



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 46

June, 2020

CHS Scholarship Awarded

by Becky Martin

CHS was pleased to award the "Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship" to Jackson Sherrill, a senior at Cy-Fair High School. Many of you may remember Jackson as a volunteer at all of the CHS Annual Picnics from 2010-2015! He was the cheerful face at the front of the food line, making sure you had your food ticket. And behind the scenes, he was the muscle that helped Grandmother Tammy Sherrill haul in all the food, and clean up afterwards. He is a recent Eagle Scout, and also helped CHS by performing the flag ceremonies at some of our other events. He plans to attend Lone Star College in the fall working towards an Associates degree in Applied Science. We have watched him grow up and provide continuous service to our CHS organization, and we are proud to award him this year's Scholarship.



Jackson Sherrill, Cy-Fair 2020



The Camper Corinne Fonte interviewing Annie Hagler at "Hands-on-History" Camp.

The CHS "Hands-On History Camp to be Cancelled For This Year

by Jay Gavitt

The Cypress Historical Society has decided to cancel the "Hands-on-History" Camp for this year. We want to insure the health and safety of campers, volunteers and park staff. We anticipate running the camp next year. The camp has run for the last three years with about 25 campers each year. The program is sponsored by CHS and both Cypress Top Historic Park and Kleb Woods Historic Farm. A number of CHS members volunteer each year to assist campers as they explore Cypress' past. Family genealogies and interviewing techniques are some of the areas that they help with. Additional volunteers from

the Houston Archeological Society and a local blacksmith add to this week of discovering local history and crafts. Hopefully, we will be offering our educational programs soon for schools, scouts and other community groups. For updates, or a complete list of our educational programs, please visit our CHS website at cypresshistoricalsociety.com or contact us at cypresshistsociety@att.net.

St. Lucas Evangelical Church *by Jim Sigmund*

In the last newsletter, we talked about the location of St. Lucas Evangelical Church, somewhere on the Lieder property, which later became the Cy-Fair H. S. property. LeRoy Schlechte lived in both the Lieder House and in one of the "teacher houses" near the Big Cypress School (Lamkin Elem. today). LeRoy was able to help me identify all of the buildings and structures on the school property in the 1952 yearbook photo, which tied back to librarian Mrs. R.D. Crews' description of where St. Lucas was located.

Frank Litt remembered the Assembly of God Church being built on the northeast corner to Telge and Cypress-No Houston about 1948-1950. The question remains whether St. Lucas was first moved to this corner, and later replaced by Assembly of God church.



Photo courtesy of LeRoy Schlechte

The old Lieder House, looking southeast, later became the Cy-Fair "teacherage", where LeRoy Schlechte lived when his father was the maintenance man for the school.

The Interesting Dr. Noark

by Jim Sigmund

I've researched a lot of people who lived in the Cypress area, but not many have been as intriguing to learn about as Dr. Henry Noark. Being a medical doctor at the turn of the century makes him special enough, but his uncanny way to be tied to so many other people and events has just amazed me. Unless your parents or grandparents mentioned him, you may have never heard of him, so I think his story is worth telling.

I first heard the name "Noark" in 2007, when Frank Litt sent photos to Darline Roth, and it included a picture of a Noark's Store. The Title Abstracts for the Cypress Top Park property indicated that this store sat just west of the Juergen Store, in front of where the Gas Station sits today. But to really understand who Henry Noark was, I think I should start at the beginning.

Henry Noark was born January 1, 1864, in the midst of the Civil War. He was born to August Noark and Louisa Clostropp in Richmond, Texas in Fort Bend County. Within a few years, his father died, and his mother took Henry to live with Xavier Prunier, Sr in Cypress. They had a son, Xavier Prunier, Jr. (a half-brother to Henry Noark) in 1870, and officially married in 1874. The widowed Xavier Prunier, Sr also brought other children to this marriage, including daughter Mary Molly Prunier, who married A.C. Weiman, and was the matriarch of the large Weiman clan.

Houston Daily Post-September 26, 1897

COUNTY LINES IN GOOD SHAPE.

Dr. Noark Makes a Visit East and Inspects the Quarantine.

Dr. Henry Noark, county physician, has returned from a trip to the eastern part of the county, where he inspected his quarantine lines. He found everything working well, and believes he has an effective quarantine enforced by efficient officers.

CENTRAL MACHINE SHOPS CLOSE.

Between Three and Four Hundred Men Out of Employment.

Yesterday at noon the Houston and Texas Central machine shops in this city were closed pending a change in the quarantine situation along the line of their road that will permit the company to operate its trains, receive and deliver freight and passengers at the stations. The order included all workmen of the shops, who, in the aggregate, are between 350 and 400 people. It was given out at the company headquarters yesterday that they were operating their shops at a great loss of money since the quarantine went into effect.

