



Gretna Chronicles



Gretna, Louisiana

Volume 29, Issue 03

An Official Publication of the Gretna Historical Society

March 2020

March 12 Meeting – 7 p.m.

For the March General Membership meeting, Ira Hopkins returns with more historic photos of Gretna. He will have a slide show featuring buildings, people, and events from our town's rich history. Some of these photos were part of the recently released German-American Cultural Center's calendar.

Spread the Love!

Please bring peanut butter, jelly, and crackers to the March 12 meeting. The Gretna Food Bank is still in need of shelf-stable food items for the hungry.

February Meeting Mardi Gras Party



Congratulations to Mardi Gras King and Queen Rodney Carmadelle and Allison Livingston. GHS members celebrated the royal court with a second line around the St. Joseph's Gym.



Photo Credit: Pastor Larry Beane

Upcoming Events - GHS Calendar - Save the Date

- Thursday, March 12, 2020 Membership Meeting and Part II of Gretna Historic Photos, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, April 5, 2020 Gretna Spring Tour of Homes, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
- Thursday, April 9, 2020 Membership Meeting and Guest Speaker, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, May 14, 2020 Membership Meeting and Crawfish Boil, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, June 11, 2020 Membership Meeting and Guest Speaker, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, July 9, 2020 GHS Annual BBQ Social at the White house, 6 p.m.

Times Past - Historic Home Feature *by Stephanie Dieterich*



700 Monroe St. before restoration



700 Monroe St. after restoration

The home at 700 Monroe Street is a wonderful example of the highly decorative Queen Anne and Eastlake home style is the McDonoghville residence of Cody Stringer and Meghan Bollinger. They have recently completed an incredible renovation of the historic 1885 home that will be featured on our 2020 GHS Spring Tour of Homes. This is not to be missed!

The Queen Anne style originated in England. It is characterized by asymmetry, vertical massing, shingles, textured surfaces, ornamental woodwork, steep roof pitches, bay windows, towers, stained glass, and wraparound porches. The Eastlake style, named for British furniture designer Charles Lock Eastlake, is defined by its ornate woodwork, including spindles, pierce work, brackets, turned posts and carved sunburst panels.

These home styles swept the nation in the late 19th century. Their hallmark abundance of architectural ornamentation was made possible by the new mass production capabilities of the periods sawmills and the country's fast-growing system of railroads, which transported the affordable building materials from coast to coast.

Spring Tour of Homes 2020

Spring is in the air! Get ready to enjoy the Annual GHS Spring Tour of Homes on Sunday, April 5 from 1-5 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the GHS Museum Complex White House from 1-4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person and include seven historic homes plus historic St. Paul Baptist Church. The tour also includes the five sites in our GHS Museum Complex and the German-American Cultural Center.

The vast variety of home styles this year range from a 900 sq. ft. single shotgun to the beautiful 4,000 sq. ft. Center Hall across from the GHS complex. Styles vary from the simple bungalow to the ornate Victorian.

Homes with history! One home served in years past as a saloon and another as a barber shop. The oldest home is circa 1850 while several are circa 1920.

If you haven't taken one of our home tours yet, we encourage you to grab a friend and enjoy!

Lundi Gras Celebration

On Monday, February 24, the City of Gretna celebrated another successful Lundi Gras with Rockin' Dopsie Jr. and The Zydeco Twisters! Revelers packed the Gretna Market Place for this fun-filled event.



Valentine Day Weddings 2020

February 14th was another beautiful day this year as seventeen couples were married and two couples renewed their vows. Special thanks to our volunteers, Janet Parker, Pam and Don Philastre, Missy Smith, Alice and Emile Clouet, Linda Laborde, Kathy Clark, Sylvia and Irvin Schwarz, Terri Lacoste, Rosalind and Bob Herring, Judge Wilty, blacksmiths Tom Verret and Rob Whitehurst, and piper John Rode.

This annual event re-enacts the historical tradition of Gretna Green Scotland, whereby a blacksmith fortifies the couple's wedding vows by striking an anvil. Thanks to Judge Vernon Wilty for bringing balloons and roses.



Kenneth Crawford & Kimberly Bryant pose after saying their vows



The newly married Barry Schexnayder & Jamie McBroom

GHS Dues

Annual dues of \$20 were due starting in January.

Members who have not paid for 2020 will be dropped from the roster and no longer receive the newsletter.

Please mail payment to:

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

New Member Corner

GHS welcomes its new members who have joined since January 2020.

Thanks to Elvia Chauvin, Amy Demoras, Lillian Orgeron, Brenda Allen, Brittany Bellanger, and Gwendolyn Bordenave for becoming supporting members of this growing organization.

St. Joseph's Altar

St. Joseph Church & Shrine, 601 6th St. in Gretna invites all GHS members to attend its St. Joseph Day Altar events.

On Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a Prayer Service at the Altar site in the gym that will be followed by Altar Viewing until 8:00 p.m. (no food served).

On Thursday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m., a special St. Joseph Day Mass will be celebrated in the church by Archbishop Gregory Aymond. After Mass, he will lead a procession to the St. Joseph Altar at 7th & Newton Sts. where the public is invited to eat a blessed meal for free.

This year a special "Restoration Ornament" by local artist Katie Baldwin will be available for \$12 to support the restoration of the church.

Gretna Chronicles succeeds the GHS Newsletter and the Gretna Historical Society Newsletter as the official news source 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

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Gretna Chronicles

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Gretna Historical Society

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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 articles of incorporation for the GHS were drafted by Gretna attorney Everett 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. Guests and prospective members are always welcome to attend the meetings. The society’s newsletter, Gretna Chronicles, is published monthly and mailed to all members.

- Sylvia Schwarz.....President
- James Rolf.....Vice-President
- Allison Livingston.....Recording Secretary
- Helen Williams.....Corresponding Secretary
- Sarah Daigle.....Treasurer
- Stephanie Dieterich.....Historian
- Monica Naquin.....Archivist
- Sue McLetchie.....Parliamentarian
- Judy LeBlanc.....Membership Chairman
- Holly Williams.....Sergeant-at-Arms
- Ray Markase.....Program Chairman
- Garland Gaspard1st Board Member-at-Large
- Chris Ziifle.....2nd Board Member-at-Large
- Terry Lacoste.....3rd Board Member-at-Large
- Dr. Mary Grace Curry.....Historian Emeritus
- Celeste Apostalo.....Publicity Chairman
- B.J. LeBlanc.....Building Chairman