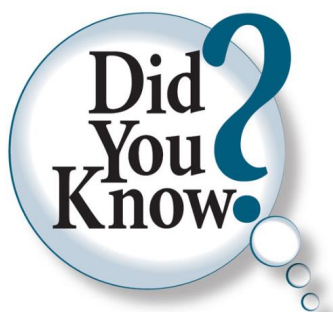




April 2023 Newsletter



Look for some fascinating facts that you may not have known about your museum on page 3.

**RENEW YOUR
SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
TODAY.**

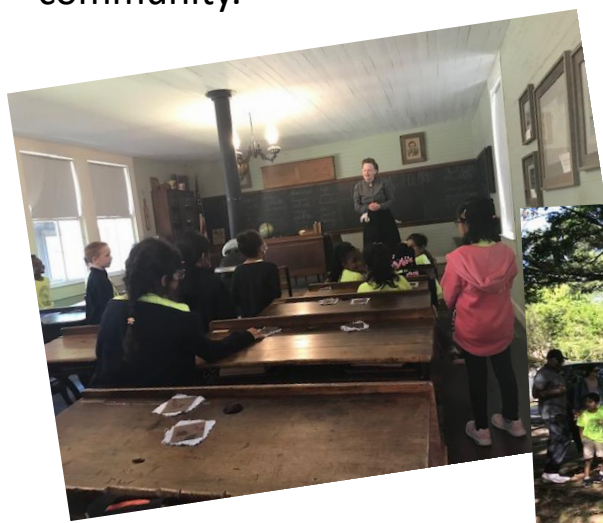
Join or renew your LCHS
Membership/Dues
online at
leaguecityhistory.org
or send a check to
League City Historical Society
P.O. Box 1642
League City, TX. 77574

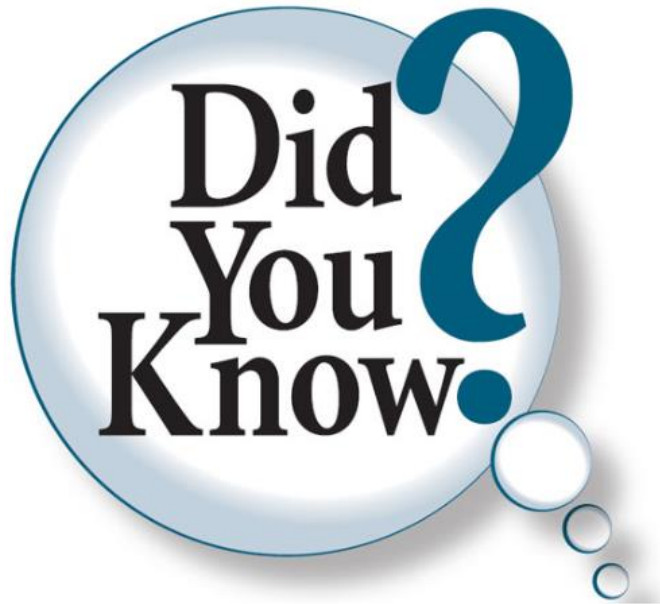
**We appreciate your
membership & support**



With the beautiful weather we are experiencing in League City, the LCHS has already initiated several exciting activities for our members. On March 31st, we had our 1 year anniversary for Music at the Museum setting the attendance record. Then in early April, I had the opportunity to attend a schoolhouse session with four of our very talented MARMS (female teachers). They welcomed 60 students from The Honor Roll School in Sugar Land, TX. The experience for me was overwhelming as I sat back and observed each teacher interact with such bright young students. With three different groups moving throughout the grounds of the Museum, they all experienced how school was delivered and what instruments were used in a One-Room School House setting over a century ago. (Cont'd next Page)

The Board Of Directors held the 2023 Q2 meeting to review the business, ensuring we are properly supporting the needs of our society. One item discussed was continuing education related to the West Bay Common School. On June 11-14, 2023, we will have 6 leaders/volunteers attend the County School Association of America (CSAA) annual conference in Lancaster, PA. When the team returns, we plan on having a “lessons learned” session so everyone can gain knowledge from such a unique event related to One Room Schoolhouses across America. I look forward to updating everyone on all the special achievements/activities occurring as we continue to grow in the community.





- That years ago, our little schoolhouse was used in a *Clay Walker* music video called ***One, Two I Love You***. We were the early years of his education and love life. Rice University was used for his college days and his ranch for the later years. Be sure to watch to the very end for a cute little reminder of those early years. (Hint “hopscotch”). This was nearly 30 years ago, so you will see how far video has advanced. **See it here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LZy5EjH6r0&list=PLUuDvdYwSFZUaXmR9OgXJI2NjaeBe9kEw>

- That our West Bay Common School Museum is the national headquarters for the *Country School Association of America* (CSAA) mentioned earlier. The CSAA chose to move their headquarters here from *Northern Illinois University* 15 years ago because we more closely represent the One-Room or Country School experience than a large university. Catharin and Richard Lewis are on their Board of Directors.

Check out their website: www.CountrySchoolAssociation.org

Music at the Museum <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueCityFolkAssociation>

The March 31st Music at the Museum was a memorable evening for everyone that could attend. As mentioned earlier, we set the record for the Music at the Museum with close to 300 guests. Since safety is always a primary goal for all LCHS activities, and knowing we would have a large crowd, we moved the stage to the Garden Classroom. Now everyone was able to sit in the yard next to the one-room school with a little more space, and still protected by the property's fence. This also helped provide additional parking for the event. Special thanks to Butler's Courtyard for always opening their parking lot up at 2nd and Colorado.



