June 26th Meeting

The Digitizing of Fairview Cemetery Records

At our June 26th meeting, we will have Catharin Lewis as our speaker. Catharin is the Director/ Curator of our very own West Bay Common School Museum. She volunteered many years ago to take on the task of entering all the data from a century of paper records on our town cemetery into a computer. This cemetery was started in 1900 with a single burial and a cardboard box for its records. It has only grown in size from there to over 1200 burial plots and a huge database. When she started, little did she know it would take so many years to get where it is today. She had help along the way from many local genealogists and historians, and it was well worth it she says. Come hear a story, replete with little tidbits of fascinating information from along this long trail. The actual records are not in a cardboard box anymore, but in our archives, safe in climate controlled, acid free storage. If you have a person buried there, ask her a question and she may be able to look it up on the spot. It all starts at 6:45pm with social time and 7pm for the meeting at the One-Room Schoolhouse Museum, 210 North Kansas in the Historic District of League City.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

What a great turnout at Butler’s Courtyard for our Thursday, May 29th regular monthly meeting. Seating had to be added to accommodate the crowd which was over 100 guests in my estimation. All of them were there to see the highly recognized historical actor, Melissa Waddy -Thibodeaux who portrayed Harriet Tubman, an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. If you missed this, I can tell you Melissa did an incredible job in the part. The presentation about Tubman who was born into slavery, escaped and subsequently made about thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved family and friends was eye opening for me.

Now for some personal news, effective June 30th I’m retiring from my corporate job. I’ve been in the factory-built housing industry for 45 years and with my current employer a total of 29 years. It’s time to spend more time with the grandkids and enjoying my new home in Clear Lake Shores. I will be working at Butler’s Courtyard, our family business, three or four days a week and hopefully have more time for volunteer work.

Don’t miss our next meeting titled “Treasures From a Cardboard Box - Digitizing the Century Old Fairview Cemetery Records” and presented by our very own Museum Director & Curator Catharin Lewis. The meeting is June 26th at the Museum and starts with social at 6:45pm.

Our next event is the Teddy Bear Parade July 4th. Read more about the details in this newsletter. Please let your friends know and bring the kids and grandkids.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members

Judy and Laura Monthy
“Oh Gosh it’s That Time Again”

One last reminder, dues are due for 2014. A mailed notice was sent out by Treasurer Diana Dornak the first part of June and most everyone has sent in their dues.

LCHS is working on the new 2014-2015 Directory so she wants to remind people if they want to be listed in the directory and/or if they want to make sure we have the current information then, - send in those dues with the form.

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their dues. If you have a question if you have paid your dues or not or you have a change in your address, phone or email ... just email Diana at diana.dornak1@verizon.net or call her at 281-316-2122.

Diana says a couple people have said, “Gosh, I thought I just paid those!” ... and she agrees - the year seems to go so fast but “indeed” it is time again, she continued.

Did you know that …?

by Joyce Zongrone

The popular Dickinson Seed Store once sat next to the 1929 Joseph Peter Giacchino Home, which currently resides in League City on East Walker Street behind the historic Cox-McQuirk house. The 85-year-old home and the 84-year-old Seed Store were both situated side by side in the Nicholstone subdivision at 4312 St. Goar Street, in the Italian section of Dickinson, TX.

Next to the house at the front of the road sat the blacksmith shop. It was about 4 times bigger than the seed store, which was opened in 1930, a year after the Giachinos moved into their newly built home. The blacksmith shop had once been Dues Gas Station.

Giacchino lived and worked as a blacksmith and sold seeds until his death, at age 90, in 1962. After his death, his daughter Caroline Mallory, ran seed store until 1997. She lived in her childhood home, raised her family there, remaining in Dickinson until after the death of her husband, when she moved to Sugarland to live with her daughter, Bernardine Mallory Farmer.

The Dickinson Seed Store is now located on the private property of a collector in Dickinson, who so graciously allowed me to photograph this site.

MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

May was a busy month with school sessions, visitors and donations to the museum. We want to thank J’Nean Henderson, Gynell Miller and Judy Monty for their recent donations. J’Nean donated a collection of books and booklets entitled, Six Legged Neighbors; Leaves; Smokey and the Twins; I Know a Story; Animals of the Field and Forest; Stories to Read; Pony Tales; The Pet Show and the book All Around Us. We want to thank Gynell Miller for her recent donation of a receipt from the Bradstreet Company to Star Garage of League City dated 1919. We also want to thank Judy Monty for four military posters and a funeral program. She has also been sharing family photos and letters to digitize for our family history collection. We thank each of these ladies for their support in the museum.

There were thirteen schoolhouse sessions and 352 visitors during the month of May, 46 of which were walk-in visitors. Our school and adult groups came from the Woodlands, Kingwood, Lumberton, Houston, Spring, Galveston and Dickinson. We brought in $1,238 in program fees, $621.32 in gift shop sales and $15 in donations.

