



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Websites For Local History Research

by Jim Sigmund

One of the most common questions I am asked is, "What used to be on the land where I live?" Two of the most valuable sources to answer this question are easily accessible from your home computer, and free!

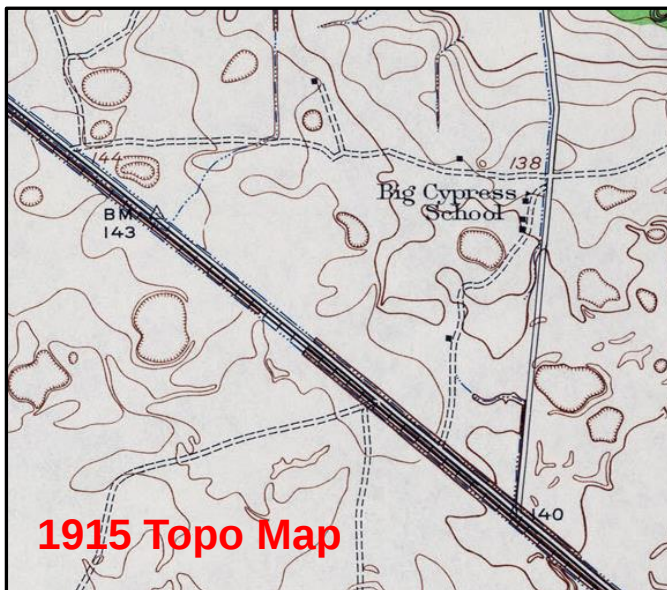
Google Earth Pro. This free program can be downloaded directly to your home computer (<https://www.google.com/earth/versions/#earth-pro>). It will open to an image of the entire earth, and you can, in fact, look anywhere in the world. But, using the scroll wheel on your mouse, you can quickly zoom up on an aerial view of your place of interest. Once you find it, look for the row of icons on the top left of the image. Click on the one that looks like a clock with a green arrow. This will bring up a slider bar with endpoints of 1944 and 2020. If you click and drag the white slider it will show you aerial images as far back as 12/31/1943 (the oldest they have in our area). Each white line on the slider bar is a set of air photos they have available. There are usually just a couple older sets, but they have many years from the 1990's on. Do you want to know when the freeway was built through the area? Just scroll through the air photos to see when the land was first cleared, when construction began, and when it was finally finished!



This is the Cypress Top Park area in 12/2002. Can you see the Kitzmann corner, the catfish ponds, and the Juergen Dance Hall before it was moved up to the road?



Slider bar that comes up when you click the Arrow/Clock



1915 Topo Map

1915 map shows location of the Big Cypress School at the corner of Telge Rd and Cypress-No Houston. To the south along the dirt road is the old Lieder house.

Vintage Topographic Maps. Topographic maps show you lines of equal elevation, so you can easily see high areas, gullies, and flat areas. But they also show you roads and structures that existed at the time they first surveyed the area. Roads are dashed if they are "unimproved" (dirt/gravel), or solid lines if they are "improved" (graded/paved). Structures, such as houses and barns, are tiny black squares, but schools and churches are also shown with their own symbols.

If you Google "Vintage Texas Topographic Maps", the first entry will be to the University of Texas Library, and the "Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection" (<https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/texas/>). Click on the first letter of the map you want (like "C" for Cypress), then scroll down the C's until you see the maps they have for "Cypress". Click on the map you want, and it will bring up a high resolution version of the map that you can zoom into, and save to your computer. They are free to download and use.

If you need help, stop by the CHS Library!

Cy-Fair Class of '71 - 50th Reunion

by Jim Sigmund

We love to hear about Class Reunions from the schools in the Cy-Fair area. On October 9, 2021, the Cy-fair High School Class of 1971 met at the Westwind Club on Guhn Rd. to celebrate their 50-Year Reunion! In attendance were Donald Adams, Bobbinette Hargrave Bilnoski, Juanita Reed Burke, Tim Carlisle, Gary Chambers, James Coker, Pat McNiel Crossley, Larry Derrick, Beverly Sinkey Etzel, Wanda Sims Fewell, Randy Fowlkes, Debbie Little Goss, J.M. Green, Paulette Kerman Harris, Jeri Mack Howell, Tevan Kleb, Nancy Kuehn, Carolyn Turner Leblanc, Bobby Little, Steve Bubba Marietta, Allen McGinty, Bill McPheeters, Jerry Mercer, Bobby Metcalf, Becky Robertson O'Cain, Jimmy Oliver, Mary Rosas Perez, Tim Reed, Harry Ross, Marilyn Rambin Russell, Stephanie Rogers Schneider, James Sneed, Jimmy Stucky, Eva Barnes Vela, and Nancy Schneider Vickers.

