### June 28th Meeting

The emphasis of our June meeting is the Civil War. Our topic will not be on some distant site, in another state. Instead our presentation will involve a battle much closer to home. Edward T. Cotham, Jr. will be speaking on his book, *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston*. If you are like most Galveston County residents and know little of this battle, Cotham addresses that in the introduction to his book:

Galveston is one of the best-documented, but least-appreciated, American Civil War sites. Although the number of books written about the Civil War seems to be almost infinite, most histories of this conflict ignore the Island City of Texas entirely. This historical anonymity is undeserved. From the appearance off its shores in 1861 of the first blockading Union gunboat to the surrender of the last major Confederate force in 1865, Galveston was the focal point of Civil War activity in the Southwest.

Edward T. Cotham, Jr. is the prize-winning author of many books and articles on Civil War history, emphasizing the battles and skirmishes in Texas. A frequent lecturer on these subjects, Ed also leads occasional tours of Texas battlefields and state historic sites. If you are also interested in purchasing one of his books he will have them available for purchase and autographing for $25.00 including tax.

The meeting will be held at the museum beginning with the 6:45 social time and the presentation will begin at 7 pm. Plan now to join us.

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### Calendar

- **June 28**
  - LCHS Meeting—Edward Cotham
    - West Bay Common School
    - Children’s Museum
    - 210 Kansas Street, League City
    - 6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

*There is no LCHS meeting in July.*

*We resume again on August 30th.*

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### From the President...

**Ronnie Richards**

I’m sorry I missed the last meeting on May 31st. I heard it was really great and we had a good turnout. I hope we got all the first time guests email address so we can add them to our newsletter distribution. The upcoming June 28th speaker should really be a hit too. Ed Cotham will speak about the Battle of Galveston Bay during the Civil War. More on that can be found in another part of this newsletter.

I’m sure everyone has been keeping up with recent news on moving the Ghirardi Oak. What an engineering feat. But even more so what a great solution to losing such a rare and old tree that in many ways symbolizes much of what League City is all about. The citizens pulled together so City Council heard their voices. City Staff working for the Mayor and Council looked for options to save the tree and sources of funding it’s relocation that would have minimum impact on the City’s already strained General Fund. As far as I can tell it was a “win—win” proposition.

Catharin Lewis our Museum Curator and West Bay Common School Director and husband Richard are off to the One Room School Association Annual Meeting as I write this column. They always come back with lots of good pictures and stories from other one-room schools around the country.

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**We thank Catharin Lewis and Diana Dornak for this month’s refreshments.**
Meeting Minutes
...Diane Kerkhove

May 28, 2012 Meeting
The May meeting was held at the School House Museum. Richard Lewis urged people to renew their membership to the Society.

Richard introduced Douglas Weiskopf, speaker for the evening, who is the author of Rails Around Houston. Douglas showed pictures of locomotives, routes and depots around the Houston area. The first locomotive being “The General Sherman.” Sugar and cotton plantations were richest around this part of the state. Early shipping was by rail. Last interurbans ran in 1948. The Railroad Museum is ready to move its location.

Minutes were reported and reported. Treasurer’s report was submitted to the Secretary for the LCHS files.

June 21 will be a meeting for planning the Historical Homes Tour in December.

The Natural Treasures Summer Day Camp will be held June 4-7 and July 16-19 at the museum. It will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the cost will be $125 per camper.

Refreshments were served by Evelyn Garland and Catharin Lewis.

Next meeting will be June 28 with Ed Cotham speaking on “Battle of Galveston Bay.”

MusNews
Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Last month we were busy in many ways with school groups, working on summer camp plans and building the new outdoor exhibit building. We had 792 visitors and held 25 schoolhouse sessions. Again we had a mix of adult groups and grades one through eleven to experience our schoolhouse program. The groups travelled from Lumberton, Humble, Houston, Friendswood, Kemah, Baytown, Lake Jackson, Dickinson and League City.

