



League City Historical Society League City, Texas

P.O. Box 1642 League City, Texas 77574 ~ 281-554-2994 ~ leaguecityhistory.org ~ Greg Nenninger Webmaster

March 2012 Newsletter Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

March 29th Meeting

In this month of St. Patrick's Day, our featured speaker will be **Sandra Whiddon**. Sandra, a national and local award winning watercolor and sculpture artist, who will discuss Irish Immigration. An American of Scots-Irish descent, Sandra, has been researching both her Texian lineage and Scots-Irish lineage for the past fifteen years. As a history teacher, Sandra focused on helping her students explore and celebrate their lineage and restore their family traditions.

Calendar

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|----------|---|
| March 29 | LCHS Meeting
Artist Sandra Whiddon
West Bay Common School
Children's Museum
210 Kansas, League City
6:45pm Social~ 7:00pm Meeting |
| April 26 | LCHS Meeting
Pepper Coffey
Author of Kemah |



We thank Jeff Hansen and Deborah Gammon
for this month's refreshments.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards



As the President of the League City Historical Society, I was recently honored by being asked to contribute to the program handed out at the city of League City's recent 50th Anniversary Gala. Following are the contents of that article:

The Most Important Events in League City History By Ronnie Richards, League City Historical Society

There were really three events that gave League City the unique personality it has today. The first was the Butler family arriving by ox train from Calcasieu Parish, LA in 1855 to settle on the open range to ranch. George Washington Butler, recognized by many as the founder of League City, was 9 years old when his family arrived. After serving in the Civil War, Butler returned to the area and purchased thirty acres near what was the rail road between Houston and Galveston. Over the years he served as postmaster, county commissioner and school board president. Butler built the first brick building on the mainland of Galveston County and it still stands today on Michigan and 2nd St.

The next major event was the arrival of farming to the area driven mainly by the Italian truck farmers. Cattle grazing required thousands of acres and generated \$20 to \$30 per acre in revenue. Farming crops such as strawberries produced \$500 per acre and made League City an important rail stop for transporting crops to market.

The final and most recent event was the location of the Space Center in the area in the early 60's. This spurred significant population growth and housing demand that started League City down its path as we know it today as a quite bedroom community of old oaks and friendly folks.



Meeting Minutes

...Diane Kerkhove

LCHS February 23, 2012 Meeting

President Ronnie Richards opened the meeting at the school house museum.

David Garland introduced the speaker Audrey Barrett Cook, author of *Obedience Smith: (1771-1847), Pioneer of Three American Frontiers, Her Ancestors and Descendants*. Obedience owned 5.26 miles of prime real estate in Houston in 1838, which she purchased for \$1,000. She had some relatives who were known in early history.

Catherine Lewis announced there will be a Natural History Night in March, April and May.

We will have a booth at the city party in March from 12 to 4 p.m.

Diane Kerkhove will donate funds from a sale of her cookie cook book to the museum.

Next speaker will be Sandra Whiddon speaking on Irish in America with info on indentured slaves.

Volunteers for future events are needed.

The hotel tax funds are used for community activities.

Refreshments were served by Kathie Nenninger and Diane Kerkhove.



MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Our first Natural History Night proved to be an enjoyable learning experience for all who came. We had a full classroom and hope to have these numbers double for our next event about "Birds Galore".



Help us get the word out and tell all your friends to save April 12th from 6 – 7:30pm. Please note it is a new time than what was mentioned in last month's flyer

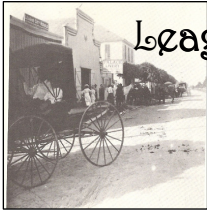
We held thirteen schoolhouse sessions in February and have twenty-one scheduled for the month of March in spite of spring break. We have had 997 visitors this year with groups coming from Spring, Missouri City, Montgomery, Pasadena, Deer Park, Baytown, Katy, Kingwood, Huffman, Houston Webster, Taylor Lake Village, Nassau Bay and League City. Kindergarten, 1st – 6th grades, scout groups and adult groups have participated in the schoolhouse program. There is still time to register for April and May classes and you can register on line or by a phone call.

New also this year will be our Natural Treasures Summer Day Camp. We will be combining natural history lessons with artifacts, games and crafts from the turn of the century. The camp is being offered June 4th – 7th and July 16 – 19 from 9am to 4pm. Look for our flyer in the newsletter about more details or call the museum to register for the event.

We have several items added to our collection this month and we want to thank the following persons for their recent donations. We want to thank Bill Garms for a 1939 National Cash Register and, Chuck Kilgore for a letter dated 1913. We also want to thank Kitty Siggins for the League City Booklet and Medsger death certificates and Edward Race for the book, *League City, A History from Its Beginnings to 1912*. We need to thank Rachel Dwight and Russell Hall for their collection of eight old text books which include *The Fifth Reader* by Willson, *The Harvard Classics*, *The Introduction to Economic Geography*, *Handicraft in the School*, *Treasure Island*, *Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*, *Etiquette* and *The Last Essays of Elia*. We also want to thank Bert Schroder for three books entitled, *Appleton's Fourth Reader*, *Civics: Texas and Federal*, and *A Modern English Grammar* book. All of these items are greatly appreciated and we look forward to sharing them with our future visitors.

