



Remember When?

Below: Jeff Hansen was a docent at our Historic Homes Tour in 2010!



Below: Bonnie Harrill, Sharon Brown and Marsha Rose were docents at Sharon's Historic Home when it was on the Historic Homes Tour in 2011!



From The President



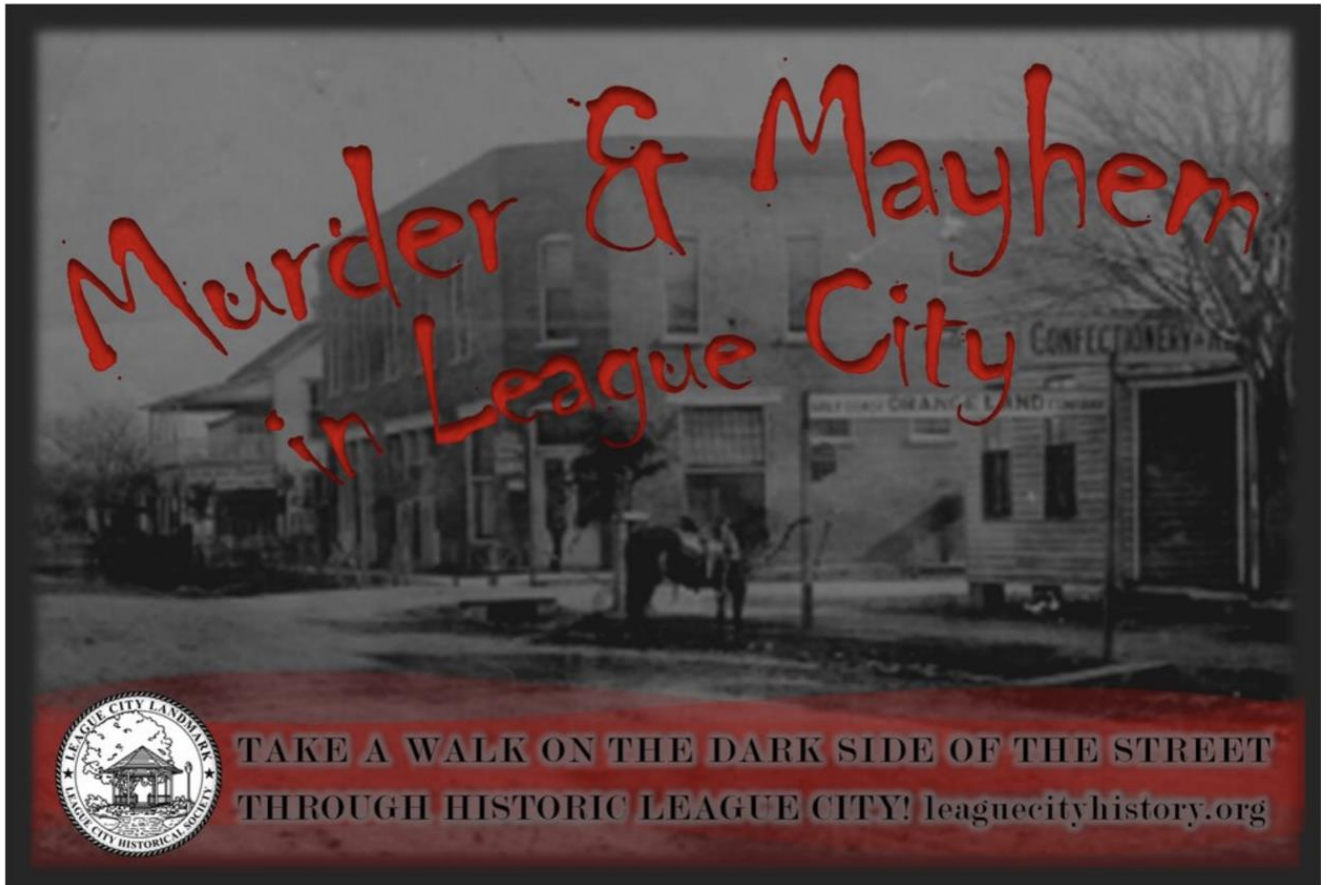
Dear LCHS Members & Friends,

Well, we are finally beginning to get back to normal. People are getting out, enjoying their neighborhood activities and friendly smiles are everywhere! I hear lots of "hello's" and "how are you doin'?" as I go about town. It's so good to see this again!!

