

THANKS TO OUR 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

During 2017, the persons shown above served as your Board of Directors, and oversaw the operation of the Landmark Society. Louis Lancon 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.

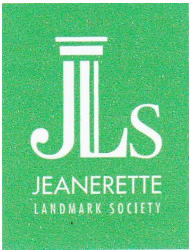
Extra effort during the year was expended by Louis and Kevin, who pressure washed all of the concrete in the front of the house, and spent hours assisting with the moving and reassembly of the antique furniture when it was delivered to the house. Dana and her husband John take care of the yard, and Dana does so many things to ensure that the property continues to function that there is not enough room to list everything she does. Linda, as Principal of Jeanerette High School, works to enhance the educational function of the Society, and during this year, a group of her students sponsored the construction of a new Veterans Memorial in Cypress Plaza, across the street from the Hewes House. The Jeanerette Veterans Association co-sponsored the project, and considerable work on the memorial was performed by Kevin, and Louis who serves as the President of the Veterans Association. I cannot say enough about the contribution made to this organization by the Board Members. They give generously of their time and talent to serve their community and this organization could not accomplish what it does without their efforts. They serve without compensation other than the satisfaction they derive from making a difference. Please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

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!

Raymond Allain, President

Preserve. Educate. Improve.



JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

P. O. Box 467
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2017 NEWSLETTER

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
A PRIORITY IN 2017

Everyone knows that an old wooden house requires continuous maintenance, and the Hewes House is no exception. During the latter part of 2016, it was becoming apparent that we had a problem with the foundation in the rear of the Hewes House. The floor in the rear of the house had been gradually sinking and that condition became more pronounced when the board inspected it in January. To address this problem, the board hired Larry Deslatte, Jr., a contractor from New Iberia to level the house and reinforce the piers in the rear and middle of the house. Mr. Deslatte had rebuilt the front porch on the house in 2015, and did exceptional work.

The work began in March of 2017, and was completed in August. In the course of the work, the leveling had a not unexpected effect on the house. The skirting around the bottom of the house, which was already in need of repair, was further damaged; the area below the rear staircase where the electrical panels are located, which had suffered serious deterioration from rain and rotten wood, were further destabilized, endangering the integrity of the electrical panels; some of the siding on the house came loose, in one case exposing a small area of termite damage; and several of the interior walls experienced movement which caused the tape covering sheet rock joints to come apart.



Unfortunately, we did not take pictures of the house before the work began, but we have some pictures taken while the work was in progress. The picture on the left shows the small porch behind the kitchen. You can see how much the house was lifted from the distance between the top step of the stair to the floor of the porch. Before the house was leveled, the top step was level with the floor of the porch.

Although the house very badly needs a cleaning and repainting, we thought it best to make all of the repairs necessary before undertaking a new paint job. It has been about 8 years since the last painting, so it is time to repaint. As you will see from the picture on the right, the exterior of the house needs a lot of attention.

Once the leveling work was complete, the board hired Mr. Deslatte to make repairs to the exterior of the house. He started this work almost immediately and the work is still in progress as this newsletter is being written.



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Maintenance and Repairs (Cont’d)

Among the repairs needed are the construction of new steps for both back porches; and the rebuilding of the stairs leading from the rear upstairs balcony to the back porch on the east side, where the electrical panels are located.(See picture on the right) The plans are to reconstruct the stairs so that they are out of the weather to eliminate the damage which occurs from the exposure to rain.

Other repairs include replacing the skirting around the bottom of the house, repairing the termite damage and the displaced siding boards, and other areas of the exterior which have been damaged or have deteriorated from the weather.

The cost of the house leveling was \$25,000.00; and the exterior repairs will cost another \$39,000.00. The good news is that after these repairs have been completed, the house should be in good shape for a number of years to come.

We are also in the process of upgrading the electrical system and wiring. This is 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 have hired a local electrician, Darryl Louviere, to rewire the first floor, ensure that our electrical system is safe, and to relocate the electrical panels after the carpenter has rebuilt the back stairway.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

Anniversary Celebration Postponed!

In last year’s newsletter, we announced plans to hold a celebration marking the 15th anniversary of The Landmark Society at the annual membership meeting on September 17, 2016. However, because of the fact that major repairs are underway, and because of Hurricane Harvey, which, at the time of writing this newsletter presents a serious flooding threat to all of Iberia Parish, the board decided to postpone that celebration. We will still hold the annual membership meeting, at 11:00 am, on September 17, 2017, but there are no other activities planned. All members are welcome to join us for the annual meeting, but if you were planning to visit this year for the celebration, please revise your plans and join us next year.

WEBSITE UPGRADE

The Landmark Society web site has been completely upgraded by one of our Lifetime members, Virginia Allain Traylor. Go to www.jeanerettelandmarks.com and see how our web site has been improved.

When you access the site you will be on the home page. Click on the “About“ button on the menu and you will find the history of the organization, pictures of the board members, and a list of all contributors, members and donors. Visit each page to be fully informed about the Society’s work.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR LANDMARK SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY !

FLOWERREE FOUNDATION SUPPORT CONTINUES

As you read in last year’s newsletter, Ann Flowerree, and her brother John Hewes Flowerree visited Jeanerette last year and stayed in the cottages. Both of them have been consistently supportive of our project, and at the end of 2016, the Flowerree Foundation sent another generous donation of \$30,000.00 to the Society. It could not have been more timely, because it is helping to make the repairs on the house that are so badly needed. As always, we are very grateful to Ann and John, and to their family foundation for their continued encouragement and support. I hope that they will be able to make a return visit after the work on the house has been completed.

Their grandfather, Mr. Harry B. Hewes, who passed away on June 1, 1953, was noted to be one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of Jeanerette. The list of his philanthropic and charitable activities was long and impressive, including a large bequest to the town of Jeanerette for the improvement of parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities. Ann and John are continuing the tradition of philanthropy through their personal support and that of the Flowerree Foundation.



NEW BENEFACTOR HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE HEWES HOUSE



In July, we got a call from Dr. David Silas, a neurologist who lives in Arkansas. He is the son of Daniel G. Silas, Sr. who saved the Hewes House from destruction in 1959 when the property was sold to the Arkansas Fuel Oil Corporation. Daniel Silas Sr bought the house and the rear portion of the original lot from the Arkansas Fuel Oil Corporation in September of 1959, and he and his sons moved the house from its original location near Main Street, to the rear of the original lot. The Silas family occupied the house until 1975.

In May of 2010, David and his family hosted a birthday party for his mother, Mary Escevera Pommier, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, which they held at the Hewes House. When David called us in late July of this year, he told me that when he attended his mother’s

birthday party, he had been very impressed with what we had done in preserving the house. He said he had been wanting to do something to help our project.

When he and his wife, Sandy decided to build a new house in Quitman, Arkansas, they left behind a historic Victorian home in Jonesboro, and had some Victorian era antiques that would not be appropriate for their new house. According to David, his wife Sandy suggested that he donate the furniture to the Landmark Society. It took about a month to arrange for the moving of the antiques, but with Dr. Silas’ help, on August 18, 2017, a moving van pulled up to the front door of the Hewes House and we unloaded a number of pieces of beautiful antique furniture, including a sofa and 2 chairs, an Armoire, dresser, and several other pieces.



Victorian era Sofa, chairs, tables and lamps, several of the pieces of furniture donated to the Society by Dr. and Mrs. David Silas.

We are grateful to Dr. Silas and Sandy for their generosity, and welcome them to the elite club of Patrons of the Jeanerette Landmark Society. We look forward to their visit to the house soon.