The move and restoration of the 1905 Capt. Meyer House

The move and restoration of the 1905 Capt. Meyer House earlier this year from Beaumont Street and Kansas Avenue into the Historic District created many fascinating stories for its new owners Mike and DeeAnn Peterson. They currently live in the two story T. J. Dick Home, directly across the street from the Museum and moved their new acquisition into the empty lot directly behind their house, at 3rd Street and Kansas Avenue. Historic house restoration is said to be the ultimate in recycling, and ladies and gentlemen, you are going to see why. About this time last year, in order to save the house from demolition, the League City Historical Society initiated this activity with the Peterson’s, but little did we know that this was actually DeeAnn’s Grandfather’s house. Come to our November 20th meeting at the Barn Museum and hear what turned out to be a love story.

from the President...
Ronnie Richards

How time flies. Six years ago this month in 2008, we had just come through Hurricane Ike and had elected a new Board of Directors for the Society with me as President. I want to thank the members, board members and officers that have worked so hard over these past six years.

Special thanks to Catharin Lewis for her diligent efforts at the museum and the ongoing work with the hands-on-history West Bay Common Schoolhouse program. My hat’s off to Richard Lewis for all he has done to oversee and actually do maintenance on the property and artifacts. Our Treasurer Diana Dornak has been a mainstay on our board and I have always felt at ease knowing she was watching over our money, tax return filings and so forth. She also did a stellar job with the annual Holiday Home Tours. Kathie Nenninger has produced sixty newsletters during my reign, a task that required coordinating a lot of content from many different contributors. Those serving as board Secretary during my time in office have always been dependable and we never had a lapse in our record keeping. Evelyn Garland was a big help as Vice President in rounding up speakers for our monthly programs and chairing the Living History Dinner last year. There are too many others to mention individually that have made contributions as members, committee chairs, speakers and financial supporters but please be aware your efforts have made a big difference.

While it’s time for me to say farewell to my office of President I won’t be saying good bye to the Society. I’ll remain active on the board as the Past President and continue to be a big supporter. See you at the next meeting!
October 30, 2014 Meeting

Evelyn Garland started the meeting. Catharin Lewis gave a report on the Living History Dinner. Sixty-two tickets were sold, and, after expenses, the Society made approximately $2,463.37. Richard Lewis announced the candidates for next year’s officers and directors.

Officers:
President – Doug McKee
Vice President – Joyce Zongrone
Recording Secretary – Susan Pierce
Corresponding Secretary – Phyllis White
Treasurer – Diana Dornak

Directors:
Daryl Krogman
Katie Benoit Hake
Mike Peterson
Melody Hauch
Steph McDougal

There were no additional nominations made from the floor.

Ronnie Richards announced that November’s meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. At that meeting, the membership will vote on the 2015 candidates. A board meeting will be held before the November meeting.

Our speaker was Steph McDougal who has written a book called “Lighthouses of Texas.” Ms. McDougal discussed the history, locations, and types of lighthouses used in our area for more than 160 years. The ever-changing coastal shorelines and location of barrier islands resulted in a lot of shipwrecks. Once the U.S. annexed Texas, 89 lighthouses were constructed, first made of wood, then cast iron, in different configurations. The lighthouse keeper’s family often lived in the lighthouse or in a house attached to the lighthouse. Anchored “light[house] boats” were vital to navigation around barrier islands. Lighthouses eventually became automated and then replaced by buoys. There are a few lighthouses still working in Texas. Others have been privately purchased and are being restored.

The meeting was adjourned.

October was a busy month. We held 21 schoolhouse sessions and 2 special sessions. Our 501 visitors came from areas in Houston, Richwood and League City. Our two special sessions consisted of a new program entitled Stories in the Schoolhouse with a story, craft, marching to music and treats for everyone. We are planning another similar program for December. We brought in $1678 in program fees and $488.80 in gift shop sales. We had 73 walk-in visitors from Denver and Loveland Colorado, Scottsdale Arizona, Kokomo Indiana, Denham Springs Louisiana, Houston, Spring, Hitchcock, Austin, Plano, Cushing, Pasadena Friendswood, San Leon, Sugarland, Baytown, Lake Jackson and League City Texas.

