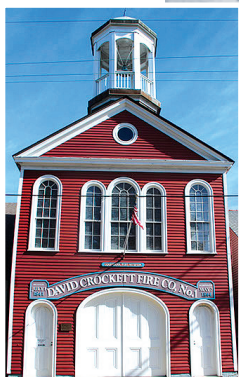


WHAT  
HAPPENED

Gretna was  
founded  
in 1838.

The David Crockett volunteer department is the oldest volunteer company in the nation, shown here parading in 1922.



Just upriver from Algiers, John McDonogh founded McDonoghville as a residential farming community in 1836. Mechanickham was settled upriver from McDonoghville in the same year by Nicholas Destrehan, and in 1838, Gretna was founded by the St. Mary's Market Steam Ferry Company and settled largely by Germans. Gretna became the seat of Jefferson Parish in 1884, and in 1913, Gretna's boundaries were expanded to include McDonoghville and Mechanickham.

Gretna is home to the David Crockett Steam Fire Company No. 1, the nation's longest continually operating volunteer fire department, which started in 1841.



Westwego's shrimp lot is evidence the town is still a fishing community tied to the adjacent Bayou Segnette.

Founded because of their location on the river, and developed by ferry and train service, the towns of **Gretna** and **Westwego** and surrounding communities have always been closely linked to New Orleans.

The Gretna Texas-Pacific railroad station, built in 1905 at the corner of Third Street and Huey P. Long Avenue. The station was the railroad's starting point going west. Train passengers who came through New Orleans were ferried across the river and put on a train in Gretna.



The area around Westwego developed as a fishing community because of its location on Bayou Segnette, which for years was connected to the Mississippi River with locks. Several plantations originally existed on the land, and one of them was subdivided by Pablo Sala, who sold many of the lots to survivors of the 1893 hurricane that destroyed Cheniere Caminada.

Westwego itself was formally founded in 1870 by the Texas and Pacific Railroad. The town reportedly got its name because as passengers left the rail station, the conductor would yell "west we go." Westwego eventually encompassed Salaville and the other communities that were developed on the former plantations.



Seven Oaks Plantation was bought by Pablo Sala in 1892 and was subdivided into Salaville, which became Westwego. Portions of the property were sold in 1912 to the Missouri Pacific Railroad.