August 2016 Newsletter

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Calendar of Events

August 25
“The Crew Left Behind” A report of Jean Laffite’s crew and their descendants who remained in Galveston and the Bay Area after their captain sailed away.
Lou Graves MacBeth – Laffite Society of Galveston

September 23
Living History Dinner
President Ulysses S. Grant

September 29
“Galveston County Ghosts”
Dash Beardsley, Ghost Tours of Galveston

October 27
“Haunted League City”
LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

November 17
“The History of the Catholic Church in Galveston County”
Lisa May, Archivist, Archdiocese of Houston

December – No meeting

August 25th Speaker

“The Crew Left Behind” A report of Jean Laffite’s crew and their descendants who remained in Galveston and the Bay Area after their captain sailed away.

Lou Graves MacBeth is a native Galvestonian and a descendant of Sheldon Graves who settled in Galveston in 1838. Her great-grandfather, Sheldon’s son, was an engineer on the Confederate cotton clad Neptune in the Battle of Galveston in 1863. Her family remained involved in city activities over the years. Her grandfather was also a ship’s engineer and was instrumental in founding the Marine Engineer’s Benevolent Association, a forerunner to unions. Prior to that time, 21st and Mechanic was called “Monkey Wrench Corner” when individuals – often full of drink were knocked unconscious and put on ships as crew members. Her father served as a captain and assistant chief with the Galveston Fire Department.

Lou is a member of the Galveston Historical Foundation, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and charter member of the Laffite Society.

The League City Historical Society meets at the Bus Barn next to the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum 210 Kansas Street, League City 6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

Silent Auction items are needed for our upcoming Living History Dinner. Contributions through our annual silent auction, provide additional funding of our One-room schoolhouse experience and the museum facilities. Your donations are critical for our operations. For more information, please contact Katie Benoit Hake at 281-332-6757 or the Museum at 281-554-2994.
Meeting Minutes
Susan Pierce, Secretary

June 30, 2016 Meeting

President Doug McKee called the meeting to order by welcoming the large group. Evelyn Garland began the meeting with a prayer.

Museum Director/Curator, Catharin Lewis, reported that we are now a part of the ENGAGED program of the Mid-America Arts Alliance for the next 2-3 years. The museum received a wonderful grant for $10,000 from the George and Mary Hamman Foundation. The Country Schools of America began their annual conference at the home of Catharin and Richard Lewis where they toured our local area. After that, they headed to Fredericksburg for their conference. She also announced that our annual Teddy Bear Parade will be held on Monday, July 4th and said that participants are to be at the museum by 10am to register.

Kathy Weisskopf said that Fay Dudney was now living at The Crossing on HWY 270. Visitors are welcome. Janice Hallisey, introduced visitor Dan Henn. Other visitors were Janice and Dave McCarthy and Kristy Nelson.

Evelyn Garland who had just returned from Europe told of some of the historical sites that she visited. Joyce Zongrone announced the programs for the rest of the year.

Vice-President Mike Peterson introduced our guest speaker, Susan Kaufman, Manager Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research / Houston Public Library. Susan walked us through the many steps on how to begin and work on family genealogy. The Clayton Library offers many resources to include 10 on-site genealogists to help with your research on your family history. They have several workshops during July and August to help you get started. To begin, it is important to know what you are looking for and what you want to know. Many times family photos and items found around your house will give great clues. Records may be found, in the census records, vital records, church records, newspapers, land records, military records, wills and deeds, city directories, passenger lists and tax records. You may apply on line for a Houston Public Library card to access information at the Clayton and you can begin your search from your home computer. After 30 days you will have to go in to get a permanent library card. On the third Saturday of each month, there is an orientation at the Clayton. Some websites to visit are familysearch.org (free account), cyndislist.com, findagrave.com and tombstone.com.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted by Kathie Nenninger for Susan Pierce
Curator’s Corner

Summer has flown by and preparations are in the works for the fall events. However, I give special thanks to all who helped with the daily operations of the museum, its classes, its meetings and especially the Teddy Bear Parade. We are proud to have the support and safety of our policeman, Marty Grant and Todd Young and their helpers. We want to thank D&D Pest for sponsoring the event and many thanks to Butler’s Courtyard for sharing their courtyard, fan’s, water and space to make it special for our participants. We thank Doug McKee, Mike & Deanna Peterson, Ronnie & Nancy Richards, Amber Murphy, Parade Judge Joyce Zongrone, Parade Judge Nancy Wright, Parade Judge Doug Kershner, Richard Lewis, Melissa Aguilar, Barbara Vermillion, Kathie Nenninger, Michael Kershner, Michael Greenwald, and Daniel Henn for their volunteer help. I give special thanks to Amber for her support in publicity bringing the many twins, triplets and quads to the parade. It was very successful with 54 participants and more than 100 parents, grandparents and friendly neighbors who watched the delightful children. Anyone wishing to sponsor next year’s event should contact the museum or the League City Historical Society.

