



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 29

March, 2016

Notes from the President:

by Jane Ledbetter

Time moves on so quickly; it is hard to imagine that we are already well into the month of March in the year 2016. The Cypress Historical Society continues to pursue its goal of discovering, preserving and promoting to the public the history of the Cypress community. We have additional scrapbooks now on display in our building, as well as different maps and artifacts.

We are also looking for ways to attract more visitors to Cypress Top Historic Park. To that end, CHS members Jim and Terri Sigmund, Beverly Richardson, Joyce Kleb, and the Ledbetters made a trip in January to a convention ("Destinations Galore") in the Humble Civic Center. The purpose of this meeting was to give organizations like ours an opportunity to promote our venue to people who ride the County buses as well as private vehicles to learn about places of interest to visit. Approximately 166 exhibitors were present there. (There may have been a total number of 1,000 people passing through there that day.) We passed out a lot of our brochures and talked to a multitude of people. There seemed to be a lot of interest and we are hoping a lot of new people come to visit Cypress Top.

If you happen to talk to someone about visiting Cypress Top, you might need to mention to them our physical address (26026 Hempstead Hwy.) and tell them we are located between Cypress-Rosehill and Spring Cypress Roads, near the Railroad Tracks. - We do not have a mailbox in the Park. Our mailing address is P. O. Box 2963, Cypress 77410.

Come by for a visit some Tuesday . . . we would love to see you. And bring a friend or neighbor!



General Sam Houston leads the Texian army though Cypress to San Jacinto!

180 Years Ago

by Jim Sigmund

On the morning of April 16, 1836, Sam Houston, the Texian Army, and a rag-tag group of families on the Runaway Scrape, left Sam McCarley's place near what is now FM 2920 and AJ Foyt road in Hockley. They marched east to the fork in the road on Abe Roberts's property near the Robert's Cemetery. That fateful day, the army took the south fork along the Washington-to-Harrisburg road through Cypress. After a hard day of travel across the rain-soaked Cypress prairie, they camped at Matthew Burnett's place along Cypress Creek near Telge Road. The next morning, they continued their journey to San Jacinto, to ultimately confront the Mexican Army under Santa Anna. In 1836, the Burnett settlement in Cypress was the only inhabited place between the Spring Creek settlements and Harrisburg. Visit us, and find out more about the history of Cypress as an important crossroads even before the arrival of the railroads and the German immigration!

SAVE THIS DATE!!!

We are having a NEW event for our members and their families! This will be our

“Cool” Summertime Event

When: Saturday, August 6th

Where: Inside Juergen Hall

If you'd like to help out, or have ideas, please join us at the first planning meeting on March 30th at 7:00 pm in our Darline Roth Research Library at Cypress Top Park. We will send out details in the next newsletter, be sure and watch for them!

Cy-Fair High School and the Cypress Historical Society Working Together

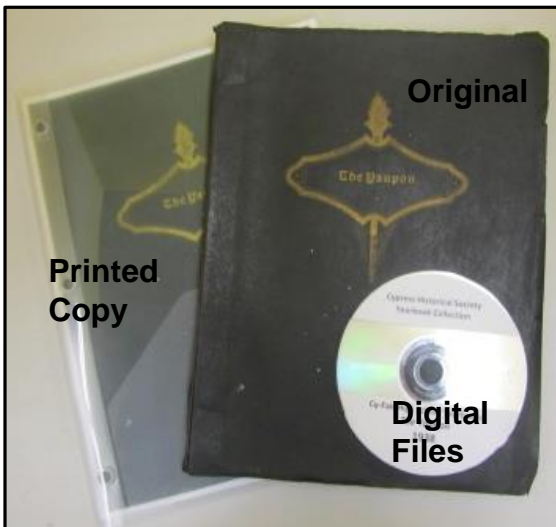
by Jay Gavitt

The Library/Media Center at Cy-Fair HS and the Cypress Historical Society have just completed a joint project that has made some valuable resources available for students and the public. The collections included the Scrapbooks about the community of Cypress-Fairbanks that were created by high school librarians from 1944-1988 and originally stored in the "Texas Room" at the high school. The second collection includes the Cy-Fair High School Yearbooks from 1938 to the present. The process included scanning both collections, and creating digital copies as well as hard copies. The digital copies at the high school will allow students and staff to readily access the collections for research. Digital and hard copies are now made available for the public to access at the Cypress Historical Society Darline Roth Research Library.



Beverly Richardson and CFHS Librarian Jackie Hamilton collaborate on the Scrapbook project.

