March 27, 2008 Meeting

LCHS Member and historian, **Heather Green-Wooten, M.A. Ph.D.** will be the speaker for the April meeting at our Ice Cream Social at Ernie Randall’s Clear Creek Gun Range. Heather will speak on the history of the Japanese Settlers in League City. Heather has Bachelors in Mass Communication from Abilene Christian University and a Masters in History from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. Her interest in history continued into her Ph.D. work in the history of medicine. She has recently signed a book contract with Texas A & M University Press. The title of the book will be *Battling a Terrifying Unknown: The Polio Years in Texas.*

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*from the president…*

Hello Friends,

April is here and how glorious the weather is! I can’t remember a spring like this in several years. We mustn’t waste a minute to take advantage and enjoy it while we can, before summer arrives.

So here comes our Ice Cream Social, as a meeting replacement for the April meeting. This year, we have the added benefit of having it at Ernie Randall’s Clear Creek Gun Range. A longtime, avid supporter of the Society and past President, Ernie is graciously sharing his family’s own beautiful ‘oasis’ with us.

Sherry Frankovich is in charge of the event, and I would like add my own invitation to you all to bring cookies, trimmings, lemonade, or any other goodies that would add to the fun!

Our speaker for May is Heather Green-Wooten, our very own member-historian, who will talk about the history of the Japanese settlers in League City and Webster. She spoke recently to the League City Genealogical Society, and will continue with us. If you recall, Heather was the Historian in our League City library until she resigned to write her latest book, which is about the polio epidemic in our part of Texas… a subject for a future meeting, by the way.

Between now and April’s meeting, the Board will be attending a special workshop conducted by Ron Swofford of Executive Service Corps of Houston, who is charged to teach the Board to do our leadership work in a better, more imaginative was as we are growing.

See you for ice cream. There are instructions to the Gun Range elsewhere in the newsletter.

*Joanna Sharp*
February 28, 2007 Meeting Minutes
Sherry Frankovich

President Joanna Sharp welcomed everyone to LCHS meeting, which was held at the Kemah Schoolhouse. Ed Linck introduced the Kemah board members. He then, shared the history of the Kemah Schoolhouse, which was a school from 1912 to 1949.

Joanna Sharp introduced the speaker, Dr. Steven Holmes. He told us about his Great-grandfather, Warren White, who was a buffalo soldier. He fought in the Civil War and afterward, served in the Calvary in Texas.

Joanna Sharp invited all members and the Kemah Society to an Ice Cream Social held at the Clear Creek Gun Range. That date is April 24.

**MusNews**

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Ever wonder what happens under this roof? We hope you will plan to stop by for a visit, bring you family, friends or out of town guests. Spring is in full swing and there are lots of activities blossoming. The Museum is active with visitors from Webster, League City, Houston, Galveston, Lumberton and the Woodlands. Our walk-in visitors came from Michigan, Utah, Ohio, Kansas, Denton Texas and the local area. We held 19 schoolhouse sessions, 375 children and adults, 20 teachers and 31 walk-in-visitors with a total of 426 visitors plus staff and volunteers for the month of March.

We brought in $2,544.50 in the month of March with $1,663.00 from program fees, $806.05 in gift shop sales and $75 in walk-in-donations. We needed to restock the gift shop for the spring visitors in addition to expenses for teachers, management, security, ads, website, and office supplies. Our total expenses for March came to $4,946.02. Our March balance is $10,682.22.

Our collection continues to grow and it takes a lot of time to process the wonderful gifts. We want to thank Joanna Sharp for her recent donation of a Sewing Machine Head and a hand drill. We also want to thank Dennis Ruhl for the wonderful collection of Lawrence Broom & Mop Company Bank records. The collection covers part of 1930’s, 1940’s and 1970’s. We will be able to determine what they paid for broom materials, who worked there and what companies did business with the Broom and Mop Company. These, like others donations in the past, help preserve pieces of League City History that we can then share with future visitors. We want to thank all those who help support the Museum in this way.

Our volunteer staff deserves a constant thank you for all their help and support even though so many were gone during the month of March with trips, elections and family business. Betty Lewis donated 40.5 hours working with newspapers, Bertha Adams served 10.5 hours, Joyce Buchanan worked 6 hours, Barbara Vermillion served 4.25 hours, Kathie Nenninger

A reminder, as you drive down our wonderful old Main Street, accidents can and do come from nowhere, so much more care is needed now than ten years ago. I was broadsided by someone who sped up and ran a red light, trying to get in line for the next light on Main Street this Monday. I’m very lucky not to have been hurt, but it could have been a lot worse. The truck came from a blind lane, and there was a golf cart with a woman and child on it, moving into the intersection from the other side, so a guardian angel was looking over us all.

Let this be a lesson......just BE CAREFUL. Joanna

**LC Citizen of the Year**

We congratulate our very own Fay Dudney and her husband, Dr. Ned Dudney, who were honored as League City’s first “Citizens of the Year” by Mayor Jerry Shults during his annual state of the city address. Fay, a charter member of the League City Historical Society and former President was honored for her vast contributions to League City since 1955. Dr. Dudney served on League City’s first city council and was instrumental during League City’s incorporation. We are so proud of their achievements.
worked 3.75 hours, Bryan Schutmaat worked 3.5 and Alan Yang worked 1 hour. Catharin served 96 volunteer hours for March doing research, planning, designing and editing. Richard also worked 45 hours behind the scenes repairing artifacts and jump ropes, editing and research. This gives us a total of 210.5 volunteer hours for the month of March.

