June 2016 Newsletter  Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

Calendar of Events

June 30
“Genealogy Right in Your Backyard”
Susan Kaufman, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research/Houston Public Library

July – No Meeting

August 25
“The Crew Left Behind” A report of Jean Laffite’s crew and their descendants who remained in Galveston and the Bay Area after their captain sailed away.
Lou Graves MacBeth – Laffite Society of Galveston

September 29
“Galveston County Ghosts”
Dash Beardsley, Ghost Tours of Galveston

October 27
“Haunted League City”
LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

November 17
“The History of the Catholic Church in Galveston County”
Lisa May, Archivist, Archdiocese of Houston

December – No meeting

June 30th Speaker
Genealogy Right In Your Backyard

League City Historical Society presents Susan Kaufman, Manager of the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research/Houston Public Library, speaking on Genealogy Right in Your Backyard, on Thursday, June 30, at 7 pm. at the West Bay Common School’s Barn Museum, 210 N. Kansas Avenue, League City. The Clayton Library, named most recently as one of the “nine genealogy libraries to visit before you die” (Family Tree Magazine July 2008) houses a national and international collection dedicated to genealogy. In addition to nearly 90,000 volumes covering the United States, the British Isles, Canada, Mexico, Germany and Eastern Europe, they maintain a microfilm collection and genealogical periodicals. For more information, call: 281-554-2994.

The League City Historical Society meets at the Bus Barn next to the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum 210 Kansas Street, League City ~ 6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

From the President… Doug McKee

Summer Greetings!

January thru June was an exciting first part of the year. All the great rains will be needed by August, Thank You Lord.

Special kudos to Joyce Z for making our meetings wonderful and full of great speakers every month. And, also thank you to Mike Peterson for stepping in as Vice President, and helping with the meetings. Thanks to all the friends helping Catharin during her time of need getting Richard’s recovery taken care of. (Our special prayers answered)

Now that summer has raised its “HOT” head, we start off with a bang. On Monday, July 4th, our Teddy Bear Parade will be held, starting at the Barn Museum. Come out and enjoy a wonderful morning full of beautiful bikes, trikes, wagons and kids. Thanks go out to the group “M.O.M.’s” (Mothers of Multiples) who have really increased our participation numbers and made this event a lot of fun.

The 3rd quarter LCHS Board Meeting is Saturday July 3rd starts at 9:00am. Thanks to all for making League City Historical Society’s first half of 2016 the BEST of the BEST.
May 26, 2016 Meeting

Catharin Lewis reported on how busy the Schoolhouse has been, with classes every day this month. She announced that she has been accepted by the Mid-America Arts Alliance’s ENGAGE: Houston program. Members of the Country School Association of America are coming to the Schoolhouse while in Texas for their annual convention in Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg has 17 one-room schoolhouses still standing, mostly because they did not lose their schoolhouses to hurricanes throughout the years. Catharin has planned a work day for June 4, from 9 am until noon. Help is needed with yard work and other chores to get the place ready for the convention visitors and members from the Arts Alliance who are coming the same week for a visit. Summer hours for the museum and schoolhouse will be Tuesday through Thursday.

Vice-President Mike Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our guest speaker, Joan Malmrose, Executive Director of the Dickinson Historical Society. Ms. Malmrose spoke of the three bronze statues standing near the public library that honor the founding groups of Dickinson—a rancher, a farmer, and a shopkeeper.

Matt Falco, also with the Dickinson Historical Society, continued with a presentation of photographs of famous Dickinson residents and homes, and spoke of the influence of Italians who lived in the area. Dickinson and its bayou are named for John Dickinson who received a land grant in 1824. Another land developer, Fred Nichols, built a beautiful Victorian home on Dickinson Bayou in 1896. The home is still standing and is now known as Nicholstone Mansion. The Nicholstone Mansion website says, “Fred Nichols was a dreamer with grand plans for populating Dickinson with people tired of the hubbub of Galveston and Houston. He was responsible for the layout of blocks, streets and avenues east of the G.H.&H. railroad and personally paid for road clearing and grading.”

Dickinson was once a resort town with lively casinos. Its first movie theater opened in 1914. The award-winning Interurban electric train ran from through Dickinson until the 1930’s. Meeting adjourned.

