



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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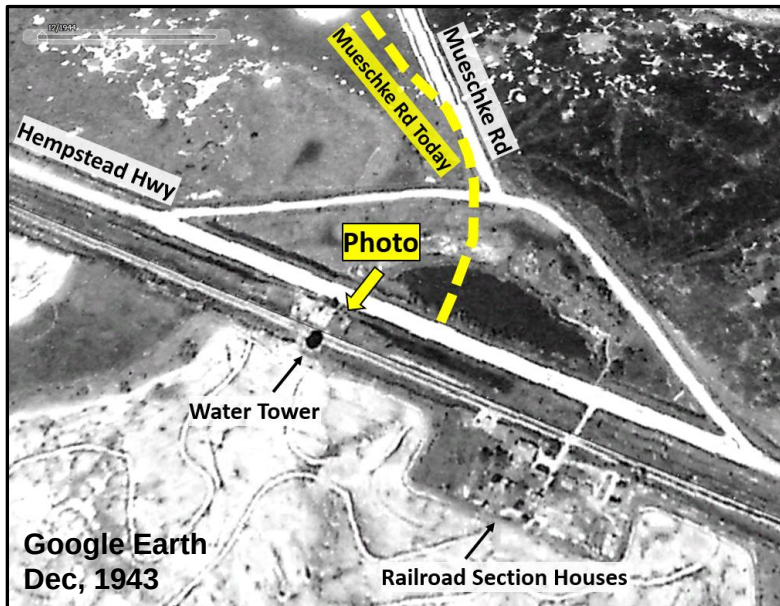
A Relic Structure Emerges!

by Jim Sigmund

As the south side of US 290 is cleared for new subdivisions, the brush along the railroad tracts has also been cut down. Emerging like ancient Roman ruins on the south side of the eastbound feeder, just before the Mueschke Rd intersection, are nine concrete pillars! I was immediately intrigued as to what this might have been. A look at the Google Earth December, 1943 aerial photo shows a very different view of this area than we see today. This was the area of the Southern Pacific (formerly H&TC RR, then T&NO RR) railroad Cypress Section House #4, and the concrete pillars were the footings for a water tower. Photos from the early 1900's show a water tower near here, but on the north side of the tracks. CHS members Robert Rivera and John Alamanza spent their teenage years living in the section houses, as their fathers worked for the railroad. A sketch of the area, done by Robert, confirmed this was the location of the latest water tower!



Travelling inbound on the US 290 feeder, just before the Mueschke Rd intersection, a set of concrete pillars can be seen on the south side of the tracks.



In 1943, there was a water tower and the Section houses for the railroad workers on the south side of the tracks. There was a pond on the north.

CHS To Hold Board of Directors Elections in November

The Board of Directors for the Cypress Historical Society sets the path and priorities for the organization. The 10-member Board votes on issues related to activity planning, financial income, major expenses, staffing and hours of the Library, and interfacing with Harris County Precinct 3 on the use of the CHS Library building.

The CHS Board meets monthly in the CHS Library. The meetings are always open to all members, and all ideas and discussion are welcome. Final decisions are made by a vote of the elected Board Members.

If you are a current member, and want to serve on the CHS Board, or just want to find out more about the role, contact any Board member, or President Michelle Christie.

**Save
The
Date!**

Cypress Historical Society Fall Member Event

**October 15, 2022
At the CHS Library**

**Guest Speaker:
Eric Briggs**

***"Evidence of
Historic Sites in
the Cypress Area"***

Texas Towns: Boundaries, Militia, Taxes, Beats

Sonia Dupré Ph. D.

Before Texan colonists fought in the battle of Gonzalez (October 2, 1835) and the battle of San Jacinto (April 21, 1836, commanded by Sam Houston) that resulted in the end of the Texas Revolution and Texas independence from the Republic of Mexico, and the founding of the Republic of Texas (1836-1845) there were earlier conflicts and independence movements in the region. These conflicts and political turmoil had occurred intermittently since 1826. During this time the authority and administration sector was organized by the Mexican government, and in 1835 and before the revolution in 1836, the Texas provisional government started new regulations through proclamations, ordinances and acts to organize the foundations of the Republic and the towns. Some of these regulations contain a specific mention of the northwest Harrisburg or Harris County area.

ELECTION NOTICE.

IN pursuance of law, notice is hereby given, that an election will be held at the different election precincts of Harrisburg county, on the first Monday in September, for a representative in the second congress, for which purpose writs of election have been issued to the following gentlemen, as returning officers for the several precincts: John W. Moore, sheriff, at Houston; Joel Wheaton, J. P., at Harrisburg; James S. McGahey, J. P., at Lynchburg; C. C. Dyer, J. P., at Stafford's Prairie House; Mills M. Battle, J. P., at Dr. Johnson Hunter's residence; Abraham Roberts, J. P., at the house of Abahram Roberts, New Kentucky.

