



Gretna Chronicles



Gretna, Louisiana



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January, 2025

Help GHS in this Romantic Way!

By M. Helen Williams

GHS is preparing for the annual Valentine's Day Weddings on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025 and we need all members' help! If you know of any couples who are thinking about getting married in the near future, please tell them about our special event. It's the way to a beautiful wedding without breaking the bank!

They can join the couples that will marry at the Gretna Historical Museum Complex at 209 Lafayette



Street in Gretna. The 'marrying judge,' Jefferson Parish Justice of the Peace Vernon J. Wilty, III, will make everything nice and legal for their lifetime of togetherness as he has done for many.

"We don't do mass weddings, each wedding is an individual ceremony. The Gretna Historical Society members look forward to hosting this special event. It's a fun-filled day that I enjoy very much," Judge Wilty said.

The weddings are scheduled throughout the day. Couples have to call in advance to Judge Wilty's office at 504.364.2760 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. He will give instructions on what to do next.

One necessary requirement for getting married in this setting is for them

to obtain a marriage license from the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court, Marriage License Division in the Government Building at 200 Derbigny Street in Gretna.

Already married couples might want to experience a vow renewal that is also possible at the Blacksmith Shop on Valentine's Day. The vow renewals do not, of course, include obtaining a marriage license, but a time must be reserved by calling the judge's office.

Special certificates and proclamations are issued and many other treats are also in store for the couples. The event is a nice fundraiser for GHS since Judge Wilty generously donates his fee each year to GHS.

The brides and grooms are escorted by the bagpiper to the Blacksmith Shop through the Lover's Arch by the bagpiper in the fashion of weddings in Gretna Green, Scotland, Gretna's namesake. After the rite, the blacksmith will then "seal the deal" on the anvil and offer a toast! A City of Gretna proclamation is read.

So, members, help GHS by suggesting to sweethearts you know to choose a Valentine's Day wedding at the Blacksmith Shop and 'tie the knot' in a classy, romantic, but inexpensive way. They will have very special and historical memories to enjoy each Valentine's Day in the future.



A Fabulous Christmas Production!



Ray Markase, director of the Christmas Production.



Dues Are Due!

Membership dues were increased to \$30 per person for 2025. Dues are due now and can be paid at the January Meeting!!

If you are 85 as of January 1, 2025, you are no longer responsible to pay dues. Please inform Judy LeBlanc at the next meeting.

CALENDAR

JAN 9 @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym. (John Scurich with American Friends of Lafayette will speak on the 200th anniversary of General Lafayette's farewell tour.)

FEB 13 @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym.

MAR 13 @ 6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym.

More Pictures From the Christmas Production



Welcome New Members!

Susan Melancon Blumberg
Mel and Jill Camet
Darian LaForest



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

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M. Helen Williams, Editor

To submit articles, call Helen at 504.450.8481

(or e-mail mhw500@cox.net)

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

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 Complex Gym at 7th and Newton Streets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The society's newsletter, *Gretna Chronicles*, is published monthly and mailed or emailed to all members.

- Lisa LaFrance.....President**
- Ray Markase.....Vice President**
- Sylvia Schwarz.....Recording Secretary**
- Holly Williams.....Corresponding Secretary**
- Sarah Daigle.....Treasurer**
- Stephanie Dieterich.....Historian and Archivist**
- Blaine Daigle.....Sergeant-at-Arms**
- Val Coles.....Parliamentarian**
- M. Helen Williams.....Board Member/Publicity**
- Paul Coles.....Board /Hospitality Director**
- Cheryl AmackerBoard Member/Membership**
- Monica Naquin.....Board Member at Large**
- Judy LeBlanc.....Director of Facilities**