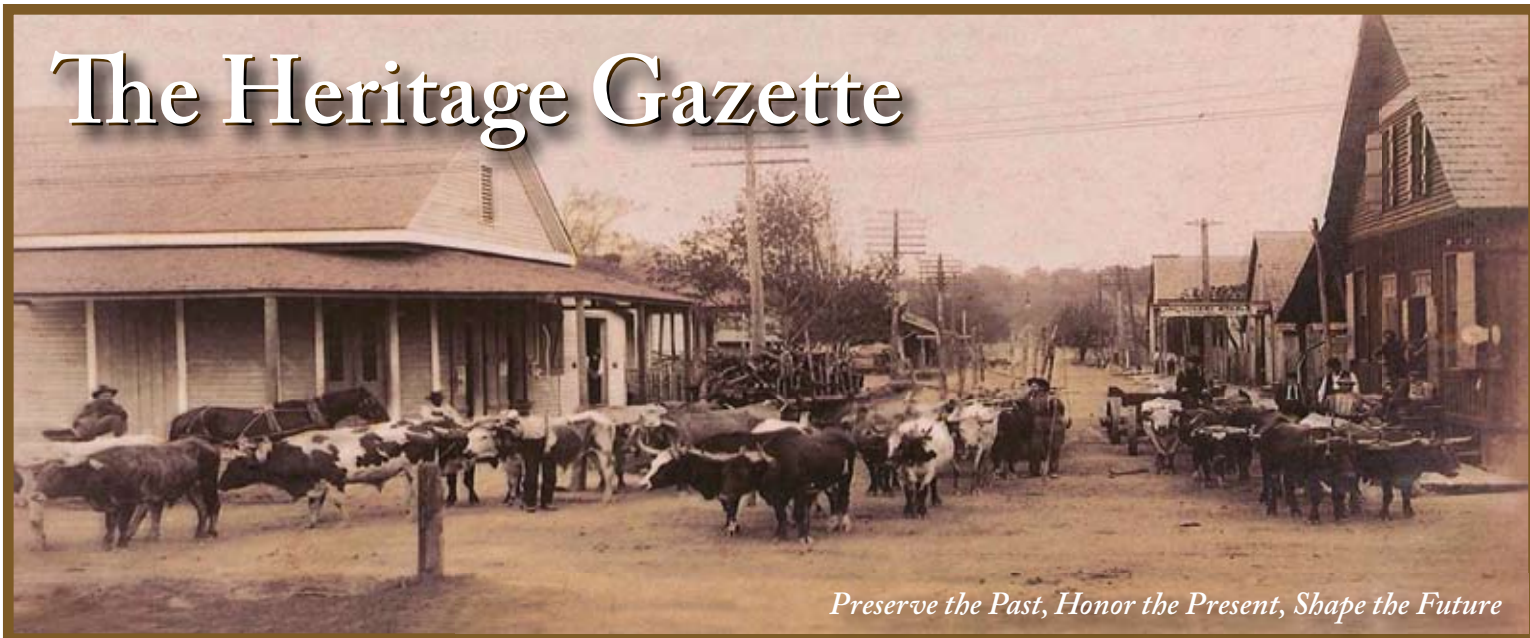


# The Heritage Gazette



*Preserve the Past, Honor the Present, Shape the Future*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 - OCTOBER 2014

## The Board Talk

Almost one year since CHF was formed, the foundation membership has almost doubled its membership, established by-laws and articles of incorporation, obtained non-profit status, presented its inaugural Heritage Award to the Southern Hotel for exemplary accomplishment of renovation and preservation, and has fulfilled an educational goal by having member, Mark Johnson, host a lecture on the history of the Covington area to local students. We are moving full steam ahead!

Our first newsletter highlighted the prominent Covington icons—the Southern Hotel and Walker Percy. This newsletter will introduce you to an entrepreneurial couple who came to Covington looking for change and with a passion for old neighborhoods.

### **CHF Now Has 501(c)(3) Status**

Covington Heritage Foundation was recently approved for tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) of the code. This is a very exciting milestone for the foundation as it furthers our validity and opens many doors for us to expand fundraising activities and fully realize our goals as a charitable organization.

### **Old Times and Old-Fashioneds**

Our upcoming museum artifact collecting event will prove very exciting. Interest has been shown in contributing family history and history of favorite places around town—like the Causeway and the old theater. We want every family to be included, so join us for

refreshments and old-time talk at our Open House on October 15th.

### **Rockin' the Rails**

CHF was the non-profit chosen to receive proceeds from the beverage sales of the October 23rd Rockin' the Rails concert at the Trailhead. If anyone would like to volunteer, please stop by anytime between 5:00-7:30 pm. All are encouraged to attend the concert and help put our sales through the roof for the benefit of CHF!

