



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 2008

ISSUE 59

CYPRESS, TEXAS

DECEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MICHELLE CHRISTIE

At the Board of Directors meeting on November 3, elections were held for CHS 2024 Board and Officer positions. Four members were re-elected to another 2-year term: Becky Martin, Treasurer; Celeste Haltom, Beverly Richardson, and Erline Schoenfeldt, Directors. Leslie Price was elected Vice-President. Lavern Smith has decided to step back from the Board after 8 years of dedicated service. She will be missed! Michelle Christie, President; Stacie McKay, Secretary; and Barbara Fisk-Dorr, Director all continue to the 2nd year of their term.

Looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2024 for all of us!

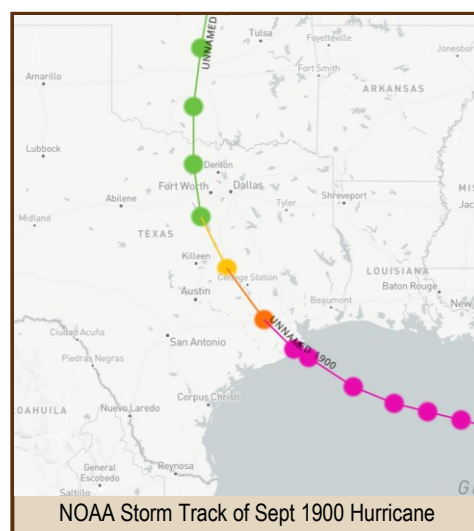
THE 1900 HURRICANE IN CYPRESS

When we hear "1900 Hurricane" we rightly think of Galveston and the massive devastation that the storm wreaked on that community in September, 123 years ago. What is often overlooked is the massive amount of damage that storm did to the rest of Texas, and to our Cypress community particularly.

In the Museum, we have a large, attention-grabbing display of newspaper articles from the time, stating in stark detail the destruction to schools, businesses, churches, trees, crops, and homes in the surrounding communities.

NOAA has researched the storm extensively, their current storm track shows that it was still at Category 2 strength as it passed west of Cypress - leaving Cypress on the "dirty side" of that deadly monster.

Nearly every home was damaged, one house was simply moved 18 inches, entire groves of trees were wiped out, cotton fields destroyed, Fairbanks school was destroyed. St. John Lutheran Church was destroyed, rebuilt, destroyed again in the 1915 hurricane [a story for another time], and rebuilt yet again. Testament to the resilience of the German Lutherans who settled this area and made it their home.



Grave marker for the Fischer family, Fairbanks Cemetery

That hurricane spawned tornadoes, one of which was particularly devastating to the Fischer family. The deep tragedy is clear in the dates on the Fischer family grave marker at Fairbanks Cemetery. It's painful to imagine losing 4 of your 5 children and somehow continuing on. Yet carry on they did. The Fischers had two more children, and Katherine was midwife to the community, helping to bring the father of our board member, Beverly Richardson, into the world!

So if you find yourself wondering why it seems Cypress doesn't have a whole lot of buildings dating from the 1800s, and maybe not as many actual Cypress trees as you think there should be...give a thought to those who survived the hurricane of 1900, those who were lost, and the beautiful community they created for us to enjoy 123 years later.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Price Increase for 2024: December is time to renew your annual membership with the Cypress Historical Society. You'll save money by renewing early! After April the cost of membership will be **\$20 for individual and \$35 for family**. If you get your renewal for 2024 in before April, the cost is \$15 individual and \$25 family as has been the price since 2010. Membership runs with the calendar year, your renewal date is shown next to your name on this newsletter mailing address

SAVE THE DATE

Rosehill Social Club
Annual Fundraiser
Sunday after Mother's Day
May 19, 2024

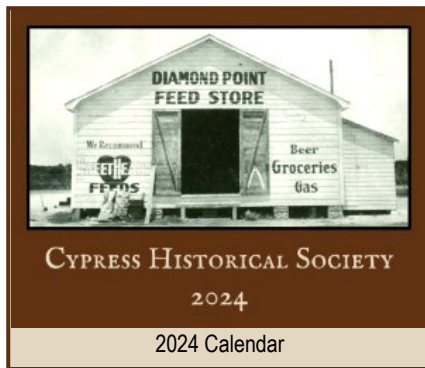
CHS SCHOLARSHIP

By Becky Martin

The Society is pleased to announce that we will be offering the Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$3,000. The scholarship is open to all current Cy-Fair ISD seniors and graduates of the district who are currently enrolled in a 2- or 4-year college. All information and forms may be found on our website cypresshistoricalsociety.com.

Applications are due by April 15, 2024 and scholarship[s] will be awarded in May of next year.

