



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 45

March, 2020



Founding member Joyce Zaboroski Kleb is the 2020 President of the Cypress Historical Society.

CHS 2020 Board Of Directors

The Board of Directors for the Cypress Historical Society held elections in November and finalized their Officers early this year. Joyce Kleb will take over as President, allowing Jim Sigmund to devote his time to Cypress area history research. Jim will continue working in the Library on Thursdays, as well as be the Newsletter Editor. Erlene Schoenfeldt will continue in her role as Secretary, and Becky Martin will remain as Treasurer. Karen Krumpholz, Celeste Haltom, Beverly Richardson, and Levern Smith will serve as Directors in an At-Large position. Jay Gavitt will run our Educational programs.

The Scholarship Committee of Becky Martin, Susan Lanier, Levern Smith and Terri Sigmund are reviewing 2020 applications. Recipients should be announced next month, and be presented at the school programs.

The CHS Board is considering a fundraiser of Cypress-themed Christmas Ornaments. If you have ideas, and would like to help, please contact any one of the CHS Board members.

Mid-July Date Set for Popular CHS 2020

“Hands On History” Day Camp *by Jay Gavitt*

The Cypress Historical Society will once again be offering our “Hands-on History” Camp hosted by Cypress Top Historic Park and Kleb Woods Nature Center/Heritage Farm. The program will be offered the week of July 6-10 from 9:00 am- 2:30 pm. Youngsters going into grades 4-6 are eligible for this unique experience. Campers will explore early crafts, blacksmithing, digging and examining artifacts, interviewing seniors, creating family trees, interpreting photos, creating museum models and exhibits, viewing maps, discovering early schools, giving tours and preparing museum exhibits. They will be spending their time at Cypress Top Historic Park and at Kleb Woods Nature Center & Heritage Farm working with the Houston Archeological Society and local blacksmiths. The cost is free to CHS members and their families. Registration is limited and filling fast. Let us know ASAP if you have a child or grandchild who is interested.

CHS Collecting Texas Items In Support of the Rosehill Social

by Levern Smith

CHS Board Members are collecting Texas items to fill two baskets. We need your help! The baskets will be donated to this year’s Rosehill Social Club fundraiser on May 17. Proceeds raised at this year’s annual fundraiser will help families in need in our area.

One basket will contain Texas items. The other basket will have University of Texas items. If you wish to donate please bring items to CHS by April 30th.



CHS Genealogist Leticia Moran helps a Day Camper look up records in FamilySearch.com



Campers learn about artifacts with Sharon Menegas of the Houston Archeological Society

Education News

by Jay Gavitt

CHS members continue to assist the Houston Archeological Society with screening soil at the Houston Arboretum. Recently they hosted young people for a day of "working with archeologists". The group has discovered a number of artifacts from the site where Camp Logan was located. Camp Logan was a training camp during World War I. It was located just outside the Houston city limits where Memorial Park is now located. Among the artifacts recovered have been a set of military dog tags, an ink bottle, a small doll, bullets and rifle clip, a metal fork, electrical insulators, and lots of glass and nails. Each year the HAS helped the campers at our "Hands-on-History" Camp. HAS offers a hands-on experience with a real "archeological dig" at Kleb Woods for the campers.



Houston Archeological Society program at our "Hands-on-History" Camp

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 Programs for 2019-2020

by Jay Gavitt

The Annual Teacher Resource Packet is available for the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers can contact CHS if they are interested. History and community badge requirements are offered to BSA and GSA scouts. The scouts completing the program will earn the "My Story is A Texas Story" badge. School trips to Cypress Top Historic Park, or the loan of History "Artifacts" Trunks to schools can also be arranged. Community presentations are available on a variety of topics. PowerPoint presentations, such as



"The History of Cypress" can be arranged for your group or class. Finally, the Summer brings our "Hands on History" Day Camp scheduled for July 6-10 this year. All of these are available by contacting CHS by phone: 281-758-0083, or by email: cypresshistsociety@att.net.

Mark Your Calendars!

