

**THANKS TO OUR 2018-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**From left to right: Dana Bourgeois, Mary Kay Allain, Raymond Allain, Linda Freeman, Kevin Bacala, Alice Bodin, Louis Lancon, Aquiline Rener-Arnold, and Ronald Sovine.**

During 2018-2020, the persons shown above served as your Board of Directors, and oversaw the operation of the Landmark Society. Dana Bourgeois serves as Vice President; Ronald Sovine serves as Treasurer; and Alice Bodin serves as Secretary. All members participate and give us the benefit of their knowledge, experience, and talents.

As Treasurer, Ron Sovine keeps an eye on the finances of the Society, monitors the books on line, reviews every invoice, and co-signs every check we write. Secretary Alice Bodin does an excellent job of taking the minutes of our meetings and provides copies for the board.

Of course, our organization really depends most heavily on each of you, our members, who support us year in and year out. So please honor us with a renewal of your membership this year.

Thank you all for your continued support!

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET  
FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR LANDMARK SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

AND

**PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE**

**JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY  
IN SEPTEMBER 2022**

Preserve. Educate. Improve.



**JEANERETTE LANDMARK  
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 467  
Jeanerette, Louisiana 70544



**VOLUME NO. 1 ISSUE No.13**

**2020 NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 13 - NEWSLETTER HISTORY**

In the 19 years since our organization was formed, we have published 12 newsletters. In the initial stages of the project we published eight issues between 2002 and 2006. These were the years when we were in the development phase of the project, trying to generate support, increase membership and generally get the word out. Our initial efforts were very successful. We were able to enlist the support of governmental bodies, many individual members and business members, and to generate enough financial support to undertake the renovations needed to bring the house back from years of neglect. During the four years from 2007 through 2010, we were busy with site improvements and renovating the first floor of the house, and no newsletters were published.

Finally, Issue 9, published in 2011, was an eight page newsletter, and the headline was "OPEN FOR BUSINESS." We had completed the renovations to the first floor and were ready to rent the house for functions. Over the next three years, the house was being used and there were no significant things to report. Issue Nos. 10, 11 and 12 were published in 2015, 2016, and 2017, primarily chronicling repairs and maintenance in progress, as well as other community landmarks and notable events in the history of the Society. The predominant subject of the 2017 newsletter was the pressing need for completing the renovations and making repairs to the house.

The repair work on the exterior started in 2017 and continued in 2018 and 2019. Larry Deslatte, who had performed the previous foundation leveling, and had started making repairs as of the update from our last newsletter, has completed the repairs with which he was tasked. The work included construction of new steps for both back porches, rebuilding the stairs leading from the rear upstairs balcony to the back porch on the east side, replacing the skirting around the bottom of the house, repairing the termite damage and displaced siding boards, and generally repairing other areas of the exterior that had been damaged or deteriorated from the weather.

Because of the nature of the repairs over the last three years, we were unable to rent the house for functions, and the rental of the cottages was also discouraged by the presence of workmen and ongoing renovations on the outside of the house.

With the exterior repairs completed, in the latter part of 2019, we were able to contract for the painting of the exterior of the house. The first paint job done in the early years involved minor scraping of peeling paint and the application of a new coat of paint. Although the work only cost the Society \$7,000.00, it lasted over 10 years. But it was time for a comprehensive professional approach to the exterior of the house. We hired a professional paint company, who stripped the entire exterior of the house down to the wood, and applied four coats of new paint. The result is not only beautiful but we are confident it will last for at least 20 years.

Pictures on the following pages will give the reader an idea of the extent of the repairs and the quality of the new repair work and the newly painted exterior of the house.

(You can view all previous newsletters on our web site at [www.jeanerettelandmarks.org](http://www.jeanerettelandmarks.org) - then click on BLOG)

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### Repairs - Before

As you can see from the photograph to the right and the ones below it, extensive repair work was completed on the exterior of the house. The cost of these repairs was \$74,440.00. This total includes all repair work done by Larry Deslatte from 2017 until present.

The rear stairs were one of our biggest problems. We first rebuilt them in 2007 to restore the condition they were in when the Society got the house as shown on the 2004 picture below.



2004 Rear Stairs



2007 Rear Stairs after repair

Because the landing was outside, it suffered rapid deterioration and had to be replaced again. This time, Mr. Deslatte totally rebuilt the stairway, placing it under the porch roof so that it will be protected from the elements. See the middle right picture.

The last picture on the right, shows repairs which were made to the West side, damaged by water and termites.

### Repairs - After



Repairs to the rear of the House



Rear stairs after repair



Repairs to the West side of the House

### HARRY BERTRAM HEWES

The house which is pictured in this newsletter and has been the subject of the renovation efforts of the Jeanerette Landmark Society is named after its most prominent owner and citizen of Jeanerette.

