November 19th 2015 Meeting

The Restoration Continues...

Come walk through League City’s Texas Historical Commission recognized 1910 little white church that sits on Main Street, lovingly called Old St. Mary Church. Our guest speakers, Jerry Dornak and Garet Nenninger, will be discussing the restoration of Old St. Mary Church from the beginning to the current stained glass refurbishment. Recently, the Galveston Historical Foundation recognized both Ed Linck and Jerry Dornak for their incredible stewardship in the continued restoration and maintenance of the church. The meeting will be held at the church, 620 East Main Street.

Calendar of Events

November 19 Garet Nenninger/Jerry Dornak~ Restoration of Old St. Mary Church and the recent stained glass project
(Note: Meeting date is third Thursday. Meeting will be held at Old St. Mary Church)

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

December 12 Historic Homes Tour

There is no December meeting

From the President

Doug McKee!

The WOW factor continues... The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and it is most appropriate that this month’s meeting will take place at Old St. Mary Church as a preview of our Historic Homes Tour on December 12th. While our soggy Ghosts of the Past event was improvised, we delighted guests with a wonderfully innovative play at the One Room Schoolhouse. Special thanks goes to Deborah Gammon and J’Nean Henderson. I wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving.
Meeting Minutes  
Susan Pierce, Secretary

October 29, 2015 Meeting

Joyce Zagrone called the meeting to order. The upcoming Ghost Tour and Home Tour were discussed. The rain location for the Ghost Tour will be the museum. At our November meeting, we will vote on for the Society’s 2016-2017 Directors. We are losing two Directors, Jeff Hansen and Steph McDougal. The two candidates for those positions are Elizabeth Quigley and Ronnie Richards.

Our speaker was Alicia Moore, the artist who created the plaster “ghosts” in the barber shop/ice house in front of the museum. The plaster was applied on live models by using impregnated gauze in 4 or 5 layers and done in pieces – head, chest, hands, waist to shoes – and then removed from the model and assembled. For the pieces that are standing, metal tubes were used internally to keep the figures upright. Ms. Moore talked about meeting and working with the models, who were G.I. Butler, Allison Stewart, Lloyd Medsger, and a small boy and girl whose plaster figure is a composite of the two of them.

Meeting adjourned.

Curator’s Corner  
Catharin Lewis, Director/Curator

Leaves are falling, weather is changing and many things are happening at the museum. We held 24 schoolhouse sessions bringing 269 children, 144 adults, 20 teachers and 98 walk-in visitors. The groups came from Baytown, Friendswood, Houston, League City, Pearland, Spring, and Lake Jackson. We had a special visit from the national meeting of the Austin Bantam Society with all their antique vehicles. We had classes in progress and they were delighted to see the parade of cars stop and park in front of the schoolhouse.

We ended the month with our Annual Ghost Tour which was totally held at the museum this year due to the weather. It actually worked well to have the ghosts tell their stories in the schoolhouse and have the Victorian Lady tell her story in the Bus Barn. Everyone that attended was pleased with the event. Debra Gammon did a wonderful job of preparing the speeches, organizing the event and planning the rain day back-up plan. It went very well and she deserves praise and special thanks as all her ghosts did a fine job.

I am looking for HELP. We will be decorating the museum on December 7th starting at 9. We always need extra hands, so if you are available to share your time we would love for you to come. We are also looking for homemade cookies to serve at the museum for the Homes Tour. If you can donate two dozen, please bring them to the Museum by December 11th. If you can volunteer on the day of the Homes Tour for three hours, please sign up by calling the museum. The tour is from 10 – 5, but help is needed from 9 – 6 which includes set-up and clean-up.

Our Story Time at the Schoolhouse has been going really well. We have had a nice group and a special treat is planned for the December Story Time. Santa will be visiting. Story Time at the One Room Schoolhouse is scheduled for December 14th at 11:30am.

