



Gretna Chronicles

Gretna, Louisiana

Volume 33, Issue 10

An Official Publication of the Gretna Historical Society

October 2023

Hook & Ladder Cemetery Tour on Nov. 4

GHS will host the Hook & Ladder Cemetery Tour on Saturday, Nov. 4, that begins with food at the Red Maple, followed by a guided tour through the historic cemetery.

Actors portray those that are buried there, for a taste of history and fun! You pick the tour time that you desire. This is a ticket-only event that sells out very fast. Tickets are \$25 and are now being sold. Go to the GHS Complex office, 209 Lafayette Street in Gretna on Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for tickets. Tickets will be sold at the Oct. 12 meeting, if still available! Call 504-362-3854 for details.



Featured in the tour is the story of the four handsome Peperone brothers who married the four lovely Centanni sisters! Three of the brothers had businesses on 4th Street in Harvey that you might remember, a grocery store, a meat market and a barber shop.

Also on the Tour, visit with Virgie Ott, Gretna's first Tour Director who was responsible for "putting Gretna on the map of tourism" and the founder of the Spring Tour of Homes and the Blacksmith Shop Valentine Day Weddings.

CHILI COOKOFF

on the river

October 28
11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

On the river batture - Main Stage side
ALL THE CHILI YOU CAN EAT!

Entertainment by: **Na Na Sha** Event Sponsor: **GULF COAST BANK & Trust Company**

FOOD · BEER · WINE · RAFFLES · FREE KIDS KORNER

BRING YOUR CHAIRS

\$10

ADMISSION

ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASES WILL BE ENTERED INTO A FREE RAFFLE TO BE DRAWN AT THE CHILI COOKOFF

Advance tickets are sold at:
 Gulf Coast Bank Gretna Visitor Center St. Joseph Church
 All Westbank locations 1035 Huey P Long Ave. 610 6th Street

f CALL 504.458.6562 FOR DETAILS f

OCTOBER
28




Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Gretna, Louisiana
Founded in 1871

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
6pm

Wine/Beer & Cheese Reception Immediately Following

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE OVER 150 YEARS SERVING THE GRETNA COMMUNITY. DONATIONS ARE WELCOME, BUT NOT REQUIRED!

Benefits St. Joseph Restoration

RUMMAGE SALE

at St. Joseph Gym in Gretna
CORNER OF 7TH & NEWTON STS.

Sat • Oct • 21
8 am - 3 pm

SNEAK PEEK SALE

Thurs • Oct • 19
5-9 pm • \$5 per person

For Details call 504.512.0436
associated with Gretna Citywide Yard Sale

Annual Barbecue Dinner – A Tasty Evening at the GHS

With Garland Gaspard manning the barbecue pit, you know the outcome was delicious!

The Annual GHS Barbecue Dinner took place in the Museum Complex backyard, with excellent weather. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings made for an excellent evening with all our friends.



Welcome New Members!

Phyllis Hebert
Martha Hymel
Marie Stinson



Deceased Members 2022-2023 To Be Memorialized at Nov. 9 Meeting

Chris Ziifle	11/07/22
Rodney Camardelle	11/08/22
Sue McCletchie	7/22/23
Marceline Toups	7/29/23
Audrey Ezzo	9/04/23
Sam Krush	9/09/23

CALENDAR

Oct 12 @ 6 pm Annual GHS Birthday Party at GHS Complex Backyard!
Nov 4 Annual GHS Hook & Ladder Cemetery Tour! Ticketed event!
Nov 9 @ 7 pm Membership Memorial Meeting at St. Joseph Gym!
Dec 14 @ 7 pm Annual Christmas Production & Party!



Times Past —

By Stephanie Dieterich

Crime Free 121 Years Ago!

Here’s a check up on local crime as published in a *Times Picayune* article dated June 3, 1902:

JEFFERSON JAIL Empty for the First Time in Its History Not Having Entertained a Solitary Prisoner Since Last Friday, When Ward Was Released.

Jefferson Parish bears the proud record for the past several days of having a vacant jail. The last prisoner who entered the walls was John Ward, the young negro who shot and fatally wounded Millie Williams, also colored, just above the protection levee. Ward enjoyed several days of solitary confinement and was released last Friday. Since then the jail has been empty.

