September 26th Meeting
League City Historical Society will host Rene’ Palmer Armstrong, author of Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot, as guest speaker at their September meeting, Thursday, September 26, at 7 pm at the Society’s Barn Museum, at 210 North Kansas in League City. When Rene Armstrong’s husband found a box of 295 letters in a junk store, he had no idea the profound piece of history in his possession. From this collection of letters and additional research, Rene created the story of the courtship of James Richard Jones and Helen Elma Bartlett. Their wartime experiences so typifies the story of many other young soldiers of WW II and their sweethearts waiting for them at home. Ms. Armstrong will be telling the story behind her book. Visitors are always welcome. Refreshments are served at 6:45 and the meeting begins at 7 pm. Please come out to hear this wonderful story.

Calendar

September 26  Rene Palmer Armstrong  
*Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot*

October 3  Living History Dinner with TV Western Star James Drury  
Reservations needed  
at Tad Akers  
218 Clear Creek Ave., League City

October 26  Ghosts of the Past “Tombstone Tales”

October 31  Ernie Deats  
*Murder on Main Street in League City*

November 21  Catharin Lewis  
“The 100 Year Old Laptop”  
There is no meeting in December

December 14  Historic Homes Tour

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

I hope everyone is planning to come to the Living History Dinner at Tad Akers Thursday evening October 3rd at 7 pm. It is very entertaining and the biggest fundraiser of the year. We need every members support and we need everyone to invite friends and family. We also need silent auction items so even if you can’t make it to the dinner, please consider donating something for the auction. Can’t think of anything? Well gift cards always work great. Visit LeagueCityHistory.org for more information.

Saturday, October 26th don’t miss the Tombstone Tales - Ghost Tour at Fairview Cemetery. Come to the School House Museum on N. Kansas and 2nd to pick up a ticket then travel hay ride style in a tractor drawn farm wagon to the cemetery. Read more on this inside.

Mark your calendar to “Save the Date” for the Historic Homes Tour set for Saturday, December 14th. This is always a premier event highlighting historic homes and the history of those homes in League City.

If you missed the last meeting, that may have been a good thing. Our speaker, Author Heather Wooten spoke on her book about Old Red and the very earliest days of medical education in Texas. When I say missing it might have been a good thing I was joking. Her presentation was very interesting and entertaining. But if you had come, it would have been standing room only and as a gentleman I would have had to stand because every seat in the house was filled. Thanks so much Heather.

September 26th is our next meeting and Author Rene Armstrong will bring us *Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot*. Buy the book or come to the meeting or come to the meeting then buy the book. See you there.
August 29, 2013 Meeting

Dr. Heather Wooten spoke to us about her new book, *Old Red: Pioneering Medical Education in Texas*. “Old Red” is formally known as the Ashbel Smith building, so named in honor of the pioneer physician, diplomat and official of the Republic of Texas, Confederate officer and first President of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas who established the UTMB Galveston medical school in 1891. The building is one of many beautiful Galveston buildings designed by premiere architect Nicholas Clayton. Old Red is the oldest medical school building west of the Mississippi. Female students, and later female instructors, were allowed to attend early on at UTMB. The building was damaged during the 1900 storm, losing its green roof and a cupola. Hurricane Ike left 8 feet of water in Old Red, and the building was closed for repairs for 2-3 years. The building has reopened and is now used for administration offices. A museum will hopefully occupy the top floor sometime soon.

Congratulations to Catharin Lewis on receiving awards from the Galveston Historical Foundation for Community Service and Stewardship for her work at the School Museum. This is the Museum’s 20th year in operation.

Volunteers are needed for the nominating committee for 2014 officers. Richard Lewis will chair.

In September, our guest speaker will be Rene Palmer Armstrong, author of *Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot*.

October 3 is the Society’s annual Living History Dinner/fundraiser, featuring TV’s James Drury, to be held at Tad Akers. Items are needed for the silent auction. Contact Diana Dornak with your donations, 281.316.2122.

October 26 is the Ghost Tour at Fairview Cemetery, complete with music played at the Museum by a soloist from the Bay Area Youth Symphony. Volunteers are needed for the Ghost Tour.