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Mark your Calendar

LCHS’s Teddy Bear Parade July 4th
The museum hosted the Country School Association of America (CSAA) Board for a special board training event June 18 before traveling to Fredericksburg, Texas for the Annual Conference, June 19 - 22. Our speaker, Dr. John Brooks from Houston Baptist University presented questions for our board to consider as a nonprofit organization to improve marketing, volunteers and reaching others outside the organization. Only a few board members could not be in attendance, but those who came had a wonderful time touring their headquarters at our museum, eating at local restaurants, visiting Space Center Houston and sharing time, food and lodging. We want to thank Nana’s Attic for sharing coffee and tea for our meeting. We also want to thank Beverly Beard for making banana nut bread for our board’s meeting.
In Fredericksburg, our 16th Annual Conference and Schoolhouse Tour had the theme of “On the land, learning at Hand”. We heard program presenters from Ohio, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Georgia, Wisconsin, Alabama, Tennessee, New York, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Fredericksburg, Stonewall, Lubbock, Cherry Spring and Kerrville, Texas. Several highlights were the lessons learned from Schoolgirls Samplers: Learning from the Land, Children’s Books, Making History Come Alive, The Rocky Road to the Schoolhouse Door, The Iowa Amish School Controversy and the Edwin Washington Project: Documenting African-American Education in Segregated Loudoun County, Virginia, to name a few. Debbie Schaefer-Jacobs, curator of Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. presented “Some Assembly Required: Schoolhouse Furniture 1845 – 1945”. And a special treat from our president, Dr. Veronica Ent, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA., who shared her program entitled, Riding Astride: The Sidesaddle and the Schoolmarm. We had live horses and ladies in period costume demonstrating riding sidesaddle.

After two days of classes, we travelled around Gillespie, County seeing seven of the seventeen one room schoolhouses preserved by Friends of Gillespie County Schools. Ten of the schools were presented with our CSAA plaque. There were former students and teachers from many of the schools to greet us and share their school’s history. The Friends group shared their pride in their schools, their county and their towns. Homemade cookies and great German food kept us well fed the whole conference. It is always a great time to network with others sharing in the one-room school experience.

Many thanks to a team of workers who helped clean windows, trimmed trees, cut blotters for the classroom program, worked on the backboard in the Garden Classroom and repaired the crack in the office floor. They worked hard and we completed the tasks in a timely manner in just a few hours. Many hands do make work easier and faster. Thank you.

Museum classes were held in my absence and more are scheduled for July and August. Summer plans include repairs, marketing and fall program planning. Watch for new events in future newsletters.

The annual Teddy Bear Parade is set for July 4th for all children ages 0 – 13 years. Decorate your bikes, scooters and wagons and come to the Museum for a parade start time of 10:30am. You should arrive by 10 to register and get your numbers.
Did you know that …?

By LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

Did you know that Dr Samuel Mudd, convicted of treason for treating assassin John Wilkes Booth’s broken leg, was pardoned for saving more than 200 prisoners from yellow fever during his own imprisonment?

Besides practicing medicine, Mudd, son of a large plantation owner, owned a tobacco farm in southern Maryland that employed slaves. He believed slavery was a God-given institution. His farm suffered before and during the Civil War, after Maryland abolished slavery in 1864. Although he met Booth before the assassination and was seen in the company of three of the conspirators, his part in the plot, if any, still remains unclear today. Historians agree that John Wilkes Booth visited Bryantown, Maryland, about 25 miles from Washington D.C., close to Mudd’s farm, in the winter of 1864, under the guise of looking for property; but his real purpose was to plan an escape route as part of his initial plan to kidnap Lincoln. Booth believed that he could ransom the President for the release of Confederate prisoners of war. He probably met Mudd at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Bryantown, in November 1864, when at that time, Booth purchased a horse from Mudd’s neighbor and stayed the night on Mudd’s farm. Historical documentation shows that a month later, on December 23, 1864, Mudd went to Washington DC where he met Booth again at the National Hotel, where Booth often stayed, because it was a short walk to Ford’s Theatre. There is historical disagreement surrounding the meeting. Some say it was arranged, but others disagree. Mudd, Booth and two other conspirators, John Surratt, Jr. (tried and released on a technicality) and Louis J. Weichmann (testified for the prosecution and was given a pass), had a conversation and drinks together, first at the National Hotel and later at Mudd’s hotel.

