A change of venue marks our meeting in August, due in part to the outstanding and interesting speaker who is coming from Austin, just for this event. We will be meeting at the Butler Longhorn Museum at 6:30 pm to hear Dr. David B. Gracy, II. Dr. Gracy’s curriculum vitae are extensive. His list of work, writings, board positions, teaching experience and professional affiliations are long and impressive. Dr. Gracy was Texas State Archivist and taught at the University of Texas until his recent retirement. He is the Governor Bill Daniel Professor Emeritus for Archival Enterprise at the University of Texas. He has written a biography of Governor Bill Daniel, who was appointed Governor of Guam and was the brother of the Texas Governor Price Daniel. A native of Liberty, the Daniel brothers were favorite sons of the area just to our northeast. Dr. Gracy has chronicled the accomplishments of Governor Daniels in Guam during a difficult and unsettling time.

Dr. Gracy lives in Austin, with his wife, Laura and is a long-time friend of Amtrak ticket agent and LCHS member, David Garland, from the time Garland worked for Amtrak in Austin in the 1980’s. The reason for their friendship stems from the fact that both Gracy and Garland are avid railroad buffs. Because of his love of the railroad, Dr. Gracy serves on the Board of the Austin Steam Train Association and often works on board the trains for tourist excursions now that he is retired from his “real” job.

You will enjoy hearing this knowledgeable and experienced teacher and author. Our meeting begins at 7pm following the social time beginning at 6:30.

In case you didn’t catch it the League City Historical Society made it into the Galveston Daily News in two different articles. One was regarding the history of the schools in our area by Chris Mallios, a Contributing Editor, and another regarding a project by Eagle Scout Alex Hester and members of Boy Scout Troop 615 to construct a new outdoor garden classroom at the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum.

Our next meeting will be hosted at the Butler Longhorn Museum in the Education Center. We needed more seating space for this meeting as our speaker is the recently retired Dr. David Gracy who served as Texas State Archivist and is a former University of Texas professor. We expect to draw a large crowd. Dr. Gracy is Governor Bill Daniel Professor Emeritus for Archival Enterprise at the University of Texas. He has written a biography of Governor Bill Daniel, who was appointed Governor of Guam and was brother of Texas Governor Price Daniel. Governor Bill Daniel’s daughters Ann Rogers, Susan Daniel and Dani Brister are planning to attend the meeting and we need to give them a ‘Big’ League City welcome.

Our meeting starts with social time at 6:30 pm and meeting at 7pm but I urge you to arrive early and tour the Butler Longhorn Museum. Even if you have been there before, as I had, I was surprised to see so many new artifacts on exhibit. We are inviting the Longhorn Museum Members to join us at this meeting.

Also please mark your calendars for the Eighth Annual Living History Dinner set for Wednesday, October 10th at Butler’s Courtyard. This year our guest speaker will portray Abraham Lincoln. We need silent auction items as part of this event. Anything you wish to contribute can be taken to Diana Dornak’s home prior to the event. Watch your mail for your invitation as this is always a sold out event and tickets must be pre-purchased.
Meeting Minutes
...Diane Kerkhove
June 28, 2012 Meeting
The June meeting was held at the School House Museum.

Catharin Lewis opened the meeting with a review of their camping experiences and announcements.

Richard Lewis introduced Edward Coitham, Jr. who spoke on his book Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston.

Galveston was a Boom Town in 1861, growing at the rate of 50 percent per year. It was the biggest cotton trade port in the country.

Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Mary’s Cathedral were damaged during the Galveston battle when the Union Navy invaded Galveston. Gen. John “Prince John” MacGruder organized the defense and captured the city again until June 1865, after the surrender at Appomattox. MacGruder was buried in Trinity Cemetery; three Confederate generals were buried there, too.

Catherine reminded everyone of the Teddy Bear Parade on July 4.

Memberships are welcome in our organization.

Refreshments were provided by Catherine Lewis.

Exciting changes are taking place at the museum this summer and people are taking notice. A new building, a patio and added programs highlight some of the changes taking place. Our walk-in visitor headcount has increased this summer with many League City people coming for the very first time. We had 72 in June, 275 in July which includes our very successful Teddy Bear Parade and 105 by August 8th. We held eleven schoo house programs both in June and July making our visitor totals 202 in June and 466 in July. We brought in $1,008.59 in June and $1,886.11 in July. Our expenses were higher than usual these two months to pay for the Fire hose Reel building and to upgrade needed museum software.

