered anchorage at the western end of the Isle aux Vaisseaux (Ship Island in English) where the French landed on February 10, 1699.  
Credit: Biloxi Public Library