CHS 2024 CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE



The 2024 CHS Calendar is now available! You can order via our website or in person at the library.

This year's edition includes favorite old Cypress events like the Rodeos, Trail Rides, and Cattle Auctions. We've also included the amazing single-year Depression-era transformation of Juergens Store, technological advancements in road grading and paving, old time child-care, a snowstorm, and a family home that now lies underneath the freeway.

The Calendar is still only \$15, incredible inflation-avoidance made possible by the generous and long-time support of our sponsors. If you would like us to mail you a calendar, please add \$2.50 shipping and handling per unit. You can always order by mail, send a check to the P.O. Box shown in the masthead.

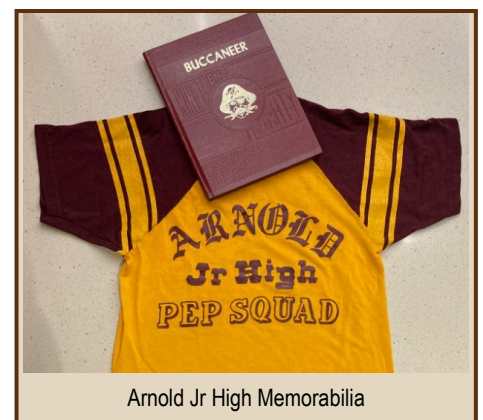
LIBRARY & MUSEUM UPDATE

ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

Museum Displays continue to grow and be updated. Labelling and identifying our artifacts is an ongoing project, and thanks to generous donors we continue to get new items of historical interest to put on display.

This grouping of rare and interesting coins ranges in date from 1853 to 1944.

The Arnold Jr High shirt and yearbook are, of course, rather more modern, dating from the late 1970s. Well, OK, the 70s seem modern to some of us - positively ancient to others!



VISIT FROM THE SENIORS OF HOMETOWNE AT TOMBALL

We were delighted to have a busload of ladies [and one gentleman] from Hometowne at Tomball come to visit Cypress Top Historic Park. Their arduous journey to CHS was reminiscent of the challenges our ancestors had - they finally arrived on the FIFTH bus that had been sent for them. And the day was SO VERY hot - just a challenge from the start. They all arrived in good cheer and Michelle did a wonderful job showing the Library and Museum and then touring them through the store and the house.

Some of the ladies had grown up in the area, remembered quite a few of the buildings and streets that we have photographs of. They recalled the catfish pond where Lowe's is now situated. None of the locals were able to identify the chicken catcher - Donna from Ohio knew what it was though! Patsy remembered having seen wolf pelts hanging on fences back in the 1960s.

We do so love having these group tours - contact the Community Center to set one up for your group! 713-274-3188



At the Museum, with Michelle



Ready to Head back Home!



In the Store

CY-FAIR ISD CORNER AT THE MUSEUM

We have a large and varied collection of memorabilia from Cy-Fair ISD, displayed beautifully at the Museum.

Come visit, and share your stories while you're here, you may end up in a newsletter article!

Our goal for 2024 is to review and inventory everything we have both in CFISD corner and in the larger display cases. We're always looking for volunteers to help!



Cy-Fair ISD Corner at the Museum

HOW YOU CAN HELP CHS

- Choose us on Kroger Community Rewards
- Become a Member
- Volunteer with us - we will find a place for your gifts and talents

LET US KNOW ABOUT

- Upcoming reunions
- Social events
- Tour requests
- Presentation requests

FAMILY HISTORY

CYPRESS' SOLOMON FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO KOHRVILLE

By Joanne Green

The Solomon family were early Cypress settlers whose family farm [and cemetery] was at Skinner and Hempstead. That area has now been taken over entirely by Hwy 290, and the history of the Solomon family is now being preserved in Kohrville, by the Kohrville Community Association.



Milledge Jr and Annie Wood Solomon

The story of this one family reminds us that our small historical preservation societies need to work together where possible to ensure that our families' stories are not lost.

Milledge [Bud] and Hattie Clow Solomon settled in Cypress in the late 1800's. Milledge and Hattie had two sons, who traveled to Kohrville/Tomball area, meeting two of Willis and Sarah Amos Wood daughters. Milledge, Jr married Annie J. Woods

Solomon and they had children. Henry didn't marry but had a daughter by Hortense Woods Yell. Milledge Jr. and Henry are buried in the Amos cemetery in Kohrville.

Going forward, the community established the Kohrville Community Association to preserve the history. In 2022 we received a parcel of property where we will erect a community center, open to the public. We are fundraising to complete the project debt free and welcome donations to assist in making this vision a reality.

Joanne Green is President of the Kohrville Community Association.