Our long awaited Fire Hose Reel Building is now erected with many thanks from the League City United Methodist Church Volunteers and Richard Lewis. Ignace and other finishing touches are in preparation stages and will be added soon.

Phase one of our Garden Classroom Project is now finished with many thanks from Eagle Scout Alex Hester. Alex, now a senior at Clear Springs High School, did a fine job of four months planning, fund raising and then gathering the needed people and equipment to successfully complete the five day project. There were more than twenty five people that spent long hot days working with the 1700 bricks. We are really pleased with his work and the addition of the brick patio for our benches. The patio will provide an area free from ants for our outside programs. We also want to thank, Benson and Jacobson, Inc., C. Lynn Davis, DDS, and Dawn Black for their check donations, Living Earth and McCoys for in-kind donations of supplies, and cash donation from Debbie Groce. We want to thank the many volunteers both young and old who helped move and lay bricks and their contributions to help Alex gain Eagle Scout of 2012.

We are now working on phase two to plan the gardens which will border two sides. If you are willing to help with this project or would like to donate funds toward it, please contact me at the museum. Richard and I will begin moving the dirt in our spare time to prepare the area and unbury the site of the original flag pole for this property. We hope to highlight a new pole in the gardens along Second Street in the design. We will be looking for donors for the new benches and flag pole to complete phase two of the project. Phase three of the project involves new benches. Details about the benches will come next month. We already have two benches donated, one from donations by Lunar Rendezvous and the other from memorial funds for Walter Lewis. We need a total of six, each with backs and the name of the donors on the benches.

Our collection is growing once again. We want to thank Diane Robinson of Houston for her recent donation of 31 player piano rolls for schoolhouse program. It is a delightful collection of music rolls that was passed through the family to her which came from her grandmother in Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. Robinson has visited our museum over the years and has enjoyed hearing our piano and thought of us. We also want to thank Debbie Groce for her recent collection of documents. “The Constitution”, “Bill of Rights”, “Gettysburg Address” and Union and Confederate money were among the eleven documents given. We will add these with many thanks to use in future exhibits or hands-on activities.
Preparations are now being made for fall programs and events. We are also making repairs on needed items around the museum and trimming bushes and trees ahead of the weather and arrival of school buses. We have a great team of volunteers who come and go according to their lives, but always seem to arrive when we need them the most. We thank them so much for their time and talents and are always open to add new faces if you want to come and help.

**MusNews Day Camp**
Sarah Eubanks, Education Director

Summer 2012 saw a new hit at WBCS with its inaugural “Natural Treasures Day Camps” one week in June and one in July. From National Parks themes to nature studies, fifteen campers entering first through seventh grade spent several full days having fun—all without realizing they were learning difficult scientific concepts and ecological principles. Key terms like “brood parasitism” and “biodiversity” were reinforced without them knowing through games of predator-prey tag and camouflaged cowbird role-playing with popcorn.

Every day had its own special treasure hunt and treasures to make in a 19th century setting. Richard and Catharin Lewis brought in their wonderful chuck wagon and teepee to be explored. Richard taught the students how to make rope, and for the rest of the week they enjoyed impromptu lassoing. Campers were in for an extra treat the second camp when LCHS member Mike Conwell brought his leatherworking trade to demonstrate and captivate. Everyone got to add their own personal flare to leather items to show off at home.

Because the camps were such a success and the enthusiastic campers all want to return, a brand new camp is in the works. “Natural Treasures Day Camp” and the chuck wagon will be back as well on separate Summer 2013 weeks.

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

At a work shop meeting July 5, 2012, held in the 2nd floor conference room at Amegy Bank, commission members expressed their desire to utilize the language found in the Preservation Plan that discusses the amendment process to the Preservation Plan. Several concerns were raised on the amendment process language for the Preservation Plan, specifically related to the election requirement. Staff began their research of the election process and specifically reviewed Article III of the City Charter which outlines procedures for all elections. Considering the complexities and expenses of conducting an election staff suggested that instead of an election process, a requirement is added that 65% of all property owners within the District must sign a petition in support of the boundary amendment request. The petition would be required to be submitted before the Historic District Commission or Council can make a decision on the amendment. Once the language of the amendment is finalized by the Commission, a public hearing will be held for public comment. This information will be forwarded to a land use attorney, knowledgeable in Historic Preservation, for further review.

At the Historic District’s Commission regular meeting July 19, 2012, discussion of the proposed amendment process language was tabled until such time as a land use attorney can be engaged to help draft the amendment.