The project was spearheaded by Jackie Hamilton, the librarian at Cy-Fair H.S. and Beverly Richardson of the Cypress Historical Society. A number of additional staff took part in this project which included inventorying, scanning, and indexing of each annual scrapbook. After inventorying the collection of yearbooks at the high school, it was discovered the school did not have a copy of the first yearbook from 1938. The Society was able to scan an original copy from their collection and provide the high school with a copy to complete their collection of earliest yearbooks. While further researching the yearbook collection, it was noticed that no yearbooks were produced during the World War II years (1941-1944). The high school does have a display of graduating classes during those years. Copies of those pictures as well as both collections are now available to the public at the Cypress Historical Society's Darline Roth Research Library located at Cypress Top Historic Park. Check the website at www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com for library hours. To contact the Society e-mail to cypresshistsociety@att.net or phone 281-758-0083.



1938 Cypress HS "Yaupon" Yearbook.



Cy-Fair HS Scrapbooks, available for viewing at the CHS Library.

2016 CHS Board of Directors

<i>Jane Ledbetter</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>(281) 979-7470</i>	<i>janel_54@att.net</i>
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Students Explore Research Methods

By Evelyn Gallego (Rho Kappa member at Cypress Ranch HS)



Evelyn Gallego

On February 27th, our Rho Kappa (*National Honorary Society for Social Studies*) club had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. and Mr. James Sigmund. During their visit to Cypress Ranch High School, we were able to view a diligent and alluring presentation that discussed Cypress' Historic Hot Wells. During this presentation we were enraptured by the complex researching process that was used to obtain information about the specific tenants who lived on the property. A famous person born at Hot Wells was Mary Kay Ash, the creator of Mary Kay cosmetics. This proved to be a popular topic of conversation following the presentation. Throughout the presentation we were able to see not only the evolution of Hot Wells from a touristic hot spot to a favored shooting range. We were also educated about thorough research tools and techniques, such as the timeline features on Google Earth, the records that public libraries hold, the close evaluation of pictures, and so much more. All in all, we both appreciated as well as fully enjoyed learning about the history of a widely known landmark in our city, and we all cannot wait to see what else the Cypress Historical Society has in store for us next time! -- Rho Kappa

CHS Presents at Ault Elementary School

by Jay Gavitt

The Cypress Historical Society helped present the Presidents' Day Program for second grade students at Ault Elementary School in Fairfield. The program was set up by School Librarian Courtney Kater and CHS's Jay Gavitt. The program focused on the lives of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and began with a picture book reading about the lives of each President. A total of eight classes of students attended during the day. In addition to the readings, the students were asked a number of thought-provoking questions. During the final section of each presentation, the students viewed models of a Valley Forge cabin and an Illinois log cabin. The model of Lincoln's birthplace was created by Ault 5th grader, Chris Fonte. Each of the 175 students was given a clothes-pin figure to attire as a Washington or Lincoln era figure for homework. The following week, the students helped create a display in the Library featuring their figures and the cabins. These figures included Washington and Lincoln, along with figures of the First Ladies, Martha Washington and Mary Lincoln. A number of students created figures of pioneers and soldiers. The program was posted on the Ault School "Twitter" page. Future programs are being prepared for other elementary school grades through the library.



Courtney Kater with 2nd grade student Gabi Fonte and Jay Gavitt (CHS).



175 clothes pin figures given to students for creating exhibit.



Ault Elementary 5th Grader, Chris Fonte with his cabin, and figures created by 2nd grade students.

Cypress Historical Society

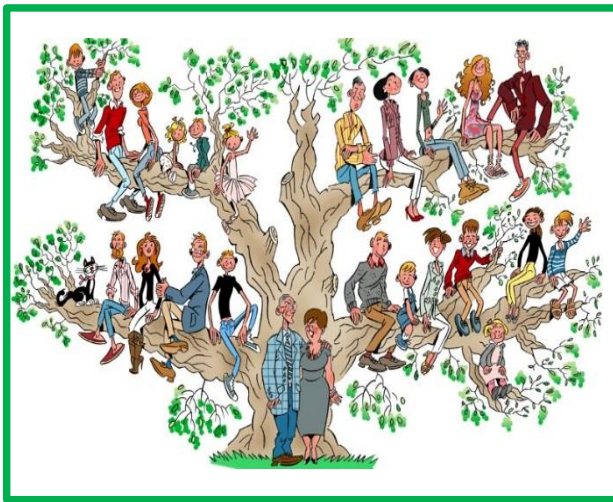
P.O. Box 2963

Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083

Hours: Tue, Wed, Thur 9 - 4, & 3rd Sat 11 - 2



CHS volunteers Jim Sigmund and Helen Callender can help you get started with searching for your family's history.

