January 31st Meeting

Did you know that the underbrush of Memorial Park is hiding an interesting part of Houston’s World War I history? Memorial Park holds remnants of Camp Logan on both sides of Memorial Drive. In 1917, Camp Logan was built for the 130th Infantry and was a World War I training facility for which Memorial Park is named.

Our speaker on Camp Logan will be Louis Aulbach and his writing partner and research consultant Linda Gorski. Aulbach is a publisher of Texas River Guides and has a personal website that is an excellent resource for stories about Houston’s history. Aulbach and Gorski have led many amateur archaeologists on quests to uncover more information and locations of former buildings of Camp Logan.

The holidays have passed and another year lies ahead. Looking back at 2012, there were a lot of accomplishments by our volunteers as well as our unsung, unpaid, Museum Director, Curator, and Head School Teacher, Catharin Lewis and her husband Richard. Several different exhibits were featured in the museum throughout the year, the hose reel firefighting apparatus was not only completed in a full restoration but the display exhibit housing this historic piece was completed. In 2012 we also saw improved landscaping put in place, a brick gathering area for the school and benches.

Events for the year included the Living History Dinner at Butler’s Courtyard and the Historic Homes Tour. The expansion of the program offerings by the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum to include summer day camps and activities planned for the Girl Scouts was another “gold star” accomplishment. The membership of the Society continues to grow and we have come close to outgrowing our meeting space at the Museum with some of the great speakers and topics brought to us through the efforts of Evelyn and David Garland.

The Historic District of League City faced challenges and opportunities in 2012 that continue as we move into 2013. Among them: several property owners petitioned and were allowed to be taken out of the District, a Livable Cities Houston-Galveston Area Grant study was completed with a number of ideas that would change the area to be more pedestrian friendly, and a drainage study was begun in an effort to reduce flooding. Also, just recently a plan was unveiled to add traffic medians on Main Street from Bay Area Boulevard to FM 2094. Fortunately, most of the area in the Historic District will not see this change and the City Traffic Engineer and consultants are listening very closely to our concerns about these safety and traffic flow improvements.

We are looking for volunteers. That could mean just spending a few hours helping at the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum to heading up one of our annual events. Please let us know if you want to take an active part in 2013 in preserving the area’s history and teaching others about it.

Be sure to visit us online at LeagueCityHistory.org and OneRoomSchoolHouse.org.
Meeting Minutes

Diane Kerkhove

November 15th Meeting

Richard Lewis opened the November meeting at the School House Museum. It was noted that the minutes of the last meeting were in the newsletter, and the Treasurer’s report was received.

Catherine Lewis reported the best ever Natural History Night was held recently with one boy and 49 Girl Scouts attending.

A 1924 calendar was received from Bill O’Dell.

Several senior and private groups have visited the museum. About 65,000 children have come to visit.

The election of club officers will take place at the November meeting. The slate of officers will be those in the newsletter.

Sign ups are needed for the booth at the December 2 Holiday in the Park.

Docents are needed for the Homes Tour on December 8.

The speaker for the night was Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Lisarelli, who wrote The Last Prison: The Untold Story of Camp Groce. He showed pictures and told about Camp Groce, Camp Feller, Chappell Hill and Camp Gillespie, which are historic sites from the Civil War. Many are buried in the Hempstead area; 625 men died.

Refreshments were furnished by the Bauer family.

Persevere or stick-to-it has a lot to do with getting the right answers in math, history and life, as many young students learned when they memorized this verse from the McGuffey’s Reader.

“The fisher who draws in his net too soon, 
Won’t have any fish to sell; 
The child who shuts up his book too soon, 
Won’t learn any lessons well.

If you would have your learning stay, 
Be patient—don’t learn too fast; 
The man who travels a mile each day, 
May get round the world at last.”

