

## PLEASE JOIN Friends of the Museum

Friends of the Museum is a dedicated support group helping foster an educational opportunity for the citizens and visitors of Gonzales. Through their donations, renovations and restoration has turned the Tee Joe Gonzales home into a center of history and heritage. Please join "Friends of the Museum and become "connected" to the rich history and beauty of our founding father's home.

### Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Make \$25 check PAYABLE to:**

**"Friends of the Museum"**

**and mail to:**

**Friends of the Museum  
120 South Irma Boulevard  
Gonzales, La 70737  
or call for more information  
225-647-9552**

*"We've Got it All" "We've Got it All"*

## Tee Joe Gonzales Museum

Hours:

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Monday – Thursday

Or by appointment

Closed for all major Holidays

NO CHARGE for Tours

### *A unique experience*

Come experience a step back in time! Tour the home of the founding father of Gonzales.

The home sits on the original site along New River and features furniture, pictures, clothing and much more. It focuses on the life and struggles of the early settlers.

NEED CITY OF  
GONZALES SEAL

#### Mailing Address

120 S. Irma Blvd.

Gonzales, LA 70737

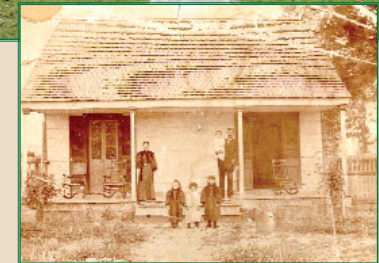
Phone: 225-647-9552

Fax: 225-647-4338

Email: [latuso@gonzalesla.com](mailto:latuso@gonzalesla.com)

*Welcome to the*

## Tee Joe Gonzales Museum



217 West Main Street

Gonzales, Louisiana

For Information Call

225-647-9552

# Fostering what our City has to offer through history and heritage



Joseph Stonewall "Tee Joe" Gonzales (1862-1940)

The first "Gonzales" to come to Louisiana was sent with a group of soldiers by the King of Spain in 1778 to defend the Galvez town Fort from the English. After defeat of the

English the Fort was dismantled but "Jose' Pepe Ramos Gonzales (1757-1798) and his descendants stayed in the area.

"Don Bernardo de Galvez was governor of the Louisiana Territory at the time and he greatly encouraged new immigrants to come and stay in this colony by offering them *five arpents of land, an axe, a sickle, a spade, a hoe, two hens and a rooster, two pigs and enough food for the first year.*

"Joseph Stonewall "Tee Joe" Gonzales, (Fifth Generation) was instrumental in developing

"Gonzales." He established a post office in the unsettled area and gave it the family name "Gonzales." He was appointed the Post Master on May 9, 1888.



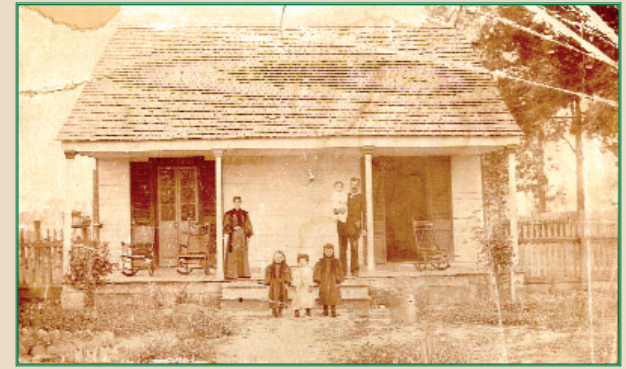
"In the 1880's Tee Joe Gonzales and Alexandre Forest Gonzales (The Gonzales Brothers) owned a general store and a cotton gin. The surrounding cotton fields were the sole money crop. There were few roads and the nearest railroad station was at Geismar, eleven rough miles away."

"The whole area of Ascension Parish north, or back of the Mississippi River plantations, was known as New River of "Woods Section". This was a perfect name as it was quite primitive with just a few scattered settlers along the road that always followed the bayou." The original plat of Gonzales was laid out in 1906 and the Gonzales Brothers Purchased land and sold lots for \$25 to \$200 – claiming: "they were Title Perfect."

"The Railroad (Louisiana Railroad and Navigation Company) played an important role in the growth of this area. There was not even one gravel road until 1920."



"In the early 1900's the railroad came through the area and the station was named Edenborn for the owner of the railroad. As a State Representative at the time, Tee Joe introduced a bill making it mandatory that a post office and railroad station have the same name. After several years of legal and legislative battles Tee Joe finally got his village and the depot named "Gonzales."



Tee Joe built his first home around 1895. In 1910 the home was destroyed by fire and Tee Joe rebuilt the present day home that is now the "Tee Joe Gonzales Museum."

His lasting contribution was to organize the Village of Gonzales and become the first Mayor. His dedication and concern for the people of the Village still lives on today, as the City of Gonzales continues to move forward as a community that:

*"Cares for the citizens and builds for their future."*



*"We've Got it All"*