A special thanks to the Eagle Scouts and their families for all the wonderful clean up, repair and yardwork that has been done around the schoolhouse and museum grounds. What a difference this has made...we appreciate it so much! Happy July 4th, make sure to fly your flags. God Bless!"

Thank you, FAITH AND SERVICE,
Doug McKee, President

LCHS has sold out both days of WALKabout July 2021!



And now the challenge...

finding volunteers to help out on the 17th and 24th of July, from 7 to 9pm.

Not everyone likes to speak in public but there are plenty of other tasks where we could use your help. It takes a village to put on a WALKabout!

Looking for the following individuals:

- Costumed greeters to welcome guests (inside museum).
- Attendant to check in volunteers and guests (inside museum).
- Parking attendees to help guests safely park and enter the museum (outside).
- Handlers to walk with outside tour and keep guests safe on the roadway (outside, walking)

These events are *completely* full so inside volunteers will be limited. However we do have multiple days in July and will have dates available in September as well.

Please e-mail us at leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com and let us know how you would be interested in volunteering!

LCHS also gives a big shout out and THANK YOU to The City of League City for promoting our event on the official City and Visit League City Facebook pages and websites as well as the City Manager's Weekly Update.



Eagle Scouts amazing projects at LCHS!



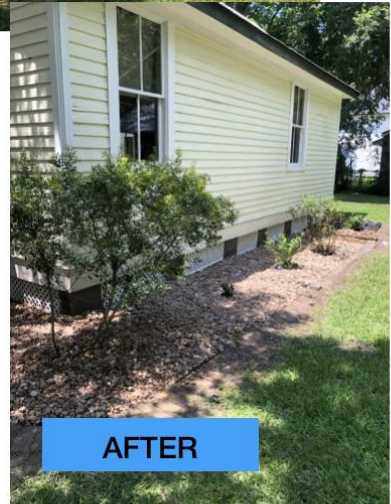
Scouts Steven Downs and Wendell Smith, from troop #615, have chosen to do their Eagle Scout projects for the League City Historical Society! This past winter, both scouts approached the Society and asked if there were some major projects needed at the museums. They were given lists of ideas and chose which ones they were interested in pursuing. The scouts spent months designing, fundraising, permitting, presenting and getting approval for the projects through the Boy Scout Administration. These projects are used to promote leadership skills and help the scouts manage a complete project from start to finish. Of course the families, friends, mentors, and fellow scouts are an important part of their success.



Eagle Scouts (page 2)

The projects were completed over the week before and a full 8 hour day on June 18th:

- extension of the wooden fence along the alley (replacement of damaged sections, trimming back trees, new footings, new boards)
- new lattice for under the schoolhouse and the barber shop
- reworking gardens around schoolhouse including weeding, removal of old stumps, pruning remaining bushes, adding weed barrier, planting new flowers, and addition of decorative rock.
- sorting of old brick for the Garden Classroom pathway



Eagle Scouts (page 3)



It was a hot day but as the motto goes "be prepared"! The scouts provided their own volunteers, tools, plan book, food, and cooling stations - we provided the Kahuna Joe's at the end of the day.

**Thank you
Steven and Wendell
Eagle Scouts #615**

CLEAR CREEK TRAGEDY

By Joyce Zongrone



Pictured above is George Washington Butler, the founder of League City and younger brother of Green Butler .

This murder will be discussed during the Murder and Mayhem Walkabout, July 17 & 24.

Green Butler, the 30-year-old brother of League City's founder, George Washington Butler, was gunned down in cold blood at the gate of his ranch house on a Saturday night, between 7 and 8 PM, May 19, 1872, by cowhand Andrew Walker, while his partner Jeff Black watched. *The Galveston News* dubbed it, "The Clear Creek Tragedy."

Just seven years before, in 1865, Butler was a released Prisoner of War. He served from 1861 to 1865 as a Private in the Twenty-Sixth Cavalry, Debray's Regiment, Davis' Mounted Battalion, Company B, 18th Alabama Confederate Infantry. He survived combat and being a prisoner of war, only to be shot to death on his front doorstep.