Mudd escaped hanging by one vote and was sentenced to life in prison in the coastal fortress of Fort Jefferson. The fort is located 70 miles from Key West on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas Islands. Now a National Park, it was built in the mid 1840s to protect merchant shipping in the Gulf of Mexico from pirates, who had based themselves there from the 1600s for the sole purpose of looting ships. Named for former President Thomas Jefferson, the fort is comprised of 16 million bricks and was America’s largest military prison at the time. In 1867, 400 soldiers and inmates populated it.

In August of that year, there was an outbreak of yellow fever, transmitted by Captain George W. Crabbe from Havana, Cuba. He unknowingly infected everyone by carrying the infected mosquitoes on himself and on his luggage. In late September, after the prison doctor died, Mudd was released from his confinement for trying to escape and took an active role as a physician. He changed the former doctor’s medical protocols by having clothing and bed sheets cleaned and the quarters decontaminated with chloride lime, which is still used today during yellow fever outbreaks and is sanctioned by the U.S. Surgeon General. He also gave them drugs to induce vomiting. Of the approximately 400 people then at the fort, 275 were seriously infected and 38 of them died. His efforts at containment saved 86% of those infected.

In October 1867, the soldiers from the fort sent a petition to President Andrew Johnson stating that Mudd “… inspired the hopeless with courage and by his constant presence in the midst of danger and infection…. [Many] doubtless owe their lives to the care and treatment they received at his hands.” He was pardoned in 1869, at age 36, after serving four years of his life sentence. He died fourteen years later in 1883, at age 49, of pneumonia.
In 1991, after grandson Richard Mudd petitioned the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records (ABCMR), a civilian review board, it agreed to a hearing on Mudd’s conviction. The procedure limited the testimony to only those witnesses favorable to Mudd’s case. The Board did not consider innocence or guilt but only whether the military commission that tried Mudd had legal jurisdiction. In deciding against the military commission, 126 years after it ruled, the ABCMR recommended the Secretary of the Army set aside the guilty verdict and expunge Mudd’s record. The Board’s recommendation was twice refused by the Secretary of the Army, the reason given, “It is not the role of the ABCMR to attempt to settle historical disputes.”

So the phrase ‘your name is mud’ or ‘your name will be mud’ is still attributed to come from Dr. Samuel Mudd for helping John Wilkes Booth, although the Oxford English Dictionary, in an entry revised in December 2007, dates the first written example of the phrase at 1823.

Sometimes, “When the legend becomes fact, we print the legend.” This famous line comes from the 1962 John Wayne film “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.”

League City’s Downtown Revitalization Project Update

The City of League City held the first of two public meetings on the downtown revitalization project on June 15, 2016.

The meeting provided an opportunity for residents to address their concerns and feedback on various aspects of the project for the approximately 100 in attendance. City representatives and our design professionals, Huitt-Zollars, Inc., and Clark Condon Associates, were on hand to address the great questions, concerns and feedback as they work further develop the plans.

The City is currently in the process of addressing the more than 120 comments received and determining the best ways to incorporate the comments into the various aspects of the downtown revitalization plan.

A second public meeting for mid-to-late July is in the works and will be announced as soon as staff confirms the date, time and location. The public meeting presentation and all other information on the downtown revitalization project is available at www.leaguecity.com/downtown.
Create your own “Patriotic” Float and have a parade.

Monday July 4th, 2016
10:30am Parade

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

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

Afterwards stay and enjoy a FREE food and Entertainment at League Park beginning at 11:30am
Provided by City of League
2016 Dues Form  
League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member of the League City Historical Society. It is time to renew membership for 2016. Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

To renew your membership, choose the membership level that is best for you, complete the form below and mail to LCHS, P. O. Box 1642, League City, TX 77574. You may also bring renewal and check to the next meeting.

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2015 or later, you are current for the year 2016

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

**BUSINESS CATEGORY**
- Business Member $100
- Business Partner $200
- Business Leader $300

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.