

League City Historical Society

leaguecityhistory.org



February 2008 Newsletter

Kathie Nenninger, Editor knenninger@verizon.net

February 28, 2008 Meeting



The United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War

During the American Civil War 178,975 blacks enlisted in the United States Army. They served in 144 Infantry regiments, 14 Artillery regiment, and 7

Cavalry regiments that formed the United States Colored Troops. Led by white officers, it was the first successful interracial partnership in American history. Despite compiling an outstanding record in combat and in camp, their story was almost forgotten by the first decades of the 20th century.

Mark Lardas wrote a book on this topic in 2007 and will speak about the experiences of these soldiers and how they changed the course of the Civil War.

Mark Lardas holds a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, but spent his early career in the Space Shuttle program. Mark Lardas currently works as a Space Shuttle software engineer at a major aerospace company and as a freelance writer. An amateur historian and a long-time ship modeler, he has written extensively about modeling as well as naval, maritime, and military history. He lives in League City, TX.



from the president...

All across the country, Black History Month has been commemorated this month. Our program in February is our tribute, which features Mark Lardas, the author of a book The United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War. Mark will be the speaker for our meeting on February 28 and will give some surprising details on the subject.

A Space Shuttle software engineer at NASA, he is an amateur historian, a longtime ship modeler, and has written extensively about naval, maritime, and military history. Mark lives in League City with his family and is very active in the community.

Your Board continues to work with Ron Swofford, retired Shell executive, of Executive Service Corps of Houston, regarding how to make us a better Board, to serve you better. Next month, we will go through a workshop called a Governance Seminar. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? We promise to give you a report next month!

Mark your calendars to attend the Friendswood Fig Fest, on Saturday, April 19th. The Friendswood Historical Society is one of the sponsors of the Fest, and has several events going on, including a cemetery tour. I'm sure we can pick up some ideas from them, too. More later about this.

Ed Linck, president of the Kemah Historical Society, has invited us to have our March Meeting in their newly remodeled Schoolhouse-Museum-Information Center on the corner of 6th and Bradford in Kemah. They will provide the refreshments, and there will be no formal program, so you can have a guided tour of their exhibits and be given their history. Ed will be our guest at our meeting on the 28th here, so please give him a cordial welcome.

And lastly, the Board decided last week that we will do a Christmas Homes Tour in the Historic District. We want to do a bang-up job of it, and will need the help of everyone. More next month.

In the meantime, don't forget League City's important past, beautiful old homes and tree-lined streets: no one loves them more than we do!

See you on the 28th.

Joanna Sharp

Calendar

February 28, 2008: LCHS Meeting

Program: League City Historian and Freelance Writer, Mark Lardas

West Bay Common School Children's Museum
210 Kansas, League City

Refreshments 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

March 27, 2008: Meeting will be a tour of the Kemah Schoolhouse-Museum

6th street and Bradford, Kemah

October 9, 2008: Living History Dinner



January 31, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Sherry Frankovich

Joanna Sharp, our President, opened the meeting by welcoming members and visitors. She introduced the speaker, Catharin Lewis, who has been our Museum curator for 15 years. She told us about stereoscopes, and gave us a history lesson about League City. She, then, demonstrated what she teaches the school children about recess in the 1890's.

Business meeting began with approval of the Secretarial minutes for the November 15 meeting that was printed in the newsletter. Kathy Weisskopf made the motion and Diane Gillette seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Diane Gillette gave a report from the Finance and Grant Committee. They set goals for the year. We want to double the amount of the Endowments. They have hired CCSI to help us write more grants. WalMart in Kemah gave us a donation of \$1000.

Joanna Sharp told us that she only has 10 calendars remaining of the 500 that were printed.

President Sharp encouraged us to serve on one or two committees this year.

The Oak Tree Book is for sale. Cost is \$10.

For our February meeting, we will have a speaker who wrote a book about the Buffalo Soldiers.

Catharin Lewis gave the Museum report. She had 338 visitors from schools and others. She gave us a report about the finances. She shared about being chosen one of 10 Volunteers of the Year by the Bay Area Turning Point. They will honor her at a Gala in February.