We wish to thank Sandra Molmgren and Lois Barringer for their recent donations to our collection. We want to thank Sandra for her collection of 1940’s children’s clothing items and an unusual apron purse. We want to thank Lois Barringer from Manhattan, Kansas for her collection of thirty school text books. Among them are such titles as Essentials of Geography. The Rise of Our Free Nation. Essentials of Arithmetic. Health Lessons. Streets and Roads. More Streets and Roads. and the Junior Quiz Book. All of these gifts are greatly appreciated and some of these items are now on exhibit.

Tell all your friends about our next “Stories in the Schoolhouse” event scheduled for Monday, December 15. We will feature Dream Snow by Eric Carle. Children ages 3 to 5 years are encouraged to come hear the story with their parents and younger siblings. A fee of $4 will be collected for only the 3 – 5 year olds. A unique craft and a treat will follow. We are again
Did you know that …?  

by Joyce Zongrone

The eighth US Census in 1860, just one year before the onset of the American Civil War, tabulated a total US population just over 31 million people spread across 36 states. Of those 36 states, 19 had no slaves and the remaining 17 slave states held over 3.9 million slaves, 13 percent of the total US population at the time.

The census began on June 1, took five months and was tabulated by 184 clerks.

While the census data shows more than 5.1 million families, only eight percent, 393,975 families, owned slaves in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

The state of Virginia held the most slaves, 490,865, owned by 52,128 slaveholders, totaling 31 percent of the state’s population. Kansas had 2 slaves, the least amount of any state.


Although a census was taken in the early 1600s in Virginia, and later on people were counted in all of the British colonies that became the United States at the time of the American Revolution, the very first official US Census was taken in 1789, shortly after George Washington’s Inauguration. Since the number of seats in the House of Representatives was based on population, our Founding Fathers saw the immediate need for a census following our independence from Britain. Also, it was discovered that when left to their own devices, states would report fewer people in order to lower their shares of the war debt. So on June 21, 1788, Article 1, Section 2, of the US Constitution, creating a decennial census, was ratified. Published in 1790, this first census counted 3.9 million people about as many people now living in the state of Connecticut.

Fact finding is one of America’s oldest activities and data collection expanded with time. The 1810 Census listed manufacturers. In 1840 fisheries were added. The 1850 Census contained social issues such as taxation, churches, pauperism and crime data appeared for the first time. The 1870 Census, five years after the end of the Civil War, was the first document to list former slaves as persons. Previous census listed them as property.
Fairview Cemetery Honors Veterans
...Deborah Gammon

On November 2, 2014 members of Clear Horizons High School's student council and their adviser, Sharlene Kahlch, helped LCHS member, Deborah Gammon place the flags on 106 veterans graves in Historical Fairview Cemetery, League City. The American flags were donated by American Legion Post #554 in League City.

Bree Kumelski and Celeste Tanega place the flag on Pvt. Leslie B. Scott’s grave. Pvt. Scott is the only League City man who died in combat in WWI.

League City Historic District
Commission Report
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC
...Fay Dudney

The regular meeting of the LCHDC will be in Council Chambers, Nov. 20, at 6:00 pm.

Playing the Past
at West Bay Common School Children's Museum

Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 6 – 8 pm
Get ready to relive history!

Come dressed for the part if you like!
Find out what it was like being a child a century ago. There will be chores, an outhouse, lively music from the Player Piano, dancing, and making Victorian dress accessories.

Role play your character as we finish the program in our 1898 Schoolhouse complete with School Marm. Get a taste for what school was really like.

Ages 6 – 12

$15 per Child
Registration and payment due Friday, November 21, 2014
no refunds after Monday, December 8, 2014.

210 N. Kansas Ave.
League City, TX 77573
(281) 554 – 2994
www.Oneroomschoolhouse.org

The members of the League City Historical Society thank outgoing President Ronnie Richards for his six years of being at the helm of the society. His calm and thoughtful leadership was appreciated by all. We know that he will continue to be a supporter as we work to preserve the history of League City.