According to the coroner's inquest, Butler died within fifteen minutes of a single gunshot wound to the upper right breast. While lying on the ground, in his wife's arms, his dying words were, "Yes, Annie, I am dead. Annie, Andrew Walker shot me."

His murderer, Andrew Walker, was a cowhand for neighboring rancher Sam Allen, No relation to the Allen brothers who founded Houston. Allen's ranch extended from Clear Lake to Harrisburg (in modern east Houston). The cattle range covered much of southeast Harris County and Galveston County including many of the communities now around Galveston Bay. The Allen Ranch was one of the first and longest running ranches in Texas started in the early 1840's in what is now southeast Houston and Pasadena. It influenced the early development of Houston and Pasadena contributing to Galveston's economy in the 19th century.

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(The Clear Creek Tragedy – continued from previous page.)

Green Butler's ranch included all the property west of the G.H. & H Railroad to Alvin and Friendswood. His house was on Cowards Bayou just past Chigger Creek. He ranged his cattle from the railroad tracks as far west as Friendswood and Alvin

Although the reason for the killing was never revealed, the prevailing theory was that it stemmed from a conflict over cattle rights in the years following the Civil War. Both Allen's and Butler's cattle passed back and forth between their ranches for 15 years, from 1855 to 1870. There were periodic conflicts over who owned which cattle. Between 1866 and 1890 Texas ranchers followed the open-range tradition, the practice of unregulated grazing which was codified in the laws as they developed onto written statutes.

Cattle roamed freely regardless of land ownership. Where there were "open range" laws, those wanting to keep animals off their property had to erect a [fence](#). Land in open range was designated as part of a "herd district" requiring an animal's owner to fence it in or otherwise keep it on the person's own property. Unbranded cattle were called mavericks. Cows would give birth in the wild and could not be located in an annual [round up](#) and their calves would mature without having been captured and branded for ownership. While it was legal to put your brand on a maverick, it was illegal to put your brand on any animal that followed a mother. The term derived from [Samuel Maverick](#), the fourth mayor of San Antonio, notorious for not branding his cattle.

A Coroner's Inquest was held in Clear Creek, (one of League City's former names) the day following the murder, May 20. Two days later, May 24, Walker and Black were arrested at Sam Allen's Ranch by Galveston County Sheriff's Deputies. The pair was indicted July 25. Their first trial began on July 27. Jurors deliberated for one hour and both were found guilty of murder. Walker was convicted of First Degree Murder and sentenced to hang on December 6, 1872. Jeff Black was sentenced to life.

The Defense argued a motion for a new trial based on possible jury tampering, but it was denied on August 6, 1872. Their case was appealed.

A second trial in February 1874 both found both men guilty again.

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(The Clear Creek Tragedy – continued from previous page.)

On Friday April 4, 1875, around 2 pm, in the Galveston County Jail, Jeff Black was struck by lightning in his cell and suffered from slight burns on his hip.

In August 1875, the venue was changed to the Chambers County Court in Wallisville where both were again found guilty and another motion for a new trial was overruled and another appeal was filed.

Appeals for Walker and Black were argued before the Texas Supreme Court in 1875 and the convictions were upheld.

In December 1875, Andrew Walker tried unsuccessfully to escape from the Galveston County Jail.

Three years later in the spring of 1878, the Court of Appeals granted bail, six years after the original trial. Walker's bail was \$15,000, \$403,792 in 2021 dollars, and Black's, \$10,000 bail is worth \$269,195, today. Both made bail, Black immediately; Walker in November.

Black was acquitted on September 10, 1878 and was lost in obscurity.

While out on bail, Walker was arrested for the 1868 murder of Daniel Graham, a man who seduced his sister. He escaped from the Bryan Jail on May 11, 1880, but was apprehended 9 days later, May 20, in Trinity County where he had married Azalean Dial and was living under the name of Adams and was reportedly in 'imbittered health.' In January 1881, his only child, Charlotte, was born.

His murder conviction was upheld on his October 1882 appeal and again on the third appeal, March 1883, which affirmed the life sentence. Nineteen years later, Governor Joseph Sayres pardoned Walker for Butler's murder on December 22, 1902, after he served 30 years of his life sentence. Sayers was governor during the 1900 storm and distributed millions of dollars of assistance that came into the State.

Despite the pardon, Walker ended up in jail again and tried unsuccessfully to escape while awaiting his third trial for the 1868 Graham murder.