Who Do You Think You Are?

by Jim Sigmund

Have you ever thought about tracing your family tree? CHS can help! We have recently added to our Library subscriptions to include the "World" version of Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, and Fold3.com (Military Records). Just come up to the CHS Library and we will log you into the site. If you bring a flash drive, you can save the records you find, and take them home to work on. We have blanks forms, and we can help you get started. You will be amazed at all the records that are now available online. It is a great activity for parents and teens to work on together, and learn about those who made it possible for you to be here today!

Kroger Community Rewards Program

by Becky Martin

The Kroger Community Rewards Program has donated an additional \$50.66 to the Historical Society. The donation reflects a percentage of purchases made at Kroger by members during the last 3 months. Thus far, just 8 families from the Society have registered their Kroger Loyalty Card, but this shows how quickly the donation total adds up. If you have not already done so, we urge you to register your loyalty card online. Every time you shop and swipe your card at check out, CHS earns a donation. The more you shop, the more we earn! It is a great way to support CHS by just shopping as you would normally. Visit www.kroger.com, click on the 'Community Rewards' section and follow the prompts. Enter Cypress Historical Society or our NPO number...41564 and click 'Save'. Any transactions made using the card number associated with this account will now be applied to the program. (CHS NPO 41564)

THANKS TO OUR DEC – MAR BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

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 in memory of Lee Kettler
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 Ben & Jane Ledbetter
 Dan & Becky Martin
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We Have Calendars!

After selling out our first batch, we now have more calendars available. They make great gifts for family and friends!

Just \$15.00 (+\$3 if mailed)



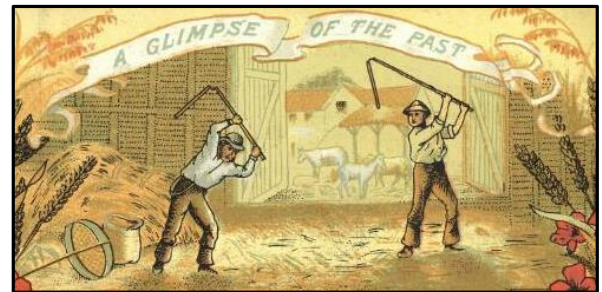
CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

- Glenn Camp recently visited CHS and noticed the large wooden tooth rake displayed. Mr. Camp explained that the rake was used in the process of threshing grain. Later he returned to show us a hand-made wooden flail. He was kind enough to give us a written description of the threshing process featuring both the flail and the wooden tooth rake. Glenn then mentioned to us that it would be a welcome companion for our wooden tooth rake and donated it to our collection. Both the flail and wooden tooth rake are now on exhibit at the Cypress Historical Society.
- Lynette Moon brought us an interesting photo of finely dressed folks celebrating in the early 1900's. Lynette believes her Grandmother is in the photo, but did not know much else. The super sleuths of the Thursday crew studied the photo to see that they were holding a plaque of the "Grand Army of The Republic", an organization of Union Civil War veterans! If you know about any Union veterans from this area, please let us know.
- Erlene Schoenfeldt has loaned us her collection of The Texas Company/Texaco toy truck banks. These are in mint condition and are on display in the CHS Library.
- We have had an inquiry about the Pitschmann Family Cemetery in the Park Creek Subdivision off Huffmeister Rd. If you are a descendant of the Pitschmann family, please contact us.
- Both Jane and I had the pleasure of talking to Bill Steighan, CFHS Class of 1940, who currently lives in Midland. Bill told of time spent at Hot Wells, and especially Tin hall, where his father played dominos and his mother danced. He grew up on the family property on Hempstead and Clay Rd, and went to the first Fairbanks School. Bill and his cousin, Elaine (Ehlert) Frankin, have joined CHS.



Glenn Camp presenting the Wooden Flail to Jane Ledbetter at the CHS Library.



Flails were used in the early 1800's before the steam powered threshing machine. Stalks of grain were placed in a wooden flail room in the barn. The flail was then used to beat the stalks which knocked the grain out of the heads.

Mark Your Calendars!

Apr 16 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am at the
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

April 30 – Bridgeland Nature Fest

(Visit us at the CHS Booth!)
Saturday, 10am-5pm at the
Bridgeland's Oak Meadow Park

May 21 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am at the
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Jun 25th – CHS Board Meeting

(Note: Moved to 4th Saturday)
(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am at the
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

- The Cy-Fair ISD Communication Department donated two large aerial photo display boards of the school district in 1993 and 1998. They were originally made to show how much the District had grown in those years. Even the 1998 photo is "history" to us now, as we have seen so many more changes since then!
- Twenty new scrapbooks from the Cy-Fair High School Library have been printed, and are available to view in the CHS Library. These range from 1944 to 1984 and focus on the students and activities of CFHS attendees.



Erlene Schoenfeldt's Texaco toy truck banks collection.

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

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15) _____

Sponsor (\$100) _____

Family (\$25) _____

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LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime Individual (\$150) _____

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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

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