



# CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 28

December, 2015

## New CHS Board Members

*by Jane Ledbetter*

It is with great pride that the CHS Board of Directors introduces you to our newest Board members, Mary Bianche and Levern (Martens) Smith.

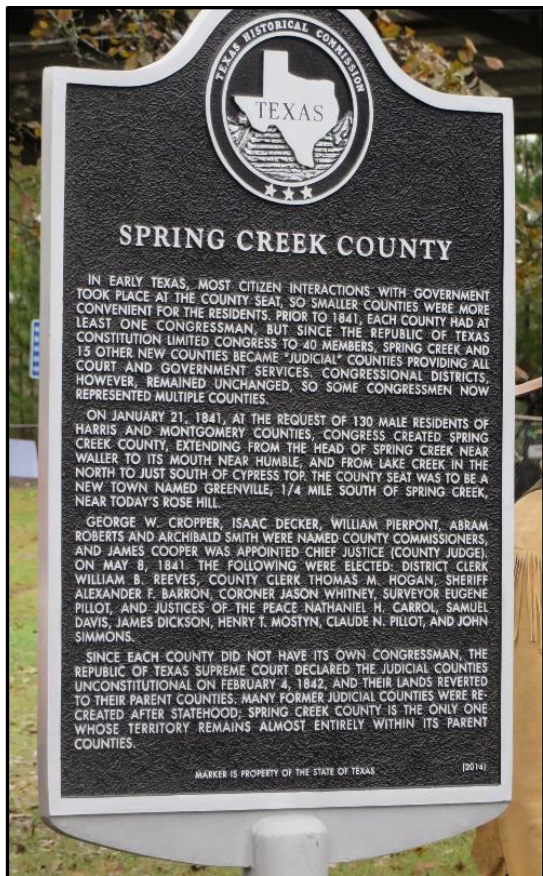
Levern was born and raised in the Cypress area, and lives on property on which she was raised. She began attending school in the Cy-Fair School District, and graduated from Tomball H.S. Levern has spent much time working in church and community activities, including the scheduling and chaperoning of the "Senior Citizens from St. John Lutheran Church" on bus trips around the state.

Mary was born in Oklahoma, moving to Houston when she was two years old. She graduated from Milby High School and is retired from the U.S. Post Office. She is the mother of two daughters, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren! Mary is an experienced genealogist and is currently working on her DAR application.

Both Mary and Levern will be great assets to CHS in our promotion and preservation of Cypress area history.



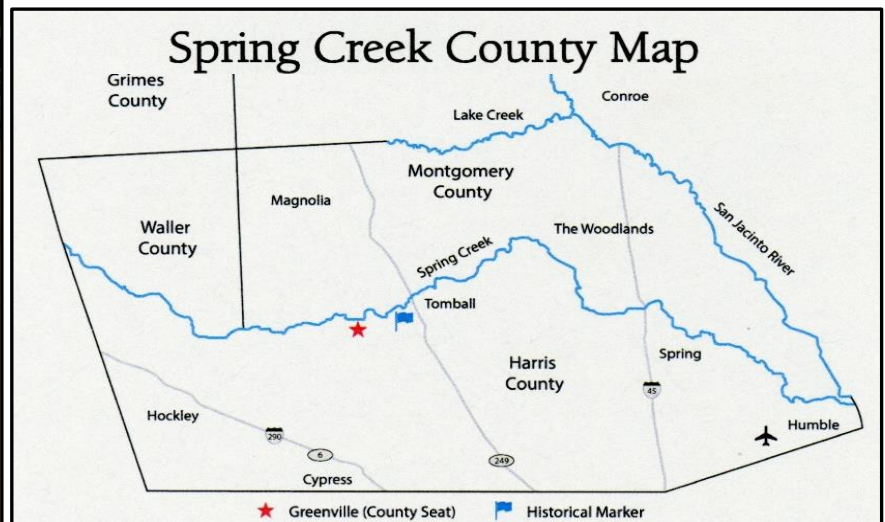
**CHS President, Jane Ledbetter, welcomes new Board members Mary Bianche (left) and Levern Smith (right).**



