

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership

Student \$5

Individual \$15

Couple \$25

Family \$30

*Pioneer \$50

*Patron \$100

*Benefactor \$250

*Includes a free, personalized brick in the *Local Legends* brickwalk at the museum.

Order a personalized brick for your loved one, an anniversary, or any special occasion. Any membership donation of \$50 or more receives a free brick.

Membership forms available online or at the museum.

LaverniaHistory.com

Find us on Facebook, too!

The La Vernia Heritage Museum

13136 U.S. Hwy 87 West at Bluebonnet

Located in the old firehouse building on Hwy 87 and FM 775 in the center of La Vernia. Exhibits change as frequently as the banks of the Cibolo – *so please visit us often!*

Operated by volunteers from the La Vernia Historical Association.

La Vernia Historical Association

P.O. Box 513
La Vernia, Texas 78121

email: info@LaVerniaHistory.com
www.laverniahistory.com
210-392-3281

Find us on Facebook, too!



*The La Vernia Heritage Museum
La Vernia, Texas*

*Operated by
The La Vernia Historical Association*

Museum Exhibit Guide

Museum Hours:

1st Sunday of each month

Noon to 3:00 PM

**& by appointment
210-392-3281**

Admission is free

Donations always appreciated!

Current Exhibit Guide

The museum is housed in La Vernia's **first volunteer fire department building** which was built in the early 1950s.

Photos, fire chief badges, and other items associated with the volunteer fire department are on permanent display. Also included is La Vernia's first pumper cart which was used by its Volunteer Fire Department in the early 1900s.



Suttles Pottery

Following the Civil War, two brothers, Isaac (1840-1884) and George Suttles (1844-1930) moved to Texas. Here in the La Vernia area



these two Ohio potters fired their bricks and utilitarian stoneware. Around 1882, their pottery operation was moved to the heart of La Vernia, near the present day City Hall.

Although nothing of the kiln remains, the Suttles Pottery was a significant part of La Vernia's past, and of the history and artistry of Texas.

The exhibit includes beautiful pieces that have been donated, and numerous artifacts from the waster pile of the potters, uncovered during a City parking lot building project.



See *Lavernia Legacies #2* for more information about the Suttles Pottery.

The Merchants of Chihuahua Street

The old main street of La Vernia was named after the 1850s silver trade route, the Chihuahua Road, which ran from Indianola, Texas, to Chihuahua, Mexico, sometimes passing through the La Vernia area. Emigrants from Europe often traveled the Chihuahua Road, seeking new homes in Texas. This exhibit provides a glimpse of the rural town's businesses along the old main street from the late 1800s to the 1970s. The twelve panels of images and artifacts help visitors understand how one main street can bring a community together during wars, the Depression, fires, and simple rural life.



Mueller Bridge

This exhibit features the original tap and die set used to make the railing bolts of this historical bridge built in 1915. The actual bridge is located on private property and not available to the public. The historical marker is located on FM 539.



Holy History



When this exhibit originally opened, some of the most special items belonging to five of La Vernia's historical churches were on display. A few photos can be seen on exhibit today. Find more information in *Lavernia Legacies #5*.

Train Track Tales

The San Antonio & Gulf Shore Railroad was built in 1893. The train impacted the everyday lives of the people of La Vernia. Their recollections of the railroad are recorded in *Lavernia Legacies*. Photos of the original Train Depot are on display.

See *Lavernia Legacies #4* for more information about the trains in La Vernia.



Cibolo Crossing on the Gonzales Road at La Vernia

During the Mexican Administration of Texas (1821-1836), approximately 22 miles east of San Antonio, the Gonzales Road crossed a natural ford on the Cibolo where it is sequestered within a bowl-shaped depression surrounded by flat prairie creating a protected campsite. It was here that Susanna Dickinson and her infant child, survivors of the fall of the Alamo, along with Joe, Colonel Travis' servant, met Sam Houston's troops and informed them of the "slaughter of his brave companions in arms;" and where many Texas heroes traveled during the era of the Texas struggle for Independence.



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