May 29, 2008 Meeting

LCHS member and historian, Heather Green-Wooten, M.A.Ph.D. will be the speaker for the May meeting. Heather will speak on the history of the Japanese Settlers in League City. Heather has Bachelors in Mass Communication from Abilene Christian University and a Masters in History from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. Her interest in history continued into her Ph.D. work in the history of medicine. She has recently signed a book contract with Texas A & M University Press. The title of the book will be Battling a Terrifying Unknown: The Polio Years in Texas.

Calendar
May 29, 2008: LCHS Meeting
Program: Historian Heather Green-Wooten
West Bay Common School Children's Museum
210 Kansas, League City
Refreshments 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm
October 9, 2008: Living History Dinner
October 25, 2008: Ghosts of the Past: The Greatest Generation
December 13, 2008: Historical Homes Tour

from the president…

To my Historical Friends,
What a great group we have here. We work together and play together, and enjoy it all.

In the past month, we have had a booth at the F.I.G. Festival in Friendswood, mostly for the purpose of participating with the Friendswood Historical Society. We did open a new alliance with them and managed to come out in the black financially. The booth was manned by Chairman Jeff Hansen, Sherry Frankovich, Diana Dornak, Carole Ragland, Kathy and George Weisskopf, and Doris and Gene Teets.

We have also reached out to the Kemah Historical Society with the joint meeting held in Kemah on March 27th. Plans are in the works to have a similar event with the Dickinson Historical Society, which will be announced later or by a special email.

The Ice Cream Social was a delicious event held on the shores of Lake Randall on Ernie’s Gun Range Park. We had a batch of hand-cranked homemade vanilla, and two batches of electric-cranked vanilla and peach. Ernie even arranged some old-fashioned fireflies in the background. This was one of the oft-requested sit-around-a-circle-and-tell-stories evenings and it was fun.

We have been working with the City and the Engineering Department about creating extra parking on Second Street. I am happy to report that the drawing has been completed and the flooding study done. We are to the stage of really getting it in!

Lastly, the Board has been exploring how to become a better board and just what the future holds for us as a not-for-profit. Former Shell executive, Ron Swofford, conducted a governance workshop for the Board in April and it looks as though we may soon be facing a decision of just what we want our Society to be: whether we want to remain a small fairly close-knit Society trying to raise enough money through grants...
and small community fund raisers to operate our wonderful school and pay Catharin and the teachers the remuneration they deserve, or whether to become a multi-layered organization with a special Board just for the purpose of fund-raising. Right now we are just in the mulling-it-over information-gathering stages.

See you all on the 29th to enjoy Heather.

Joanna Sharp

April 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Sherry Frankovich

Because the April meeting was an ice cream social at Ernie Randall’s Clear Creek Gun Range there are no recorded minutes this month.

THE GREATEST GENERATION
GHOSTS OF THE PAST TOUR
OCTOBER 25, 2008

Deborah C. Gammon, Chairman
One Man’s Family

David H. Osterman was born in Germany. He and his bride, Mary Betky Natho, widow of Frederick Natho, also born in Germany, were living in Galveston County before the 1900 Census enumerated them in Justice Precinct #6. The household included stepdaughters, Louise Mary Natho, age 13 and Charlotte Natho, 9. Charlotte “Lottie” Natho was said to be the first burial in Fairview Cemetery succumbing to diphtheria shortly after the census was taken. Louise Mary later wed James Ephraim Hewitt, a veterinarian in Kemah and had 4 children. Little Mary Elizabeth Hewitt died at the age of 9 after a long illness. James Clemson Hewitt served our country in the U. S. Air Force in World War II. The Osterman and Hewitt families were reunited in death having been buried near each other in Blocks 54 and 55 in Fairview Cemetery.

Join us October 25, 2008 to learn more about this interesting League City family and other WWII veterans and their families.

LCHS 2008 Yearbook
Plans for this year’s yearbook are in the budding stages as Past President Kathy Weisskopf has accepted the Chairmanship. Carole Ragland has again volunteered to sell advertising and will be helped by Joanna Sharp (who discovered she had a knack for it last year.) In announcing this yearbook lineup, President Joanna expressed her delight in having the assistance of Kathy and Carole. “These two, being retired, have a lot of things going on their lives, and we are so lucky that they are so dedicated to giving to the Society the way they are.”