## New Spring Creek County Marker

*by Jim Sigmund*

On November 17, 2015, northwest Harris County dedicated a new Historical Marker in Spring Creek Park in Tomball. You may have heard of the Spring Creek County Heritage Museum in Tomball, and wondered why it had that name. Research by Trevia Wooster Beverly and Bernice Mistrot of the Harris County Historic Commission detailed the proposed "Judicial County" of 1842, which was not approved. The proposed county seat of Greenville would have been just east of the Hirsch property in Rosehill.



**The Darline Roth Research Library will be closed December 22-31 for the Holidays!**

## **Annual Meeting/Memories of Hot Wells!**

*by Jim Sigmund*

The CHS Annual Meeting took place on October 17<sup>th</sup>. President Jane Ledbetter led a short business meeting where she provided the membership with information about the current state of the organization. Treasurer Becky Martin provided the financials, and Secretary Terri Sigmund gave a report on membership and fund raising. About 50 members were in attendance.

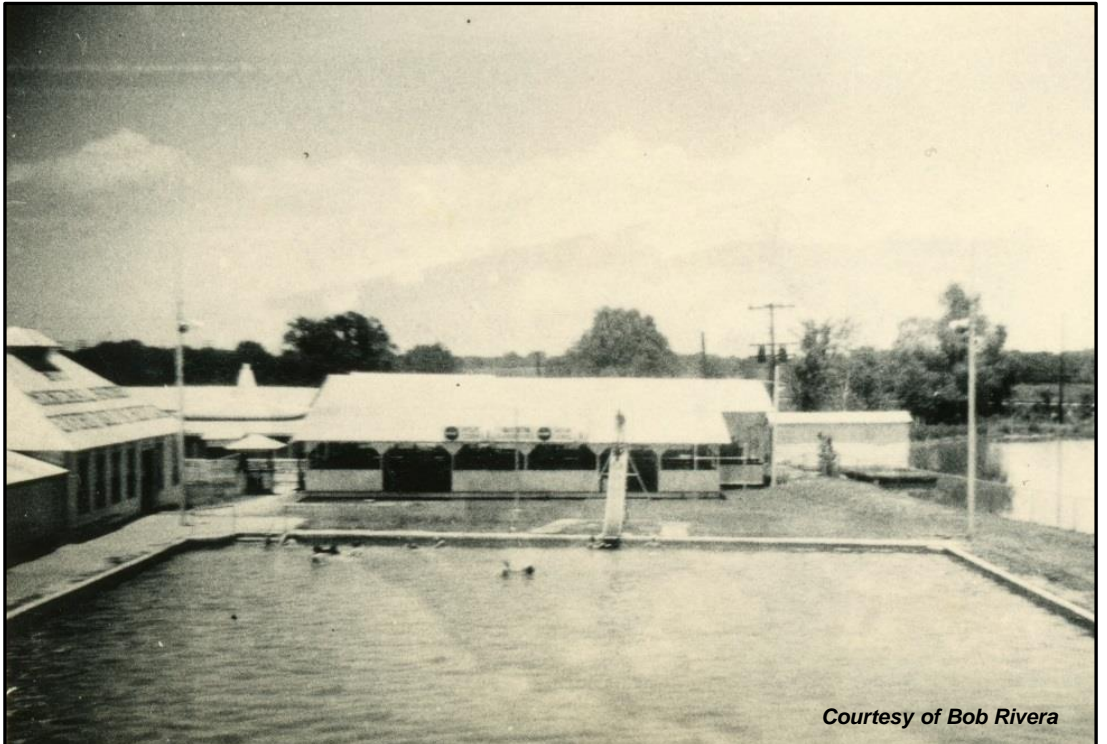
As this year's guest speaker, I presented my ongoing research on the "Early History of Hot Wells", from the drilling of the first well in 1902 up to the early 1950s. Unique documents from the Precinct 3 Cypress Top Collection, along with internet sources and old newspaper clippings, allowed us to put together the fascinating history of this Cypress landmark. But the real treat was the sharing of memories of those that grew up swimming at Hot Wells. Bob Rivera, Charles Stansell, and Bob MacDonald worked at Hot Wells, and lived in the hotel during the summer. Their lively stories kept the group in stitches! You can see a video of the presentation and the discussion, and all the research, at the CHS Library.