Next week Richard, Kate and I will be attending the annual Texas Association of Museums Meeting in San Antonio. We hope to bring back more ideas to expand our museum programs. We also continue to work on digitizing the collection and maintaining the daily operations of the museum. We look forward to a busy month in April and in May.

The first Saturday in February we held another Open House. Visitors who ventured out in the rain enjoyed the talents of Sherry Frankovich, quilter; Garet Nenninger, stained glass artist; Mike Conwell, leather worker and John Dupla, branding iron worker.



**League City Historic District
Commission Report**
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC
...Fay Dudney

February 16, 2012

Two requests for Certificates of Appropriateness were approved to construct a garage addition to a single family residence at 709 Coryell (southwest corner of Coryell Street and No. Kansas Avenue,) and a porch and garage addition for a single family dwelling at 801 Coryell Street (southeast corner of Coryell Street and N. Kansas Avenue.)

Staff presented a briefing regarding amendments to the Residential Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District.

Commissioner Darreyl Picou reported that the sign ordinance is not currently being enforced near East Main and Michigan Avenue

March, 2012

The League City Historic Commission has had the privilege to join the Planning and Zoning Commission in several discussions to amend the RNC Neighborhood Conservation District Overlay. This overlay is a zoning overlay for the Historic District, residents of 7th Street, the Township Development, and one resident on North Kansas Ave., who have petitioned City Council to be de-annexed from the Historic District. On March 19, 2012, Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of the amendments as prepared by City Staff. City Council will be voting on this recommendation at their next meeting March 27, 2012 in Council Chambers, at 6:00 pm.

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

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Joanna Sharp Dawson	Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis	Museum Director

**Visiting Grandma's
Historic League City**

...Evelyn Albrecht Garland

Few things bring greater delight to a grandmother than spending time with her grandchild, especially when the child lives in Canada and grandma is in Texas. My grandson Liam Christian Ivey, my daughter Noel and Christian's Dad BJ are here visiting from Ontario. They left 13 below temps to spend some time in Texas. Christian is home schooled so it works well for them.

Because of the home schooling, Mom and grandma are always looking for ways to enhance Christian's education. I suggested that he participate in the first *Natural History Night* at the museum, focusing on a science project, the study of butterflies. Christian, his parents and I all attended and it was a great experience. Christian being a 9 year old boy, was worried he'd be the only boy. There weren't many boys to be sure, but he had a wonderful time just the same. The first session was in the one room school house. Our skillful teachers, Kate Jordan and Sarah Eubanks did a fantastic job implementing many learning techniques to teach about the stages of insect metamorphosis as well as introducing the children to what it was like to be in a one room school. It was interesting, educational and fun!! What more can one ask.



The Barn Museum

Then we went to a second session in the museum and received more information about nature and insects and were able to build a simple, attractive and fun butterfly feeder. The entire evening was extremely well-organized, all the teachers were fantastic, and everyone had a great time learning, even though it was a mixed age group. I suggest that if you have anyone among your friends and family who might enjoy the next two sessions that you let them know about this program. The next session is on birds on April 12th and the May 10th session is about flowers. I'm sad my family will be back in Canada by then.

The next day Christian and Noel attended a session at the one room school house with a scheduled group. (I asked Catharin for permission) Once again they returned with rave reviews about their experience. It lasted about 3 hours and my daughter was just amazed at the well-organized and interesting presentation. Christian thinks Catharin is pretty terrific, too. My suggestion is we all "toot our own horn" about what a great facility we have here. My grandson thinks I live in a pretty terrific town!



**League City Historical Society
2012 Dues Form**

**Become a Supporting member
of the
League City Historical Society**

Thank You for being a member of the League City Historical Society. It is time to renew membership for 2012. Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

To renew your membership, choose the membership level that is best for you, Clip and complete the form and mail to **LCHS, P. O. Box 1642, League City, TX 77574**. You may also bring renewal and check to the next meeting.

- \$25 Single Membership
- \$40 Family Membership
- \$15 Senior Citizen Membership
- \$50 Organization Membership
- \$250 Life Membership

Please update your membership information.

Name: _____

(If Family Membership, please include names of family members.)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home Phone _____

Cell Phone: _____

email address: _____

- Check if your name, address or email has changed recently.
- Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save on postage.
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**Aunt
Diane's
Cookies**



by **Diane Kerkhove**

Our LCHS Member and Secretary, Diane Kerkhove, has compiled all of her famous and very delicious cookie recipes* and has recently published a cookie cookbook that has spanned generations. Diane has generously donated 30 copies to the League City Historical Society and they are selling for \$10 each. The entire proceeds will go to our treasury. Stop by the museum and pick up one or two copies before they are all gone. They would make great gifts for that upcoming bridal shower. The cookbooks entitled Aunt Diane's Cookies will be available at the meeting on Thursday, March 29th.

**Editor's note. I have been very fortunate to have sampled many of Diane's cookies and they are indeed absolutely scrumptious.*



**Back on Track...
the Galveston
Railroad Museum**

Each Saturday ride the Harborside Express! This 15 minute round trip excursion allows you the opportunity to ride on an authentic MoPac 13895 short bay window caboose.

Be sure to 'like' League City Historical Society's **facebook** page