Persevere is how I would describe 2012. Though some unforeseen obstacles created new challenges, we stuck-to-it and ended with a very successful year. The museum served 4,584 visitors including walk-in guests and held 159 schoolhouse sessions. We brought in over $15,800 in program fees, more than $4,500 in gift shop sales and over $5,100 in individual or organizational donations to help contribute to last year’s success. We added an Education Director, Sarah Eubanks and together we developed three new programs, the Natural History Night, Natural Treasure Camps and Girl Scout programs, all which increased revenue and community awareness of the museum. We worked with Eagle Scout, Alex Hester, to lay the ground work for our Garden Classroom and received full page newspaper coverage about this project. We worked with Girl Scout, Haley Hammit who sewed a child’s complete Victorian outfit for our collection. Seventy-nine items were donated to our collection in 2012 with many thanks to those who supported us in this manner. We built the Fire Hose Reel building with the help of League City United Methodist Church Volunteers. Again we thank Brad Mitchell, Dave Schoen and Kevin Bauman for helping Richard Lewis build this structure on a Saturday workday. We refurbished all the school desks and made new slates for the desk use. We made progress in digitizing the collection. We became headquarters and archives for the Country School Association of America.

I read somewhere that “the world would sleep if things were run by men who say, “It can’t be done.” Our teaching staff and volunteers served more than 2967 hours to help with daily operations, maintenance, programs and collection work. I need to thank Bertha Adams, Barbara Vermillion, Sarah Eubanks, Catherine Gill, Richard Lewis, Alan and Jennifer Yang, Eleanor Coburn, Tommye Randolph, Doris Teets, Diane

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We thank Doris Teets for this month’s refreshments.
Kerkhove, Mike Conwell, Beverly Beard, Phyllis White, Irma Dodge, and Kathie Nenniger for their special services throughout the year. I also want to thank anyone I might have missed in this list. With their help “it could be done and we did it.”

We are beginning our third museum decade. We now see some of our former fourth grade students returning as teachers and bringing their youth. We see new parents, also former museum visitors, coming to share the schoolhouse experience with their children. Time sure flies when you are having fun.

What will the New Year bring? We plan to continue the evening Natural History Night programs both in the spring and in the fall. Please watch the calendar or newsletters for details about these events. We will again open the doors to Summer Camp two weeks, June 24 – 27th and July 8 – 11th. I will be looking for additional help to make this experience possible. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering. We are also planning some special Saturday events which will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

Around the property there will also be some changes made in the New Year. We will work on phase two of the Garden Classroom, adding gardens, flag pole and new benches. The existing benches will be placed along fence lines in needed areas. Clean-up work needs to be done behind the Barn Museum and in the Gypsy Hut. We hope to tackle this project before spring turns things green again. We will complete the Fire Hose Reel Building exhibit and improve the Windows of History display.

We hope to add new volunteers to our staff and provide special events thanking them for their services. We will again persevere and make things happen. Plan now to come, share your talents and help make “history come alive.”

Natalie Nylen (teacher), Raqaya Shaik, Ella Robertson, Vinh Son Nguyen, Scott Quinn, Josh Swallow, Rafael Calvillo, Darrell Banks, Andrea Rodriguez, Kiara Moore, Kate Graham (teacher), Deborah Gammon, and kneeling, Ann Smith of NSDAR chapter Sam Houston.

The students from Clear Horizons Early College High School, a CCISD Exemplary High School, placed 106 flags on Veterans’ graves at Fairview Cemetery for Veterans Day November 9th.
January 17, 2013

League City Historic District Commissioners met with Land Use Attorney, Jim Dougherty, and Wes Morrison, City Staff Liaison, January 17, 2013 to discuss revisions to Chapter 56 and Chapter 125 of the Code of Ordinances and the Preservation Plan.

Mr. Dougherty presented a draft outline of possible ordinance amendments to various regulations that govern the Historic District and the RNC.

The first phase will focus primarily on the amendments needed to stabilize the boundaries of the Historic District and meet the 6 month moratorium on boundary amendment set by City Council, which expires in June, 2013.

Phase two will address any clean up that is needed after combining the various regulations.

An advisory committee of 2 commission members has been selected to meet with the Land Use Attorney Feb. 18, 2013, to review a preliminary draft documentation of Phase I.

The HDC has a new Ex-Officio Member, Architect Michael S. Hendershot of League City.

The next regular meeting is scheduled February 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Long-time League City Historical Society member, Dr. Heather Wooten has published a new book, entitled *Old Red: Pioneering Medical Education in Texas*. For several years, Heather was the local historian for the City of League City. A historian and award-winning author of *The Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown* (Texas A&M University Press, 2009), Heather is also an educator at San Jacinto College and associate for the Houston-based history consulting firm, W. H. Kellar Consulting, LLC. We congratulate Heather on her latest success.