



# JHS Newsletter

An Official Publication of the Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana

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

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

Please join us for our Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m. at the GHS White House for good food, fellowship, caroling, and “entertainment.” Also, please join the Jefferson Parish Historical Commission for the unveiling of a Louisiana Historical Highway Marker commemorating the Marsalis Motel. It was the only one in the area serving African Americans during segregation.

The proprietor, Ellis L. Marsalis, Sr., was well known in Shrewsbury as a community leader, and the father of the famous musician Ellis, Jr. The event is free and open to the public. Marsalis family and friends will be present, along with media, and we hope you will be too.

I also thank our speaker for the August general membership meeting, Dr. Chuck Billings, for his excellent presentation on Duncan Kenner. I also thank Dominic Massa for his wonderful presentation on old New Orleans radio and TV. Despite competition with a Thursday night Saints game, we had a great attendance nonetheless, with plenty of general public present.

Finally, I extend thanks to all participants for our two-day Camp Parapet Day event. Three schools attended on Friday, November 14, along with our usual turnout on Saturday, November 15. Special thanks go to Ed and Marty Ernewein for spearheading such a successful event. We will be extending personal thanks to all who manned the booths and spearheaded the projects, along with pictures from the event, in the January/February newsletter.

## **JOIN US AT THE JHS CHRISTMAS PARTY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 7 P.M., AT GRETNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM COMPLEX**

Please mark your calendar now, and be ready to join us for our annual Christmas Party at the Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex, 209 Lafayette Street, Gretna. As always, there will be lots of good food, good fellowship, equally good caroling, and “The 12 Yats of Christmas.”

by G. Leighton Ciravolo

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## **MARSALIS MANSION MOTEL MARKER UNVEILING ON JANUARY 9**

On Friday, January 9, 2015 at 11 a.m., the Jefferson Parish Historical Commission will unveil its latest Louisiana Historical Highway Marker, which will commemorate the Marsalis Mansion Motel. The unveiling will be at the former site of the motel, Shrewsbury Road at River Road.

In 1944, Ellis L. Marsalis, Sr. (1908-2004) opened a motel at 110 Shrewsbury Road for African Americans at a time of segregation. It was the only motel for people of color in Greater New Orleans, until Mason’s Motel opened in New Orleans 18 years later. Guests reportedly included Martin Luther King, Jr., Adam Clayton Powell, Thurgood Marshall, Amos and Andy, and Ray Charles. The motel was variably known as Marsalis’ Motel, Marsalis Mansion, and Marsalis Tourist Home. It closed in 1986 and was demolished in 1993.

Marsalis served on the Jefferson Parish Republican Executive Committee. Marsalis fathered Ellis, Jr., who, along with his sons, are famous for their contributions to Jazz.

by G. Leighton Ciravolo

## JEFFERSON PARISH HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA PUBLICATIONS MAKE EXCELLENT HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Jefferson Parish Historical Commission and the Jefferson Historical Society have been publishing monographs and notebooks, respectively, since the two groups were established. Perhaps you are not familiar with how interesting the history of the Parish of Jefferson’s people, places, and events truly is! Now is the time to find out and to share it with your relatives and friends.

Books, as you already know, make excellent gifts for all ages for birthdays, Christmas, and other special events. They will be available at the general membership meetings (when held at the East Bank Regional Library) or via mail by using the form on page 4.

Can’t wait? Many of our items are available at the Friends of the Library store at the East Bank Regional Library at 4747 West Napoleon Avenue in Metairie. Call the store at (504) 888-2619 for availability.

By Dr. Mary G. Curry

## MUNICIPAL AND PARISH FLAGS MAKE GOOD CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The Jefferson Parish Historical Commission and Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana are pleased to announce that they have desk-sized 4”x6” flags for Jefferson Parish and the cities of Gretna, Harahan, Westwego, and Kenner and the towns of Grand Isle and Jean Lafitte. Each flag comes with a stand. They will be available at the general membership meetings (when held at the East Bank Regional Library) or via mail by using the form on page 4.