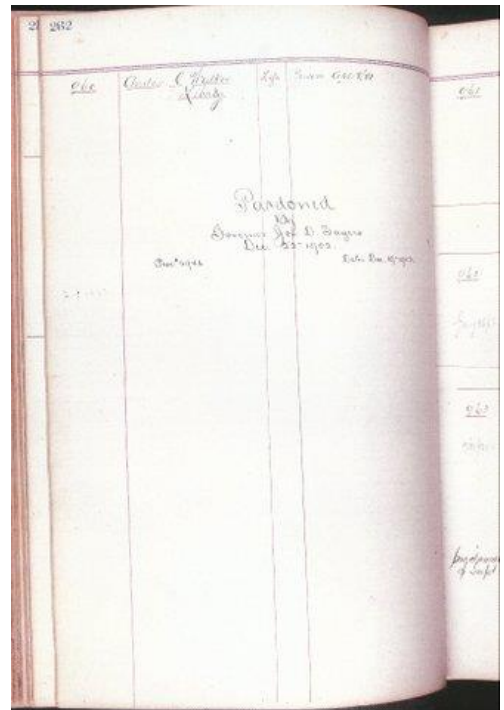
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(The Clear Creek Tragedy – continued from previous page.)

By 1910, Walker was no longer a jailbird and was living in Trinity County with his wife and daughter. He died January 19, 1923 and is buried in Saron cemetery in Trinity County. His daughter applied for a military marker in 1938. It reads: "Private, Co. G 13 Texas Volunteers Confederate States Army." Ancestry.com's *Fold3* lists Walker as enlisting on May 15, 1862 as a Substitute for Willis Coward. Under the [Confederate](#) conscription law, a draftee could evade service by hiring someone who was exempt from the draft to replace him. The "principal," as those supplying substitutes were called, paid a fee to the government as well as a large sum to his substitute. Prices for hiring substitutes in the South reportedly ranged as high as \$3,000 in specie and even higher in Confederate currency, \$79,958 today. At such prices, only the wealthy could afford substitutes. The substitute laws reinforced the perception that the war was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." The Coward family were relatives of the Butlers and came with them to Texas in 1854. The irony here is that Walker was paid to go to war for the relative of a man he would later murder.

Pictured Right:

Green Butler's murderer, Andrew Walker, was pardoned December 22, 1902, by Governor Joseph Sayres, the Governor who oversaw the 1900 Storm.



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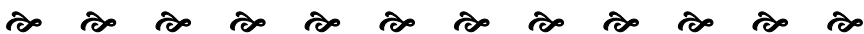
Editor's Note: *Ancestry.com's Fold3* is the military records arm of *Ancestry.com* and is named for the **third** fold in the American flag folded over a coffin, made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing the ranks who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

Thank You BAMHS For the Antique Schoolhouse Cookie Jar!! We Love It!!

The Bay Area Museum Historical Society
generously donated this adorable one room
schoolhouse cookie jar to LCHS.

Partnerships in the community are invaluable
and we wish them luck in their future
endeavors.

Thank you!



One of our members belongs to a Facebook group called “restoring old houses” and the following link popped up. This video is from the folks restoring the JC League house on Broadway in Galveston. You can use the link to keep up with their progress! Maybe we can plan to go for a tour when it is completed!.

<https://youtu.be/TPSg0bbg2aU>



If Covid conditions continue to improve, our plan is to resume classes at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum. Watch the newsletter in August and our website www.leaguecityhistory.org for more details.

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

Remember When!!!.....



Helen
Medsger
was a
docent at
our Historic
Homes Tour
in 2011!
We Miss
Helen!!



Have a Safe & Fun JULY 4th!

Just a reminder: For the safety of the children, there will be no Teddy Bear Parade on July 4th this year. Hopefully the event can take place next year!



Robinsons Bayou

The Little Fish & Creatures of Historic Robinson's Bayou

You might remember an article I did about a walk along Robinsons Bayou that runs through League City. I encouraged you to give your backyard birds a little extra food as some of their food source had been destroyed during the January freeze. Good news...! I am now seeing little schools of fish quite often as well as lots of other little creatures in the bayou. It is good to see everything recovering! Diana Dornak



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 LCHS members and will not be used on our website.

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