To kick the evening off with our traditional history lesson, we had a very special guest. The *Texas Victorian Lady* (Ms. J'Nean Henderson) shared her extensive knowledge of how women dressed during the Victorian era (1837-1901). To help illustrate this history, she had two stunning models dressed in outfits from the 1,000 dresses in her collection. The Victorian Lady explained the “Language of the Fan”, and why/how women would use a parasol to show social status along with the importance of the underpinnings that made the dresses look so beautiful on the women. As I sat back to observe, you could see how the history lesson from the Victorian Lady grabbed everyone's attention. For more information on the *Texas Victorian Lady*, visit:

texasvictorianlady.com



We would like to thank all the musicians that participated in this special one-year celebration:



TUCKER HART
RODNEY HUGHES
ANTONIO ZAMORAŁEZ
TWO FIFTHS
TEX RENNER
BRIGHTWIRE
CHRIS J HARDY
GRIFTERS & SHILLS
ALLIE RAE & REED
MIKE KISER
TOD ANTHONY
LAURA KOVACEVICH
ANGELA GUIDRY
JOHN HENDRIX
BILLY KING
KYLE LOWRY



Please plan on joining the April 28th (*this Friday*) event. Tucker and Rachel Hart have once again arranged several talented musicians to play for our community. What a special family focused event for the Historic District of League City. Can't wait to see everyone..



Volunteers Needed @ Museum



For
White
Linen
Night

Save
The
Date



To sign up EMAIL:

LeagueCityTXHistory@gmail.com

An Orphan's Journey Home

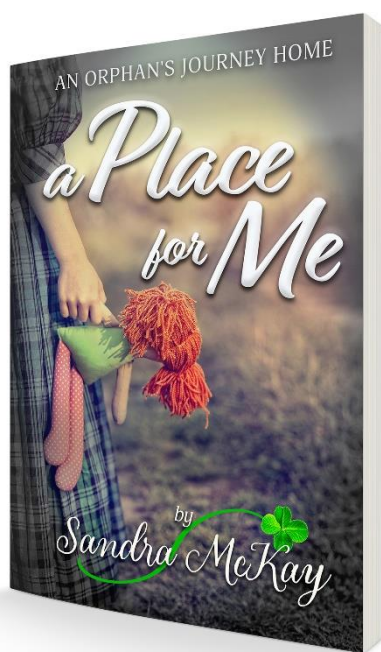
By Joyce Zongrone

During the 75 years of the Orphan Train Movement, 1854 to 1929, an estimated 250,000 orphaned, abandoned and homeless children, were relocated to rural communities across the country in hopes of providing a better life for them.

Many of these children became orphaned when parents died in flu, typhoid and yellow fever epidemics. Others were abandoned due to poverty or addiction.

At that time, the United States did not have adoption agencies or the social programs we have today. If you could not afford to care for a child, you had to find an orphanage, many of which didn't have resources.

The idea of an orphan train came from Charles Loring Brace, who founded the Children's Aid Society of New York. Brace recognized the inadequacy of the existing welfare institutions and saw the Western states as havens of opportunity. He devised a system where these disadvantaged children could be relocated and sent to rural communities. Children of all ages traveled by train with a Society Agent, where they were met by families who adopted them. Not all of them ended up in happy homes. Many were abused or forced into servitude. Most of the children had one or more living parents so they were not orphaned, so they could not be adopted. They were simply taken in. There was no protocol for vetting people which is why many ended up with abusive people who forced them into servitude.



a Place for Me, by Sandra McKay, is the true story of her grandmother's journey from poverty and death in search of a better home. At the age of eight, Dora Belle Kelly lost her father to typhoid fever, forcing her mother to work, leaving her three children home alone. The family doctor and friends convinced the mother to give up Dora and her two brothers. In 1902, Dora left her tragic circumstances and boarded a train from her small-town home in Ullin, Illinois, and traveled to St. Louis to an orphanage in Chicago, where she was later became a ward of a wealthy politician and lawyer, Joseph L. Murphy, who remained unmarried after his fiancé died in an equestrian accident.

Dora had a good life for five years until Murphy died of a heart attack. Unfortunately, he couldn't adopt her because her mother was still alive. Dora was given a small lump sum from the estate which was placed in trust until she was twenty one. She stayed on under the care of an insufferable housekeeper for eight years who forced her to quit school and cook and clean.

Dora finally was freed from the abuse, at age 20, when she married her childhood sweetheart and school friend, Walter Rex Moss, in 1914.

Dora finally got the home and family she wanted. She died in 1972 at age 82, after 62 years of marriage. Before she died, Dora told her granddaughter she was writing her life story, but she only spoke of the happy times in her life. Only after her death, and during Sandra's research, was Dora's other life of sadness, disenfranchisement, abandonment and abuse revealed.

Dora used her inheritance from Murphy to find her brothers, Louis and Jack, only to discover Louis died in a coal mining accident. She never knew what happened to Jack. When she found her mother, she refused to see her and had remarried to her brother-in-law, which was common at the time.



Dora on her wedding day, 1914

Finally, in 1929, amidst growing objections and changing welfare systems, the Orphan Train Movement ended, but Dora's poignant story lives on in *a Place for Me*, her story of how love and happiness triumphed over her heartaches.



A Typical Orphan Train



Save your items
Annual LCHS Yard Sale
Saturday, SEP 16th 8a - 2p

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