Many local Day Cares, Camps and families participated in our 13 summer schoolhouse sessions. We had 532 visitors from Friendswood, Sweeney, Pearland, West Columbia and League City with walk-in visitors from New Mexico and towns in Texas such as Brownwood, Bay Cliff, Liberty, Kingwood, Dallas area, Victoria, Seabrook, and Nassau Bay.

We want to thank, Marian Fuller for her recent donation of paper files about League City and we want to thank Tommye Randolph for her recent donation of a long bustle dress to add to our collection. Our collection continues to grow. I am still trying to digitize all that is in the collection. If you have anything you want to donate, please contact me at the museum.

We are panning the Fall Stories in the Schoolhouse. Watch for new flyers on the website.

Over the years we have had many volunteers that serve once a week three hours in the morning or three hours in the afternoons to help in the back with copying, filing, typing, gift shop or assist in curatorial work. We need your help again. You will have fun too. Please consider sharing some of your free time and lending us a hand. Call me at 281-554-2994.
Teddy Bear Parade July 4th, 2016
The League City Historical Society had just over 200 in attendance with volunteers, police support, participants, parents, grandparents, siblings and parade watchers. There were 54 registered participants of which included: 16 individuals, 10 sets of twins, 4 groups of triplets and 1 set of quadruplets.

**The winners for the age group 0 – 3 years:**
First Place – Lucy and Eva Murphy
Second Place – Landrie and Lukus Brown
Third Place – Chi, Zachary, Leila and Thadius Niah

**The winners for the age group 4 – 7 years:**

*Two sets of winners for this group*
First Place – Peyton Oliver
Second Place – Jordyn Rhane
Third Place – Izzy Luberger
First Place – Emmanuel McGuire-Lent
Second Place – Cadence Blackwood
Third Place – Gabriel Cejka

**Volunteers included:**
Doug McKee, President
Richard and Catharin Lewis
Mike and Deanna Peterson
Melissa Aguilar
Barbara Vermillion
Kathie Nenninger
Michael Kershneke
Michael Greenwald
Daniel Henn
2 Citizen Police Volunteers
Marty Grant, Policeman
Todd Young, Policeman
Amber Murphy
Ronnie and Nancy Richards

**Judges included:**
Joyce Zongrone
Nancy Wright
Doug Kershner
Sue Kaufman Addresses League City Historical Society

By Joyce Zongrone, Clayton House Docent

Left to right: Michael Peterson, Vice President League City Historical Society; Sue Kaufman, Manager Clayton Library; Richard Lewis and Melodey Hauch; Society Board members, at the West Bay Common School Barn Museum, League City TX

League City Historical Society hosted Susan Kaufman, Manager Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research / Houston Public Library, at their June 30 monthly meeting at the West Bay Common School Barn Museum, 210 N. Kansas Avenue, League City.

Kaufman’s topic, Genealogy Right in Your Backyard, took members and guests on a journey through the Clayton Library’s national and international collections, touching on its nearly 90,000 volumes covering the United States, the British Isles, Canada, Mexico, Germany and Eastern Europe, its microfilm collection, photo scanners and genealogical periodicals.

Sue presented a concise, “how to” approach to discovering your ancestry by looking for clues which include your own personal information, talking to the people around you and by simply looking around your own home for items that could well be artifacts. She also showed examples of Pedigree Charts, Family Group Sheets and detailed the US Census information from 1790 to 1940. Giving one last final tip, Sue recommended putting together a family genealogy book for the Clayton Library to keep on file for historical documentation.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Pat Dawson, husband of Past President, Joanna Dawson. Please keep Joanna and family in your prayers.
President Grant’s World Tour

After eight years in the White House, with no ancestral home to return to, Grant and his wife, Julia, decided to take a long-desired tour overseas. The trip also solved the immediate problem of what Grant, a spry man of 55 should do after leaving the White House. England was the first stop on President Grant’s trip around the world. The Grants left Philadelphia in mid May 1877 and returned to San Francisco two and one half years later. After touring the western states he is visiting us tonight on his way to Cuba.

The tour included: England, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Russia, India, Burma, Singapore, Vietnam, Siam, China, Japan, San Francisco, Denver, League City, New Orleans, Miami, Cuba.

Proceeds benefit the
West Bay Common School Museum
and other projects of the
League City Historical Society
a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of League City, Texas.
Members and friends can take a step back in time at League City Historical Society’s Living History Dinner, September 23, with Historical Interpreter, Scott Whitney from Illinois. Whitney portrays President Grant’s post-White House World Tour to England, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Austria, France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Russia, India, Burma, Singapore, Vietnam, Siam, China, Japan, San Francisco, Denver, League City, New Orleans, Miami and Cuba.