### **End of the Year Gala**

Get your party shoes ready! Our annual membership gala will take place at the Southern Hotel this year on December 11th at 6pm. Not only will you enjoy tunes by Steppin' Up, but you will be entertained by Mark Johnson with his latest presentation: *Visitors to Covington: Not so Nice in the 1860s, but Very Nice in the 1960s.*

### **2015 Board Elections**

In November, the officers and board of CHF will nominate a slate of officers to govern the foundation in 2015. At the annual end of the year gala, a voice vote will be taken to accept the nominations. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or board member of the Foundation should contact Sharon Nunez at 892-2254 or [info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com](mailto:info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com).

### **Antique Festival**

The board is proud to announce that we have received a grant to put on the inaugural Covington Heritage Antique Festival! The weekend-long festival will be April 18 and 19, 2015 and will have

over 100 booths, a live auction, appraisals, vintage cars, live demonstrations, walking tours, food, music and more...all in historic downtown Covington!

### **Home Tour**

We have had so many requests for another home tour that *Architectural Treasures Now and Then, a Covington Heritage Home Tour*, is now in the planning stage. It will take place April 23, 2015. We will keep you posted on details by email.

### **Email Users**

The latest update for Gmail has moved our emails to your Promotions Tab. Email us if you need help getting it back to the Primary Tab for viewing.

### **Save The Dates!**

Be sure to check out the back page for CHF's upcoming events. Mark your calendars and keep the ideas coming in. We look forward to having fun and working with you on keeping Covington's heritage alive.



## HISTORY MYSTERY

What was the single most important event that spawned the largest building boom of the town of Covington and which Division of Covington profited from it by becoming the largest division?

See Page 3 . . .

SEND US YOUR TRIVIA AT  
[info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com](mailto:info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com)

## Covington Spotlight On

### DAVID AND JOAN NOGGERATH: Large Scale Recyclers

Few people exemplify Gandhi's dictum, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world," better than David and Joan Noggerath. The couple married in 1983 and moved from Arabi to Covington. Joan had roots in the town; she is the granddaughter of Charles and Odile Schwegmann Acquistapace, founders of Claiborne Hill Supermarket. They found a house on West 25th Avenue owned by Verna Lee Thompson, which they purchased, renovated and made it home for their first two children.

Completion of the finished project only created a desire to repeat the process—find another house. That proved easy; the Noggeraths approached the owners of the home next door which resulted in renovation of house number two. Within two weeks of the renovation being completed, friends of David and Joan wanted to purchase the now adorable corner house. This process continued until the entire block was the neighborhood David and Joan envisioned. What had appeared to be a deteriorating residential area ripe for demolition had become a thriving neighborhood with friends chatting on porches and kids riding bikes in safety.

But why stop there? There was a "next block." A beautiful turn-of-the-century home originally owned by the Stidham family stood on the corner and three generations of the family had lived there. It was the only house on the whole square of land. David and Joan had dreams of renovating this old place and developing the entire square. In 1997, the Noggeraths took those big dreams and negotiated a loan from Citizens Bank thus creating a relationship

that has continued to this day. The house at 901 West 25th Avenue once again exudes charm as it did at the turn of the century. Over the next few years with the development of the rest of the block, their dreams came to fruition.



*After - 901 West 25th Avenue*



*Before - 901 West 25th Avenue*

By this time, David and Joan's family had increased to three sons, and they moved from their humble first home into a new home they built across the street from the square they developed. The mission continues today. The only difference now is that the team has grown from two to five. All three sons now work side-by-side with David and Joan in their family owned business, Brandon Construction, aptly named after their first son. A new home for Evan, their second son, is near completion and will soon include a third

generation of Noggeraths—David and Joan's first grandchild. And yes, it is in the neighborhood where Evan grew up. He will soon be joined by his younger brother Austin who also plans to build in the near future. To date, Brandon Construction has renovated eight homes, and with the completion of Evan's home, new construction

will climb to nine—all in the West 20s. And there are no plans of stopping there; five new homes are already in the planning stage.

David considers this hard work to be his passion. Asked how he would describe what he and Joan do, he said we "recycle the neglected, recycle on a larger scale." And for their first grandchild, David and Joan feel like this is part of the fulfillment of their dream—three generations of Noggeraths living in the same area, the area in which they began their family.

In the past, when I thought of preservation, I thought of paid professionals hired to save historic buildings or sites. I thought of our own city's stellar historical preservation completed this past summer at the Southern Hotel. We all know that preservation actually started as a grassroots effort driven by concerned citizens who embraced America's heritage. Now when I hear the word preservation, I think of the Noggeraths, who have preserved the heritage and culture of the area they continue to call home.

