



**Media Contact: Cynthia Dobbs Sutton**

1000 Washington Avenue

Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Ph: 228-875-4424 Fax: 228-875-0332

[www.oceanspringschamber.com](http://www.oceanspringschamber.com)

[www.peterandersonfestival.com](http://www.peterandersonfestival.com)

[www.facebook.com/oceanspringschamberofcommerce](http://www.facebook.com/oceanspringschamberofcommerce)

Email: [cynthia@oceanspringschamber.com](mailto:cynthia@oceanspringschamber.com)

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release – April 21, 2017**

**Explores return to Ocean Springs during the 1699 Weekend of Discovery**

(Ocean Springs, MS) - Those who once sailed ashore in 1699 come alive on April 28 - 29 when the 1699 Historical Society re-enacts the annual landing of d'Iberville. The public is invited to partake in a weekend of festivities.

On Friday, April 28, the celebration kicks off with an unveiling reception featuring the landing participants including such local celebrities as Robert E. Hirsch, former Ocean Springs School District Superintendent and fiction novelist, and Alderman at Large, Bobby Cox. The event takes place from 6-8 p.m. at the Ocean Springs Community Center (512 Washington Avenue). Music will be provided by local high school saxophone quartet, Reed it and Weed. Food will be provided by Eat, Love, Drink.

On Saturday, April 29, festivities continue with a 5k run/walk and 1-mile free kids' fun run at Fort Maurepas Park on Front Beach. 5K run/walk begins at 8:15 a.m. and 1 mile free kids run/walk begins at 9 a.m. Late registration starts at 7 a.m.

At 10 a.m., the Discovery Regatta with the Ocean Springs Yacht Club takes place on Front Beach near Fort Maurepas Park, followed by the Krewe of Barkuus Children's Pet Parade at 11 a.m. Pet registration opens at 10 a.m. at Little Children's Park on Washington Avenue, south of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art. The parade will travel down Washington Avenue with a police escort to Marshall Park.

The main event will take place when d'Iberville steps onto the shores of the Mississippi Gulf Coast at 4 p.m. during the annual Landing of d'Iberville Full Dress Reenactment at Fort Maurepas Park on Front Beach. Other activities surround the landing at 3 p.m. Followed by a free concert by Blackwater Brass from 5-7 p.m. at the Fort. For more details on these events, visit [www.1699landing.com](http://www.1699landing.com) or contact organizer Stopher Haug at 228-627-8585.

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