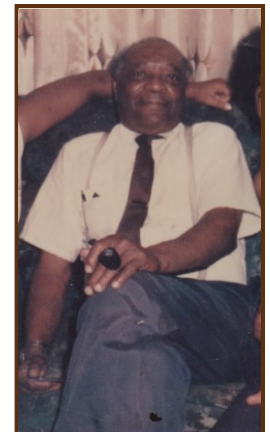
kohrvillecommunityassociation.com



Milledge and Hattie Crow Solomon



Willis and Sarah Amos Wood



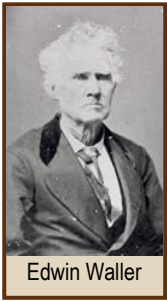
Henry H. Solomon

AREA HISTORY

WHERE DID WALLER COUNTY GET ITS NAME?

Waller County, and Waller the city are part of the "Houston-Cypress metropolitan area" and, like Cypress, were primarily rural farming land until the huge population boom of the last 50 years. How did it get its name? Who was Waller?

Edwin Leonard Waller, b.1800, lived in Brazoria and ran a shipping business, moving cotton from Velasco to New Orleans. The New Orleans port was a common entry port for the German



Edwin Waller

immigrants who settled Cypress. It's not certain, but possible he transported some of the very early Cypress immigrants, or at least supplied them and knew them.

He became active in the Texas Independence movement, ultimately signing the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Afterwards he was tapped by Lamar to design the layout of downtown Austin, and became that city's first mayor.

In 1873 a new county was carved out of Austin and Grimes County, and named in his honor. That same year he served as the first president of the Texas Veterans Association. He had 7 children, and at the time of his death was working to get Texas Revolution veterans recognized by the state.

CHRISTMAS IN CYPRESS

Cypress may not have massive commercial Christmas displays like Houston does, but we do have wondrous home-grown Christmas displays well worth taking a drive to see. What I've found wonderful about these individual "labor of love" type displays is that they generally will inspire the rest of the neighborhood to decorate as well, so you'll plan to see one house, and find yourself driving through an entire neighborhood.

The following addresses are publicly promoted for Christmas Light tourists to see, perhaps a drive around Cypress one of these evenings can put a smile on your face.

- Gullo House, 30723 Old Hockley Road, Magnolia
- The Johnsons' Christmas Corner, 14811 Cypress Meadow Dr.
- Santa's Workshop, 21915 Sheffield Gray Trail
- NJ's Texas Christmas Lights, 14419 Leaning Aspen Ct.

Modern Cypress is so full, so populated, so busy, so impersonal that it can be difficult to see and feel the community that is still here. Touring neighborhood Christmas lights lets you see a bit of the people who live in those houses, to rejoice with them in their expressions of festive spirit.

Why not combine a Christmas light tour with a stop at a neighborhood restaurant or even a wander around the outlet mall. Seize the chance to really see your neighbors, smile at them, wish them a Merry Christmas - you'll find that the small Cypress community is still there, it just needs to be acknowledged.

Merry Christmas to all!



DID YOU KNOW?

Advent Calendars are a tradition that comes to us via German Lutherans. Cypress' settler families would have brought that tradition with them from their homeland.



Cypress Historical Society

Founded 2008

Our mission is to discover, educate, promote, collect, preserve and make available to the public, historical documents and artifacts of the Cypress area.

Darline Roth
Research Library and Museum
at Cypress Top Historic Park
26026 Hempstead Rd
Cypress, TX 77429-7321
Phone: 281-758-0083

Hours
TUESDAY 9am-4pm
THURSDAY 9am-Noon
FRIDAY 9am-Noon

Board of Directors
President—Michelle Christie
Secretary—Stacie McKay
Treasurer—Becky Martin
Barbara Fisk-Dorr
Celeste Haltom
Beverly Richardson
Erline Schoenfeldt
Levern Smith

Board Meetings
1pm, first Friday every month
all are welcome

Mailing Address
Cypress Historical Society
P.O. Box 2963
Cypress, TX 77410

Website
Cypresshistoricalsociety.com

Newsletter
Editor—Leslie Price
news@cypresshistoricalsociety.com

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



CYPRESSHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM



MEMBERSHIP

\$15/yr individual
\$25/yr family

WHO WE ARE

The Cypress Historical Society [CHS], a 501(c)3 organization, was founded in March 2008.

Our mission is to make the rich, colorful history of the Cypress area known to the current residents of Cypress and the public in general

WHAT WE DO

We preserve local artifacts, conduct genealogical research of the settling families, assist the public with their own family history research, offer history presentations, assist the County with tours of Cypress Top Park, and more.