Top, left to right: Jefferson Parish, Gretna, Harahan, and Westwego.  
Bottom, left to right: Kenner, Grand Isle, and Jean Lafitte.



photos by G. Leighton Ciravolo

## TIME TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION AND RENEW YOUR DUES

A SPECIAL DUES NOTICE WILL NOT BE MAILED OUT; THIS IS YOUR NOTICE!

If you are a life member, please complete this form for updating purposes only or send your updated information to [glciravolo@bellsouth.net](mailto:glciravolo@bellsouth.net).

\_\_\_\_\_ I am already a life member and am merely updating my contact information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am RENEWING my membership.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am purchasing a GIFT membership.

Enclosed is my/our application for membership in the Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana and my/our check payable

to "JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA," for the following membership category:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$10.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15.00/year)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contributing (\$25.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Institution/Organization (\$25.00/year)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$100.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$250.00 per individual)

All members, please provide currently correct information here. If a gift membership, provide recipient's information.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary e-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary e-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If a gift membership, name of person giving the gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to the Jefferson Historical Society, and mail check with this form to the Jefferson Historical Society, PO Box 113014, Metairie, Louisiana 70011-3014. **If you are ordering publications from the reverse page, you may combine both payments onto one check.**

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### SAVE THE DATE

The annual Founders' Day Banquet will be on Saturday, February 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at Chateau Golf and Country Club. Kenner Mayor Mike Yenni will be the speaker.

# JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA

## Merchandise Order Form

Quantity	Cost Ea.	Notebooks
_____	\$1.00	Vol. 1 No. 1: The Great Mace-Allen Fight:
_____	\$1.00	Vol. 1 No. 2: Jefferson Parish's Gallic Roots
_____	\$1.00	Vol. 2 No. 1: A Tribute to Derbigny
_____	\$1.00	Vol. 3 No. 1: Carrollton: East Jefferson's Last Lost Property
_____	\$1.00	Vol. 4 No. 1: Lady Liberty: America's Image
_____	\$4.00	Vol. 6 No. 1: Seven Oaks Plantation: A Lasting Legacy
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 6 No. 2: Jefferson Parish Courthouses
_____	\$4.00	Vol. 7 No. 1: On Cane and Coolies
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 8 No. 1: Jefferson Parish Sheriffs
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 9 No. 1: Jefferson Parish Clerks of Court:
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 9 No. 2: Remembering Hurricane Betsy
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 10 No. 1: Jefferson Parish Assessors
_____	\$3.00	Vol. 11 No. 1: Avondale-Waggaman: The Legacy of a Family and Its Land
_____	\$3.00	Vol. 11 No. 2: Conrad Albrizio's "Industries of Louisiana"
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 11 No. 3: Jefferson Parish Coroners
_____	\$5.00	Vol. 12 No. 1: Terrytown: A New Residential Concept
_____	\$3.00	Vol. 12 No. 2: Pierre A.C.B. Derbigny: Frenchman Rose to Prominence in Louisiana
Quantity	Cost Ea.	Monographs
_____	\$5.00	I: Placenames of Jefferson Parish
_____	\$10.00	II: Grand Isle on the Gulf: An Early History
_____	\$10.00	III: The Public Schools of Jefferson Parish before the Civil War
_____	\$10.00	V: The Administration of the Public Schools since the Civil War (1860 - 1940)
_____	\$10.00	VI: Life and Work of John McDonogh
_____	\$20.00	VII: Elmwood Plantation
_____	\$15.00	VIII: Random Readings: The Jefferson Parish Yearly Review
_____	\$20.00	IX: Gretna: A Sesquicentennial Salute
_____	\$15.00	X: Historical Markers
_____	\$40.00	XIV: Westwego: From Cheniere to Canal
_____	\$37.00	XVI: Lost Plantation: The Rise and Fall of Seven Oaks
_____	\$46.00	XVII: Jefferson Parish Politicians of the Past and Present: 1825-2005
_____	\$10.00	XVIII: Jefferson Parish's Modern Government on Its Golden Anniversary: 1958--2008
_____	\$10.00	XIX: Gretna Trivia - Book One
_____	\$5.00	Jefferson Parish Events 1825 - 2000