A descendent of the same family as Joseph Hewes of North Carolina, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Mr. Hewes came to Jeanerette in 1897, at the age of 31, and purchased an interest in the Milmo Stokoe lumber mill. He met and married a Jeanerette girl, Nellie Bussey. After the Milmo Stokoe mill burned down, he joined in the creation of the Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company which acquired the Stokoe mill and its land holdings. He served as Manager and director of the Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company from its inception through the date of his death, and maintained a residence in the Hewes House until his death in 1953.



Harry Bertram Hewes 1866 to 1953

Harry had a special relationship with the son of his daughter, Amy Hewes Flowerree - his grandson, Robert E. Flowerree, Jr. - who, upon his return from Naval Service during World War II, followed in his grandfather's foot steps in the Lumber industry. At the suggestion of his grandfather, Mr. Flowerree started his career as an employee of the Johnson Lumber Company in Oregon which eventually merged with Georgia Pacific. Bob Flowerree worked his way up to become the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Georgia-Pacific Corporation, which under his leadership, became one of the most successful lumber and paper companies in the world.

The title of the autobiography of Robert E. Flowerree, "To Attain a Position in Life", reflects the character of the man and the impact he had on his grandson, exemplified by a letter he wrote to the 16 year old Robert in 1937, which contains valuable advice to anyone aspiring to be successful in life:

*"To attain a position in life, it is only necessary to strictly follow a few simple principles-honesty; integrity, mixed with a little ability of course; a determination to achieve success, and a willingness in early life to practice a little self-denial in order to accumulate something for old age. Do not misunderstand me- the accumulation of money is not the only thing necessary to be successful, as the building of character is of far greater importance. After you have attained your Degree at College and enter business, be more concerned with acquiring a knowledge of every detail of that business than with the amount of your salary check at the end of the month. The man who KNOWS his business is the man who reaches the top, and at the top you will find little competition as so few are willing to make the sacrifice and effort."*

The lives of both Harry and his grandson Bob Flowerree, are an inspiration and a source of pride for our community.

### Other Repairs

Work also began upgrading the electrical system and wiring, and some air conditioner/plumbing repairs were also needed. The electrical work was necessary, not only because of the damage to the electrical panels on the rear of the house, but also because much of the wiring in the house has never been upgraded. We have had problems with many of the outlets in the house, and on occasion, the load on the system has caused the fuses to blow. We hired a local electrician, Darryl Louviere, to rewire the first floor, ensure that our electrical system was safe, and to relocate the electrical panels after the carpenter had rebuilt the back stairway. The cost of both the electrical and plumbing repairs was \$15,658.25.

The good news is that after these repairs were completed, the house was in good shape for a much needed paint job. In 2019, work began preparing, cleaning and stripping the exterior for painting.

### Painting in Progress - After Paint



***Painting in Progress west side of the House***



***Painting in Progress front view of House***

The pictures above show the work in progress. The results are remarkable. Below we have included both front facing and rear view of the Hewes House in 2020 after exterior painting and repairs. Tilden Bonin was the local painter hired to complete this work. And, what a fantastic job he did!



***After Paint Front View - 2020***



***After Paint - Rear View - 2020***

## FLOWERREE FOUNDATION and M&T Bank Luncheon

On, May 7, 2018 the Board of the Jeanerette Landmark Society Hosted several special visitors to Jeanerette. Traveling guest in attendance were John Flowerree and his friend Dana. John has been an avid supporter of the Hewes House restoration Project, and, together with his sister, Anne, who heads the Flowerree Foundation, has been responsible for significant financial support. Pat Strange, who is a cousin of John, and Pat's wife, who live in Haughton, Louisiana; Thomas Mitchell and another representative of M&T Charitable Foundation, a part of M&T Bank, in Buffalo, New York. The M&T Bank Charitable Foundation has funded two grants to the Society in the past, and wanted to get a first hand look at the beneficiary of their generosity.

Local guests in attendance were Tia Simmons, Mayor Pro Tem of Jeanerette, and Larry Deslatte, contractor working on the Hewes house restoration project.

After a tour of the house and grounds, to give our guests a good look at what we have accomplished in the last 16 years, a meal was provided by the Cooper Street Coffee House, with special guidance and culinary assistance provided by board member Dana Bourgeois. Our guests were treated to a meal which included crawfish chowder, crawfish etouffee, and a delicious bread pudding.

Although the Society intended to provide the meal at cost, John Flowerree, in his generous manner, picked up the check.

In addition to getting acquainted with our guests, we discussed the proposed project for further improvement of the house and grounds. Mr. Deslatte, who was currently working on the improvements to the house was able to give our guests first hand knowledge of the work.



**Cooper Street Coffee House - May 7, 2018**