Even in 1897, it was a difficult choice between protecting public health and the loss of jobs and commerce.

THE GALVESTON DAILY-NEWS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1895.

A New County Physician Elected by the Board of County Commissioners.

During the afternoon the question of electing a county physician was taken up and resulted in the election of Dr. Noark of Cypress Court House, postoffice Korville, over other competitors. He is a native of Harris county and a young man with a wife and one child, but is very little known to the city. He is a nephew of Mr. N. Pillot, well known here. He lost one hand in an accident while working in a gin. He will move to this city and make it his home.

In 1895, Dr. Henry Noark became the Harris County Physician. He was actually Nick Pillot's son-in-law.

Henry Noark attended Tulane College in New Orleans and the University of Louisville in Kentucky, and graduated with a medical degree in 1888. In 1889, he married Philoman Pillot, the daughter of Nick Pillot. While he immediately began practicing as a doctor, he is also shown in the Dun and Bradstreet business directories as running a mill and a cotton gin in Kohrville (near Spring-Cypress Rd and SH 249) from 1893-1897. It was likely here that he lost a hand (or his entire arm) in a gin accident.

As I sat down to write this newsletter, my first thought was to research past epidemics in an effort to tie the stories to today's Covid-19 pandemic. I decided against that, figuring that we are all sick (literally!) of hearing news about epidemics. But our good Dr. Noark surprised me when I discovered that he served as the Harris County Health Officer from 1895-1898! And in 1897, as Yellow Fever swept through Galveston and Houston, it was Dr. Noark who ordered the railroads closed, and travelers could only pass with a Medical Health Certificate issued by him or his deputies. The newspapers were filled with complaints about how his order to shut down was affecting commerce and the livelihood of the businesses through the County. Sound familiar?

June Hours: Cypress Historical Society

Tues & Thurs
9-Noon

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

The Interesting Dr. Henry Noark (cont.)

But there was a far more significant event (at least to Cypress history) that occurred in November of 1897. Abe Roberts, married to Pauline Pillot (yes, the sister to Philoman Pillot, Dr. Noark's wife), was shot by his father-in-law Nick Pillot. The responding physician was, of course, Dr. Noark! The death of Abe Roberts, who at the time owned most of "downtown" Cypress, including the store, the saloon, and the house, was the opportunity for Edward F. Juergen to buy these properties.

The next three years were difficult for the Noark and Nick Pillot families. Dr. Noark is voted out as Harris County Medical Officer in 1898, and he and his wife lose 2 children (a 4 yr-old and a 1 yr-old) in 2 years. Nick Pillot moves to Houston, taking his daughter Pauline Roberts with him, likely to put distance between the terrible tragedy of Abe Robert's death. The "Juergen House" (as we now know it) was vacated by Abe and Pauline Roberts, and now becomes the home and medical office of Dr. Noark and his wife. The 1900 Census shows the Noarks as immediate neighbors to E.F. and Mary Juergen, who live in part of the Juergen Store building. A lease document was formally drawn up in 1901 between Dr. Noark and Nick Pillot (Executor for the Abe Robert's Estate) where the Noarks lease the property that today has the Juergen House and Humble Gas Station. This Lease had a provision where Dr. Noark can build a two-story Store, which he completes in 1903, in direct competition to the Juergen store. Noark's Store would have sat in the middle of the road in front of the present-day Juergen Hall and Humble Gas Station.



(L-R:) Hannah Rumple, Emma Steinhagen, and Jan Knigge at Noark's Store. (Circa 1907) This photo can be seen in the December, 2018 CHS Calendar.

The Houston Post, 13 Nov 1897, Sat, First Edition

KILLED AT CYPRESS.

Nick Pillot Shoots and Kills Abe Roberts.

Cypress, Texas, November 12.—About 5:30 p. m. a sad killing occurred at the residence of Mr. Nick Pillot, near here, in which Mr. Pillot was under the necessity of killing Mr. Abe Roberts in self-defense. Mr. Pillot had a preliminary hearing before Justice Tude and was placed under a thousand dollar bond.

Dr. Noark, county physician, left last night over the Central in response to a telegram that he received from Nick Pillot, announcing that he (Pillot) had shot and killed Abe Roberts, who is a brother-in-law of Dr. Noark and he hastened to the scene of the tragedy.

Mark Your Calendars!

Subject to change. Check Website for the latest.

June 20 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 9:00am at the CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Jul 18 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 9:00am at the CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

July 6-11 – History Camp Cancelled

SAVE THE DATE!

Sep 19 – CHS Annual Member Event

(Members, Family, and Guests)

Saturday, Time TBD, at Juergen Hall
Cypress Top Historic Park

The Interesting Dr. Henry Noark (cont.)

