



**REMEMBER WHEN IN 2002.....**  
.....Ernest Randall, President of League City Historical Society along with Richard Lewis and Curator, Catharin Lewis, held a meeting at the museum to discuss plans for an exhibit and open house that was being planned.

Ernie passed away recently. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

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**National Night Out**  
 Tues. Oct. 5 – 6pm- 8pm  
 210 N. Kansas  
 Drinks & Treats. See more details inside this newsletter



## From The President



Dear LCHS Members & Friends,

Well...another summer has gone by. Even though we were unable to schedule WBCS classes and some of our usual other events,--we were still able to have activities such as WALKabouts, and we continued working on projects such as a new roof on the barn museum. “Thank you” to all who helped out.

As we continue into fall and holiday season, --a schedule of activities has already been planned. Don't miss our National Night Out on Tues. Oct. 5. See details in this newsletter or go online and tour our website, leaguecityhistory.org.

We appreciate all our members and hope you will continue to support LCHS. Please continue to be careful and be safe.

Thank you, FAITH AND SERVICE,  
Doug McKee, President

# Better Late Than Never

By Deborah Gammon

Fairview Cemetery has 32 WWI veterans interred within its fence. One of those WWI veterans is Karl Abrams in Block 11. When I was doing research on World War I a few years ago, I discovered that Karl had a twin brother, Fred Pike Abrams who had also served in the Great War.

Karl E. and Fred P. Abrams were born 19 February 1885 in Atlanta, Georgia to Matthew and Elizabeth Pike Abrams. Between 1910 and 1920, the family relocated to League City, Galveston County, Texas.

*Galveston Co*

Name ABRAMS- KARL EHERINEACH		Service Number 100-06-75	
Enlisted at NAVY RECRUITING STATION HOUSTON TEXAS		Date 6-18-17	
Age at Entrance 32 YRS 3 MO.		Rate OILER	
Home Address 213 8TH ST.		Town GALVESTON	
A. County		State TEXAS	
Served at		From	To
RECEIVING SHIP AT SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.		6-18-17	7-27-17
U S S RAINIER		7-27-17	1-23-18
U S S OREGON		1-23-18	10-4-18
U S S SCHLEY		10-4-18	11-11-18
Remarks:		OILER 228 ENGINEMAN 2ND CLASS 89 ENGINEMAN 1ST CLASS 194	
Date Discharge 9-26-19	Place Inactive NAVY RECRUITING STATION DALLAS TEXAS		Rating at Discharge ENGINEMAN 1ST CLASS

Karl Abrams enlisted in the U. S. Navy on 18 June 1917. Fred Abrams enlisted 19 April 1917 at the Navy Yard in Charleston, South Carolina, just 17 days after the United States declared war on Germany. Fred served as a ship's cook; 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Karl served as an engineman; 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

Karl E. Abrams has a Veterans Administration marker in Fairview Cemetery on the banks of Clear Creek at the end of N. Kansas St. in League City.

*Galveston Co*

Name ABRAMS, FRED PIKE		Service Number 122-53-67	
Enlisted at NAVY YARD CHARLESTON S.C.		Date 4-19-17	
Age at Entrance 30 YRS 1 MOS.		Rate SHIP'S COOK 1 CLASS	
Home Address 213 8TH ST.		Town GALVESTON	
D. County GALVESTON		State TEXAS	
Served at		From	To
U S S HARTFORD		4-19-17	4-25-17
U S S THORNTON		4-25-17	12-14-17
RECEIVING SHIP AT NORFOLK VA.		12-14-17	3-18-18
NAVAL PRISON PARIS ISLAND S.C.		3-18-18	10-19-18
RECEIVING SHIP AT CHARLESTON S.C.		10-19-18	11-11-18
Remarks:		SHIP'S COOK 1 CLASS 571	
Date Discharge 4-18-20	Place Inactive HEADQUARTERS 8TH NAVAL DISTRICT		Rating at Discharge NEW ORLEANS L.A. SHIP'S COOK 2 CLASS



I discovered that Fred Pike Abrams was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston. I used "Lakeview Cemetery book" at Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston. "Fred Pike Abrams 38 years old; d. 4 Nov 1924 Funeral Home, F. P. Malloy & Son; buried 5 Nov 1924; GRAVE # 871." After this discovery, I

began trying to get Fred P. Abrams a Veterans Administration marker. Not an easy feat. There are many parameters governing who can order a stone from the Veterans Administration. At the time that I began my quest, one rule was, a next of kin had to sign the request. Fred never married and I began the search for the descendants of his twin brother to sign the papers. Good news, the VA changed the rules about a year ago and the owner of the cemetery can now request a marker for a known veteran.

