March 31st Speaker

The 1900 Storm in Words & Photos

Andrew Coleman is the Galveston Historical Foundation’s Historian – Digital Projects and Interpretation. Andrew joined the Historical Foundation after receiving his B.A. in History from Tulane University in 2013. Since joining GHF, Andrew’s focus has been research and writing on the archives of the Galveston City Company, the land development company that founded the city in 1838. Andrew works on digital interpretations and research for museums, helping find new ways for people to engage with history.

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

Celebrating the Museum’s 100,000 Visitors

Since opening in October of 1993, the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum has showcased local history and the history of education to thousands of guests. Earlier this year we reached the 100,000 visitor milestone.

To date, scientists have named about...100,000 different trees... identified the 100,000 year ice age cycle... found 100,000 species of butterflies and moths...League City has reached the 100,000 population mark...and at the Museum, we saw the arrival of our 100,000th visitor.

Congratulations!
February 25, 2016 Meeting

Catharin Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Catharin reported that Susan Pierce has been nominated to fill Fay Dudney’s position with the League City Historic District Commission.

The West Bay Common School Children’s Museum will be open for the Houston Symphony League Bay Area Home Tour to be held on March 5th and 6th.

Richard Lewis introduced our guest speaker Caris Brown from the Helen Hall Library. Caris gave a presentation of “The Story of League City”. This is a very interesting presentation that can be seen again at the Helen Hall Library on March 7th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Kathie Nenninger announced the Sam Houston Chapter of the DAR will host the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration on March 29th at 10am, 1106 Main St. Seabrook, Texas. The speaker will be Garet Nenninger, Lt Colonel USAF, Retired.

The meeting was adjourned by Catharin Lewis

MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS
Third Notice

The Board of Directors of our Historical Society recently appointed a committee to review the current membership dues structure and research the dues of other organizations similar to ours. The committee’s objective was to bring membership dues in line with our costs that have increased every year and to offer members more options to financially support the Society. The Membership Dues Committee consisted of Doug McKee our President, Catharin Lewis, our Museum Director/Curator and One Room School Director, Helen Hodges, director, and Ronnie Richards, Immediate Past President and director.

The committee met and developed a new dues structure, which after many years of remaining unchanged, included a small increase necessitated by continuing cost increases. In addition, new membership levels were added to allow members and businesses to support our organization at higher levels if they desired. The Board of Directors approved the following Membership Dues schedule for 2016 beginning April 28th:

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/Active Military</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior (60 and over)</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Couple</td>
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<td>Single (Individual)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Patron</td>
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<td>Life Membership</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS CATEGORY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Partner</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Leader</td>
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Please find the current Membership form attached at the end of this newsletter.
The Story Boards and blackboard are now installed in the Garden Classroom. These will change from time to time just like the Windows of History. We are excited about the new additions and are now working on the corner garden by the fence. We hope to add a flag pole on the site where we discovered the foundation for the previous flag pole. Plan now to stop and see the new additions to our Garden Classroom.

The schoolhouse and the outhouse are mostly painted. There are still a few areas that need some attention before we begin work on the Icehouse. That project will be completed over the next few weeks as weather permits. Many special thanks to Richard Lewis for all his hard work and time. We held five schoolhouse sessions and brought in 264 visitors. The calendar is continuing to fill for the spring schedule and even into the summer months. We look forward to these groups. During the month of February we had 97 walk-in visitors.

In early March, we were a part of the Houston Symphony Bay Area Home Tour, raising funds for area youth. This was a wonderful event and more than 250 people visited the museum, most for the very first time. We thank them so much for all the publicity and warm friendships. I also want to thank my many volunteers who gave up their weekend and helped, especially Catherine Gill, Melissa Aguilar, Joyce Zongrone, Katie and Dave Hake, Joan Peeples, Jhanvi Jariwala and Richard Lewis.

We want to thank Catherine Gill for her donation of four Civil War Bulletin Board Posters. This will be a nice addition to our education collection and future exhibits. We also want to thank Helen Hodges for her recent donation of a four drawer file cabinet much needed in the office. We are preparing this as a research cabinet and will let you know when it is available for research.

Work on the collection continues as time permits around the daily museum operations and docent talks. I want to thank Linda Michael for all her help in digitizing the collection with me. You can get a lot done when you have help.
Did you know that …?

By LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret.)

Did you know that the “Roaring Twenties” is the only decade in American history that has a nickname? While most of the country was reeling from Prohibition during that decade, the League of Nations was formed, J. Edgar Hoover began his rise to power, women gained the right to vote, the KKK revitalized itself and was terrorizing the nation again, an Italian immigrant named Charles Ponzi came up with a sales scheme, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini conducted a séance and the first commercially-licensed radio station broadcasted live results of the presidential election.