**Flag orders: Please indicate quantity. All flags are 4"x6". A three-hole stand is included with the following flags: \_\_\_Jefferson Parish (\$5 ea.), \_\_\_Gretna (\$6 ea.), \_\_\_Kenner (\$6 ea.), \_\_\_Westwego (\$6 ea.), and \_\_\_Harahan (\$6 ea.). A one-hole stand is included with the following flags: \_\_\_Jean Lafitte (\$6 ea.) and \_\_\_Grand Isle (\$7 ea.).**  
**Or buy all 7 flags and stands for \$40, plus \$6 shipping.**

\$ _____	Subtotal	* Shipping rates are based on subtotal.
\$ _____	Shipping*	For subtotal \$1-\$4 - add \$2 shipping; for subtotal \$5-\$10 - add \$3 shipping;
\$ _____	Grand Total	for subtotal \$11-\$20 - add \$4 shipping; for subtotal \$21 and up - add \$6 shipping.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to the Jefferson Historical Society and mail check *with this form* to Jefferson Historical Society, PO Box 113014, Metairie, Louisiana 70011-3014. Questions may be directed to Leighton Ciravolo at (504) 731-4504 or [historian@johnmcdonogh.com](mailto:historian@johnmcdonogh.com). Thank you for your order!**



## AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



photos by Judy Mills

Left: Dr. Charles Billings speaking about Duncan Farrar Kenner.

Right: Dr. Craig Bauer, author of *A Leader Among Peers: The Life and Times of Duncan Farrar Kenner*, with Dr. Charles Billings.

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



photos by Judy Mills

Left: Dominic Massa speaking about old New Orleans radio and TV.

Right: Despite a Thursday night Saints game, a dedicated crowd was present.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wednesday, December 10, 2014—JHS Christmas Party  
 Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex  
 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 5, 2015—JHS Board of Directors  
 Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex  
 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 9, 2015—Marsalis Mansion Motel  
 Marker Unveiling  
 Shrewsbury Road at River Road, Jefferson  
 11:00 a.m.

Jefferson Parish Historical Commission—4th Thursday,  
 3:30 p.m., Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., Nov.—East Bank  
 Regional Library

Gretna Historical Society—2nd Thursday monthly, 7  
 p.m.—Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex

Westwego Historical Society—3rd Monday monthly,  
 Sep.-May, 7 p.m.—Westwego Historical Museum

The "JHS Newsletter" succeeds the "Bulletin of the Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana" and "The Jefferson Historical Society Newsletter" as the official source of news for the general membership of the Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana.

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



Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana  
PO Box 113014  
Metairie, Louisiana 70011-3014

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## Become a Member of the Society

The Jefferson Historical Society of Louisiana was founded in 1977 to foster the history of the people, places, and events that are the history of Jefferson Parish. There are no membership requirements, other than timely payment of annual membership dues. Membership categories are: Individual, \$10; Family (2 or more persons at the same address), \$15; Contributing, \$25; Institution, \$25; Organization, \$25; Sustaining, \$100; Life, \$250 (per individual). Annual events include February, Founders' Day Banquet; April, Thomas Jefferson Wreath Ceremony; April and June Meetings; August, Anniversary Meeting; October, Meeting; and December, Christmas Party. There are also several marker dedications, tours, etc., per year. All functions are open to members and their guests (banquet and tours are admission-by-fee only). The "JHS Newsletter" is mailed bi-monthly, and irregularly published issues of the Jefferson History Notebook series are free to members.

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## JHS Newsletter Staff

G. Leighton Ciravolo, Acting Editor

Dr. Mary G. Curry and Charmaine C. Rini,  
Associate Editors

To submit articles email [doloresdanos@yahoo.com](mailto:doloresdanos@yahoo.com).

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## JHS Board of Directors 2013-15

G. Leighton Ciravolo, J.D.\*—President

Mary Grace Curry, Ph.D.\*—Vice President, Archivist

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Charmaine Currault Rini\*—Treasurer

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

G. Leighton Ciravolo, Webmaster

*Thank you for supporting the preservation of  
the history of the Parish of Jefferson.*