That is when Andrew Farrant entered the picture. He is a senior at Awty International School in Houston who has been conducting Wreaths Across America in Lakeview Cemetery for the past 2 years. He was enlisted to take the application to Lakeview for the owner to sign and request the marker. Everything was accomplished and Fred Pike Abrams received his marker from

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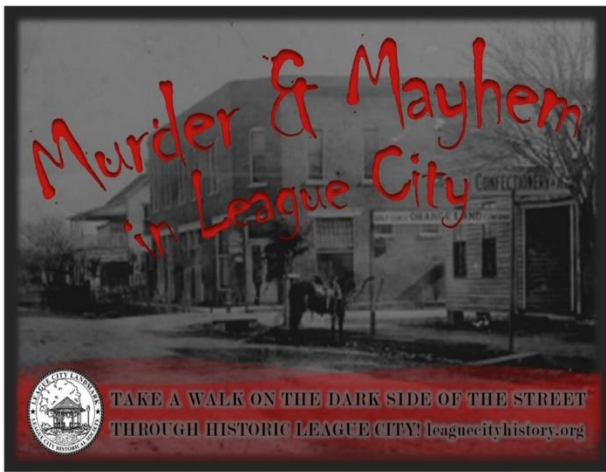
(Better Late Than Never - continued from previous page.)

Veterans Administration on August 22, 2021. My husband and I set the marker recently. I met Andrew and his mother at Lakeview to have our picture taken with Fred's marker. Only took 97 years. I could not have done this without Andrew. Better late than never.



Left: Deborah Gammon and Andrew Farrant by grave of Fred Pike Abrahms who now has a marker on his grave at Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston, Texas.

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**It's bacckkkkk...by popular demand!**

**Murder & Mayhem**  
**In League City**

**October 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd**  
**Starting 10 am at the Museum**

**\*\*Wanting to volunteer for this WALKabout? Contact Katie at [leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com)**

**\*\*\* Check out all our events at [LeagueCityHistory.org](http://LeagueCityHistory.org)**

The League City Historical Society invites you to our neighborhood  
**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**



**Tuesday, October 5th  
6:00 to 8:00 PM**

**210 N. Kansas,  
Historic League City**

We will have drinks and treats but feel free to bring a dessert to share. Visits by League City's finest Police / Fire / EMS!

This is open to all Historic District residents and businesses as well as League City Historical Society Members.

Walk/bike/golfcart over, bring your kids/grandkids, bring a lawn chair and spend the evening enjoying our wonderful neighborhood!

Email [leaguacityxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguacityxhistory@gmail.com) if you would like to donate or help out!

**Remember when.....**in 2002 these LCHS volunteers worked on a rug exhibit. Left to right: Geri Gatlin, Fay Dudney, Frankie Blansit and Sherry Frankovich.



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The League City Garden Club  
**10th Annual Garden Walk**

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## *Renaissance in the Garden*

Enjoy this self-guided tour of six beautiful League City gardens and a local private historical site, all of which came back to life after February's big freeze. Each garden is unique; with landscaping ranging from the fancy to the fun, vegetable gardens to peaceful retreats. You will see the love and artistry of local homeowners' partnerships with Nature.

**Saturday, September 25, 2021**  
**10am - 4pm, rain or shine**



Tickets with tour map are just \$15 and available at  
**Nana's Attic, 501 East Main in Founder's Square, League City**  
Visit us on Facebook or contact us  
**[leaguecitygardenclub.org](http://leaguecitygardenclub.org) • [leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com)**

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The League City Garden Club is a 501(C)(3) non profit and one of League City's oldest all-volunteer organizations. All Garden Walk proceeds are donations toward our scholarship, education, conservation, beautification and civic projects.