Coming up on June 11, 2022 will be the Cy-Fair High School



Class of 1940-1959 Reunion at the Juergen Hall in the Cypress Top Historical Park. Their Reunion Planning Committee will be meeting soon. Let us know about your upcoming Class Reunions!

Mark Your Calendars!

Apr 6 – CHS Board Mtg

Board of Directors Elections

(All Members welcome)

Wednesday, 1:00am, CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

May 4 – CHS Board Mtg

Board of Directors Elections

(All Members welcome)

Wednesday, 1:00am, CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Jun 1 – CHS Board Mtg

Board of Directors Elections

(All Members welcome)

Wednesday, 1:00am, CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park
(Save The Date)

June 11 – Cy-Fair H.S. Reunion

Classes of 1940-1959

Saturday, TBD, Juergen Hall
Cypress Top Historic Park



The Cy-Fair High School Class of 1971 gathered for their 50th Reunion at the Westwind Club on Guhn Rd.

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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I. Early Railroad Arrivals and Departures, Cypress, Texas

by Sonia Dupre Ph.D

Early in the summer of 1853, a group of farmers from Chappel Hill, 61 miles north of Houston, met a group of Houstonians in a convention to talk about improving their crops. The initial discussions resulted in two groups, the advocates of railroad and the advocates of planks roads. The pro-railroad group, led by Paul Bremond, recommended the building of the Galveston and Red River Railroad, with Houston as the opening place. Under Bremond, a leading stockholder interested in transportation, construction was activated, and by September 1856, a mixed train (freight and passengers) was in service the first twenty five miles of track between Houston and Cypress, ending at the Cypress Top depot, currently Cypress Historic Park. In May 1857, tracks extended to Hockley and in June 1858, the train reached Hempstead. Short operations between Hempstead and Chappel Hill began early in 1860. The Galveston Red River Railroad was renamed in September 1856 to the Houston and Texas Central Railroad (H. & T. C. R.)

Worthy of note, the Editorial Correspondence, January 1857, of The Weekly Telegraph, the principle newspaper in Houston, Texas, an observer writes for their readers an interesting picture of Cypress. Traveling in a comfortable car, at *"the speed of eighteen miles an hour ... till he reaches the depot at the flourishing city of Cypress, which is a railroad town, a place where the travelers can get as much hot Coffy (sic), crackers, cheese, etc., as he may desire. The town is made up of stores, restaurants (called there I believe resteurts,) groceries, and the railroad depot. The shop keepers appear to be driving a considerable trade, and the city, considering the time it has been built, is quite a flourishing one"*.

After completing the Houston-Cypress railway, "having splendid passenger cars" the arrival and departure schedule was published in the newspaper.

1. Clark, Ira G. 1958. *Then Came the Railroad*. University of Oklahoma Press
2. Cushing, E. H. *The Weekly Telegraph (Houston, Tex.)* University of North Texas Libraries. Portal to Texas History
3. Cypress Historical Society. 2011. *Application Historical Marker and CHS Collections*
4. Maxwell, Robert S. 1998. *Whistle in the Piney Woods*. East Texas Historical Assoc and University of North Texas Press

THE HOUSTON AND TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY.



TWENTY-FIVE MILES IN OPERATION.

TRAINS carrying freights and passengers, (having splendid passenger cars) on this road now run as follows:

Leave Houston daily at.....	8 A. M.
Arrive at Cypress City.....	9 1/4 " "
Leave Cypress City.....	12 1/2 M.
Arrive at Houston	2 P. M.

