



Gretna Chronicles



Gretna, Louisiana

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Golden Girls of the GHS

By M. Helen Williams

The Golden Girls, Anne!

(Part 2 in a Series of 4)

Anne Escoffier Gauthreaux was married to Everett F. Gauthreaux, an attorney who drafted and filed the papers to legalize Gretna Historical Society on Oct. 26, 1969.

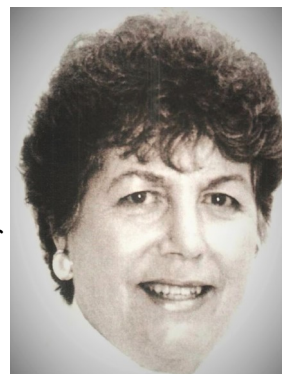
Anne grew up in River Ridge, graduated from Kenner High School and worked as a secretary at the Jefferson Parish Courthouse where she met her husband. They married and had two daughters, Tiffany and Chandel. Tiffany, who lives in Gretna and works at the St. Joseph Church office, is married to Chris Cannon and they have one son, Eli. Tiffany enjoyed telling us about her mom. "Mom worked as my dad's secretary in his law office.



From left, Anne Gauthreaux, Carol Maness, and Patsy Butts, with Elizabeth Schwarz in front.

"My parents were very active in the Gretna Historical Society, as they were in the Jefferson Historical Society, Gretna Senior Citizens Center and the Gretna Food Bank. They also participated in numerous political campaigns.

"Mom belonged to two Mardi Gras organizations, Les Marionnettes and the Krewe of Prometheus. She loved the balls, neither krewe put on a parade. She loved going to garage sales, seeking antiques. She and Mr. Ed Ott shared a love of Depression glass, though she was not the serious collector as he.



Anne Gauthreaux

"Her love of garage sales brings back a memory of us at Oakwood Mall when I was in college. While clothes shopping, I turned to show her a dress I had found, but she had disappeared. I walked all over the store and finally found her crouched behind a sale rack. She pulled me behind the rack and told me to let her know when the lady in the red jacket had left the store. After the lady left we proceeded to leave the mall. When we got to the car, I asked "What happened in there?" She said, "I bought this top at that lady's garage sale and didn't want her to see me wearing it in public." We sat in the car laughing so hard, it was a good 10 minutes before I could breathe to drive home.

"Our friends thought we had the 'Cool Mom.' One of her hobbies was arranging flowers. She made countless corsages and boutonnieres for us and all of our friends for school dances that cemented her place in all of their hearts. Chandel and I consoled our friends as much as we were consoled when mom died. She had endeared herself to many of the girls in the same way most view a special aunt or godmother.

"I will never forget GHS's B.H. Miller Roast that mom chaired. The Four Columns manager said that they had to buy extra dishes and tables because they had never had an event of this size at the Four Columns. My mom knew how to throw a party!" Tiffany said.

Anne Gauthreaux was a tall, pretty lady, quiet and quite talented, who died in 2008. Anne loved to write plays and allowed her work to be used for entertainment in local organizations. When St. Joseph Church celebrated its 150th Anniversary at Family Day, Anne wrote a play that was performed in the auditorium several times, each ending with a standing ovation! She brought her talents, whether artistic or otherwise to GHS with her soft laugh and easy spirit, threaded herself among the three, creating themselves as the Golden Girls.



The President Presiding...

By Sylvia Schwarz, GHS President

Even though our July BBQ was a wash-out, the GHS, as always bounces back! The BBQ has been moved to September. It will be part of our General Membership Meeting on Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. at which our Mayor, Belinda Constant, is expected to speak. The BBQ will be held at the backyard of the White House. It is our hope that our new members will take the opportunity to visit our complex, maybe for the first time!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aug. 11 - General Membership Meeting/ Wine Tasting, 7:00 p.m.
Gretna Cultural Center (Members Only) ***

Sept. 8 - General Membership Meeting/ BBQ, 6:00 p.m.
White House Backyard (Members Only)

Oct. 13 - General Membership Meeting/ Birthday Party, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Auditorium (Members Only)



Oct. 15 - Hook & Ladder Cemetery Tour
Red Maple Restaurant – 1st Tour begins @ 5:00 p.m.
Tickets will be available for purchase on Sept. 1.
Tickets must be purchased prior to Oct.15.

Nov. 10 - General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Auditorium (Members Only)

Dec. 8 - General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Auditorium (Members Only)

*** Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, Aug 10, to help prepare for the Wine Tasting. Please call Judy LeBlanc at 504.362.3854 to volunteer. Pizza will be served to those who come to help.



