



Left to right: Lillian Murphy and Gabrielle Nonmacher. These two new docents assisted with our Murder and Mayhem Tours. Lillian Murphy is a Helen Hall Library Board Member and Gabrielle is the granddaughter of J'Neen Henderson, The Victorian Lady. J'Neen fashioned Gabrielle's hat and provided the skirt. We appreciate our volunteers!!!

## From The President



Dear LCHS Members & Friends,

Thank You to all those who have been working so hard on the WALKabouts. This project has been quite a success and more WALKabouts are being planned.

Repair of the roof on the museum was completed this past month. It was a huge project which was overseen by our Vice President, Richard Lewis. Thank you again Richard!

Ernest Randall, Past President 2001 – 2002 passed away this past week. Ernie was a dedicated hard-working member of our organization. We will all miss him greatly.

With the Covid issue getting worse again, please be careful and be safe.

Thank you, FAITH AND SERVICE,  
Doug McKee, President



## **ERNEST RANDALL**

03/18/1935 – 08/15/2021

League City Historical Society, President  
2001 – 2002

## **National Night Out at the Museum Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> - 2021 6 PM to 8:30 PM**

If you would like to help, email Katie at:  
[leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com)



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



## New Roof for the Barn Museum

Over 20 years ago we put a 50 year commercial quality corrugated metal roof on the Bus Barn. It served us well through 2-3 hurricanes and various tropical storms, even HARVEY. Recently we have been experiencing more and more leaking until one recent storm had 7 leaking spots and for the first time, right on top of our player piano. We have artifacts that we are responsible for and even though various volunteers have recently gone up on the roof and done some serious patching, we now needed a professional job done to get the remaining 30 year life out of that roof. This will also help by adding insulation to the roof and save on the electric bill.

As you may know we have what is called a LOW SLOPE ROOF. The only thing worse is a flat roof. Our slope is 1 inch for every 12 inches. Metal roofs by design are very sturdy and long lasting BUT they have many seams and joints. Blowing rain, like we experience, can get under those seams. The reason that this did not happen earlier was the sealants we put “under” those seams and “inside” those joints. The sealants dried out over the years and therefore we have a strong, good looking roof that can now leak during a blowing rain storm.

What we had done:

- Tightening all screws holding down the metal roof.
- Power wash any dirt and mildew from the surface.
- Spray expanding external urethane foam on the entire roof including the side and front walls.
- Spray two coats of elastomeric rubber coating over the entire surface including walls.



Spray expanding foam on roof and side / front walls  
(Continued on next page.)



(New Roof for the Barn Museum – continued.)



Elastomeric rubber coating over foam.



## Historical Society assembles Research Team

Early in July, a League City Historical Society assembled its first ever Research Team, in response to the ever-growing need and interest in local history. Its first project was in-depth research for the groundbreaking *Murder and Mayhem WALKabout*.

The Team is also assisting Helen Hall Library Local History Librarian Caris Brown with her preparations for the City's 60th Anniversary.

The researchers were also invited to assist in the research for the Emancipation National Historic Trail Feasibility Study.

The proposed Emancipation NHT extends fifty-one miles from Galveston, along Texas Highway 3 and Interstate Highway 45 North to Freedman's Town in Houston's Fourth Ward. GW Butler's Civil War Containment Camp, across from Fairview Cemetery, will be added to the trail once we document it.

The Research Team is comprised of Katie Benoit Hake, Deborah Gammon, Melodey Hauch, Kathie Nenninger and Joyce Zongrone.



Left to right: Deborah Gammon, Katie Benoit Hake  
– Front: Joyce Zongrone.



Kathie Nenninger



Melodey Hauch





## The 1867 Settlement By Joyce Zongrone

About twelve miles south of League City, in the Texas City Historic District, lies one of the most important historical places in Galveston County history, the 1867 Settlement.

Located around Bell Drive, in west Texas City, this was a self-sufficient African American community, established after the Civil War. Unlike most freed slaves of the day, the members of the community were landowners. They called themselves, “Our Settlement” and “Campbellville” for the Reverend Israel Campbell, who began a church there in 1870.

The community had its roots in an 1861 labor containment camp on Clear Creek in north Galveston County for impressed slaves and free blacks during the Civil War. League City’s founder, George Washington Butler, oversaw the containment camp during the Civil War. The slave labor was used for Confederate Army cattle drives. Some of the Butler ranch slaves had been sent there.

By 1867, State Supreme Court Judge William Jefferson Jones of Virginia Point, sold the 320-acre land-grant, he had received during the era of the Texas Republic (1836-1846), that was next to the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad in what is now west Texas City, to emancipated slaves, requiring payment ten years later.

This was the only African American Reconstruction Settlement in Galveston County.

The founding families were the Brittons, two unrelated Bell families, the Hobgoods and the Caldwells.

The community continued to prosper through the late 1800’s. Many of the families were headed by cowboys. A large number of them had worked for George Washington Butler in League City and on the Chisholm Trail, 1864 – 1884.



Calvin Bell and his 1878 branding iron

By the mid-1880’s, however, they began abandoning this lifestyle in favor of more regular, sedentary work in agriculture or in the railroad industry. By 1900, most of its residents were still relatives and descendants of the initial founding families. The Settlement boasted an 88% adult literacy rate and the majority of its residents were landowners.