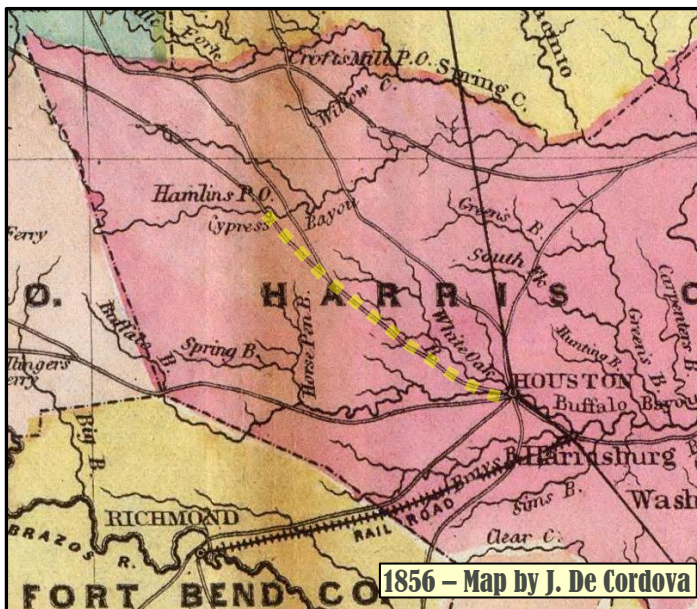
These trains connect at Houston with the

Mail Boats

from and to Galveston, and at Cypress City with mail Stages to Austin, San Antonio, Washington, La Grange, Chappell Hill, Brenham, Montgomery, Anderson, Huntsville, Dallas, Clarksville, San Augustine, Nacogdoches, Palestine, Marshall, and all parts of Texas. Travellers will find this the best the quickest and the pleasantest route to the interior of Texas.

P. BREMOND, Pres.
Jan 12-'57;
H. & T. C. R.

H&TC railroad timetable after being in operation just 6 months.
[The Weekly Telegraph (Houston, Tex) January 14, 1857.
University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History.]



In 1856, the railroad to Cypress was only the second railroad built out of Houston. The track to Richmond was the first.

CHS Again a TEEAC Provider by Jay Gavitt

CHS has been certified as a TEEAC (Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee) providers for the 7th year in a row. We are part of a state network of providers for teacher professional development. We have shown that our professional development programs are rigorous and consistent with the TEKS (Texas Educational Knowledge and Skills). We have insured that professional development to educators also provide educational opportunities for Texas students. Programs such as "Between the Creeks" focuses on local geography, watersheds, and resulting changes to the environment. We also continue to offer tours at Cypress Top Historic Park and Kleb Woods Historic Park. If you are interested in professional development or student/youth programs, contact Jay Gavitt at 281-758-0083 or by E-mail at cypresshistsociety@att.net.

Examining the CHS Glass Bottles Collection

by Jay Gavitt

We are continuing to examine and research the Society's glass bottle collection. We discovered a "Hutchinson" bottle among the bottles donated recently by Barbara Buckner Short.

The name "Hutchinson" bottle comes from the inventor and patent holder of the bottle's stopper, Charles B. Hutchinson. These bottles, while being called Hutchinson bottles, really refer to the stoppers which are commonly known as "Hutches". The bottle in our collection doesn't have the stopper (we have a model of the stopper in our display case). Hutches are known for their unique stopper mechanism. This stopper replaced the older cork stoppers used in soda bottles.

Hutchinson soda bottles had the unique wire stopper inside the neck and blob of the bottle. The wire piece is hourglass shaped. On one end, there is a rubber gasket designed to seal the bottle below the neck at the shoulder of the bottle from the inside. The rest of the wire loops upward and allows the bottle to be opened or resealed by the part of the stopper that extends up and out of the blob.

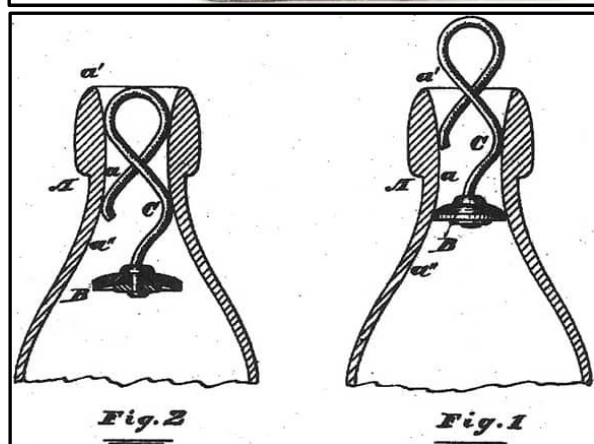
Our bottle has two seams that end just below the lip of the bottle, indicating that it was blown in a mold. The bottles themselves were designed to be returned, cleaned and re used by the bottler. Our bottle shows 'case wear' on the sides and bottom. Original patents were issued in 1879, however, widespread use did not occur until the 1880s until ca. 19 teens.