Mar 21 – CHS Board Mtg

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

Apr 18 – CHS Board Mtg

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

(No May or June BOD Meetings)

July 6-11 – "Hands On" History Camp

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Kleb	President	(713) 320-7511	jtk1951@sbcglobal.net
Erline Schoenfeldt	Secretary	(281) 255-2769	(none)
Becky Martin	Treasurer	(281) 660-4702	bmartin115@gmail.com
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Beverly Richardson	Director	(281) 246-4632	beverlyjsr@att.net
Karen Krumpholz	Director	(281) 373-5444	johnkrumpholz@att.net
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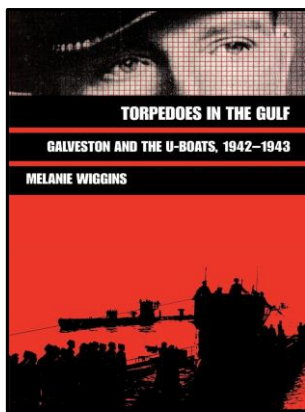
Researching possible espionage in Galveston during World War II

by Jay Gavitt

CHS members Leticia Moran and Jay Gavitt have been helping Cypress Top Director Fred Collins and CTHP Historian, Brigid Burke prepare for a history discussion on German U-Boats in the Gulf. The discussion is centered on the book, TORPEDOES IN THE GULF: Galveston and the U-Boats, 1942-1943, by Melanie Wiggins. The author had referred to the Southern Select brewing company in the book. Fred had found a sign in Juergen Store for Southern Select. The book had also mentioned that the Americans had discovered a radio signal coming from a Galveston location on Avenue O. A radio had been found at that location, but no name was given. The hunt was on as our own Leticia Moran started researching for a brew master in Galveston. Checking business directories and other sources, the name Karl Brehm emerged. He had originally fought for the Germans in WW I. He left Germany after the war and went to Canada. He visited the US/New York state. Brehm later indicated that he and his wife were leaving Canada and returning to Germany. They were later denied entry to the US at the port of New York. Brehm later entered the United States through Laredo in 1935. He moved to Galveston, where directories showed that he was a brew master and later a salesman (This was the connection to Southern Select). A check of the most recently released census (1940) showed that Karl Brehm and his wife owned and lived together at the same Avenue O address that was mentioned in the book as the location of the radio signals. Brehm was 48 years old at the time of the census and later registered for the US Draft giving the same address and indicating that he was a "naturalized citizen". Leticia was unable to find the "Naturalization" papers. Was espionage involved? There was no subsequent indication any messages were sent to German U-Boats. Melanie Wiggins, the author of the book, in interviewing U-Boat officers mentioned that U-Boats were unable to receive messages in that part of the Gulf. Karl Brehm's wife died in Brenham and Karl's death certificate showed he died in Houston in 1969.



The Southern Select sign from the Juergen Store



"Torpedoes in the Gulf", by Melanie Wiggins'

Canada and returning to Germany. They were later denied entry to the US at the port of New York. Brehm later entered the United States through Laredo in 1935. He moved to Galveston, where directories showed that he was a brew master and later a salesman (This was the connection to Southern Select). A check of the most recently released census (1940) showed that Karl Brehm and his wife owned and lived together at the same Avenue O address that was mentioned in the book as the location of the radio signals. Brehm was 48 years old at the time of the census and later registered for the US Draft giving the same address and indicating that he was a "naturalized citizen". Leticia was unable to find the "Naturalization" papers. Was espionage involved? There was no subsequent indication any messages were sent to German U-Boats. Melanie Wiggins, the author of the book, in interviewing U-Boat officers mentioned that U-Boats were unable to receive messages in that part of the Gulf. Karl Brehm's wife died in Brenham and Karl's death certificate showed he died in Houston in 1969.

Finding Karl and Helen Brehm

by Leticia Moran

At the request of the Kleb Woods History Discussion Group, we were asked if we could identify an unnamed spy and brew-master operating and living in Galveston, Tx during WWII. The History Group was reading Torpedoes in the Gulf: Galveston and the U-Boats by Melanie Wiggins. In the book, the author states that a retractable antenna was located at 2924 Avenue O in Galveston. The spy who lived there was suspected of sending radio signals to the German U-Boats in the Gulf.

Our research started with the latest available U.S. Census looking for a brew-master living in Galveston. Karl Brehm and his wife Helen Victoria, born in Germany, were living at 2924 Avenue O in Galveston, Texas at this time. Karl's occupation was listed as a brew-master. Further research revealed that Mr. Brehm arrived here around 1933 to work at the Galveston-Houston Breweries. He was brought to the US from Hamburg by the Autrey family to manufacture "Magnolia" beer and later followed up with another popular beer, "Southern Select".

The author was contacted to obtain additional information. She stated that further research revealed that it would have been impossible for Karl Brehm to have been sending messages to the submarines. Ms. Wiggins stated that he was sent to an internment camp in Oklahoma for a period of time. He may have been suspected solely because he was of German descent.

From early upon their arrival to the US, Helen owned or operated hotels in the Galveston area. In 1949, Karl and Helen owned and managed the Fifth Avenue Hotel in Texas City. Karl and Helen continued to live at the Avenue O address in Galveston until their deaths in the mid and late 1960's.