When Ulysses S. Grant left the White House in 1877, his reputation was damaged by corruption in his administration, in his party and was fraught with the difficulties of trying to reunite the country. In Europe, the Grants were surprised when greeted by huge crowds honoring him not as a former president, but as the military hero who saved America. The Prince of Wales and Queen Victoria herself hosted them at lavish dinners and receptions. However, the Queen was irritated when the Grants brought their 19-year-old son, Jesse, to meet her. Although she treated them cordially, she later referred to Jesse as a "very ill-mannered young Yankee.”

Across Europe the Grants were treated like royalty. In Newcastle, England, 80-to- 100,000 people, many of them workers, turned out with a parade.

Reporter John Russell Young from the New York Herald traveled with the Grants, sending dispatches home to readers in New York. Other papers picked up the reports and all over America, people began to forget Grant’s scandals and remember his heroism.

By the time the Grants returned to America two years later, they were met by an enormous crowd. The tour was a success, but not enough to help Grant regain the presidency. When the ballots were counted at the Republican convention of 1880, James A. Garfield was the winner of the party’s nomination.

League City Historical Society has been holding Living History Dinners for nine years, since 2007. The dinner is a part of the Society’s mission to preserve history, educate citizens and future generations and is the main fundraiser. A Silent Auction will also be held and items are needed. They can be dropped off at the One Room Schoolhouse Museum, 210 N. Kansas, League City. If you need your item picked up, please call Katie Benoit-Hake at 281-332-6757.

So join us for a fun, unique and memorable evening at Walding Station 100 Perkins Avenue, League City, Friday, September 23, 2016 for a 6 pm Social and Silent Auction and Dinner at 7:00 pm, $65 per person. Tickets (281) 554-2994 or online at www.OneRoomSchoolhouse.org

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Janis Hallisey and Daniel Henn
Never Leave a Man Behind

A Personal Note from LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

Some of you may remember that in 2014, Judge Lonnie Cox, 56th Judicial Court, Galveston, and then attorney Jack Ewing, now Judge Ewing, Galveston, County Court 3, gave freely of their time, money and expertise to assure that two World War I veterans, interred in Fairview Cemetery, rightfully got their VA headstones. The VA refused at first, because both men died 50 years earlier with no next of kin. I contacted Judge Lonnie Cox and asked his advice. He, along with attorney Jack Ewing obtained a Court Order to get the headstones. Judge Ewing did the legal work pro bono and paid all court costs.

As a personal thank you, I framed photos of both headstones and the Judges placing the first flowers ever, on the graves on Memorial Day 2014. The engraving below the photos reads: “A grateful nation salutes you.” Those photos now hang in their chambers on the Galveston County Courthouse as a testament to two men who served their country to guarantee our rights.

When I learned of the VA’s refusal to send the headstones, I knew something had to be done, because we never leave a man behind.

“Never leave a man behind” originated with Latin phrase “nemo reside” or "leave no one behind" and is almost as old as warfare itself. Greek mythology portrayed heroes who rescued those captured by enemies. Two thousand years later, in colonial America, this mythology morphed into legends such James Fenimore Cooper's Natty Bumppo, the Deerslayer, in The Last of the Mohicans, who rescued the helpless from the savage's camp. A century later, the U.S. Cavalry appeared on the silver screen, riding to the rescue of captured women and children.

Today, the U.S. Army Rangers have the language as part of their creed: "I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy." Similar language can be found in the Soldier's Creed, “I will never leave a fallen comrade," as well as the Airman's Creed, “I will never leave an Airman behind." Latin for "always faithful," Semper Fidelis, is the Marine Corps motto, “Those who stand by you in battle will never leave your side.” The US Navy SEAL code of valor and honor says “leave no man behind.”

So, now our comrades, Oscar B. Juenger, CO E 360th Infantry and Frank R. Ellis, 28th CO, 165th Brigade, now rest in peace.

Judge Lonnie Cox  
Judge Jack Ewing
Did you know that …?

By LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

Did you know that the gunfighter and thief, Billy the Kid, has ties to New York City and 9/11? Billy was born in 1859 in Hell’s Kitchen, the twenty-five blocks between 34th and 59th Streets, in New York City. While no one really knows the origin of the name of that early bastion of poor working class Irish immigrants, Alamo defender Davy Crockett said in 1835, "In my part of the country, when you meet an Irishman, you find a first-rate gentleman; but these are worse than savages; they are too mean to swab hell's kitchen." He actually was referring to an area about a mile south of Hell’s Kitchen called Five Points, a five-square-block also ruled by the Irish immigrants, made famous in the Martin Scorsese 2003 film “The Gangs of New York.” The Hell’s Kitchen moniker first appeared in 1881, in the *New York Times.*

Billy was baptized in New York City at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church when he was 11 days old. This church was damaged when hit by the gear of an airplane on 9/11. Debris from the towers killed its parish priest, Father Mychal Judge, the first publicly identified casualty of the attack. The day before, Father Judge held Mass for New York City firefighters at Engine 73 Ladder 42, Bronx, NY. Surviving firemen brought his body from the towers’ site back to the church and laid him before the altar. The parish also served as a staging ground for rescue and recovery operations. The *World Trade Center* cross temporarily sat on the Church Street side of St. Peter’s until it was later moved to the World Trade Center Memorial.