The election to be held after the usual forms, and the returns made to me, at Houston, before four o'clock, P. M. on the second day after the election.

A. BRISCOE, Chief Justice of the county.

N. B. An election will be held at the house of Abraham Roberts for a justice of the peace, to fill a vacancy in the fourth militia district. Also one at Lynchburg, for a justice of the peace, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of John Denton, Esq., justice of the peace of the third militia district. Returning officers the same.

A. B.
Houston, August 15, 1837. 83-2t

In northwest Harris(burg) County in 1837, first settlement was along Spring Creek, in Abe Roberts' "New Kentucky", and at Matthew Burnett's in the Cypress community.

1. Boundaries of Harrisburg, Republic of Texas. The General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas passed on December 30, 1835, at San Felipe of Austin, an ordinance and decree describing the boundaries of seventeen towns. Among these towns, the geographical limits of the town of Harrisburg (later Harris County) are briefly described including its beginning in Clear Creek into Galveston Bay, and northwardly including the settlements of Spring Creek (present Northwest Harris). Harrisburg was made the place for the judicial and municipal transactions, as well as the deposit of the archives of the same. Ordinance approved on January 1, 1836 by Henry Smith, Governor.

(The Telegraph and Texas Register, Houston, Texas, Saturday, January 16, 1836, page 3.)

2. Organization of the Militia. Due to the political situation in the Republic of Texas and the imminent attack from a large Mexican army to exterminate its population, there was an immediate need to defend the Republic of Texas. Therefore, about 55 elected delegates from each municipality and county met in a convention on March 1, 1836 held at the Washington-on-the-Brazos. The convention demanded the immediate organization of the Militia of the Republic. Sam Houston was chosen *Commander-in-Chief of the revolutionary army of Texas*. Later Houston became first president of Texas. The ordinance was published days later and contains 1-18 sections about the Texas Militia. Soon after, the Texas Militia was born.

(The Telegraph and Texas Register, Houston, Texas, March 24, 1836.)

3. Taxes. Public Revenue by Direct Taxation. Texas was recognized as by the United States in March 18, 1837. By the end of the Republic, it had a debt of 10.5 million. Sam Houston, president of the Republic, worked on reducing the size of the government and collecting taxes. In the town of Houston, July 31st, 1837, he promulgated a proclamation or "An act to raise a public revenue by direct taxation". It was passed on the June 12th, by the Congress, ordering that the chief of justices of the county courts shall proceed to appoint Assessors of taxable property as contemplated in the aforementioned law.

(The Telegraph and Texas Register, Houston, Texas, Saturday, August 5, 1837, page 3.)

4. Appointing Chief Justices. Days later, on August 19, 1837, the same newspaper published an ELECTION NOTICE to elect a representative and senators to the second congress on the first Monday of September (1837) including details of the precincts in Harrisburg County and the names of the returning officers. It is significant to see that the house of *Abraham Roberts* in his settlement "New Kentucky" located on Spring Creek, Northwest Harris County is a voting place. Roberts was a cattleman, businessman, and member of Stephen F. Austin's second colony land grantees. The election notice also informs that in his place it will also be held an election for a justice of the peace, to fill a vacancy in the fourth militia district.

(The Telegraph and Texas Register, Houston, Texas, Saturday, August 19, 1839, page 1.)

(Continued . . .)

(Continued . . .)

5. Election Notice to elect representatives to the second congress. Houses used as polling places.

On March 27, 1839, Mirabeau B. Lamar, president of the Texas Republic, in order to better organize the militia, appointed chief justices, who shall proceed to lay off their respective company beats (beats were the military places where all persons should attend to pay taxes and to vote). Months later, on January 8, 1840, the county of Harrisburg notifies all the residents to appear at their corresponding Beat to pay their taxes, including county beat No. 4 north of Cypress bayou, meet at William Pierpont's store on Spring creek (later Rosehill). (*The Telegraph and Texas Register, Houston, Texas, Saturday, January 8, 1840, page 1.*)

In Remembrance of Karen Krumpholz *by Mary Bianche*

With expressed sadness of the passing of Karen Krumpholz, we remember the person she was. She joined the Cypress Historical Society on September 25, 2014, became a Board member in 2018. She was a diligent Board member and worked to accomplish the goals of the Society. Soft spoken and nice, still a woman who would voice her opinions. She was an asset to the Society and a friend, and a longtime member of St. John Lutheran Church. She will be greatly missed.

We offer our condolences to her family and friends and know the Heavens are smiling since her entrance.