## *Canoes, Horses and a Bridge*

by Joyce Zonegrone

Before the automobile, dugouts, horses, a bridge and a railroad transported League City settlers.

With modern day freeways and state roads at our disposal, one tends to forget that transportation in our area began, thousands of years ago along the northern border of League City on Clear Creek at a Karankawa camp, with dugout canoes. The canoes were spacious and carried entire families and their household belongings in the shallow waters between the islands and the mainland. Clear Lake has a maximum depth of twelve feet and Galveston Bay 9 feet.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the Spaniards introduced horses, the Karankawas kept their own herds along the coast.

In 1839, the John Robert Derrick family managed their 640 acres on the south side of Clear Creek on horseback.

The 1854, the Butlers, Cowards and Perkins also ran their ranches on horseback.

Three years later in 1857, the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad, GH&H, was completed from Virginia Point connecting Galveston to Houston through League City.

In July 1895, the people of League City were “considerably worried over the prospects of getting a bridge across Clear Creek,” according to *Galveston Daily News*.

A year later, C.O. Horton, an agent of the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, announced plans for the Clear Creek Bridge to the Galveston County Surveyor and to County Commissioner Westerlage.

By the beginning of December 1896, “cars of iron material” began arriving. Two months later, in February 1897, County Inspector B.A. Smalley was paid \$37.50 to inspect the bridge. It connected Webster and Houston to the north to League City and Galveston to the south, linking the main road between Houston and Galveston for 143 years until its demolition in 1939.

*Google Earth* Historical Aerial Views, December 30, 1944, show Old Galveston Road in Webster as a 1.76-mile road that led to a bridge over Clear Creek, connecting to Kansas Street in League City.

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(Canoes Horses and a Bridge - continued from previous page.)

For 143 years, the main route between Galveston and Houston crossed over the Old Clear Creek Bridge at the end of North Kansas Street bordering Fairview Cemetery.

Note: All photos, except the GOOGLE Earth aerial view, are from the Portal to Texas History.



Left: Three women near the bridge at the end of Kansas Street.



Above: Old Galveston Road via the old Clear Creek Bridge.



Above: Clear Creek Bridge Fairview Cemetery - Memorial Day 1911.

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(Canoes Horses and a Bridge - continued from previous page.)



Above: Clear Creek Bridge Iron Remnants



Above: *This August 1939 photo is of Chester Knight, father of Mrs. Zonnie Knight Kilgore, wife of T.A. Kilgore, pioneer League City merchant, fishing in a rowboat on the banks of Clear Creek in League City. The bridge in the background is Clear Creek Bridge; it was once the connection between Galveston County to Harris County. It was demolished in 1939.*



Above: Galveston Houston Interurban



## Remember when.....

Charlotte Henson helped by sanding window sills as we began the restoration of our newly acquired school house. See more details in attached article below.



**SCHOOL WORK.** *Charlotte Henson of the League City Historical Society scrapes and prepares window sills for painting on the West Bay Common School in League City. The school, which will open in the fall, will give fourth grade students a chance to experience learning taught by using late 19th century textbooks and spencerian penmanship in a highly disciplined atmosphere that was prominent in schools of that time. Teachers who are interested in scheduling their classes for a field trip to the school can call 480-8404 for information.*



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)



## Christmas in Old League City

December 11th & 12th.

WALKabouts, Vintage Cars, Music,  
Demonstrations, Airing of the Quilts.

Looking for volunteers!

Email [leaguecityxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecityxhistory@gmail.com)

for more information.

## 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



## Christmas Goodies Needed For Holiday In The Park Booth!

Dear Friends,

LCHS will be having a booth at the Holiday In The Park Celebration in League Park on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

We need all of our wonderful cookie and fudge makers to have a heads up on this date! In the past, we have sold packaged cupcakes, cookies and gingerbread also so if you would rather purchase those instead of baking....that's great too!

This is a fund raiser for the League City Historical Society. I will need help with the manning of the booth and will be scheduling volunteers for 2 hr. shifts.

Looking forward to working with all of you on this really fun and festive, festival!

**Catherine Gill, 832-673-5531**  
**[Cath\\_scott\\_gill@yahoo.com](mailto:Cath_scott_gill@yahoo.com)**





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.