Monthly Speaker Series
Thursday, July 25
7:15pm – 8:15pm
Helen Hall Library

Come to Helen Hall Library on Thursday July 25 and hear Sandra J. Tetley, Historic Preservation Officer from NASA, talk about the Apollo Mission Control Restoration Project.

Apollo Mission Control after the restoration (Todd Spoth, New York Times)

A Word From The President

Being a non-profit in League City is rewarding but challenging. When I moved to League City in 1962 the population was only 5280. Now it’s surpassed that by more than 100,000 residents.

Few of our citizens realize our deep rich history. Our outreach efforts and those of the Butler Longhorn Museum to enrich our citizens with an understanding of our local history and be relevant in today’s cultural context is a challenge.

Funding for museums is difficult. We raise funds through membership sales, fundraisers and occasional grants and have a very small conservative budget. Unfortunately at this juncture we don’t have the resources to hire paid staff to allow us to keep the museum open daily so currently, we are open from 9am – 2pm on Tuesday and Thursdays and 10am – 2pm on Wednesday and by appointment.

The best way to support the League City Historical Society is to visit our web site at www.LeagueCityHistory.org and become a member or make a donation.

(continued on next page)
You may Like our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/LeagueCityHistory/ and www.facebook.com/WestBayOneRoomSchool/. We also need volunteers to support our projects.

Ronnie Richards  ronnie@butlerscourtyard.com  281-797-1970

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum

July Message from the Marm
Every Tuesday and Thursday people from all walks of life have dropped by to explore our hidden gem of a museum. Each of them leave with smiles on their faces and promise to return with their kids, grandkids, or visiting friends and family. From veterans to educators to gardeners, they share with me memories or whisper to their kids, “I actually had a desk like that” or “can you imagine having to use a pump everyday” or my favorite, “oh, boy—I know what that is. It’s a paddle.” Have you taken any youngsters to the One Room Schoolhouse lately? What was school like when you were young? Many of us remember our teachers, especially. In August’s Message from the Marm you’ll get to meet our outstanding program’s teachers: Catherine Gill, Linda Michael, and Joan Peeples.

Sarah Eubanks
Director of Education

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
OneRoomSchoolhouse.org  281-554-2994
The League City Historical Society and Helen Hall Library's history club met at the library. Our speaker was HS member, Melodey Hauch, who spoke to us of the history of Virginia Point, Texas. Originally called Deer Park, Virginia Point is located where the causeway meets the mainland. Three families settled Virginia Point, the Campbells, the Parrs, and the Joneses.

From 1838-1852, James and Mary Campbell lived on Swan Lake at Virginia Point. James Campbell was a privateer who had sailed the Caribbean with Jean Lafitte, capturing Spanish ships and transporting supplies and slaves. At one point, James and Mary lived with Lafitte in his prosperous Galveston settlement called Campeche, which was well-supplied with the booty Campbell and others brought in. Virginia Point's residents and goods travelled to the mainland by a slow flatboat ferry, sometimes taking a whole afternoon to reach the mainland. The Solomon Parr family (related by marriage to the Campbells) ran the ferry until the start of the Civil War. They later settled in 1860 in the area now known as LaMarque.

Campbell's Bayou Cemetery began during the Civil War when Mary Campbell donated a plot of land in which to bury a child. The cemetery is now closed to the public, however, due to the grounds being contaminated from nearby industrial waste, and all residents of Campbell's Bayou Cemetery were recently moved to Forest Park in League City.

During the war, in 1861, a blockade of Galveston was ordered by the Union army, and Confederate fortifications were sent to Ft. Hebert at Virginia Point (a/k/a Fort Virginia Point). The next year, Galveston troops were withdrawn and sent to Virginia Point, and the island surrendered to the Union army. The Confederate army recaptured Galveston in 1863.

William J. Jones, a local businessman, lawyer, and later Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, was a principal promoter of Galveston railroads. The first railroad ran over a wooden bridge between Virginia Point and Houston, called the Galveston, Houston & Henderson. Three railroads eventually ran to and from Virginia Point, over 10,000 feet of railroad line and bridges built for wagons and trains and forming an early causeway. When a hurricane swept away the bridges, the ferry was called back into use, but the rebuilt railways eventually ended the need for the Virginia Point ferry. A concrete causeway was completed in 1911, and it carried electric rail, steam railroads, and a highway. Rail lines can still be seen running alongside the current causeway.

William Jones is also known for his sale of farm land to emancipated slaves, and the black community became known as Highland Station.

The University of Texas currently leases the land at Virginia Point, where there is now a nature preserve called the Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve.