Richard and I attended the Country School Association of America in St Joseph, Missouri during the week of June 16th. We looked forward to networking with friends from 23 states, and 7 of which are coming from Texas. During our stay we had two days of sessions, some area tours and then a bus trip to visit other one-room schools in this area. More than 75 people registered for the event this year.

The Annual Teddy Bear Parade will be held on the 4th of July and all children to the age of 13 are invited to decorate their bikes, trikes or wagons and start at the museum at 10 and walk the parade route down Second Street two blocks to the Butler Building for judging and prizes. There are many activities afterwards at League Park to add to the July celebration. I need help that day to register participants, hand out gifts and be safety watchers for the event. If you can help for this two hour event, please give me a call or come on the 4th to volunteer.

Our education director, Sarah Eubanks, is planning a Summer Day Camp on Thursday, July 24 entitled “Cowboys and Critters”. The camp costs $50 and will run from 9 – 4pm. Campers are expected to bring their own lunches and snacks. Water will be provided for all. Special visitors will be on hand to help with rope making, sewing, critters and other special events. There will be plenty of games, crafts and activities to keep everyone busy for the day. Pass the word to all your friends with children ages 7 – 13 and register soon. Space is limited.

We have New Summer Hours - Tuesday thru Thursday from 9 – 4pm. The shorter hours will be for the months of June, July and August. We have some maintenance projects that will be done on some of the long weekends to make it easier to accomplish in a four day period as opposed to a two day weekend. We are still opening for schoolhouse sessions by special appointments on Monday thru Fridays.
An Evening with Harriet Tubman...
Contributed by Joyce Zongrone

More than a hundred audience members were treated to the riveting performance of Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux’s award-winning portrayal of The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman during the May meeting. Butler’s Courtyard provided the perfect ambient background and props for the sojourn back in time.

Thibodeaux took us through Harriet Tubman’s trials, tribulations and passages on the Underground Railroad, beginning 165 years ago, when she first escaped alone to Pennsylvania in 1849. After that first lonely 90 mile trip, she returned 19 times, herself, helping a total of 300 people escape.

Minty, short for her birth name Araminta, surprised everyone with a demonstration of how she urged reluctant slaves to keep on going with her six shooter. She sweetened the finale with Harriet’s viewing modern society from Heaven, sharing her concerns for the future of the “churrrin” (children) by charging the audience to read with them.

Ms Waddy-Thibodeaux has reenacted historical characters worldwide for more than 30 years becoming recognized and accepted as one of the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network Programs. She also teaches theater arts and acting workshops nationwide for children and adults. She is also an Artist in Residence at The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum and the Children’s Prison Arts Project.

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Fairview Cemetery
Texas Historical Marker
Unveiled Memorial Day, 2014

Galveston County Historical Commission members, Richard Lewis, Catharin Lewis, Melodey Hauch, Sam Collins III, Barbara Holt, Kathie Nenninger, and Carol Wood

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized Fairview Cemetery as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it an Official Texas Historical Marker. The designation honors the cemetery as an important and educational part of local history. This project was begun in 2001 by several Galveston County Historical Commission members and completed by current members Barbara Holt and Catharin Lewis.

“The Official Texas Historical Marker program helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation,” said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. A subject qualifies for a marker if two basic criteria are met: historical significance and age. Fairview Cemetery easily met those two criteria.

We thank Galveston County Judge Mark Henry, Senator Larry Taylor, Mayor Tim Paulissen and Galveston County Historical Commission Chairman, Mayor Ralph Stenzel for their contributions at our ceremony.

Judge Lonnie Cox of Galveston, Texas and League City Attorney Jack Ewing place the first flowers on the grave of World War I veterans Frank Ellis and Oscar Juenger after the Fairview Cemetery Historical Marker Ceremony. Both men, along with Galveston County Probate Judge Kim Sullivan, were instrumental in obtaining VA Headstones for these veterans who died more than 50 years ago with no next of kin. Since their deaths in 1965, no flowers have ever been placed on their graves.
Create your own “Patriotic” Float and have a parade.

**Friday July 4th, 2014**

**10:30am Parade**

Line up at 10am in front of the one-room schoolhouse

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**Annual TEDDY BEAR PARADE**

Presented by

WEST BAY COMMON SCHOOL

CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

210 North Kansas
League City, Texas 77573

Sponsored by

D&D PEST & TERMITE CONTROL

Decorate your Bike, Scooter, wagon or anything on wheels!
March from the Museum along Second Street to Butler’s Courtyard.
Individual Prizes will be awarded for children 0-16 years

QUESTIONS....call 281-554-2994
2014 League City Historical Society

Dues Form

Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

Choose the membership level that is best for you. Complete the form below and mail it with your check.

Mail to: League City Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1642
League City, Texas 77574

☐ $25 Single Membership
☐ $40 Family Membership
☐ $15 Senior Citizen Membership (65 years old and older)
☐ $50 Organization Membership
☐ $250 Life Membership

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2013 or later, you are current for the year 2014.

Please update your membership information.

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

Address ________________________________________________________________

City__________________________________________State________________Zip___________

Phone: Home Phone_______________________________ Cell Phone: _____________________

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 on postage.