The story of the plaster ghosts in our 1927 Ice House/1936 Barbershop comes to life as told by their creator and November’s speaker, Alicia Moore. Moore, an art teacher at Clear Brook High School, made the plaster figures more than 20 years ago in the mid 1990s. She will relate colorful anecdotes about how they were born in Peggy Fenimore’s kitchen and rode in Alicia’s car during the process. Alicia brought the building to life with her four plaster ghosts of three prominent League City residents: G. I. Butler, the grandson of George Washington Butler; Allison Stewart, the son of LaVace Stewart, Stewart Elementary School’s namesake; Herbert (Skeeter) Metzger, an oilman and finally, a composite figure of a five-year-old child.

October 29th 2015 Meeting
The Ghosts Come To Life

From the President
Doug McKee!

The WOW factor continues… this month we will be having our “Ghosts of the Past: Genealogy in a Cemetery” event at Fairview Cemetery. A big thank you to Deborah Gammon, Catharin Lewis and all of our ‘ghosts’ for their research of our local families who reside at Fairview. Mark your calendars for October 31st.

Our October Society meeting will showcase our award winning 1927 Ice House/1936 Barbershop. Come find out how artist Alicia Moore created the plaster casts that were made to honor three prominent League City residents. These figures make them come to life and tell their story of yesteryear.

Work continues on our Historic Homes Tour set for December 12. Another big thank you to Mike Peterson for taking the helm in organizing this year’s exciting tour.

Please spread the word of our events. Simply put, WOW. I am so proud of all our members and supporters for making the history of League City come to life.
**Meeting Minutes**
Susan Pierce, Secretary

**September 24, 2015 Meeting**

President Doug McKee welcomed everyone to the meeting. Elections for next year are coming up, and we have open positions for the Board. Richard Lewis is forming the committee for nominations. Mike Peterson reported that last month's speaker, Elizabeth Quigley, would like to serve on the Board.

One hundred six people attended the Living History Dinner at Walding Station. Walding Station has offered to let us have next year's event there. The Ghost Tour is scheduled for October 31st. Planning for the Home Tour is coming along.

Catharin Lewis reported that the museum is doing well. The museum will be open for the Ghost Tour and the Home Tour. Future programs will feature natural history, along with Story Time in October and December.

Our speaker was Charley Gordy, who discussed the project of removing the residents of Campbell's Bayou Cemetery to Forest Park East. James Campbell was an officer with Jean Lafitte, and the area in which he lived was named Campbell's Bayou. Campbell’s Bayou was located between Swan Lake and Virginia Point in Texas City. Our speaker, Mr. Gordy, is a descendant of some of those buried at Campbell's Bayou. The cemetery was used from 1840-1904, and contained 52 people, including 10 Confederate soldiers who might have been moved there from Ft. Hebert, probably after the 1900 storm. The cemetery measured 70 feet x 70 feet. The property was sold in the 1960's to a waste-recycling facility. The EPA superfunded the site, and in 2014, removal of the graves began. Wooden and cast iron caskets were found, containing badly deteriorated remains. Anything found in a grave site was placed in a wooden box, then the wooden box was placed under a concrete slab, and the slabs were placed together at Forest Park. The final count was 34, 21 children and 13 adults. Numerous graves were not found, including those of the Confederate soldiers. The difference in grave numbers could be because the cemetery’s records are wrong, hurricanes could have damaged the cemetery, grave removals might have been made by family members, and there’s even the possibility of grave robbers serving UTMB medical school in Galveston.

Meeting adjourned.

---

**Curator’s Corner**
Catharin Lewis, Director/Curator

Every day we have special people who come into our lives and we are thankful. This past month several people appeared to help when we needed them the most. I want to thank Doyle Alfree, a local builder, who stopped on his way down the road to help Richard move the very heavy storyboards from our trailer to the side porch of the Bus Barn. I also want to thank Mike Peterson and his nephew who helped Richard again lift heavy beams to strengthen the Garden classroom. I just cannot always be the “other man” he needs. These people are really special and we thank them.

I just returned from speaking at an Iowa Schoolhouse Preservation Conference at the Iowa Arboretum Conference Center in Madrid, Iowa where I shared how I developed my interpretive plan for a Country School Museum. Our program has won a national award and is now published in the Country School Journal as the best example program for other one-room schools across the nation. We met with many preservationists, researchers, museum directors and others interested in one room schools. We toured the Mackey School, Cole School, Hickory Grove School and Battin Chapel Complex, Friederichsen School and Kate Shelley Museum. Many of these schools had curtains (like shown above) for special programs, like some of our Texas schools do. I met someone else very special among the many attendees. Wesley Peters is a sophomore at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School in O'Brian County, Iowa. He won a Blue Ribbon in the Iowa State Fair and a college scholarship for his research in one-room schools. He impressed everyone with his story about his research and the work he has accomplished. This young man and the contrast of stories from a 90 year old
one-room schoolhouse teacher made it one of the most memorable highlights of this conference. We are planning a “Tom Sawyer Day” to paint the schoolhouse. You can bring your marbles or pocket knives and we will swap a paint brush for it to help us paint. The date is set for **Saturday, October 24**th. We will provide lunch for any workers. Please call the museum to reserve a paintbrush. There is always something that needs to be done outside and extra hands are really wanted.