Deborah Gammon told us about the Ghosts of the Past. We will honor the WWII veterans that are buried at the Fairview Cemetery.

October 9 is the date for the Living History Dinner. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M



Our annual League City Historical Society Membership dues are due March 1st. They may be paid at the February meeting or mailed to P.O. Box 1642 League City, TX 77574. A membership form is included at the end of this newsletter.



MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Six volunteers and four part-time staff workers shared in the daily operations of the Museum beginning in January 2008. This included 169.5 service hours, 92 management hours and 67.5 teaching hours. We held 19 classes from Cypress, Dickinson, Nassau Bay, Friendswood, Magnolia, Houston and League City. 270 children, 54 adults, 17 teachers and 19 walk-in visitors enjoyed the hands-on history program. Schools and groups are continuing to register for spring classes.

The museum brought in \$11,419.20 for the month of January, which includes \$49 for walk-in visitors, \$1,150.00 for program fees and \$219.20 for gift shop sales.

We want to thank Doris Teets via Chris Medsger of Dallas for the donation of a cookbook, arithmetic book, six family photos and two postcard photos. We also want to thank Mr. Bonnie Spears for his donation of a turn of the century bike which is quite rusty, but complete. And we want to thank Dorothy Ludwig for the Italian History on CD. All these items are a wonderful addition to our collection and are being processed and prepared for exhibition.

Eagle Scout, Jonathan Mayor will receive his award on Saturday March 8th for his really wonderful work on the icehouse last July. He recruited twenty-five volunteers to remove the rotted back of the building and replace it with new primed boards. His team also helped add a new roof to prevent further leakage. Jonathan's scouts and parents removed everything from inside the building, scrubbing walls, floors and ceiling. The artifacts, under the supervision of the curator, were cleaned and repositioned back in the building. They even weeded the entire stone area in front of the Icehouse, making quite an improvement. We really want to thank him for the work he did for us.

We now have our camera and stereoscope collection on exhibit and a special art exhibit is being planned to open in March. Future exhibits are still on the drawing and research table and will be announced later this spring.

I want to thank my volunteers and teachers for their continual help and support. I could not begin to accomplish as much without them. Plans are being made for our May volunteer trip and luncheon and we hope to have another great event.



History Question



Residence at 220 South Iowa Street.

- In what year was this house constructed?
- Who were the owners?
- Who were the last owners of this home?

League City Historic District Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC... Fay Dudney

During the month of November 2007, the Historic District Commission approved an operations permit and an alterations permit for a business at 713 Second Street. Administratively approved a sign permit request at 1220 Coryell.

No meeting was scheduled for December 2007.

Approved an alterations permit and operations permit for a business at 713 Second Street at the January 17, 2008 meeting.

Administratively approved operations and sign permit requests at 815 E. Main Street.

Denied a request to allow the Historic District Commission designee to administratively approve residential elevations for the Township Subdivision.

The proposed Architectural and Materials Guidelines were reviewed by City Staff and Historic District Commission members on January 31, 2008. An additional Work Shop will be scheduled for further review.

The next meeting of the Historic District Commission is scheduled for February 21, 2008, 6:00 PM at City Council Chambers.

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

GHOSTS OF THE PAST 2008 THE GREATEST GENERATION



- Designer for the flyers and programs
- Seamstress to help dress the ghosts
- An advertising /press person
- Research assistant
- Interpreter/actor

Contact Deborah Gammon 281-334-4950



Our LCHS Lapel Pin

Diane Gillette

The LCHS pins will once again be available for \$5 at the February meeting. Wearing a pin will be a great way to spread the word about our wonderful society

From The Finance and Grant Chairman...

Diane Gillette

At our January 24 meeting, The Finance and Grant Committee agreed to re-submit letter requests to two local merchants for donations for project support of our Museum. The Committee also decided to seek further help to broaden our grant request process. Committee goals were identified for 2008.



Family Trees

Trevia Wooster Beverly

Save the date! The Angelina College Genealogical Conference, KEYS TO DISCOVERY, will be offered July 17-19, 2008. Visiting faculty for 2008 will be Susan D. Kaufman, manager for the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.

Contact Trevia Wooster Beverly, Assistant Coordinator & Program Chairman, 712-864-6862.