

Cypress Creek - a trail leading to Texas independence from the Empire of Mexico and opening the portal to the Pacific.

Texas has been an unending scene of world-class historical events. Coronado's expedition seeking the fabled golden Seven Cities of Cibola. "Spindle Top", a gusher which blew the derrick to bits becoming the biggest find of oil in American history. Lieutenant Audie Murphy, the most decorated U.S. soldier of World War II.

Harris County has repeatedly been the stage for some of Texas' greatest historical events. Home of the world's first covered stadium. A world medical mecca, the Texas Medical Center where transplanting hearts is no longer considered the daily miracle. Home of the Space Center and the astronauts who achieved President Kennedy's challenge to land men on the moon and return safely home in the 1960's thereby paving the way to the end of the cold war and opening the frontier to man's exploration of the universe.

This article is dedicated to preservation of a tract of Cypress Creek property which shared in one of the most famous historical happenings of all; General Sam Houston's journey across North Harris County trailing Cypress Creek and leading to the Texas destiny of becoming an independent republic when a few days later his army conquered Santa Anna at San Jacinto. Quoting from published history, "As old-timers tell it, they [Houston and his soldiers] camped on the way [to San Jacinto] under the gigantic "Old Sam Houston Oak" near present highway

149's crossing of Cypress Creek. Outnumbered two to one at San Jacinto, the Texans took advantage of the Mexicans' siesta and with shouts of "**Remember the Alamo**" triumphed on the afternoon of April 21, 1836". The battle reportedly was over in 17 minutes and created the independent **Republic of Texas**.

The property bordering SH 249 and Louetta - for which a rapidly growing force of North Harris community leaders and organizations is seeking preservation before it is too late to save from destruction - is the southern portion of a 462 acre tract bordering Sam Houston's trail along Cypress Creek. It was once owned by German settlers and later by the Marshall family; the owners of world renowned Gleannloch Farms and breeder of the Egyptian Arabian stallion 'Morafic, a U.S. Grand Champion. Heavily forested and maintained in pristine condition, they dug a 64-acre lake on the south end using it for family outings. Later sold to Compaq Computer in 1989 for intended expansion of their world headquarters, it remained undeveloped and is now in the final stages of sale by Hewlett-Packard to what will surely bring a premium price economically necessitating high density construction.

Is this property the site of the "Old Sam Houston Oak"? We do

know it clearly is the center-fold of a series of inter-connecting parks, trails, open space and foot paths in an environmentally nature-oriented, flood-mitigation, watershed management program destined to make the Cypress Creek watershed home to what we call the "**Cypress Creek Greenway**". This quality-of-life project will stretch from the confluence with Spring Creek on the north to "The Bridgelands" master planned community just breaking ground in the western part of the watershed. Please support this undertaking and watch our web-site for more information. And lend your personal or community organization's support to the challenge of preserving the footpath of Sam Houston and his army. It is our children's and our grandchildren's heritage.

This is one in a series of **Look Upstream** articles provided to neighborhood newsletter editors by the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition (CCFCC) as a public service. Visit us www.ccfcc.org to read about the Hewlett-Packard property (and to whom you can e-mail a supporting message). This and information about the Cypress Creek Greenway are provided in the **News** section.

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