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## LCHS June Meeting Thursday, June 30 – 7pm

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum  
210 North Kansas - League City, Texas

**Program: Trenton Hooker of  
Hook, Line and Sinker  
will present a 25 minute  
documentary of the  
Texas City Disaster.**

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Above: The French ship GRANDCAMP which had a terrible explosion and caused the Texas City Disaster in 1947. See Page 2 for a story about one of the victims of the disaster who is buried in Fairview Cemetery in League City.

## From The President



Dear LCHS Members & Friends,

I said it last month and I will say it again because it is so true, “The once in a lifetime experience of getting to meet descendants of JC League,-- having them visit our museum, and having the privilege of attending the dedication of a statue honoring our town’s founder, was “indeed” a once in a lifetime experience. That was something I will not forget for a long, long time. I was very proud of our organization and honored to be your President. “Thank You” to all who helped put the visitation together and to Michael and Deann Peterson, Lelia Southern Settings, for the lovely and special reception honoring the JC League family at the T.J. Dick Home.

We hope you attended White Linen Night which was held in the historic district. We had over 700 people come through the museum. It was a great event for the historic area. Don’t forget to come to our June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The speaker is Trenton Hooker of “Hook, Line and Sinker”.

Thank you, FAITH AND SERVICE,  
Doug McKee, LCHS President

# TEXAS CITY DISASTER VICTIM BURIED IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

By Deborah Gammon

The June meeting for League City Historical Society presentation is on the Texas City Explosion in 1947.

Fairview Cemetery is the final resting place for a victim of the Texas City Explosion. Roy Truman Hatfield was born in League City, delivered by Dr. Orlando Dallas on 8 November 1920. Truman grew up in League City. In the 1939 High School yearbook, Truman was described as the “Romeo” of the Junior class. He was a member of the track team and was an accomplished accordion player. He was the son of William Roy and Emma Franks Hatfield. His father was from West Virginia. I immediately think of the Feud of the Hatfield and McCoy families when I see *born in West Virginia*. When I began research on this family in 2008 for a “Ghost Tour”, I researched the family roots in W. Virginia. I discovered that the leader of the Feud, William Anderson Hatfield better known as “Devil Anse” Hatfield was distantly related to the family.

Truman married Miss Hazel Marie Hood of Tyler, Texas on 17 October 1942.



Truman was inducted into the U.S. Navy 11 June 1943. He was stationed aboard the USS Indiana. After his stint in the Navy, Truman worked at Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation in Texas City.

I was able to locate his widow, Hazel Marie in Beaumont. She had remarried to Wallace Rairigh. She had 3 children. I wrote to Mrs. Rairigh and received a reply from daughter, Beverly Bailey from Beaumont.

The pictures of Truman were provided by the widow and her family. (Truman is the young man in the center of the group Sailors shot to the right.) Mrs. Rairigh was living in an assisted living facility and her memory was not very good but the letter stated that “Truman was a Mason, liked to hunt, loved to dance and played the bass fiddle.” She remembered that he worked for a company in Texas City before being drafted into the Navy.



(Continued on next page. )

Truman Hatfield (center) and two friends.



# ***Hurricanes Haunt Our History***

*By Joyce Zongrone*

Stories from ancient history are filled with storms, floods, fires and other disasters. The ancient Greeks who sailed to Troy to destroy it were sent to the bottom of the sea by a mighty storm.

Floods on the Tiber River in Rome, Italy's third longest river, were a normal fact of life in the ancient city. Numerous floods from 414 to 44 BC, came close to what we see happening now in New Orleans.

Intense hurricanes have pounded our coastlines from the first millennium during the peak of the Roman Empire, 117 AD, through the height of the Middle Ages. 1300 AD.

The first two recorded hurricanes were in August 1508. The first storm forced Ponce de Leon's ship onto the rocks in Hispaniola. Two weeks later, the second one beached his vessel on the southwest coast of Puerto Rico. In September 1565, another major hurricane scattered a French fleet near Jacksonville, Florida.

A hurricane is defined as a tropical cyclone and the word hurricane has its origins with Taino natives in the Caribbean. *Juracan* was the phonetic name given by the Spanish colonizers to the Taino's deity of chaos and disorder, who they believed controlled the weather. The first known use of the word hurricane was in 1555.

In 1848, the word cyclone came into the English language through Henry Piddington (1797-1858). Piddington was an English sea captain who was known for his pioneering studies in tropical storms and hurricanes. He noted the circular winds around a calm center, which today is known as the eye of the hurricane, and coined the name cyclone in 1848, from the Greek *kukloma*, 'coil of a snake.' More than fifty years later, his research resonated with Isaac Cline, the meteorologist in Galveston TX, as he experienced the 1900 storm.

A maritime archaeological study done by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in Massachusetts was the first to find evidence and remains of 32 prehistoric hurricanes, along with two documented ones that occurred in 1635 and 1675 on the East Coast. Sediment deposits from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, show evidence of twenty-three severe hurricanes between 250 and 1150 AD, many were more intense than those of recorded history.

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(Hurricanes Haunt Our History – Continued.)

According to this study, high hurricane activity occurred in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico until 1400.

Texas is no stranger to dangerous storms. The first recorded major storm in Texas was in 1527, which sunk the ship of Spanish conquistador, Panfilo de Narváez, killing two hundred of his men off the coast of Galveston Island.