As this year ends, special thanks to everyone who has helped to make the year a success, my teachers and volunteers. Special thanks go to Richard Lewis for his generous cash donations and his never ending help with chores, repairs and work around the museum. We are very blessed.
Did you know that more than 100 tons of live oak from trees felled during Hurricane Ike in Galveston live on in the last wooden whaling ship, the Charles W. Morgan, in Mystic Seaport Connecticut? In 2008, Hurricane Ike killed close to 40,000 live oak trees on Galveston Island, many of which were over 100 years old, planted after the 1900 Storm. At the time, the Region 8 Director of the U.S. Forest Service called it the largest ecological tree disaster he’s ever seen. However, they were not all a loss. The Mystic Seaport Shipyard in Connecticut made use of the lost hardwoods to “breathe new life into a 167-year-old whaling ship.”

The Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard at Mystic Seaport used Galveston’s live oak debris to rebuild America’s oldest sailing vessel and the oldest commercial ship still afloat, launched in 1841. Only the USS Constitution, the US Navy’s first ship, is older, launched in 1797. Restoration focused on areas below the waterline, which date back to its original 1841 construction. The topside has been rebuilt four times over a period of 100 years between 1880 and 1980. Fresh water from rain encourages rot, while salt water acts as a preservative, so the lower hull did not need attention until now, amazingly, 167 years later! The wood used for the restoration was primarily live oak, white oak, longleaf pine, and black locust for the trunnels, the fastening pegs. According to Mystic Seaport, where the Charles W. Morgan is now moored, she was originally built in just nine months in 1841. The latest restoration, completed in 2014, took more than five years.

Texas was one of twenty-two states who contributed materials or expertise to the ship’s restoration. Galveston contributed the 176 tons of live oak from the more than 40,000 trees cut down after Hurricane Ike.

The Charles W. Morgan made history during the summer of 2014 as the last remaining wooden whaleship in the world that went back to sea. The Charles W. Morgan sailed on her 38th Voyage to New England ports-of-call. Her whaling days spanned over 80 years and 37 voyages, most lasting three years or more. Her whaling days ended in 1921. She was exhibited at Colonel Edward H.R. Green’s estate at Round Hill in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, until 1941 when she came to her final resting place at Mystic Seaport where she dominates the waterfront, and more than 100 years of Texas history lives on in her structure.
Ghosts of the Past recap...

Our Ghosts of the Past event was held October 31, 2015 in the One Room Schoolhouse and Barn Museum due to the inclement weather. The improvised little play was enjoyed by the 21 attendees. Those attending were also treated to the presentation of mourning customs by J’nean Henderson. A Gordy family descendant attended as well as our own Phyllis White.

Students from Clear Horizons Early College High School assisted Deborah Gammon, Fairview Historian, in setting 106 flags on the veterans’ graves at Historical Fairview Cemetery for Veterans Day.

Holiday In The Park – Dec. 5

Do you bake??? If so... we’d love for you to bake something for our booth at ‘Holiday in the Park.’ Last year we sold out by lunchtime! It was such a success we are repeating it again this year. Call or email Phyllis White if you are willing to donate some baked goods for the booth. You can deliver to her home at 805 Bauer, League City or bring your items to League Park. Call or email Phyllis at: 281-554-7186 or phylliswhite1@peoplepc.com.

Historic Homes Tour-Dec. 12

If you would like to help with the homes tour we have openings for docents and people to sit at the door and take tickets. Contact Phyllis White at 281-554-7186 or phylliswhite1@peoplepc.com to let her know you are interested. She will put you in contact with the Director of one of the Historic Homes that needs help the day of the tour.
HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
Saturday, December 12, 2015
10am to 5pm
Advance Tickets $13 • Day of Event $15
Available at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum - 210 N. Kansas Ave.
or League City Regional Chamber of Commerce - 217 E. Main
Directions to homes and sites provided with ticket. For information call 281-554-2994

Stop by and have a little hot chocolate, some saltwater taffy or maybe a little vintage ice cream.

The T. J. Dick Home
720 Second St.

The Capt. Meyer Home
721 Third St.

The Ferrell Home
620 Third St.

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 N. Kansas Ave.
Visit our School, Barn Museum & Ice House.

Old St. Mary Church
620 E. Main St.

The McKee-Giesler Home
1004 Third St.

Visit with “Victorian Ladies” at the Dibrell Coons Home, 720 Third St. This home not open for touring; however, visiting & pictures welcome!

For more information call 281-554-2994 or visit our website leaguecityhistory.org