Back here in Texas in 1920, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Houston and Galveston were dealing with an outbreak of the Bubonic Plague and Galveston was wrestling with a longshoreman’s strike.

Between June 16 and November 13, 1920 there were 18 cases of the Bubonic Plague in Galveston which included a longshoreman, a housewife, a school girl and boy, two feed store workers and a pathologist. A 17-year-old feed store collector was the first to contract and to die from the disease. According to a Public Health Report, “Experience With Bubonic Plague (Human and Rodent) In Galveston, 1920.” published in 1921, by Doctors Mark Boyd and T.W. Kemmerer who were formerly affiliated with the plague laboratory in Galveston, seven of the victims survived. Two of the infected persons left Galveston and were later diagnosed in Port Arthur and Houston. The report went on to say there was no correlation between who caught the disease, except for the places they lived and worked. When they dissected the local rats, the plague source was discovered.

The Bubonic Plague first made history in the sixth century. Named Justinian’s Plague after the Emperor, it killed an estimated 25-50 million people in one year throughout the Byzantine Empire. The more widely-known Black Death arrived in Europe in the Sicilian port of Messina in 1347 via Genoese trading ships who had come through the Black Sea, according to the fourteenth century memoir of Gabriele de’ Mussi who lived north of Genoa. Sicilians who had come to the docks to greet the ships were met with the horror of dead sailors and living ones covered in mysterious black boils. Over the next five years the plague would kill more than twenty million Europeans, one-third of the continent’s population. Today the Center for Disease Control describes the Black Death as “the most spectacular of biological warfare ever.” This first recorded instance of germ warfare occurred in 1345 when the Mongols, who tried to besiege Caffa (now part of Crimea), fell into the grip of the plague.

Texas was luckier than Europe, only seven victims died. According to Galveston’s Rosenberg Library, newspaper database, 499 articles regarding this outbreak were written in Texas and 13, 120 were published overall in the US during the five month epidemic.

While doctors at the University of Texas Medical Branch were fighting the plague, across the street from them more than 1,000 Longshoreman joined dockworkers in Atlantic and Gulf ports in a nationwide walkout which lasted sixteen months from March 1920 through July 1921. In retaliation the Mallory and Morgan steamship lines worked to destroy the International Longshoreman’s Association, ILA, by using white strikebreakers to replace Black locals and Black scabs to replace workers in all-white locals. Although Black and white ILA locals worked together for almost fifty years in these ports, this exploitation of the race issue spurred race riots. This threat of violence forced the Galveston mayor and Chief of Police to ask Governor William P. Hobby to send Texas Rangers to protect nonstriking workers. At the end of May, the Mallory line suspended its Galveston operations because of perceived violence against its strikebreakers. Opposition forces organized a Galveston Open Shop Association. Martial law was declared in June and 1,000 National Guard troops descended on Galveston. After a few skirmishes, eventually the National Guard was withdrawn in September. The Galveston ILA locals returned to work between December 1920 and July 1921 with a pay increase far below their demands, wages lower than before the strike and a contract permitting nonunion workers. This confrontation between organized labor and open-shop forces resulted in a victory for the open-shop advocates and all but destroyed the ILA locals.

Despite the strife and the plague, life went on in Galveston without skipping a beat. The summer tourist season, which tripled the Island’s population, attracted spectators from around the country to participate in Splash Day which featured a Bathing Girl Revue, the forerunner of the Miss Universe Pageant. Miss Reba Dick, 20, of Galveston was crowned its first winner, never noticing the plague or the strike!
Cleaning and Reworking Files in Progress

A much-needed project has begun at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, --that being cleaning and updating the file records for League City Historical Society. Diana Dornak has volunteered to work on this project every Monday morning for a couple of hours. Our CPA has furnished us a records retention schedule which has helped us prioritize and clean out financial records and files no longer needed. Files on local historical homes and sites will be moved to an area where it is more accessible for members to stop in and do research.

As always...we welcome any files, articles, pictures of people, events and local history that you may have in your records that you want to find a home for. Be assured we will take good care of any pictures or articles you might want to part with.

We will update you on our progress as we go along and let you know when the new area for research is ready for visitors.

Drive the Texas Hill Country...

Follow the 120-mile Gillespie Country Schools Trail
2016 League City Historical Society

Dues form good until April 28, 2016

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 2015 or later, you are current for the year 2016.

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.
VIETNAM WAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
BAY AREA VETERANS MEMORIAL

Speaker - Garet Nenninger, Lt. Colonel, USAF, Retired

1106 MAIN STREET
SEABROOK, TEXAS

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016
10:00 a.m.

To THANK AND HONOR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS and their FAMILIES for service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, including Prisoners of War and those listed as Missing in Action

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE VIETNAM ERA VETERAN

Hosted by:
Sam Houston Chapter
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Daughters of the American Revolution