Reservations for the schoolhouse program for April and May are filling up fast and the next two months will be very busy also. I continue to work on the collection, the cemetery research project and general operations of the Museum. Thanks to my many volunteers we are making progress in all areas of meeting our mission.

THE GREATEST GENERATION
GHOSTS OF THE PAST TOUR
OCTOBER 25, 2008

Deborah C. Gammon, Chairman

The research for the ghost tour is coming along smoothly with many hours being spent at libraries at UHCL and Galveston. I’m learning more than I ever thought I needed to know about World War II.

- The men killed at Pearl Harbor are NOT considered War Dead as War was not declared until after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
- The men killed in the Merchant Marines were not considered War Dead until 1983 and are still not recognized by the VFW as war dead.
- Ninety-four ships were sunk off the coast of Texas during WWII by German U boats.
- The War gave us the two-piece bathing suit as it was mandated that manufacturers had to use 10% less material in a clothing article. Therefore the middle was removed and we girls got the two-piece suit. Dresses were shortened from the 1930’s; peep toe shoes took less leather. All fashions that I was not aware were caused by the War.

The men and women interred in Fairview Cemetery that served in World War II are:
Flora Annette Atkinson and her sister, Caroline Atkinson d’Etchegoyen, daughters of John Paxton and Ava King Atkinson.
Maxine Gilmore Bolin
John C. Conaway
Robert L. Crafton
Claude McCoy Dick, who died of a heart attack while home visiting his mother right across the street from our museum.

George R. Elderkin, a Merchant Marine who also lost his brother Floyd Earl Elderkin in the War.
Matthew Galfione
Roy Lafayette Hardy, a murder victim.
Roy Truman Hatfield, a victim of the Texas City Explosion.
Jessie Lee Headrick
James Clemson Hewitt
Suichi Imai, a first generation American whose parents came to this country in 1906 with the sole purpose of coming to Webster, TX as stated on their entry papers in Canada.
William J. Morris
Arthur Roy Peterson
Robert Glen Rogers
Rosa Lee Simons
Allison Mitchell Stewart, the caretaker of Fairview Cemetery for many years.

If anyone has any information on these people and their families, please contact me at 281-334-4950 or gammondc@gmail.com.

Any mementos of the era and pictures of the above would be greatly appreciated. I am searching for local yearbooks that would have pictures of the men and women. If you have one that I may borrow, please contact me. Ghosts are still needed. If interested, please let me know.

**LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD**

Joanna Sharp President
Ronnie Richards Vice President
Diana Dornak Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich Secretary
Deborah Gammon Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen Board Member
Diane Gillette Board Member
Richard Lewis Board Member
Carole Ragland Board Member
Kathy Weisskopf Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis Museum Director

Our annual League City Historical Society Membership dues are due. Please mail your dues to P.O. Box 1642 League City, TX 77574.

A big thank you to those members who have already renewed. If you paid your dues in October or later your membership is already paid for 2008.

A membership form is included at the end of this newsletter.
Our special guest speaker for our Dinner in History on October 9, Bob Heinonen, will impersonate Stephen F. Austin. To whet our appetites, we will to present information about Austin in our upcoming newsletters.

Austin is a very appropriate speaker for our community, because many of us live on land he owned in the early 1800’s. The GH&H railroad now runs along the eastern boundary of this land.

We all know that Stephen F. Austin is considered “The Father of Texas” – but how much do we really know about him?

Austin was born in Virginia in 1793, and before coming to Texas, he lived in Missouri, Connecticut, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Louisiana. His early jobs included working in his father’s general store, and managing father’s lead manufacturing business. He was also a member of the Missouri territorial legislature, director of a Missouri bank that failed, circuit judge of the first judicial district of Arkansas, and editor of a newspaper in New Orleans.

He was in New Orleans studying law when his dying father asked him to please take over the new family enterprise – managing a grant from Spain to bring settlers to Texas. Reluctantly, he responded -- and started the most famous chapter of his life.

We’ve heard of his “Old Three Hundred” – but how many families did he really bring to Texas? Actually, more than 1200! Historians tell us he brought 297 families under his first contract with Spain. But while the settlers were arriving, Mexico successfully revolted from Spain and cancelled the contract. With great effort Austin got it reinstated with the new government. Then he brought in an additional 900 families under later contracts in the 1820’s. Why was he so successful? A major factor was poor economic conditions in the United States at that time.

Watch for more tidbits about Austin in future newsletters…. 

Kemah Historical Society/Visitor Center has a paid position available on weekends. For more information please call Pam at 281-334-3181.

Become a supporting Member of the League City Historical Society....

Thank you for your interest in your community.

League City Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1642
League City, Texas 77574

I/We wish to become a member of The League City Historical Society. Enclosed is a check to cover dues.

Our new Membership Directory will be published in late spring. So that we can include your updated information in the new directory, please send your dues by April 1st.

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2007 or later, you are current for the year 2008.

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLED:

- Single (Individual)..........................$25
- Family Membership............................$40
- Senior Citizen...(65 or older). $15
- Organization......................................$50
- Life Membership..............................$250

Please update your membership information.

Name/s:_________________________________

_______________________________________

Address: _________________________________

_______________________________________

Phone: _________________________________

Email:__________________________________

☐ 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.

Circle projects you might be interested in working on:

- School/Museum, Tree Registry, Membership, Fund-Raising, Landmark Medallions, Events/Receptions.

- Please call me. I'd like more in information.