Wes Morrison, Staff Liaison, announced that a petition to de-annex three additional properties on Coryell Street has been received.

June 21, 2012

The League City Historic District Commission met in Council Chambers June 21, 2012 at 6:00 pm. A Public Hearing was held regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 56, Historical Preservation, specifically related to the process for requesting de-annexation from the Historic District Boundaries.

Staff’s recommendations were presented and discussed. No action was taken.

City Staff Liaison, Wes Morrison recommended scheduling a work shop for follow up discussion of proposed amendments to Chapter 56 – Historic Preservation - and the Preservation Plan.

League City City Manager, Mike Loftin, introduced Derek St. John, a representative of Lockwood Newman, the contracting firm who may be awarded the contract to study the existing drainage issues in the Historic...
District. Mr. Derek discussed the procedures his company would follow to determine corrections necessary to alleviate drainage problems, and the time needed to make corrections. He anticipated a proposal could be available to the public in 6 to 8 months after a contract is awarded. Open houses and workshops open to the public will be scheduled during the process.

August 16, 2012
The League City Historic District Commission meeting scheduled August 16, 2012, was cancelled for lack of a quorum present. A called meeting will be scheduled later during this month.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Larry & Vera Reyna

Teddy Bear Parade 2012

Fall 2012 “B” Musing
Nature History Nights
at
West Bay Common School
Children’s Museum

Come to discover coastal Texas' flora and fauna where we combine science and history lessons from the 1800s with hands-on activities. Each workshop includes games, stories, and crafts that you can take home!

Second Tuesday “B”s of the Month

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 11th</td>
<td>Birds</td>
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<td>October 9th</td>
<td>Bats</td>
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<td>November 13th</td>
<td>Bugs *</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11th</td>
<td>Blooms **</td>
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* All GS Brownie BUGS LEGACY badge requirements are fulfilled here
** All GS Juniors FLOWERS LEGACY badge requirements are fulfilled here

Second Tuesday Evenings from 6 – 7:30 pm
Cost: $10 per child
Programs designed for ages 6 – 12

Registration and payment deadline is one week before event with no refunds 24 hours prior, September is extended to Sep 10th.

210 N. Kansas Ave
League City, TX 77573
(281) 664-2994
www.Oneroomschoolhouse.org

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Joanna Sharp Dawson Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis  Museum Director
League City Historical Society

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
...Diana Dornak

The committee met in June to discuss and finalize the priority list of possible sites. It has taken most of the summer to invite the various home and site owners and wait for a reply or decision as to whether they will be on the tour. We now have our confirmed list of sites for the 2012 Historic Homes Tour. The homes and sites to be on tour for this year will be announced at the August Meeting.

Calendar

August 30  LCHS Meeting
Dr. David Gracy on Gov. Bill Daniels
*Butler Longhorn Museum
1220 Coryell Street League City
6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting
September 27  Ralph Stenzel  Hitchcock Naval
Air Station
October 10  Living History Dinner with
Abraham Lincoln

“Most Precious Offering©”

...will be presented to the Mayor of League City on Sept. 22 at 6:30 pm in a ceremony honoring fallen soldiers. The event is being sponsored by The Butler Longhorn Museum and will take place at the museum located on Coryell St.

A two man art show entitled, “Heroes through Time” featuring artists, Diane Barron and Saundra Whiddon will follow. The history of man and his courageous journey from the beginning to the present is represented in the artists’ work with a focus on Texas history.

Created by artist, Saundra Whiddon, (a past guest speaker of the LCHS), to honor the courage and sacrifice of all parents who from infancy, held and nurtured the soldier and now, for the sake of others, must let him go. In the final goodbye, the parents exhibit purpose and unspeakable selflessness.

The infant is portrayed as vulnerable and yet secure in the hands of his parents. He is swaddled in the American Flag. The hand of his father lifts him up with great determination and purpose; using his strength to hold the head of the infant securely for the entire journey. The mother’s hand, by contrast, forms a nurturing pose as she reluctantly and slowly lifts her child toward the heavens. The infant is simultaneously emitting a cry of victory and of separation with which the artist hopes to show the ambivalence even the bravest soldier feels when called to war. He clutches the American Flag against his chest with one hand. With the other hand, he raises his flag toward the Creator showing the courage that soldiers exhibit when they dare to reach higher than others!

We thank Phyllis White and Mike Conwell for this month’s refreshments