Tintype photograph of legendary Wild West gunslinger Billy the Kid playing croquet with accomplices from his New Mexico gang known as the Regulators, circa 1881

Born William Henry McCarty Jr. in 1859 in New York City, he also came to be known as Henry Antrim and his alias William H. Bonney. Little is actually known about his early life but it is believed that his father died or left the family when Billy was very young. His mother Catherine, immigrated in 1865 at age 17, from Ireland to escape The Great Famine. Billy's younger brother, Joseph McCarty was born four years later in 1863. Catherine McCarty and her sons relocated to Indiana, where she met William Henry Harrison Antrim and then moved with him to Kansas in 1870. In 1873 the family moved again to Santa Fe, New Mexico where Catherine married Antrim with both of her sons as witnesses. After the family moved again to Silver City, New Mexico, Joseph McCarty took his stepfather's surname. Billy the Kid biographer Frank Nolan writes that Billy assumed his alias “Bonney,” in 1877 after he killed a sheriff, in hopes of escaping the death penalty. Bonney may have been his biological father’s last name. Billy was 15 when his mother died of *tuberculosis* in 1874. After her death, their stepfather placed them separately in foster homes.
Joe McCarty never saw his brother again, but met up with Sheriff Pat Garrett by chance in August 1882, at the Armijo Hotel in Trinidad, Colorado. They talked there privately for two hours. Garrett and Joe eventually shook hands and parted company, with no hard feelings. Joe worked as a gambler in Colorado and when he died destitute in 1930, his body was given to the Colorado Medical School to be dissected. Garrett went on to write *The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid*, in 1882, which would help turn the young outlaw into a legend of the American frontier. “The Kid” was portrayed as having a slim physique, sandy blond hair, blue eyes and wearing a signature sugar-loaf sombrero hat with a wide decorative band. According to legend, he killed 21 men during his days as an outlaw, one for each year of his life. As an outlaw and a fugitive, he stole horses and cattle until arrested in 1880 for killing Sheriff William Brady in 1887 during the famous Lincoln County Wars. These conflicts in the New Mexico Territory were between cattle baron and land owner rival factions. Billy was sentenced to death, escaped and was shot by Sheriff Pat Garrett on July 14, 1881 in Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

The kid from New York City was laid to rest in a grave at Old Fort Sumner Cemetery, New Mexico, alongside his cattle rustling, gun fighter friends, Tom O’Folliard and Charlie Bowdre.

Joe Antrim, Billy’s brother, 1928

Billy’s gravestone lists his friends who are buried with him:
Tom O’ Folliard on the left and Charlie Bowdre on the right

**Helen Hall Library Happenings...**

There will be a Genealogy Class using Heritage Quest on Wednesday, September 14th in the Lab from 6-7pm. The Writer’s Club will meet on Wednesday September 28th from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Boardroom. Basic Computer Classes are held every Wednesday 10am-12pm. For more information call 281-554-1111.
The Butler Longhorn Museum presents

**Author Michael Conwell**

**A Book Review & Signing**

and also meet his lovely wife Patricia

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*Dining In The Park and other Short Stories*

**Date: September 15, 2016**

Social begins at 6:30 PM  
Q&A begins at 7 PM

Plus come get a look at  
Michael’s newest book,  
*The Lone Sentry!*

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Butler Longhorn Museum  
1220 Coryell St, League City, TX 77573  
(281) 332-1393  
[www.butlerlonghornmuseum.com](http://www.butlerlonghornmuseum.com)

The Butler Longhorn Museum is a  
501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Thank you for being a member of the League City Historical Society. It is time to renew membership for 2016. Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

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

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2015 or later, you are current for the year 2016

### CATEGORY
- Student/Active Military: $20
- Senior (60 and over): $25
- Senior Couple: $35
- Single (Individual): $35
- Family: $50
- Supporting Patron: $100
- Life Membership: $400

### BUSINESS CATEGORY
- Business Member: $100
- Business Partner: $200
- Business Leader: $300

Please update your membership information.

Name: _________________________________________________________________

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

Address ________________________________________________________________

City_________________________________________State_________Zip__________

Phone: Home Phone_________________________Cell Phone: ______________________

e-mail address: ____________________________

☐ Check if your name, address or e-mail has changed recently.

☐ Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by e-mail, to help save on postage.