Our LCHS Lapel Pin
Diane Gillette

The LCHS pins will once again be available for $5 at the May meeting. Wearing a pin will be a great way to spread the word about our wonderful society.

Event Chairman, Jeff Hansen and President, Joanna Sharp at the LCHS booth at the Friendswood Fig Festival.

Pictured at the LCHS Booth are Jeff Hansen, Joanna Sharp, Sherry Frankovich and Doris Teets.

CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR
Diana Dornak, chair

Diana Dornak, Chair of the Homes Tour slated for December 13th, hosted a luncheon on May 7th as the planning kickoff. Attending the meeting were Diana Dornak, Kathy Weisskopf, Deborah Gammon, Joanna Sharp, and Jeff Hanson.
Our seats are filling up fast lately. Our April visitors came from Magnolia, Sugarland, The Woodlands, Kingwood, Galveston, Houston, Spring, Katy, Lake Jackson, Pearland, Humble, and Channelview, Texas. We had 48 walk-in visitors from Corpus Christi, LaPorte, Manvel, Crosby, and Huffman, Texas as well as visitors from Alamogordo, New Mexico, St Petersburg and Tallahassee, Florida, Lovettsville, Virginia, Lowell, Massachusetts, and League City. We held 29 schoolhouse sessions and had 622 children and adults and 26 teachers and with the 48 walk-in-visitors, a total of 696 visitors plus staff and volunteers for the month of April.

We brought in $5,140.45 in the month of April with $2,069.00 from program fees, $2,426.45 in gift shop sales and $145 in walk-in-donations and $500 in grant funding. One school alone brought in $1340 in just 3 days ($960 of that was from the gift shop). We needed the funds to restock the gift shop for the spring visitors in addition to the expenses for teachers, management, security, ads, and minor maintenance fees. Our total expenses for April came to $3,104.33. Our April checkbook balance is $13,253.34.

This month we want to thank Nancy and Ronnie Richards for the 61” x 80” oil cloth painting done by Russ Cox, Jr. and Lynn Obermiller that once hung in front of Thrifty Super market, formerly Kilgores, in League City.

We are honoring our Volunteer Staff with Surprise Field Trip and Luncheon on May 27 from 9 – 2. We really appreciate their time and talents in the daily operations of the Museum. Anyone wishing to join our staff is welcome. We are in need of afternoon volunteers from 1 – 4pm. Betty Lewis donated 35 hours working with newspapers, Bertha Adams served 4.5 hours, Cherie Miller helped with 11 hours, Joyce Buchanan worked 4.5 hours, Barbara Vermillion served 6 hours, Kathie Nenninger worked 6.5 hours, Carole Ragland served 5 hours, Bryan Schutmaat worked 4, Tommye Randolph helped with 4 hours, Kathy Weisskopf served 3.5 hours, Alan Yang worked 4 hours, Joanna Sharp worked 3 hours, Alice Butler worked 2 hours and Diana Dornak worked 1 hour at the museum. Catharin served 112 volunteer hours for April doing research, planning, designing and editing. Richard Lewis also worked 15 hours behind the scenes repairing artifacts, jump ropes, and editing and doing research. This gives us a total of 221 volunteer hours for the month of April.

The May calendar continues to fill with Schoolhouse Program reservations and the summer schedule is beginning to fill. I continue to work on the collection, the cemetery research project and the general operations of the Museum. Plans are being made to complete some artifact restoration projects this summer and the spring cleaning of the facilities. We hope to get help from volunteers to complete these projects.

A Special Welcome to Our New Member

Alice Butler

LCHS Officers & Board

Joanna Sharp President
Ronnie Richards Vice President
Diana Dornak Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich Secretary
Deborah Gammon Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen Board Member
Diane Gillette Board Member
Richard Lewis Board Member
Carole Ragland Board Member
Kathy Weisskopf Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis Museum Director

Family Trees
Melody Hauch

It has come to our attention that there is a wonderful new LDS website for family research at archlabs.org. This site has abstracted Texas Death Certificates from 1890-1976. The site is free after you provide a little information on yourself in order to log in, like your email address, name and place of residence.