After a very busy month of May, we held our first day camp session. Although we only had six students attending, it proved to be a wonderful experience for everyone. We opened each day with a word search to highlight the day’s activities. We went on different kinds of treasure hunts, made rope, packed a real wagon, worked with leather and decorated a treasure box. Throughout the four full days, we played games, explored the national parks, dissected an owl pellet, made crafts and had science lessons of the 1890’s. It was exhausting but exciting as well. Our camp director, Sarah Eubanks did an excellent job of leading the group through a variety of activities. Many thanks to her for all her support in the program and making it a success.

We will continue our Tantalizing Tuesday programs of butterflies, birds and plants in June and in July. We are even getting ready for the second session of camp July 16th – 19th. Visitors are always welcome and we have other groups registered for schoolhouse programs this summer.

Once Richard and I return from the National Country Schoolhouse Conference in Ankeny, Iowa we will continue to work on the fire hose reel exhibit. We hope to have it completed by the end of the summer. We also will be changing other exhibits in the barn as time permits with the usual summer plans for repairs, research and preparing for upcoming events. Watch the website for changes and new happenings at the museum.

Do not forget to bring the children or grandchildren to the Annual Teddy Bear Parade on July 4th!

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards  President
Kevin Burke  Vice-President
Diana Dornak  Treasurer
Diane Kerkhove  Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf  Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen  Director
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Richard Lewis  Director
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Joanna Sharp Dawson  Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis  Museum Director
Memorial Day ~ 101 Years Later

At the annual League City Memorial Day ceremony this year, Catharin Lewis had on display a photograph taken at Fairview Cemetery, Memorial Day 1911. After this year’s ceremony, a photograph was taken to mark 101 years later. Look for the many members of our LCHS in this year’s photo.

Look for some of our members on youtube at the recent Bird Identification Walk at the Dr. Ned & Fay Dudney Clear Creek Nature Center. Click to open Hyperlink. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiOUSxoeGSM

League City Historic District Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

...Fay Dudney

June 21, 2012

A meeting of the League City Historical Commission was not scheduled during the month of May.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled June 21, 2012, at 6:00 pm in League City City Council Chambers, 200 West Walker Street. The public is welcome to attend.

A public hearing regarding amendments to Chapter 56 – Historical Preservation – specifically related to the process for removing property from the Historic District, and neighborhood concerns regarding drainage issues in the District are included on the agenda.

At LC Council Meeting May 22, 2012, Council approved homeowner’s petition to remove their properties on 7th Street, the Township, and a resident on North Kansas Ave., changed the General Commercial zoning designation to Neighborhood Commercial, and approved text amendments to the Residential Neighborhood Conservation Overlay regulations for the newly de-annexed properties. Some regulations will overlay the remainder of the Historic District.

Natural Treasure Day Camps

Completed

July 16 - 19

9am - 4pm

Ages 6 - 12 $125 per camper per week

Bring own lunch and snacks.

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum

210 North Kansas, League City, Texas

281-554-2904

www.oneroomschoolhouse.org
The Ghirardi Compton Oak

...Joanna Dawson

The moving of the Ghirardi oak last week was a dramatic event! Historical Society members already knew how much we love our oaks, but the City showed everyone just how much the whole city loves their oak trees! The City did just the right thing, in allowing a citizen committee to be formed for the purpose of fact-finding about what options there were for the trees future, so we could make way for a well needed road expansion. The rare Compton Oak is going to receive better care than it has in all of its 100+ years!

Be sure to click on to the City’s website and watch the incredible process from start to finish in the video.

(Click to open Hyperlink)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFTJ0hM3DHM

This is a tribute to the Italian farming community who immigrated here in 1910 or so.

LCHS's Live Oak Tree Registry Book

The League City Historical Society has available for purchase, their beautiful registry of the live oaks nestled throughout League City to include the Ghirardi Compton Oak.

These books may be purchased for $10 at the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, Nana’s Attic and at the Bookhaven.

Upcoming LCHS Speakers...

Aug. 30  Dr. David Gracy    Bill Daniels
Sept. 27  Ralph Stenzel    Hitchcock Naval Air Station

A Special Welcome to Our New Member

Joyce Zongrone