**Most of the folks who attended the Annual meeting had some experience or memory to share about the Hot Wells resort.**



**Bob Rivera told us about his days as a lifeguard at Hot Wells in 1949-50**



*Courtesy of Bob Rivera*

**Hot Wells had one of the largest swimming pools in all of Texas! (1950)**

## CHS Hosts Rho Kappa's Movie Night

by Jay Gavitt

Last month, the Cypress Historical Society hosted Rho Kappa members for their fall movie night. The students watched "The Imitation Game" starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing. The movie focused on Turing's efforts during World War II to crack the German enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. The evening was set up by Evelyn Gallego, a student at Cypress Ranch and the President of Rho Kappa. This is the national honor society for students interested in history. This student program is part of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). Students apply during their 10th grade year and must show and maintain high averages in all their history and social studies classes. Many of the students have



Members of the Cypress Ranch Rho Kappa History Honor Society.

taken Advanced Placement United States History. Working closely with the students is their advisor, Christina Shively, history department chairperson. Rho Kappa members will be working in the future with the Cypress Historical Society on a number of research-related and service projects. The CHS will be providing programs for the students including the types of research done in investigating local history.

## 2015-16 CHS Scholarship by Becky Martin

Just a reminder that we are still taking applications for this year's CHS Scholarship that will be awarded next Spring. If you know a current Cypress Fairbanks ISD Senior who will be graduating next May or a current Cypress resident who is currently enrolled in a two or four year college, be sure and pass on the information. All the information needed is posted on our website: [www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com). Applications and all paperwork are due by February 1, 2016.

### Cypress Historical Society

P.O. Box 2963

Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: [cypresshistsociety@att.net](mailto:cypresshistsociety@att.net)

Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083

Hours: Tue, Wed, Thur 9 - 4, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 11 - 2

Closed 12/22-31 for the holidays



## HO HO HO!

by Terri Sigmund

Cypress Historical Society has just the right gift for those "hard to get for" folks on your list! We are bundling an Individual membership, a 2016 calendar, and your choice of a hat or t-shirt for \$50.00 (includes shipping) and we will mail it to where ever you choose. Just call the office to place your order and send in a check and we will take care of the rest.

If you would like to send just a calendar the cost will be \$18.00 to include shipping. Or just a membership for \$15.00 and we will send the recipient a Christmas card with the membership card in it telling them who the gift is from.

Three great ways to finish your shopping and help support Cypress Historical Society!

## 2016 CHS Board of Directors

Jane Ledbetter	President	(281) 979-7470	<a href="mailto:janel_54@att.net">janel_54@att.net</a>
Beverly Richardson	Vice-President	(281) 246-4632	<a href="mailto:beverlyjsr@att.net">beverlyjsr@att.net</a>
Levern Smith	Secretary	(281) 255-2389	<a href="mailto:hobertsmith@att.net">hobertsmith@att.net</a>
Becky Martin	Treasurer	(281) 376-5054	<a href="mailto:bmartin115@gmail.com">bmartin115@gmail.com</a>
Mary Bianche	Director	(281) 746-2742	<a href="mailto:mbianche@ymail.com">mbianche@ymail.com</a>
Celeste Haltom	Director	(281) 373-0502	<a href="mailto:celestehaltom@gmail.com">celestehaltom@gmail.com</a>
Joyce Kleb	Director	(281) 894-1662	<a href="mailto:jtk1951@sbcglobal.net">jtk1951@sbcglobal.net</a>
Erline Schoenfeldt	Director	(281) 255-2769	(none)
Tammy Sherrill	Director	(832) 865-0687	<a href="mailto:texastami@aol.com">texastami@aol.com</a>
Rodney Sprenger	Director	(281) 955-5208	<a href="mailto:rodneyTTU@aol.com">rodneyTTU@aol.com</a>