**Welcome To Our New
Members:**

Edna and George Hepting



Times Past —

By Stephanie Dieterich

Hallowed Ground: Known and Unknown

The earliest cemetery still in use in the Gretna/Algiers area is McDonoghville Cemetery that sits in both Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. Located at the back edge of John McDonogh's plantation, it dates to around 1813 and was originally intended for his slaves. In 1850 John McDonogh became the first white person interred there.

Dating from 1812, the Duverje Family Cemetery in Algiers was known for its beautiful and peaceful setting, gardens and chapel. It was intended for the Duverje family as well as their slaves. The cemetery was located on the triangular area bound by Verret, Seguin and Opelousas Streets until 1916. It is now the Delcazel Playground.



The Duverje Chapel, shown in 1910 at the Duverje Family Cemetery in Algiers.

St. Bartholomew Cemetery, circa 1848, was named after Algiers' first Catholic Church, and St. Mary Cemetery, circa 1866, is named after the present church, Holy Name of Mary. They sit across from each other on DeArmas Street.



The Historical Sketchbook and Guide to New Orleans and Environs, published in 1885, states, "The Cemetery of William Tell Hook and Ladder Company first made a resting place for the dead in 1858 and each year the graves are decorated with care." This Gretna cemetery is now known as Hook and Ladder Cemetery where the annual GHS Cemetery Tour showcases some of its interred residents.

The Historical Sketchbook also says, "The Bisbee Graveyard, as it was once known, is the oldest in Gretna and was named out of respect to the memory of Judge DWF Bisbee who is buried there. It has recently been purchased by the Catholics and called after St. Joseph." Where was this cemetery and why doesn't anyone know what happened to it? It possibly was on Weyer between 6th and 7th Streets. No one really knows for sure.

Did Salem Lutheran Church have a cemetery? A few gravestones were unearthed across the street behind 332 Amelia Street a few years ago. Were they remnants of a cemetery that there is no record of and no one remembers?

There was once a Potters Field at 12th and Lafayette Streets at the David Crocket Fire Station site. Living a few blocks away as a child, Betty Hotard Peer happened to be playing there and decided to bring home a few face masks she noticed on some gravesites. Her mother was horrified and made her bring them right back. Apparently death masks were made to later identify bodies of the unknown. Betty did bring them right back, but wasn't sure if she placed them back on the correct graves!

New Hope Baptist Cemetery and Christian Social Cemetery share the same square at Lafayette Street and the Westbank Expressway, separated by a fence. New Hope is affiliated with the church of the same name at 434 7th Street.

Right across the Westbank Expressway, Popeye's and Shoney's operate their businesses where once stood Old Union Cemetery. What little that is left of the cemetery is now located behind Shoney's on 15th Street.

Mount Zion Baptist Cemetery is the quaint little cemetery at the corner of Weyer and 10th Streets. It is affiliated with Mount Zion Church at 700 Huey P. Long Ave.

What has happened to the dearly departed buried in those cemeteries that are now defunct? Are they still resting in peace?

Gretna Chronicles succeeds the GHS Newsletter and the Gretna Historical Society Newsletter as the official source of news for the general membership of the Gretna Historical Society.

Gretna Historical Society

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Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex

1840s Strehle Family Cottage, 1859 David Crockett
Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Fire Station (now Louisiana Fire
Museum), 1840s White Family Cottage

Gretna Chronicles

is published for the members and friends of GHS

M. Helen Williams, Editor

To submit articles, call Helen at 504.450.8481

(or e-mail mhw500@cox.net)

ABOUT THE GHS AND HOW TO JOIN

The Gretna Historical Society was founded in Gretna, Louisiana, in 1969, by Lloyd E. Gomez (insurance man, volunteer firefighter, and community activist), who descended from Gretna pioneers, German immigrants Claudius and Catherine Nuss Strehle. The Society's articles of incorporation were drafted by Gretna attorney Everette F. Gauthreaux and signed in his law office on October 26, 1969. Today, the GHS operates the Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex at the corner of Lafayette Street at Second. It consists of three 19th century Creole cottages, a blacksmith shop, and the Louisiana Fire Museum. The GHS also owns and maintains the caboose and train depot on Huey P. Long Avenue at Fourth Street.

There are no requirements for membership in the GHS, other than the timely payment of annual membership dues of \$20 per person. Monthly meetings are held at the St. Joseph's Auditorium at 7th and Newton Streets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The society's newsletter, *Gretna Chronicles*, is published monthly and mailed or emailed to all members.

Gretna Historical Society

<https://www.gretnahistoricalsociety.org/>

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