Brehm, Karl	Head	48	Germany	Brewmaster	Brewery
—	Helen	Wife	40	German	Tourist Court Owner

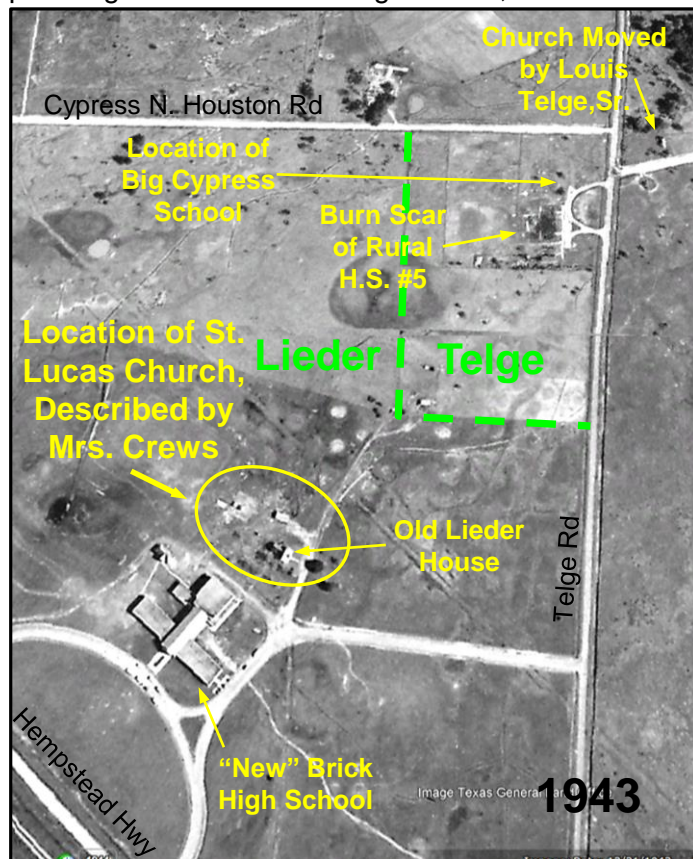
Excerpts from the 1940 U.S. Federal Census showing Karl Brehm, Brewmaster, and his wife Helen.

The Mystery of St. Lucas Evangelical Church by Jim Sigmund

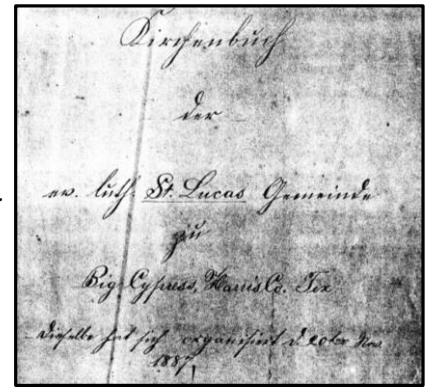
Back in 2009, Bernice Steinhagen Froehlich donated a copy of the original church records of the St. Lucas Evangelical Church in Cypress. Since it contained names like Telge, Knigge, Juergen, Borgsteadt, Steinhagen, Lieder and Hoffmeister, it was assumed that it was the church that sat on the school property, and was later moved to the northeast corner of Cypress-N. Houston and Telge roads, on 1.5 acres donated by Louis Telge Sr. But as I started to research the early history of the Cypress schools, the facts aren't really that clear.

The St. Lucas records indicate that the church was organized in 1887, and the records continue up to 1937. Based on the names of the pastors in the records, this church had no affiliation with St. John, Trinity Neudorf, or Salem Lutheran churches. Rather, it was served by travelling pastors who also visited St. Peter's in Spring Branch and St John-Whiteoak on Mangum and Acorn roads. All of E.F. Juergen's children, including Clarence and Lilia, were baptized in this church. The names in the records are a literal "Who's Who" of the Cypress residents in that area. But strangely, I cannot find anyone who has even heard of this church, much less know where it was, or what happened to it after 1937.

So, I set out to look at the earliest references to a church on the school property. The best source of the Cypress school history was done by librarian Mrs. R.D. Crews in 1964, where she wrote: "The first school . . . was held in a very small church building just north of the present high school building, on land where the bus barn and repair shop now stands. (Note: this area has since been removed to make room for a new gym and vocational wing at Cy-Fair High School)." and "(Many years later, teacher's cottages were built on this land, but were moved in 1952.)". This seems to describe a location on Lieder property, very near the old Lieder house, which was donated to the school for teachers to live. But, she goes on to say, "In 1884, a one-room school building was erected by the people of the community on this same tract of land. The land where the church stood was later donated to the school by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Telge." Wait, this is not the same spot. This is describing the 22 acres of Telge property where the original one-room Cypress School was built, and later the Rural High School #5. (See 1943 air photo). So, was St. Lucas on Lieder property or Telge property? The fact that the church records stop in 1937 seems to coincide with the planning for the new brick high school, built on former Lieder property, which opened in the Spring of 1942.