Nature did not even spare the infamous pirate Jean Laffite. In 1818, a hurricane nearly wiped out his colony of two thousand. Survivors sought refuge in his home, Maison Rouge, then the highest point on the island. The area exists today on Harborside Drive, between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets.

The most devastating natural disaster in US history leveled Galveston in 1900. A Category 4 storm with an estimated loss of six to eight thousand lives. It is still considered our nation's greatest natural disaster.

More recently, five years ago, Hurricane Harvey set a record for rainfall with a maximum of five feet and greater than forty inches. Harvey also set a record for tropical cyclones in the United States. At landfall, it was a Category 4, producing six-to-ten-foot storm surges, with winds of 130 miles per hour, also setting a record for catastrophic flooding and multiple fatalities.

Amongst all the doom and gloom of the hurricane season is a bright spot,--The National Weather Service (NWS) Houston/Galveston Forecast Office in League City, who continually has its eye on the Gulf.

For more than 150 years, since 1870, when Congress authorized the Army Signal Corps as a weather observation and forecasting program, the National Weather Service's forecasts have aided in reducing loss of life and property damage.

During Hurricane Harvey, for four days, Dan Reilly, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist, a 29-year veteran of the NWS, tracked Harvey and briefed county officials and the US Coast Guard.

According to Reilly, the storm was exactly what the NWS forecasted. It "was a very rare case where a record rainfall event was forecast with confidence," Reilly said and "it was hard for people to visualize, since it was outside their experience and some didn't feel like it applied to them."

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(Hurricanes Haunt Our History – Continued)

Besides weather monitoring, NWS has outreach programs. NWS participates in safety fairs, hurricane town meetings, conducts weather spotter classes called Skywarn, as well as working with communities on their weather safety/preparedness through a program called StormReady. NWS also reaches out through the web and social media on Twitter, Facebook and You Tube and weather.gov/Houston.

**Editor's Note:**

**Helen Hall Library Marketing and Publishing Group will be releasing a book with memories of League City residents' experiences during Hurricane Harvey. The book is currently scheduled to be released in August.**

**Also, the National Weather Service/Houston/Galveston will conduct their StormReady program for school age children on July 20 at Helen Hall Library.**

**For more info, contact [leaguecity.com/helenhalllibrary](http://leaguecity.com/helenhalllibrary) or 281-554-1111.**

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## **League City White Linen Night ---- *"art crawl among the oaks"***



was a great success. Over 700 people visited inside the museum but many more were onsite listening to the music or passing through as they viewed the various artists displays and other booths in the area. . Pictured left: Richard Lewis, Vice President of LCHS dressed as, "The Good Humor Man" with a couple visiting his Ice Cream Stand.

LEAGUE CITY  
**WHITE LINEN**  
*Night*  
 ART CRAWL AMONG THE OAKS



Saturday, June 25  
 4 to 8 p.m.  
 League City  
 Historic District



League City Folk Association  
 Est. 2022



## Music At The Museum – May 2022

Our May 27<sup>th</sup> “Music at the Museum” was once again a success. Being our 3<sup>rd</sup> event, the LCHS and the LCFA wants to thank everyone for such a positive response. We are learning so much based on feedback received from each of you. Most recent enhancement was moving the stage from the historic Barbershop and Icehouse to the Outdoor Classroom. We found that this provided so many additional benefits. We can now sit on grass under the beautiful oak trees, bring the historical benches out for ample setting, provide a larger area for the musicians with large above fans for cooling, and most importantly, safety. Everyone is now protected by being away from North Kansas behind the wooden fencing of the LCHS property.

We have already received positive feedback on the new setup. Plus, appreciation for the lights being left on in the One Room School House. This allowed children and adults to look through the windows of an 1898 schoolhouse to help them understand what a classroom environment was like back in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s.



Tucker Hart, founder of the LCFA had another great list of amazing musicians. Many that have played for years with others that are beginning to show their incredible talent. The May 27<sup>th</sup> “Music at the Museum” event brought in close to 200 guests from around our area. These wonderful event with families and friends are growing in such a positive way. We again want to thank everyone for their support and continued feedback. These free events are for our LCHS members and guest. We truly appreciate everyone coming together to support the LCHS and LCFA.



Our Outdoor Classroom has proved to be a great staging area for Music At The Museum.)

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"Music At The Museum Continued."



A lovely evening as musicians played at  
"Music At The Museum" in May.

Special thanks to these amazing and  
talented musicians who performed at the  
event.

BRIGHTWIRE  
AUSTIN NELSON  
BREE NELSON  
JASON NELSON  
CLAY DUGGAN  
MATT DAVIS  
AARON OWEN  
REED RIVES AND GIANNA RODRIGUEZ  
TWO FIFTHS  
JAY RUDOLPH  
CARL BRAINERD  
JOHN KOHLHAUFF  
ANGELA GUIDRY  
PAUL & JANE DERRICK  
SOUTHERN SHANKS BAND  
LAURA KOVACEVICH  
CHILI  
MIKE SWEENEY  
TUCKER HART

## DUES

If you have not paid your  
2022 dues you can go online  
and pay at  
[leaguacityhistory.org](http://leaguacityhistory.org)  
Or just send a check to  
League City Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1642  
League City, Tx. 77574  
We appreciate your  
membership.

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## League City Historical Society 2022 Officers

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

## 2022 Directors

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

**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 2023.