# **Murder and Mayhem a Resounding Success!**

By Katie Benoit Hake and Joyce Zongrone

The League City Historical Society's premier Murder and Mayhem WALKabout, was a resounding success. Both tours, July 17 and 24, sold out within two hours of the website posting. More than seventy people were treated to a walk on the dark side of League City. The tour began in the Barn Museum with a presentation detailing each incident. Costumed docents led the groups on a one mile forty-minute walking tour.

Crime was rampant in turn of the century America. Numerous notorious murders took place during the 19th Century, most of them remain unsolved. Out of all the unsolved murders, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln is the most famous unsolved mystery murder of the 19th Century. This time period was filled with troubled times in a hard country that was pushing westward and developing industrially in the East. The country was coming out of a disastrous war and a painful period of reconstruction. The law would not or could not help everyone. People joined vigilance groups and friends banded together to eliminate threats, thieves and murderers.

League City was no stranger to this murder and mayhem, especially from the 1870s through the 1940s.

In 1872, Green Butler, the younger brother of George Washington Butler, League City's founder, was gunned down in cold blood on his front doorstep and died in his wife's arms.

In 1923, in a shootout over cattle rights, Perry McFaddin, Hayden Ross and John E. Hayes, shot and killed Marcus Benson in front of present-day Butler's Courtyard.

Sometime between 1896 and 1912, a young Spanish woman was killed in an early house of prostitution on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Colorado Avenue. Also, in that same time period, garage owner, John Salmon was shot five times.

In 1928, Eddy Dick was killed in a car-train accident and the driver, Grover Longanecker, survived only to be shot later in the 1940s, by the deceased Eddy Dick's brother-in-law, as he crossed through the man's back yard.

In 1943, Coy Dick, son of Galveston County Commissioner T J Dick, died under suspicious circumstances at Camp Wallace, where he was a Military police officer.

These tragedies were symptoms of the growing pains of a young city and country trying to find its way. (continued on next page.)

(Murder and Mayhem - continued.)

The Murder and Mayhem WALKabout was featured on Joe Perez's YouTube Channel, *Texas Chronicles On Location: The League City Historical Society's "Murder and Mayhem" tour*. Stay tuned for more upcoming WALKabout dates on the [leaguecityhistory.org](http://leaguecityhistory.org) website.



Deborah Gammon holds the audience's attention with tales of cold-blooded murders.



Texas Chronicles' Joe Perez interviews the League City Historical Society's Research Team members for his YouTube Channel. Left to right: Joyce Zongrone, Katie Benoit Hake, Joe Perez, Deborah Gammon.





## JC League Home Restoration

The JC League House in Galveston is being restored. Here is a hyperlink to watch progress of the grand old house as it is being restored.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-1RbfGtl\\_o&t=74s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-1RbfGtl_o&t=74s)



## Remember when.....

Pictured left to right are Patricia LaChance and Catharin Lewis during the 2013 Historic Homes Tour. The Cox McQuirk Home located at 1518 East Walker St. is owned by Richard and Catharin Lewis. This lovely old home has been on the tour many times and is always enjoyed by everyone.



# League City Historical Society

## 2021 Officers

Doug McKee	President
Richard Lewis	Vice President
Amber Murphy	Secretary
Katie Benoit Hake	Treasurer

## 2021 Directors

Diana Dornak	Director
Deborah Gammon	Director
Helen Hodges	Director
Darryl Krogman	Director
Catharin Lewis	Director
Linda Michael	Director
Michael Peterson	Director
Susan Pierce	Director
Ronnie Richards	Director



## League City Historical Society

is planning on having a booth again this year at **Holiday In The Park.**

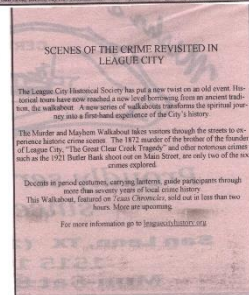
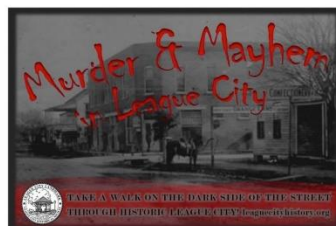
Catherine Gill will be the Chairman and will be looking for volunteers. This is always a lot of fun so watch for more information in future newsletters or on our web site – [leaguecityhistory.org](http://leaguecityhistory.org).



# WE MADE THE LOCAL NEWS!

## Walkabout League City

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, July 17, take a WALKabout on the dark side of the street through Historic League City. The League City Historical Society will be holding its first "Murder and Mayhem" tour where you'll visit turn of the century crime scenes. Tickets are \$10 and must be booked online, at least 24 hours prior to the WALKabout. Secure your spot [here](http://http://leaguecityhistory.org).



As seen in the City Managers July Bulletin and the SeaBreeze Newsletter last month!!





If You Are Not A Member, We Are Hoping You Will Join!!

# League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to:

**LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77574**

## CATEGORY

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/ Active Military | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 and over)     | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple            | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single (Individual)      | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                   | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Patron        | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership          | \$400 |

## BUSINESS CATEGORY

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Member  | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Partner | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Leader  | \$300 |

*Please update your membership information here:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(For family membership, please include names of family members)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check if your name, address or email has changed recently.
- Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save postage.
- Check if we may list your name and address in our membership directory. This publication will only be distributed to LCCHS members and will not be used on our website.

Please Note: Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2022.