---

**Did you know that ...?**

*by Joyce Zongrone*

Did you know that while Halloween came to America with its first colonists, its origins date back 2000 years ago, when the ancient Celts, from Ireland and northern France, celebrated the festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), their New Year, on November 1? That day marked the end of the summer, the harvest and the beginning of the cold, dark winter. The time between fall and winter, a plentiful harvest and scarce food, life and death, created a time of celebration and superstition. Celts believed that on New Year’s Eve, October 31, the boundary between the living and the dead opened. Samhain was the time when the ghosts of the dead came back to earth to cause trouble. On that night the Celtic priests, the Druids, used the presence of the spirits of the netherworld to make future predictions. Prophecies were important to people in an unpredictable world. Huge sacred bonfires were built to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the deities invoking their protection during the harsh winters and to ward off roaming ghosts. Costumes of animal heads and skins were worn and fortunes were told during the celebration. By the fifth century, the Roman Empire conquered the Celts and combined two of their Roman festivals with Samhain. Feralia was celebrated in late October, commemorating the passing of the dead. The Festival of Pomona, Goddess of Fruit and Trees, originally held in August, probably explains the origins of the modern day bobbing for apples, since the Goddess’s symbol was an apple.

In the eighth century, November 1 was observed as the Catholic Feast of All Martyrs Day. By the 9th century, Christianity spread into Celtic lands and gradually merged with and replaced the older Celtic rites. In 1000 A.D., the church would designate All Souls’ Day, to honor the dead, in an attempt to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a similar church-sanctioned holiday. All Souls Day was celebrated like Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and people dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils.

As the new World became colonized Halloween became limited in New England because of rigid Protestant beliefs, but in Maryland and other southern colonies, it became much more common. As more and more ethnic groups arrived and meshed with the American Indians, the American version of Halloween materialized. Colonial public harvest celebrations emerged where friends and neighbors danced sang, told fortunes and ghost stories. Halloween really burst into our culture in the early twentieth century when millions of Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine, helped Halloween’s popularity by incorporating their Irish and English traditions into our culture. Their custom of dressing up and going from house to house asking for food or money, eventually became our modern day trick or treating tradition.
2015 OFFICERS & BOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug McKee</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Zongrone</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Dornak</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Pierce</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis White</td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Hansen</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Hodges</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lewis</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daryl Krogman</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Benoit Hake</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melodey Hauch</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steph McDougal</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Teets</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Peterson</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Richards</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catharin Lewis</td>
<td>Director/Curator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

League City Historic District
Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

...Fay Dudney

September 17, 2015

In the absence of a Vice-Chairman for the Commission, Steph McDougal was elected to serve in that position.

A request to replace an existing sign with a larger sign to include two businesses at 812 E. Main St. near Kansas Ave. was approved at public hearing.

Commission approved a request to replace an existing fence around the resident’s back yard at 616 4th St.

Steph McDougal requested Staff to schedule a workshop to discuss proposed ordinance revisions necessary to qualify for Community Development Block Funding for work in the District, and perhaps the Main Street project.

Did you know that Helen Hall Library has a local history room?

Discover some of our local history treasures by visiting the Helen Hall Library. Our Local History Librarian, Caris Brown, will gladly guide you in your research on the history of League City from early settlement until the present day. She has original correspondence, photographs, and other items in our local history collection.

The Daughters of the American Revolution service project to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was held at Fairview Cemetery, October 11th.

Deborah Gammon and Joey Janota with the Galveston Historical Foundation giving us a lesson on the proper way to wash headstones.

Above, Sarah Adams, secretary of the Sam Houston chapter washing the headstone of John P. Gordy, one of the subjects for the Ghosts of the Past on October 31. Below, is the cleaned headstone.
The League City Historical Society presents
“Ghosts of the Past” Genealogy in a Cemetery

Saturday, October 31, 2015 (rain or shine)

The tour includes the Museum at 210 N. Kansas St. & continues with a short drive to Fairview Cemetery, located at the end of North Kansas on the banks of Clear Creek, takes you to costumed “ghosts” that will enlighten you with tales of the genealogy of the Pioneer Family of Gordy. Surnames include Gordy, Derrick, McFaddin, Rakestraw & Frost. The tour is approximately 45 minutes long. Because of the many obstacles along the tour’s path within the cemetery, we urge you to use caution while walking.

For more information call the Museum at 281-554-2994 or chairperson at 281-334-4950.

Adults $12 Seniors (60+) & Students (age 4 – 18) $6
proceeds from the tour will benefit the League City Historical Society projects, such as West Bay Common School Children’s Museum and programs. Thank you for your support.
League City Historical Society

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

The Walding Station
100 Perkins Ave.
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.

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 Capt. Meyer Home
721 Third St.

The McKee-Gessler 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!

The Ferrell Home
620 Third St.

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