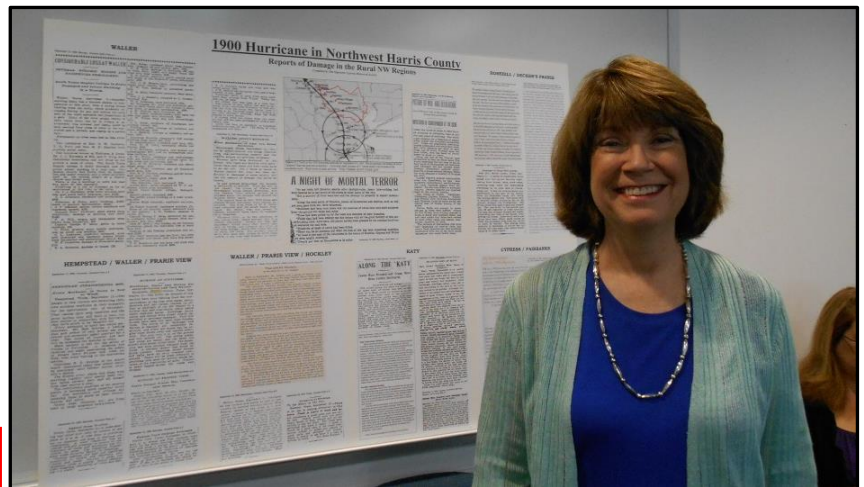
## **NW Library Hosts CHS: “Cypress at the Turn of the Century (1895-1915)”**

In conjunction with the “Gulf Coast Reads” program, Jim Sigmund presented a talk on “Cypress at The Turn of the Century” at the NW Harris County Library (near Jones Rd and Grant Rd) on October 31st. A crowd of close to 40 people attended!

The 2015 selection for *Gulf Coast Reads* program was “The Promise” by Sugarland author Ann Weisgarber. The historical fiction book tells of a young woman who comes from Ohio to marry a dairy farmer on the west end of Galveston Island . . . just two weeks before the devastating 1900 Hurricane! Ann spoke about the research and inspiration for her book at the Cy-Fair College Wednesday Library program on October 7th. While much is known about the devastation in the city of Galveston, Ann wanted to tell the story of the rural families. CHS provided a display board for Ann’s talk documenting the effects of the 1900 Hurricane on Northwest Harris County.



**An eager crowd came to hear about the history of Cypress!**



**Author Ann Weisgarber, next to the CHS poster on the 1900 Hurricane.**

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

(No Board meeting in December)

Library Closed Dec 22 through 31

#### **Jan 16 – CHS Board Meeting**

*(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, 9:00am at the  
Darline Roth Research Library  
Cypress Top Historic Park

#### **Feb 20 – CHS Board Meeting**

*(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, 9:00am at the  
Darline Roth Research Library  
Cypress Top Historic Park

#### **Mar 19 – CHS Board Meeting**

*(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, 9:00am at the  
Darline Roth Research Library  
Cypress Top Historic Park

***Save the Date!***

#### **April 30 – CHS Special Event-TBA**

*(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, (Time TBA)  
Juergen Hall, Cypress Top Park

### **CHS’s Wish List for Santa**

*by Terri Sigmund*

We have been such good boys and girls this year, AND we have more and more members coming to the library to research and volunteer, that we are in need of another scanner and computer. Not just any scanner and computer, but certain ones that handle the scanning of the large scrapbook pages. So we are asking for donations of cash to help purchase those two items. If you would like to donate toward those two items please send your donation in with a note specifying the donation. Thanks as always for your support.

