



League City Historical Society
League City, Texas



P.O. Box 1642 League City, Texas 77574 281-554-2994 leaguecityhistory.org Greg Nenninger, Webmaster

March 2020

LCHS Newsletter

Diana Dornak, Editor

Members & Friends

Our March 26 Meeting
Is Cancelled
Due To The Corona Virus!

* * * * *

The presentation
of the
Groce Family History
“Deeply Rooted In Texas”
will be rescheduled
for a later date.

*The smallest act of kindness is worth
more than the greatest intention.*

Kahlil Gibran

YARD SALE **Saturday, April 18!**

**If you have items to bring,-- you can
put them on one of the porches at
Richard and Catharin Lewis’s Home,
1518 Walker. Clean closets while
we are having to stay home. Keep us
in mind for the extra stuff you don’t
have room for !!!**

Note: This yard sale is going to happen...
Should it be necessary to postpone it we
will notify all members & friends.



From the President

In the news...

I hope all of you and your families are well
in this trying time. With schools closed and
many folks working from home at least
there’s no traffic.

The great news is we have launched our
new website at <http://leaguecityhistory.org/>.
Be sure to look over the section on the One
Room School. I want to thank Richard Lewis
and Katie Benoit for their work with the web
development. There are still a few things
being tweaked so be sure to come back and
visit again soon.

Due to the current issue with Corona Virus
we are cancelling our March 26th monthly
meeting. We are doing this as we think an
abundance of caution is more important at
this time than exposing ourselves to any
opportunity to get ill. At this time our April
23rd meeting is still planned and we will let
you know of any changes.

Ronnie Richards

ronnie@butlerscourtyard.com

281-797-1970

LCHS

Board Members

Ronnie Richards
President

Richard Lewis
Vice President

Katie Benoit Hake
Treasurer

Susan Pierce
Secretary

Diana Dornak
Director

Deborah Gammon
Director

Helen Hodges
Director

Darryl Krogman
Director

Catharin Lewis
Director

Doug McKee
Director

Linda Michael
Director

Michael Peterson
Director

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought.

Peace Pilgrim

League City Historical Society 2020



1518 East Walker St.

8am to 2pm

**Time to clean out those closets, nooks
and crannies, and get rid of things
you don't need!**

We need your "stuff"!

We need your "help"!

**This event is one of our largest
fundraisers of the year!**

Let's make this "fun"!

For more information contact:

Darryl Krogman- DarrylKrogman@yahoo.com

or Richard Lewis – rkewis45@gmail.com

Note: This yard sale is going to HAPPEN... Should it be necessary to postpone the yard sale we will notify all members & friends.

Monthly Meeting Programs

This Meeting postponed and will be rescheduled.

March 26 ***Deeply Rooted in Texas.*** The Groce family history. We will notify members and friends of the new date for this interesting program.

April 30 ***Crisis Response Therapy Dogs.*** Their training and handling and use in emergency situations by Sally Farley from Crisis Response Team, Houston.

May 28 ***A Grave Situation.*** League City's almost forgotten cemetery
By Melodey Hauch

*Good friends help you to find important things when you have lost them; your **smile**, your **hope**, and your **courage**.* **Doe Zantamata**