December, 1943 Air Photo from Google Earth.



Just to muddy the waters a bit more, an "Inside Cypress-Fairbanks ISD" publication who interviewed Chester Telge in 1997 reported, "The 20-acre parcel of land on which the school house was located was donated to Cypress School by his grandfather, Louis Martin Telge, Sr., who also donated 1.5 acres for the construction of a Methodist church – Cy-Fair Assembly of God - located on the northeast side of Telge Road and Cypress N. Houston." Was the church that was moved off the school property a Methodist Church, not St. Lucas Evangelical Church?

How can the St. Lucas Church, which existed 50 years, and as late as 1937, not have any recorded history of what happened to it? Many of the families in the St. Lucas records seem to show up in Christ United Church at Diamond Point (Huffmeister and Telge roads). A detailed book of the history of Christ United Church, which formed in 1929, was written in 1994, but it makes no mention of St. Lucas.

The questions remain: Where was St. Lucas Church? What happened to it in 1937? What church did Louis Telge, Sr. move to the northeast corner of Telge and Cypress N. Houston?

If history research was easy, it wouldn't be so intriguing! Let me know if you can help with any of these questions. Jsigm@aol.com (281-373-9052)

Addition to CHS Artifact Collection

Dan Hoffman, a former Texas History teacher in the CFISD, donated a wonderful collection of carpenter's hand tools to the CHS. The collection dating from the mid to late 19th century included an assortment of hand planes as well as a level, a mallet, hammers, augers and chisels. Starting research on the carpenter's level, we found that it was manufactured by the J.W. Sherman Co. in New York, ca. 1853. The collection also included a horse hair trimmer which will be displayed in our Farming and Ranching case. The entire collection will be displayed shortly at CHS. James Trimble, original owner of the collection accompanied Dan to CHS. They had considered a number of places to donate the collection to and decided on CHS because of the exposure it would get for the Cypress area

community. The collection dates back to James' great-grandfather, Lloyd Tillman Adams and his son, James' Grandfather. James' ancestry dates back to John Adams (Second President of the US) and his son, John Quincy Adams who are his 4th and 3rd great-grandfathers. Dan had a great deal of Cypress and Texas history to share with us. We are excited that Dan and James will be joining us as members this year.



Dan Hoffman, Joyce Kleb, and James Trimble with the collection of carpenter's hand tools.

THANKS TO OUR JAN-MAR BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

John Airola
John & Virginia Alamanza
Kroger Company
Karen Krumpholz
Shirley Marietta
Colleen & Richard Moreno
Delores Quin
Robert Rivera
LeRoy & Joyce Schlechte
Schwab Charitable
J.L. & Louise Sebek
Billie Stieghan
Gudrun Sundquist
Lloyd & Priscilla Wessels

Scholarship:

John Airola
Dan & Becky Martin
Mary Airola Smith

Lifetime Membership:

William J. Bozic, Jr.
Sandra & Darin Dillon
Leatha Peterson McDonald
Beverly Schawe

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

Our volunteers are busy researching and organizing. Plus, new historical artifacts and photos keep coming in:

- Marvin Weiman brought us the 2013 Edition of the Cy-Fair High School Alumni Directory. We had earlier versions from 1996 and 2003, but the new book gives us ten more years of information. Marvin also brought in three pens which had company advertising from the American Rice Growers, Southern Pacific "Your Friendly Railroad", and Metal X Rigs.
- Two Cy-Fair High School reunions are being planned for this year. Alums from the Classes of 1940-1959 will meet at Juergen Hall on Saturday, June 20th. The Classes of 1960-1965 will meet on Saturday, May 2nd at the Backyard Grill.
- Annie Hagler brought in a beautiful portrait of Mrs. Eleanor Schobert, who was well known to anyone who grew up in Fairbanks. She was the Postmistress of the Fairbanks Post Office for 43 years, from 1919 to 1962. She also started the small but popular Fairbanks Library in 1928. She personally led the efforts to purchase \$146 of lumber to build the Library. "I gave box suppers, silver teas, book reviews and held story hours" she said. When the lumber was finally purchased, "somebody backed up a horse and wagon and stole all of our lumber". The determined Mrs. Shobert held another round of box suppers, tea parties and book reviews and the Library was built! The portrait formerly hung in the Fairbanks Methodist Church. CHS is looking for family descendants, or we will keep it in our Library.



Mrs. Eleanor Schobert

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2020 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 us at 281-758-0083 (Library)

www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com

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