December 7 is Holiday in the Park, and December 14 is the Historic Home Tour.

Refreshments for this meeting were furnished by Deborah Gammon and Melody Hauch.

August was a quiet month, but very productive. Susan and I continued to work on the collection while Sarah planned the Fall Evening Programs. Richard and I began meeting with school districts to once again market our schoolhouse programs. I also spent time planning the Ghost Tour, entitled “Tombstone Tales” scheduled for October 26th. Exhibit work is progressing and we hope to have the new exhibition ready by mid October.

We continue to have a steady group of walk-in visitors. School groups, private groups and Senior Citizens are registering for schoolhouse programs. Please spread the word about our museum and encourage more to visit.

We also want to thank Doris Tests for her recent donation of memorial guest books. These books have a great list of people who lived here in League City.
Catharin Lewis

Receives Prestigious Award

Joyce Zongrone

Catharin Lewis, Curator/Director of League City’s West Bay Common School Museum, also known as the One Room School House, received the coveted the Galveston Historical Foundation’s prestigious Sally B. Wallace Preservation Award, Saturday, August 26, in the Topgallant Room of the Thomas Jefferson League Building at 2301 Strand, a building also honored for its outstanding restoration. This is the first year GHF extended its award to include communities outside of Galveston Island and the first time a League City historical site has won the award.

Lewis received both the Community Service and the Stewardship Awards for her restoration and maintenance of this historic site and her leadership in the field of historic preservation, through her unique ongoing Hands-On-History program, which promotes community heritage education. She and her husband, Richard, began realizing their dream of recreating history by moving the school from Beach City, Chambers County in 1992.

“When we decided this is what we wanted to do, we put marks on a map, and started looking in those places for one room school houses. Most of them were gone after the 1900 storm,” Lewis said, but they found this one on Marsh Movers’ lot.

The 1898 school house, made of cypress wood, came to its new home, 25 miles from its original site, ninety four years after it was built. Local businesses donated not only the move, but much needed repair items such as windows. It only cost the Lewis’ only $1500 in out-of-pocket expenses.

Since its opening twenty years ago, in 1993, at 210 North Kansas, more than 85,000 visitors have passed through its doors.

Living History Dinner

with James Drury

Our highly anticipated Living History Dinner with one of the best TV western stars, James Drury, is fast approaching on October 3rd. Mr. Drury portrayed "The Virginian" for 9 years in the 1960's and 70's. That evening, he will focus on the history of the late 19th Century West. Make your reservations right away for this exciting fundraising event to be held at historic Tad Akers in League City. Space is limited, so don’t miss out on an evening of fond memories, dinner and a wonderful silent auction. Dress is cowboy chic. This is our most important fundraiser of the year so please support the League City Historical Society and our award winning West Bay Common School Children’s Museum. Ticket prices are $50 per person. See flyer attached.

Plan now to attend and invite your friends. Contact Evelyn Garland at 13-824-4993 or at dpgarland1949@msn.com

2013 OFFICERS & BOARD

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The Ghosts Are Back In Town
Joyce Zongrone

The Ghosts of the Past Tour is back again this October. This Fairview Cemetery event honors notable people who are buried there by highlighting stories from their lives told by costumed reenactors. The turn-of-the-century Victorian Cemetery has hosted its unique Ghosts of the Past Tours since 2005. Well-known settlers and other deceased persons of distinction are portrayed by local docents in period garb. These stories of the city’s past reflect the area’s cattle ranching history and its diverse communities.

This year’s Tour Director, Catharine Lewis, who is also the Curator/Director of League City’s West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, designed the tour from a similar one she attended while travelling in Alaska with her husband Richard.

As they arise from their final resting places to relate their life stories once more, the ghosts interact with their visitors.

“The tour’s purpose is to educate and to entertain and certainly not designed to be frightening,” says Lewis. Income from the event helps fund the operations of the West Bay Common School and Children’s Museum, as well as, other League City Historical Society projects, including the Historic Homes Tour in December.