Our bottle is pint sized with a green or blue tint with labeling on the front and bottom of the bottle. The front is labeled "JNO. R. COLLINS...GROVETON...TEXAS". The bottom of the bottle has the letter "C".

Since these bottles were usually shipped upside down, the letter probably denotes "Collins" for easy identification. Please stop by the Cypress Historical Society Library to view these bottles on exhibit along with the many other artifacts in our collection. A special thanks to CHS members Sharon Menegaz and Eric Briggs for their help in researching this article. The best information we found on the Hutchinson bottles came from: *"History of Wisconsin Antique Hutchinson Bottles"* by Bob Libbey.



The Hutchinson bottle.



The spring stopper was patented June 17, 1879.

Cypress Historical Society

P.O. Box 2963

Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083

Tues 9am-4pm, Wed & Thur 9am-Noon

Deadline Near for CHS Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship

by Scholarship Committee

The Cypress Historical Society looks to raise awareness of local history in the Cypress community. To this end, CHS is proud to offer an annual scholarship up to \$1000. The Scholarship may be awarded to a student interested history, Social Sciences, Library Science or Education. The Scholarship will be based on academic merit and on serving the mission of the historical society, which includes volunteer work through CHS events and of Cypress historical related activities. Only one scholarship may be awarded to any one student.

Eligibility Includes:

- GPA of good standing
- Cypress area resident
- Volunteer work at CHS office/events or other Cypress historical related activities
- Currently enrolled as a senior in a Cy-Fair ISD school; or Cy-Fair ISD graduate, currently attending a 4-year university or 2-year college

Application Due by April 15, 2022

To apply, students should download an Application from the CHS website, or pick up a form at the CHS Library. The application, official transcript, two written recommendations, and a 500-word essay are required.

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

The CHS Library is open Tues: 9-4, Wed: 9-12, and Thurs: 9-12 (or by appointment).

- We now have the Ancestry.com (Library Edition) available for use on the CHS Library computers. Personal family trees cannot be saved, but if you bring a flash drive, you can save any documents or images you find.
- David Jaeger donated an antique Stereoscope Viewer. These viewers were used in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Two identical images, which are slightly offset from each other, are able to be viewed as one.
- Member Jackie Devine has been running a class on "Write Your Story" on four consecutive Thursdays. If you are interested, contact Jackie at 'jackie.devine@comcast.net' to find out when her next class will be held.
- I was sad to learn of the passing of Trevia Wooster Beverly. She was a CHS member from 2010-2013 and was a co-author of the "Cypress" Historical Marker. Well-known as a local historian author, and genealogist, she was a key person on the CHS Advisory Committee that petitioned Harris County to build our CHS Library.
- In last quarter's newsletter, our article on the antique bottle collection donated by Barbara Buckner Short contained an error. I reported that the bottles were picked up by her grandfather, and carried by her father. In fact, it was her father-in-law that was the bottle searcher, and her husband who got them added to his backpack!
- I will be presenting a talk "The Early History of the Cypress Area: 1831-1910" on two occasions in May. The first will be at the Kleb Woods Nature Center on Thursday 5/12 from 9-11. The second will be at the CHS Library on Thursday 5/19 from 2-4. The talk is given as part of the monthly Precinct 3 History Discussion Group. The talks are open to the public if you would like to attend.
- If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your membership for 2022. Our memberships run for the calendar year. Check your mailing label for your "Paid Through" date.



Old Stereoscope Viewer, donated to CHS by David Jaeger

THANKS TO OUR DEC-MAR BENEFACTORS!

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John & Virginia Alamanza
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Sharon Bumpers
Jimmy & Mary Lois Grimmett
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Lifetime Membership:

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Jackie Devine's "Write Your Story" class inspires the group to begin, by visualizing their pivotable life's moments, and then writing them down on paper.

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

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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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