In late 1906, Dr. Noark decides to leave Cypress, and move to the city of Waller. He sub-leases the house and store to businessman George Lee, and bids farewell to the Cypress community. But, within a year, George Lee is gone also. The closing of Noark's store in Cypress created an opportunity for Juergen's other two neighbors to open their own stores, J.A. Kitzmann and Herman Rumpel (later Neal's Store) in 1908!

But the irony doesn't end there, because Noark moves into a house owned by Ed Weygand, Sr., and built by Edward F. Juergen! When Juergen first graduated from business school, he went to the city of Waller, married Otilie Weygand in 1895, and built a home and store building for his new father-in-law Ed Weygand Sr. (The marriage of Edward and Otilie only lasted a year, after the couple lost their first child in 1896.) The new building operated as the Weygand Store until Dr. Noark bought it in 1907 and opened his medical practice there. Noark also opened the "Golden Rule" store next to his home, which he operated until 1915. He was remembered as having one of the first automobiles in the city of Waller!

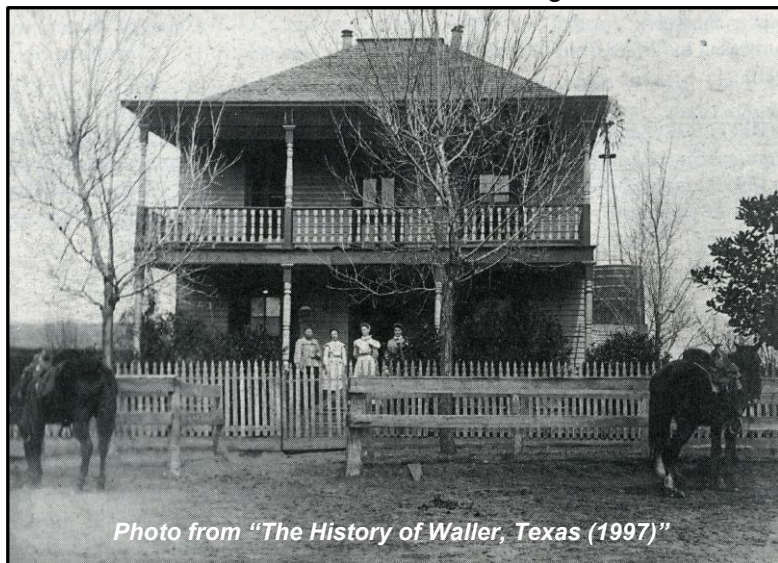


Photo from "The History of Waller, Texas (1997)"

Built by Edward F. Juergen in 1895 for Ed Weygand, Sr., this was the Weygand General Store and Hotel until it was bought by Dr. Henry Noark as his home and medical office. The building still stands today in the city of Waller as a private residence.

The Houston Post, 6 Jan 1907, Sun, Page 42

CYPRESS.

Dr. Henry Noark, much to the regret of his many friends and patrons, moved to Waller, Texas, this week. Dr. Noark has resided here for the past several years and is known as a gentleman of sterling worth, as well as a successful physician, and his smiling face and hearty handshake will be missed by us all, but despite the fact that we are loath to give him up we can, and do, heartily recommend him to the people of Waller, and wish him the very greatest success in his new field of labor.

Henry and Philoman were finally blessed with a child, Maxine Noark, in 1912. As an adult, Maxine became an accomplished pianist. Henry's mother, Louisa Prunier, who lived with them at least since the 1900 Census, died in 1920 at the age of 74. In 1923, Dr. Noark moved his practice to Fairbanks on Hwy 290, and then by 1930, they moved to 6213 Washington Ave. in Houston. Dr. Henry Noark died in 1933 at the age of 69, and was buried in Hollywood cemetery in Houston. Philoman Pillot Noark died in 1936 at just 64 years old.

Rarely does one person impact so many communities, and show up in so many different research stories. If you have any other information about the "interesting" Dr. Noark, especially his time in Fairbanks, please send it to me by mail or E-mail (JSigm@aol.com). -- Jim Sigmund

In 1990, Myrle Hutson published a book called "Deep In The Heart of Cypress", which contained transcribed interviews of ten long-time residents of this area. When asked about medical care "back in the day", the following memories were recorded about Dr. Noark:

1. "For medical care, we had Dr. Noark on 290 past Fairbanks. He had one arm off—I don't know which one it was." Pearl Krahn Hargrave
2. "Dr. Noark in Waller was our doctor when I was growing up. Then he moved to Fairbanks and we still went to him" "Dr. Noark was a one-armed doctor." Stella Quade Zahn
3. "We had to drive to the doctor's office. Dr. Noark was on Hempstead Hwy . . . he made house calls. Them doctor's them years made house calls." Geneva Steinhagen Terpstra
4. "Medical care is a whole lot better today that it was then." "Dr. Noark was a one-armed doctor. He was on Hempstead Hwy." Henry Calvin Hargrave
5. "I had a lot of sore throats and we had to go all the way to Waller to a doctor. Dr. Noark was his name." "Them days, Dr. Noark from Waller came to our house—made house calls. What he gave me was quinine which was terrible to take. Mama would put it in a spoon with jelly and I took it, but oh, your ears would be ringing ninety miles an hour." Alice Dossman Quade

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

The CHS Darline Roth Research Library closed in mid-March and has just started to open again in June. Beginning June 2nd, we have opened on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-Noon. We ask visitors to wear masks, and we will limit the amount of people in the Library at one time. We will gradually increase our "open" times to our normal full schedule. Check the CHS Website for updates and changes.