This site gives you all dates and places on the certificate such as birth, death, burial, plus parents, spouse, and age. Of course, some certificates don’t have all information. The cause of death and the cemetery name are not included. They plan to put the actual certificates online. There are other databases on the site as well. Once you put a name in, be sure to scroll down because the name may be included on other death certificates such as a spouse, parent or child.
League City Historic District
Commission Report
Fay Dudney
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

March 27, 2008
Approved a request to construct an accessory structure at 914 3rd St. Reviewed draft of a proposed sign design for the Historic District as presented by David Jones, Planner for the City of League City. A local businessman has offered to finance the cost of the sign.

April 17, 2008
Approved a request to construct an in-ground swimming pool, wooden fence, make driveway improvements, demolish present accessory storage structure, build a replacement structure, and build an addition of 321 square feet to a residence at 822 Lewis Street.

The completed Architectural Guidelines and Materials List were reviewed and presented to Staff Liaison Mark Linenschmidt for further review by the Planning Department before they are included in the proposed forthcoming amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

Reviewed a draft of a brochure highlighting the historic District, including points of interest, and Guiding Principles of League City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance that will be placed in the various City Staff Offices.

A request for a temporary sign banner at 219 N. Michigan Ave. was administratively approved.

CEDAR LANDING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SEeks LCHS HELP

A huge old oak tree that has lived in the area, now known as Cedar Landing, for more than a century through cattle ranching days and now in an honored spot in the subdivision, is looking a little sickly.

Laura Teatsworth, busy Mom, League City school teacher, and member of the Cedar Landing HOA, followed us to Kemah the evening we had our meeting there, just so she could talk to someone about the health of the tree and getting it registered. It seems that League City’s Urban Forester told Laura that our Historical Society is an authority on our old oaks and that if we couldn’t help, we would be able to point her in the right direction.

The remarkable thing about this tree is that as just a young sapling, the oak grew inside the iron rim of an old wagon wheel. This rim now encircles the tree as a loose necklace. This “necklace” is probably what alerted the Cedar Landing developer to save the tree. See the picture.

We are now in the process of getting the tree registered through our program and have given Laura the name of the “best” old oak tree service in our area (a recommendation by local native plant landscaper Mark Fox.)

So Laura and Cedar Landing, we will be monitoring the your progress.

Chris Paulissen, resident of League City, is marking the time until he can return home from his assignment in Lagos, Nigeria, as Project Services Manager, MPN Major Integrity Projects, for the Australian owned Worley Parsons Corporation.

Until his return in August, Chris is using his Historical Society calendar to remind him of League City that he loves so much.

His wife, Sally, lives in the Oaks of Clear Creek, and is a Texas Master Naturalist.

Just as giant oak trees begin with small acorns, great deeds begin with small seeds of thought.

Anonymous
**FAIRVIEW CEMETERY BOARD MEETING**

The Fairview Cemetery Board met Saturday, April 26, in the home of Doris and Gene Teets. In the short business meeting, Society member Ernie Randall was elected the new President, with Society member Joanna Sharp, as Vice President. Phyllis White will continue as Secretary/Treasurer.

Among the issues discussed were locating unmarked burial sites, Historical Cemetery designations, markers offered through the State, grass-cutting, and other topics.

A delicious pot-luck was enjoyed by the more than 20 folks who attended, several of whom were members of LCHS.

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**Save the Date…October 9, 2008**

**LCHS Living History Dinner**

**Kathy Weisskopf**

Mark your calendar to join Stephen F. Austin for dinner October 9 at Butler’s Courtyard, as he reminisces about the challenges of settling colonists in Texas in the early 1800’s. When he started, the League City/Clear Lake area was a coastal prairie roamed by Indians. When he finished selling the land here, the map looked like this.

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[Map showing early patents, Clear Lake Area, not to scale.]

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