### **Kroger Community Rewards**

*by Becky Martin*

If you haven’t had the chance yet, be sure to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards, on behalf of the Cypress Historical Society. Enter our NPO number (41564) when registering your Kroger card online. This is a great way for CHS to receive quarterly donations from Kroger. Each time you shop and swipe your card, Kroger will donate a percentage of your purchases to CHS.

**THANKS TO OUR  
SEPT - DEC  
BENEFACTORS!**

#### **Donations:**

Annie Hagler  
Forrest Kruger  
Grace Pryor  
Jack & Beverly Smith

#### **Scholarship:**

Annie Hagler  
Terri & Jim Sigmund

## CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

- New member Don Morris is working on his family genealogy. His GG Grandfather, Joseph W. Baker owned a 2000 acre ranch south of Spring-Cypress purchased in the late 1800's (area around the Post Office, Dry Creek, and Coles Crossing). We tried to see if he was related to William R. Baker, who brought the railroad to Cypress, but we could not make the connection (yet!). Don has family deeds and documents throughout the Houston area, even an original letter from Sam Houston to the Allen Brothers!
- Gene Zaboroski came by to donate an old cane fishing pole, a vintage Coca-Cola bottle opener and the checkbook register from the Cypress Lawn & Storage business.
- Beverly Richardson and I were invited to the Rose Hill Methodist Church to meet with their historian, Judith. She loaned us several scrapbooks and photos of their Church's history, which we scanned and returned. So many of our historic buildings either burned, were blown over, or were rebuilt. Built in 1888, their old sanctuary still stands today and is used for services. Rose Hill Methodist is also selling our calendars from the main office in the new church.
- At our Annual Meeting on Oct 17th, Bob Rivera brought us more great pictures of Hot Wells and made sketch drawings of several of the buildings. Celeste Haltom found a picture in her family album which was posed in front of the well house/water tower at Hot Wells.
- You've probably heard that we are not having a CHS Picnic next year. We have outgrown the facility, and the traffic and parking situation on Hempstead Highway has become dangerous. We will plan one or two smaller events, held indoors at Juergen Hall.



Courtesy of Celeste Haltom

**We are always looking at what is in the background of photos, like this one, showing the Hot Wells well house! (Doddie & Henry Grisbee, Ruby Rowell, and Martin Hohmann)**

## Adam Collection coming to CHS

by Jay Gavitt

Last month, David Jaeger visited with members of the Cypress Historical Society and learned about our extensive collection of local Cypress and Fairbanks family histories. David described the collection that he had dating from his grandfather, Otto Adam. Otto came from Germany and later moved to Cypress where he started a farm. In 1908, he moved to Fairbanks where he opened a store on Hempstead Highway in the center of Fairbanks. He ran the post office and served on the school board. Otto was also a trustee of St. John Lutheran Church. David Jaeger, Otto's grandson shared a part of the collection with the Society. These contained family photographs, albums and a post card collection. While some of the photographs could not be repaired, most were able to be digitalized for David. The Adam Collection, which contains 178 photographs and over eighty post cards, can be viewed at the Darline Roth Research Library at the Cypress Historical Society. We are hoping that David will be able to share additional photographs in his extensive collection with us.



Fairbanks School #1. Class of 1920-21.

(Photo Courtesy of David Jaeger)

Cypress Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2963  
Cypress, Texas 77410

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Business (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Sponsor (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime Individual (\$150) \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Family (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL DONATION (CHS is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corp)

General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to: Cypress Historical Society

Mail to: CHS Membership, P.O. Box 2963, Cypress, TX 77410

Questions? Please contact Jane Ledbetter at 281-758-0083  
[www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com)

FOR OFFICE USE:

Check #/Amt \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Letter/Card \_\_\_\_\_

Spreadsheet \_\_\_\_\_