March Message from the Marm



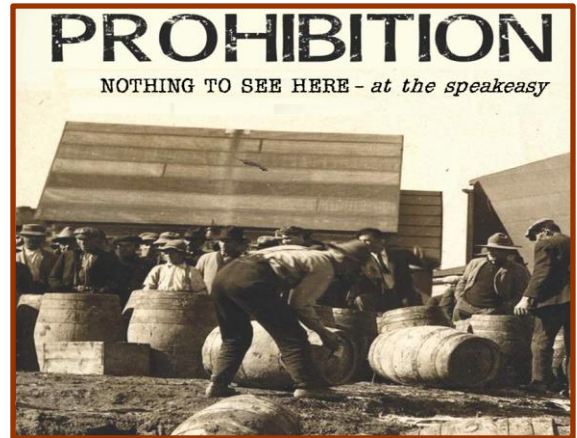
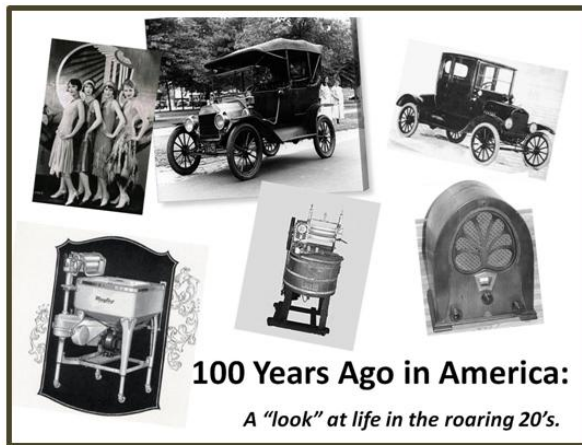
March “comes in like a Lion and out like a Lamb.” Catherine Gill and I were making plans just last Thursday for Spring Cleaning at the Schoolhouse, which made for a great photo and article calling for volunteers that is sadly no longer relevant for this newsletter. Things changed so quickly. But, my opening still resonates. That Lion will give way to the Lamb. Even with recent closures, social distancing, and general uncertainty, it goes without saying that the wonder of Spring itself will not be cancelled, reminding us to take this unlooked for time to tidy up at home, remember what’s important, and finally maybe even get some gardening in.



Happy Easter! Sarah Eubanks
Director of Education

Fun and Unique Ideas For Things to Do While at Home

Events today are a serious matter; one that has caused us all to take drastic measures to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Since we cannot gather together due to a new phenomenon called “social distancing” let us bring our historical society meeting to YOU. Below you will find two historical video slideshows. One on *Prohibition* from our January meeting (if you missed it) and another interesting one looking at the decade of the *Roaring 20's* (to compare to life today.)



Other Unique Ideas For Things to Do

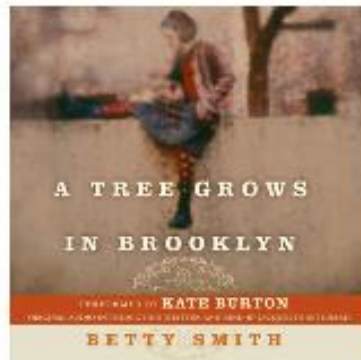
- Look Up Genealogical History of Your Family.
- Begin a Family Tree Online to Share.
- Clean Out Closets (and Donate To LCHS Yard Sale).
- Read A Great Book From A Past Era. (Short list below)
- Plant A Heirloom, Heritage Vegetable Garden.
- Take A Walk In The Woods to Smell the Roses.
- Refinish A Piece of Furniture That Really Needs It.
- Wash Your Windows.
- Write A Letter/Email To A Friend or Relative.
- Write a Note/Send a Card to Someone in a Nursing Home
- Begin to Teach myself to play an instrument.
- Call A Family Member You Haven't Talked To For Awhile.
- Take pictures of your home for insurance purposes.
- Mend a garment that needs it or sew on a button.
- Take a Nice Nap



****To continue this study of a century ago, we have put together other information that you might find interesting.***

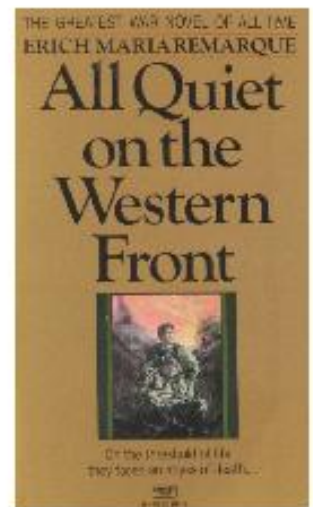
Books set in the 1920's:

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
The Paris Wife by Paula McLain
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald



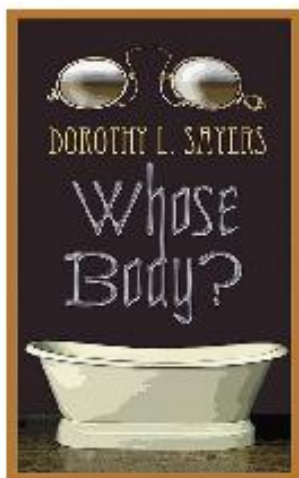
Movies set in the 1920's:

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Midnight in Paris
Some Like it Hot
Chicago
The Great Gatsby
The Kings Speech
Chaplin
The Kid



All Quiet on the Western Front, by Erich Maria Remarque

You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.
Tom Wilson



Whose Body? by Dorothy L. Sayers

Books written in the 1920's:

Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition by Daniel Okrent

Flu: The Story Of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and the Search for the Virus That Caused It by Gina Kolata

A Farewell to Arms

A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway

Agatha Christie murder mysteries

All Quiet of the Western Front by Erich Maria

Remarque

Dorothy L. Sayers murder mysteries

A Passage to India by E.M. Forster

The Story of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting

The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes by

Arthur Conan Doyle

Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne

The Meaning of Relativity by Albert Einstein

Mark Twain's Autobiography by Mark Twain

We by Charles A.. Lindberg

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Kierkegaard



New LCHS Directory Coming!

Thank you so much for being so responsive in sending in dues and the membership forms after our mailing this past month.

We are working on a new directory and anyone who for some reason prefers not to have their name listed in the directory please just let me know. We appreciate your membership whether you are listed or not.

Also.....we are soliciting ads for the directory just to help with the cost of printing. If you are interested in placing an ad please contact me. Prices are: Full Page \$200 Half Page \$100 Quarter page \$50 Business Card Size \$25.

Thank you again for the great response.

Diana Dornak – diana.dornak1@verizon.net - 281-316-2122

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. Albert Einstein

HELP WANTED

Do you own a cleaning service?
Know someone that does?
Are you a clean person?

We need a volunteer to vacuum and dust the Museum once a week.
Maybe a cleaning service will volunteer that one hour a week.
It would only take one hour of your time.
Won't you please consider it.
We really need help in this area of support for your Museum.

GOOD BENEFITS PACKAGE

Good Vacation Package*
High Job Satisfaction
Flexible Work Hour
Instant HERO status
High fives all around
> **Easy Application Process**

* If you are busy this week, just come next week.
> **Hit REPLY to the email that sent you this newsletter.**

WORLD WAR II
Roy Truman Hatfield
by Deborah Gammon



Roy Truman Hatfield. This picture was given courtesy of Hazel Truman Rairigh's daughter, Beverly Bailey.

The story of Truman's death is a historical one. The Houston Post: Thursday, April 17, 1947: "Two small planes blown to pieces; Flyers Missing" was the headline. One of those flyers was Roy Truman Hatfield. The other man was John S. Morris, Jr., a friend of Truman's.

Truman's obit in the Galveston News, April 19, 1947, p. 6 did not hint at the severity of the plane or what happened.

It read:

HATFIELD: Roy Truman Hatfield of Texas City, died Wednesday. He was 26 years of age and was employed as an operator at the Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corporation. He was a victim of a plane crash. He was a lifelong resident of League City, and is survived by his wife, Mrs. R. T. Hatfield; his mother, Mrs. Emma Hatfield, a sister, Mrs. Marie Bartholow, and an uncle, J. W. Hatfield of League City.

Funeral Services will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday from the Methodist Church of League City with Rev. W. R. Wrattton of League City officiating. Burial will be in League City Cemetery under the direction of Broadway funeral home of Galveston. What the obituary fails to tell us is that April 16, 1947 was that infamous day that is now known as the Texas City Disaster. It occurred at the Port of Texas City on Galveston Bay. It was the deadliest industrial accident in U. S. history. A mid-morning fire started on board the French-registered vessel SS Grandcamp (docked in the port) and detonated her cargo of approximately 2,200 tons of ammonium nitrate. This started a chain reaction of additional fires and explosions in other ships. The events killed a total of at least 581 people, including all but one member of the Texas City fire department.

When I started doing research on the WWII veterans interred in Fairview, I was able to contact a daughter of Hazel Marie Hood, the widow of Truman Hatfield. Truman and Hazel Hood became man and wife on October 17, 1942 in Harris County. They lived in Texas City because Truman worked for Carbide & Carbon Chemical Corporation. Their home was just one block from a small airport where Truman learned to fly. Beverly Bailey, Hazel's daughter with her second husband shared memories from her mother of the day of the event. She said that Hazel remembered eating breakfast in Texas City and Truman walked to the airport to see his buddy off. That buddy was John S. Morris, Jr. who was all packed and ready to move his family to California, but 2 reporters showed up at the airport and offered to pay them to take them over the explosion. That was a fatal mistake for all involved. While flying 2 different planes over the explosion, another explosion occurred, and the planes were blown from the sky.