*—Contributed by Sharon Nunez*

## In Search of Family History — Harry Covington

Harry Covington, descendent of Gen. Leonard Covington, a War of 1812 hero for whom Covington, Louisiana, and several other Covingtons are named, came to town earlier this month after contacting Mayor Mike Cooper and telling him he wanted to know more about the history of the town. Cooper (right) arranged for him to meet with members of the Covington Heritage Foundation, city officials and other residents at a discussion held at the Covington Tammany Trace Visitors Center, where the mayor presented him with a copy of *The St. Tammany Farmer* that contained a column about his visit. Harry said the welcome was "honoring and flattering" and that it was "good to see my name everywhere."

*—Photograph by Susan Sheehan and content taken from the St. Tammany Farmer, Thursday, September 18, 2014*



*Mayor Cooper presenting Harry Covington this article (to the left) in the St. Tammany Farmer.*



## Recap of Boiling at the Brewery

Thanks to our Inaugural Boiling at the Brewery Membership Recruitment event in June, we added 46 new members to CHF. The event was a hot but fun success with many thanks to members Joe Ard, Gary Blocker and Jason Houidobre of the Covington Fire Department along with RJ Shea for helping cook the delicious crawfish! Thanks also to Covington Brewery for providing the ice cold, delicious beer as well. Attached are some pictures. We look forward to our 2nd annual boil sometime in 2015!



Nick and Cody Ludwig



Anne and David Arbo



Sue Osbon and Patti Brunning



Lee and Kathy Alexius



Jessica Boudreau, Dan Cobb, Cathy and Peter Clark

## History Mystery . . . from Page 1

As we all know, the Causeway played an important role in the growth of the area; however, it was the arrival of Poitevent and Favre's East Louisiana Railroad in Covington on February 13, 1888, that brought the largest growth to Covington. Covington became part of the rail route with New Orleans, Slidell, Lacombe, Mandeville and Abita Springs. No longer was travel dependent on horse-drawn carriages pulled on roads that were in deplorable condition or on steamers and schooners traversing Lake Pontchartrain and the local rivers (from *Kentzel's Covington*).

## OPEN HOUSE • OCTOBER 15

### ★ WANTED ★ COVINGTON, LOUISIANA BY THE COVINGTON HERITAGE FOUNDATION



#### DESCRIPTION

Historic Covington collectibles and family histories for temporary or permanent display in the Covington Trailhead Museum.

#### "Alias"

Family History Documents,  
Vintage Postcards, Photos,  
Letters, Mementos, Souvenirs,  
Museum-Type Artifacts,  
Historic Family Recipes, etc.

#### "Last Seen In"

Attics, Scrapbooks,  
Chest of Drawers,  
Outdoor Sheds,  
Grandma's House, etc.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the above listed artifacts, or any others that you feel should be on public display in an effort to preserve Covington's culture, character and community, please do not hesitate to notify the CHF immediately at [info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com](mailto:info@covingtonheritagefoundation.com)

#### REWARD

Bring your heritage items to our Open House at the Covington Trailhead on **Wednesday, October 15, from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm** and take an active part in preserving the history of Covington!

## Kudos to Covington Bicentennial

At the recent Louisiana Municipal Association convention held in Baton Rouge, the city of Covington was awarded honorable mention in the category of community development for the City's Bicentennial Celebration activities that took place through the course of the year in 2013. These wonderful events and celebrations led to the establishment of The Covington Heritage Foundation whose mission is to preserve and cultivate Covington's culture, character and community. This is the 3rd consecutive year that the city of Covington has been selected to receive an award in the LMS Community Achievement competition.



Perhaps it is no coincidence that the owners of the railroad were also on the Board of Directors of the Covington and St. Tammany Land and Improvement Company—the company that purchased acres of land comprised of beautiful building sites in Covington and its vicinity. At the turn of the century, Covington was experiencing a building boom. According to *Mr. Kentzel's Covington*, there was a "movement at this point to call our town New Covington." Today this can be witnessed on a few acts of sale that stated that the land was situated in the town of New Covington. "To put an end to the discussion of changing the name from Covington to New Covington, an ordinance was passed on July 3, 1906, which changed the boundary lines of the Town of Covington to include this newly laid out section." The new section was called the Division of New Covington, a name which it holds to this day.





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15**

*Old Times and Old-Fashioneds*

Covington Trailhead Museum • Open House • 3 pm to 8 pm



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23**

*Rockin' the Rails*

Covington Trailhead • 5 pm to 7:30 pm



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11**

*Membership Gala*

Southern Hotel • 6 pm to 9 pm



**SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 18 & 19**

*Covington Heritage Antique Festival*

Covington Trailhead • 10 am to 5 pm Both Days



**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

*Architectural Treasures Now and Then,  
Covington Heritage Home Tour*