Karen Krumpholz (1943-1922)

Cypress Historical Society

281-758-0083
CHS Library

P.O. Box 2963, Cypress, Texas 77410
E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net
www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com

Tue 9am-4pm,
Wed 9am-Noon
Thu 9am-Noon



Cy-Fair H.S. Brigade

by Stacie McKay

Attention former Cy-Fair Bobcat Brigade members: We are in the process of gathering photos, member lists, programs and more to begin building a history of the team. We are happy to scan and return items to you. Basically, anything that is not in a yearbook is what we are looking for. Contact Stacie McKay at cf.brigade.alum@gmail.com for more information.

Mark Your Calendars!

Oct 5 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

Oct 15 – CHS Fall Event

Saturday, 10-2, in the CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Nov 2 – CHS Board Mtg

Board of Directors Elections

(All Members welcome)

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Christie	President	(832) 264-0885	mtchristie65@gmail.com
Mary Bianche	Vice-President	(832) 334-9537	mbianche@ymail.com
Sonia Dupre	Secretary	(713) 240-7104	soniadupre@hotmail.com
Becky Martin	Treasurer	(281) 660-4702	bmartin115@gmail.com
Barbara Dorr	Director	(713) 705-8138	dorrstore@aol.com
Celeste Haltom	Director	(713) 447-9031	celestehaltom@gmail.com
Beverly Richardson	Director	(281) 246-4632	beverlyjsr@att.net
Erlene Schoenfeldt	Director	(713) 870-6255	(none)
Levern Smith	Director	(832) 840-3628	smith.hobert@yahoo.com

Cy-Fair H.S. Class of 1972 Celebrates 50 Years!

by Gayla Poe Stollenwerck

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, the class of 1972 held their 50th reunion at the Springhill Marriott on Chasewood Park Drive off SH 249. Eighty-eight people attended. Alisha Winne Daab, Cindy Curson Jones, Debbie, McMenemy, and Gayla Poe Stollenwerck planned the event. There was a sit down dinner with a DJ. We all had fun dancing, singing, and catching up with our classmates.



Planning Committee, (l to r): Gayla Poe Stollenwerck, Alisha Winnie Daab, Cindy Curson Jones, and Debbie McMenemy.



The Cy-Fair High School Class of 1972 celebrated their 50-Year Reunion!

Library News

by Stacie McKay

- From Barbara Buckner Short: an assortment of items, including a vintage planting dibble, and a musket ball mold. Relic expert Eric Briggs believes this to be pre-civil war.
- Ilta Hall donated a large travel trunk, a large wood and metal drill press and an old steel hanging scale with weights.
- Stacie McKay donated a satin staff jacket from Tin Hall when it reopened "with air-conditioning" in the early 1990's.
- Heather McKay donated a foam CF paw print and a few other items from Cy-Fair
- A volunteer from the Cy-Fair Fire Department donated an old banner for the "Cypress 4-H".
- Craig Malinsky with the Cy-Fair Journalism department donated Cy-Fair yearbooks for 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021. We are still looking for a copy of the yearbook for 1960, 1961, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1992 and 1999.
- Marvin Weiman donated branding irons from the Weiman and Heppel families, and manual hair clippers.
- We are in the process of doing a complete inventory of artifacts and materials in the library.



A Tin Hall Staff Jacket is added to our collection, displayed with W.L.Bane's photo of Leon "Pappy" Selph playing at Tin Hall in 1983.



Pre-Civil War Musket Ball Mold, donated by Barbara Short.



A vintage hand-cranked Drill Press (would have been mounted vertically), was donated by Ilta Hall. An embossed label reads "Triumph 71".



Manual hair clippers, used by Marvin Weiman's mother to trim his hair as a boy!

History Discussion Group: "Houston Hot Wells"!

The "Early History of Houston Hot Wells" talk will be presented by Jim Sigmund at Kleb Woods on Nov 10th, 9-11am (Pct 4 History Discussion Group) and again in the Juergen Hall on Nov 17th, 2-4pm (Pct 3 History Discussion Group). If you came to the Cypress area after the 1960's, you would only know Houston Hot Wells as a shooting range. Those who grew up around here in the 1940's and 1950's remember it as a top-notch swimming resort and hotel. But, very few people know the story of how this facility began in the early 1900's, and the colorful history of this Cypress area landmark. Jim Sigmund will use old documents, photographs, first-hand accounts, and newspaper clippings to tell the intriguing story of Houston Hot Wells!



This Cypress 4-H Club flag, was donated by Cy-Fair FD.

THANKS TO OUR JUNE-SEPT BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

John & Virginia Alamanza
Houston Archeological Soc.
In Memory of Jay Gavitt

Scholarship Fund:

Mary Smith

Lifetime Membership:

Henry Steinhagen

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15) _____

Sponsor (\$100) _____

Family (\$25) _____

Corporate Sponsor (\$250) _____

Business (\$30) _____

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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