Sheriff Marrero entered his office yesterday morning, while a group of deputies, police officers and other officials were seated around. Jailer Whiteside was in the crowd and his face wore a troubled look.

“What’s the matter, Whiteside?” queried the sheriff. “You haven’t been letting any prisoners escape, have you?” “It’s not the prisoners that’s worrying me just now,” replied the jail keeper. “I’m just wondering if I’m out of a job. There’s not a gosh-darned bird in the cage - not even a “trusty” to keep me company. What I want to know is, how long is this going to last?”

Chief of Police Miller was present at the time, and he was asked how it was that such a sudden era of peace and order had struck the place.

“Don’t ask me,” replied the chief. “It looks as if the law-breakers have gone on a strike to work us all out of our jobs.”

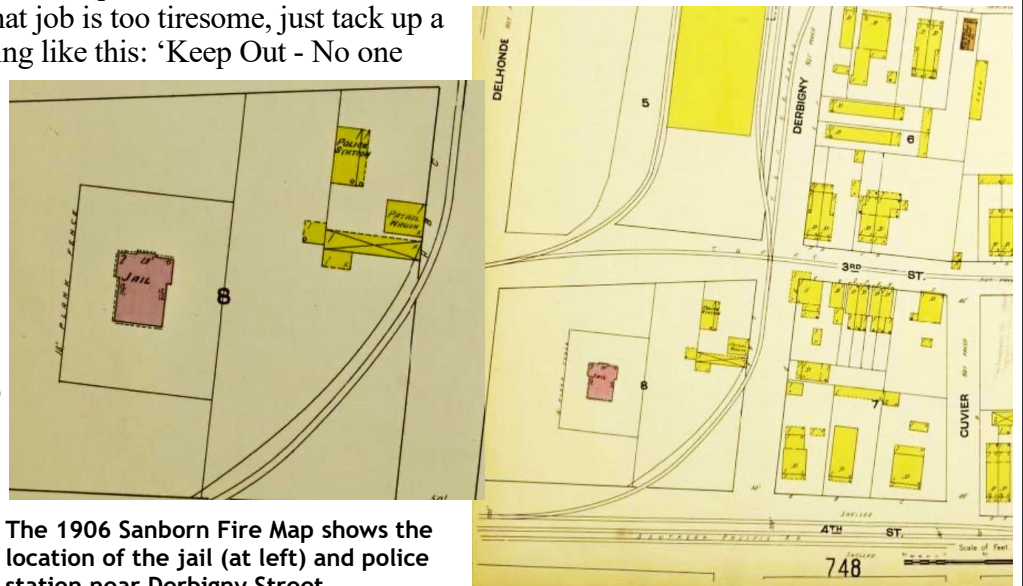
Sheriff Marrero wouldn’t attempt to explain how such an unusual condition of affairs had come over the parish. “It probably forecasts the millennium,” was all he would venture by way of suggestion.

But wonderful as it may be for Jefferson, it is still true - and all her officials are justly proud of it - that the parish jail is absolutely empty for the first time in recorded history.

Sheriff Marrero smiled good-naturedly, as he prepared to look over his morning mail. He cast a side glance at jailer Whiteside’s anxious face. “Whiteside,” he suddenly called, “Well, sir.” the jailer answered. “I think I’ve found something for you to do,” said the sheriff. Whiteside stood still, wondering what the nature of the work was. “Suppose you go up to the jail, arm yourself with a double-barreled shotgun and see that no maliciously-inclined individual attempts to break in,” the sheriff solemnly continued. “Or, if that job is too tiresome, just tack up a sign on the front gate something like this: ‘Keep Out - No one permitted to enter here under penalty of the law!’

When last seen Jailer Whiteside was looking into all the dark corners of the town last night in the hope that before he retired to his room in the jail building he would find some offender whom he could yank along to keep him company overnight.

And still there are some people who say that crime is ever rampant in Jefferson!



The 1906 Sanborn Fire Map shows the location of the jail (at left) and police station near Derby Street.

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

201-209 Lafayette Street
 P.O. Box 115
 Gretna, LA 70054-0115



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 \$25 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/>

P.O. Box 115, Gretna, LA 70054-0115

Phone: 504.362.3854

Email: directoroffacilities@gretnahistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: @GHSGretnaLA

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- Ray Markase.....Vice President**
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