- David Jaeger brought in an Abstract Book for us to scan titled, "125 Acres of Land, More or Less, in the J.H. Callahan One League Original Survey, Abstract No. 10, Harris County, Texas". The J.H. Callahan land grant was the first to be taken in Cypress, and is approximately bounded by Huffmeister, Spring-Cypress, and Grant Roads. Though it was first surveyed by Matthew Burnett in 1831, it was claimed by Callahan in 1835 when Stephen F. Austin briefly opened the land office before the revolution started. This Abstract Book traces the ownership of some of the earliest Cypress settlers in the area where Little Cypress Creek empties into Cypress Creek. While the purpose of the Abstract was to trace 125 acres owned by Otto Adam, David's Grandfather, it contains of land plat of the entire land grant. This was the first area to be settled because of the timber available along the creeks and the rich prairie soil adjacent to the wooded areas. This information is very significant, and extremely important to our understanding of the early history of Cypress area.
- Hunter Hammil has joined the staff of Pct 3 Cypress Top Historic. He has background in history, biology and park management. His time will be divided between Cypress Top Park, Kleb Woods Nature Center, and the John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center on Katy-Hockley Rd.
- Early last year, Guaranty Bank on FM 529 licensed photos from CHS to blow up and hang on the wall of their bank. In their current re-model, these photos were replaced, and the 40" x 30" canvas prints of 11 of our CHS Calendar photos were given back to CHS. The CHS Board will decide if these will be displayed, raffled off, or sold.

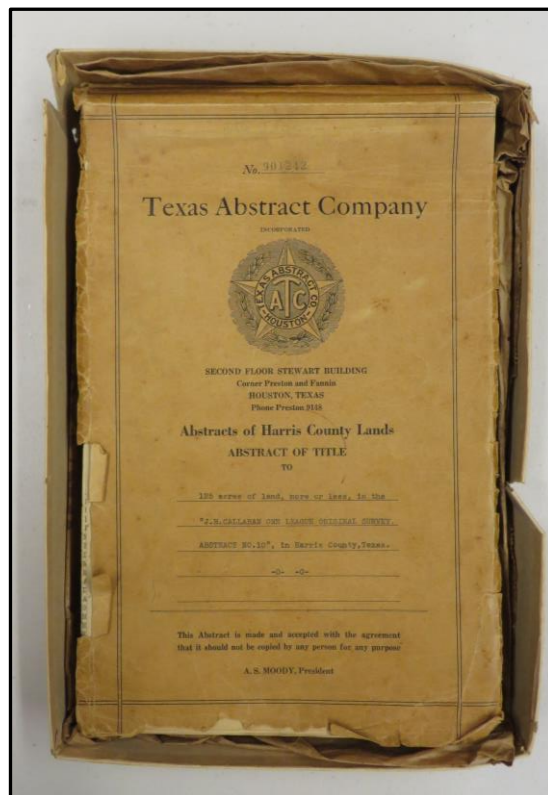
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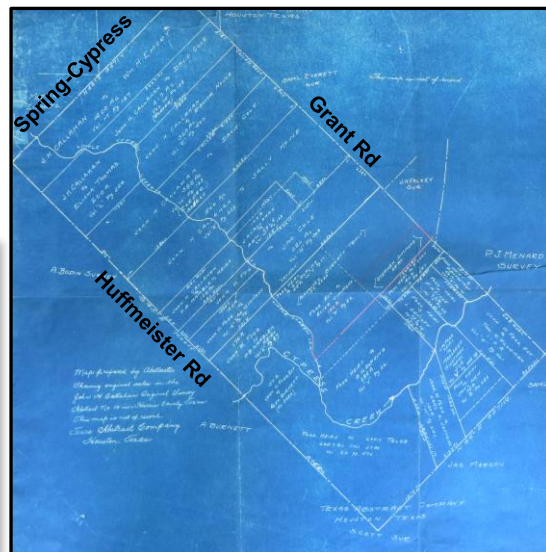
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The 2-inch Abstract Book was carefully photographed, rather than scanned, to avoid any damage. Deed information is priceless!



The plat shows us exactly where some of the earliest Cypress residents lived. Title transfer dates tell us when people first arrived.

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

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