Tombstone Tales 2013 takes place on Saturday, October 26, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Fairview Cemetery, North Kansas Avenue and Clear Creek. Tours take about one hour. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear walking shoes and be advised that the 113 year old grounds are not level. Parking is available at the West Bay Common Children’s Museum, 210 North Kansas, 281-554-2994, oneroomschoolhouse.org. You can park and take a hay ride to the cemetery and later tour the museum and enjoy the outside activities. Tickets are $10 for an adult, $5 for children.

Jane Long, the Mother of Texas

The Bolivar Peninsula Cultural Foundation is celebrating the Fourth Annual Jane Long Festival. The Festival is Oct. 12, 2013, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For the first time in decades, Fort Travis Seashore Park’s Historic Bunker and a Battery will be open for tours during the festival—courtesy of the Galveston County Parks Service, which has been making exciting changes in this unique park. For more information, email Charlotte Stirling, cstirling54@gmail.com. Information on the festival can be found on www.janelongfestival.org.
JOIN RONNIE & NANCY RICHARDS AND THE LEAGUE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET TELEVISION ACTOR JAMES DRURY WHO FOR 9 YEARS PORTRAYED THE “VIRGINIAN”. MR. DRURY WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER AS WE CELEBRATE LIFE IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY WEST.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD - 6:30 PM
SOCIAL & 7 PM DINNER
$50 PER PERSON
TAD AKERS – LEAGUE CITY
RSVP BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH
CONTACT RONNIE AT 281-797-1970 OR RONNIE@HSTR.COM
OR NANCY AT 832-875-6820

WITH QUESTIONS OR TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS

DRESS: WESTERN CHIC
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LEAGUE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A NIGHT WITH
THE VIRGINIAN
AT TAD AKERS
218 CLEAR CREEK AVE, LEAGUE CITY
THURSDAY OCT. 3, 2013
The League City Historical Society presents

**Ghosts of the Past “Tombstone Tales”**

Come hear the tales of League City’s past from beyond the grave. Visit the historic Victorian Fairview Cemetery that dates back to 1900 and reflect this area’s diverse community and cattle ranching history.

This year the *League City Historical Society* and the *Bay Area Youth Symphony* will present a two day event intended to educate and entertain and not designed to be frightening. Income from Saturday’s event helps fund the operations of the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum and other projects of the League City Historical Society. Sunday’s program supports the Bay Area Youth Symphony. Both projects help the youth in our community.

**Saturday, October 26, 2013**
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 North Kansas, League City  281-554-2994
[OneRoomSchoolhouse.org](http://OneRoomSchoolhouse.org)

**Tours:** 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm  
Purchase tickets at the museum and take a hay ride to the cemetery. Dress for the weather; wear walking shoes and be advised that the ground is not level. It is a cemetery. The tour should take about an hour. Tour the museum’s special exhibits while you wait for the next tour and enjoy music from soloist of the *Bay Area Youth Area Symphony*. Also come and celebrate West Bay Common School Children’s Museum’s twenty years in operation.

**Sunday October 27, 2013**
Clear Springs High School
501 Palomino Drive League City  281-284-1300
[BayAreaYouthSymphony.org](http://BayAreaYouthSymphony.org)

**Time:** 4pm  
**Free**  
The *Bay Area Youth Symphony* presents classical spooky music from composers such as Mussorgsky, Grieg, and more! Hear a few “Ghost Stories” from the League City Historical Society in the lobby before the concert.
League City Historical Society presents

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

Saturday, December 14, 2013
10am to 5pm

Advance Tickets $13
Day of Event $15

One (1) Ticket
Allows You to Tour
Six (6) Historic Sites
including
West Bay Common School
Children’s Museum,

Directions to homes and sites
provided with ticket.

For information call 281-554-2994

100 years old this year!

The Hayes Home - 1004 Fourth St.

Old St. Mary Church - 630 E. Main St.

The Ferrell Home - 630 Third St.

The Cox Mepyurk Home (above)
& The Giacchino Home (Below)
Both homes are located at 1318 E. Walker St.

West Bay Common School
Children’s Museum - 210 N. Kansas Ave.

Come and see our School,
Barn Museum and Ice House.

Enjoy League City’s Heritage!
leaguecityhistory.org