Hazel remembered going to search for Truman and then being contacted by the Red cross of her husband's death. Ms. Baily shared that her mother said that Truman liked to hunt, loved to dance, and played the bass fiddle. He was also a Mason. Texas City Lodge No. 1118 sent Hazel Truman a check for \$100 to help with her adjustment as a widow. They also offered to help with finding companies to repair their home.

Truman had been a WWII veteran of the U. S. Navy. He was stationed onboard the USS Indiana in the Pacific Theatre. One of Hazel's nicest memories was of her visiting husband in Seattle when the USS Indiana was in for repairs. Hazel and Truman Hatfield didn't have any children. Hazel remarried on November 22, 1947 in Harris County to Wallace L. Rairigh. They had 3 children. Mrs. Hazel Truman Rairigh passed away on September 1, 2010.



Above: Student council picture in the 1939 Clear Creek High School yearbook. Truman Hatfield is the 1st boy on 3rd row at the top. Deborah Gammon did the research for this herself as she also attended CCHS.



Funeral of Roy Truman Hatfield

Photos Funeral of Roy Truman Hatfield

Right Above & Below: The funeral Photos to the right were used with permission from the great niece of Truman Hatfield, Terri Pierce and her mother, Emma Pierce. (Truman's sister).



Truman Hatfield was the son of William Roy Hatfield and Emma Franks who are also buried in Fairview Cemetery. William Hatfield met a tragic death of his own in July of 1940 while changing a tire on Highway 146, he was struck by a vehicle and died on July 21st. Mr. William R. Hatfield was born in West Virginia so I was curious if he was one of those Hatfields, you know,... "Hatfields and McCoy's" fame. The answer is "yes". Truman was the 1st cousin, 3 times removed of the infamous Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield.

League City Historical Society
Meeting Minutes - February 27, 2020

President Ronnie Richards opened the meeting and introduced Mr. Nick Cimino, a writer, well-known genealogist who is President of the Bay Area Genealogical Society and is on the Board of Directors for the Clayton Library. Mr. Cimino passed out his "Ancestor Puzzle" business cards, a brochure from the Association of Professional Genealogists, information regarding the Bay Area Genealogical Society programming and a brochure from the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research.

Mr. Cimino asked how many attendees are working on research of their families? Many responded and gave interesting details. He said it is important to know the steps in the genealogy research process:

Gather What you have: (Search for documents at home and ask family for research or documents they may have.

Organize: (Identify your vital information, such as birth, death and marriage certificates. Then identify vital information for your parents, grandparents and other generations in your family. Then fill out a pedigree chart.

Decide what you want to know: (Who are you researching? What do you want to know about them? Where and what time period are you researching?

Once you have completed these steps you can then review various sources that can help learn more about your family history.

Mr. Cimino talked about the various places we can search and gave examples. He said you can make genealogy history fun! You can study places close to home, study heirlooms, antiques, travel to family sites, research the history of your ancestors and find out so many things such as who they are and if there are any heroes and/or scoundrels in your family.

He said there are so many places you can do family search that are free. He discussed how you can record the names and information you find.

When you are looking for names, dates, marriages, children, deaths residences, occupations, military service and immigration dates you can use free sites such as familysearch.org or join an online groups which charge a small monthly fee such as Ancestors.com .

Mr. Cimino went on to say that after we do the research you can Record, Analyze and Publish the information.

He also said that sometimes you just get stalled when making progress and need help and there are trained genealogists who can do the research needed because they know where to search and it may save you money and time in the long run.

Mr. Cimino said to really think about preserving your family history before it is too late. He finished by saying you can publish "the story of YOU".

Ronnie Richards thanked Nick Cimino for his wonderful talk on genealogy. Katie Benoit Hake mentioned our next meeting which will be a workshop on making sugar Easter eggs on March 16 at 7pm at the WBCS Children's Museum meeting space and our next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 26th.

The meeting was adjourned.



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 2021.