Meeting adjourned.
PLAYING THE PAST GS JUNIOR WORKSHOP

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum in League City
Saturday, August 17, 2019 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm
OneRoomSchoolhouse.org * OneRoomSchoolhouseLC@gmail.com
PLEASE REGISTER NOW BEFORE AUGUST DEADLINE at
GSSJC.org under ACTIVITES

Get ready to relive turn-of-the-century history! What was life like as a schoolgirl then, for Laura Ingalls Wilder or young Juliette Gordon Low? There will be chores, an outhouse, lively dancing & music from the player piano. Role play your character as we finish the program in our 1898 Schoolhouse complete with School Marm. Get a taste for what school was really like & maybe come dressed the part!

GOOD NEIGHBOR GS DAISY WORKSHOP

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum in League City
Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm
OneRoomSchoolhouse.org * OneRoomSchoolhouseLC@gmail.com
Register online at GSSJC.org under ACTIVITES
beginning in August

Find out how to be a good neighbor in your community! Learn about what it means to be a good citizen as we tour League City’s first Fire Station and first Ice House, as well as a real One Room Schoolhouse from 1898, all here on the museum’s grounds. We’ll also get to know Texas and why this area was once the Strawberry Capital of the South. We’ll end with a special Texas treat in our lovely Garden Classroom, yummmmm!

DOLL COLLECTING GSSJC PROGRAM PATCH WORKSHOP
FOR ALL GIRL SCOUT LEVELS

Learn about the art of dolls as you explore the third largest collecting hobby: doll collecting! We’ll go on an exhibit scavenger hunt, discover dolls through the generations, and find out just exactly what are little dolls made of. Bring your own Favorite Doll for a Doll Fashion Show! We will finish by making a Unique Doll to add to your own collection. Please also bring an extra doll for donation to a local charity. The doll may be homemade or store bought.
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Note To All:
In the past we did not have a meeting in July and December; however, this year we will have a History Project Meeting with the Helen Hall Library on July 27 and no meeting in August.

A New Acquisition....
Bay Area Museum Guild has donated a Stationmaster’s Stand to the League City Historical Society. No one seems to know for sure,... but BAMG a couple of members say they think it was brought to the museum from the League City Depot before it was moved to Dickinson. No one seems to remember why or how the piece got to Clear Lake but all BAMG members we spoke to were happy to see it return home to League City.
Sandra J. Tetley, the Historic Preservation Officer at NASA Johnson Space Center, will speak about the Apollo Mission Control Restoration Project. Mission Control monitored nine Gemini, all Apollo Moon missions and 21 space shuttle missions. These missions included the flight of Apollo 11, which was man’s first landing on the moon. The Apollo Mission Control room was recently rededicated after a complete restoration.

Apollo Mission Control during the last Apollo flight, in 1975 (NASA)
The Little Museum That Could

A few years ago Catharin was sitting at her desk at the Museum and a lady walked in carrying a box with items she wanted to donate. This happened every so often at the museum so she didn’t think that much of it. The lady said that her husband had recently passed and she was trying to downsize some of the items he had collected over the years. When she pulled this hanging globe out of the box, Catharin looked in amazement. In the 20 years we have been members of the Country School Association of America, she had only seen 2 others like this while visiting hundreds of one-room schoolhouses throughout the US. She knew this was very rare and was thrilled to add it to the museum collection. It is lucky just to survive since it was made of wood and paper plus the fact that most school memorabilia had not been considered very collectible over the years.

Last month Catharin and I were lucky enough to be invited to a “behind the scenes” tour of the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, DC. This is one museum where you can find artifacts from some very famous people in American History. Near the end of the 3 hour tour of their archival storage, I asked Debbie Schaefer-Jacobs, the Curator of the Education Collection if she had the Hanging World Globe you see below. She said she did not, and had been looking for quite a while to add it to the collection. She was happy for us and that we had it in our collection since it was so rare.

Suspension - Movable Full Meridian World Globe
A. J. Nystrom & Co., Chicago

When you go into the schoolhouse you will see it hanging from the ceiling over the teachers platform. It was designed to lower for student use, and raise for storage and out of the way of little hands.

Terrestrial globe manufacturers had a tendency to not display the manufactured date. So we had to approximate its age (circa 1932-1934) by the countries of the world that are displayed. (It has Siam and French Equatorial Africa on it).

We have one other item that the Smithsonian does not have in their collection and I will tell you about it in the next newsletter.
Living History Dinner
July 18, 2019 - Butlers Courtyard
Speaker: Speaker Melissa Waddy Thibodeaux
A beautiful & memorable event.
Here are some moments to share!
League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to:
LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77573

CATEGORIES

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

BUSINESS CATEGORIES

- Business Member: $100
- Business Partner: $200
- Business Leader: $300

Please update your membership information here:

Name ______________________________________________________________
(For family membership, please include names of family members)
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________State: __________ Zip: __________
Phone: ______________________________Cell: __________________________
Email address: ________________________________________________________

☐ 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 postage.

Please Note: Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2020.