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*Coppell  
Historical  
Society*

## THE COPPELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### February 2015 Newsletter

#### **Greetings!**

Welcome to our February newsletter.

This month, we will continue to monitor the trail system as to the impact it might on the historic Grapevine Springs Park (see below for public workshop date.)

Our other efforts include a proposed tree ordinance for the city to consider. You can see an update the ordinance below.

We will be launching our updated web site with some new features such as using PayPal for membership dues (see bottom of newsletter.)

#### **February Events**

February 11 - The City of Coppell is seeking input regarding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan during a public workshop scheduled for Wed., 2/11/15 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Council Chambers.



February 14 - Valentine Tea for kids from 11 to 12 noon at the Kirkland House. There just might be some fun activity to go with the tea.

Also on the 14th is the regular monthly meeting at the Kirkland House at Coppell Heritage Park in Old Town Coppell. We will begin with a short program on the 92 million year old ammonite fossil our group found during our archaeological dig in November (maybe featuring a paleontologist.)

You do not need to be a member to come to the short program or to stay for the business meeting. We welcome all visitors.

In the business portion of the meeting will be updates on the most recent historical plaques and the permanent Kirkland sign.

February 21 - Monthly open house and docent lead tours of the Kirkland House and the Minyard's Store.

## Passing of A Dear Friend

### Juanita Barfknecht Carson Strong (1927 - 2015)

Born November 17, 1927 in Coppell, TX and passed away January 30, 2015 in Carrollton, TX. She graduated as Salutatorian of Carrollton High School, Class of 1945.



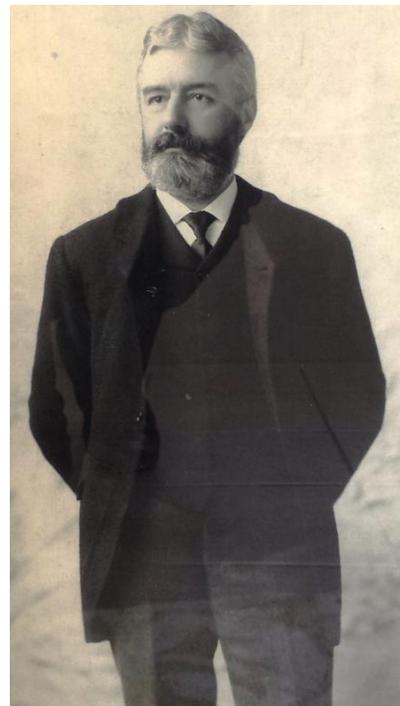
She was a member of the **Coppell Historical Society**, the Elks Lodge #71, and St. Paul Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ (6464 E. Lovers Lane, Dallas), where a memorial service will be held on Friday, February 6, 2015 at 12:00 pm.

Juanita was a member of a "pioneer" family in Coppell. Only recently, Juanita had donated a number of family items to the restored Kirkland House, and she was a source of information about Coppell history.

## What's In A Name



**The Train Depot**



**George Coppell**

In 1892, the post office in Gibbs, Texas, officially changed its name to Coppell, matching the sign that was on the fancy train depot. For many years, it was believed that the town's namesake (George Coppell) was a train engineer on the line that ran through town. It was

only recently that we finally found Mr. Coppel and that he was actually a very wealthy financier who invested in and set on the boards of various railroad companies.

## Tree Ordinance

### Update

The Park Board subcommittee looking into updating the Tree Ordinance placed the item on the December 1, 2014 agenda and conducted a discussion which included feedback received from our tree committee and the Economic Development Committee. Special thanks to Pat Lambert of spearheading this effort.

## Roy E. Childres Memorial Boys Ranch

During the 1960's, Coppel was the home of the Roy E. Childres Memorial Boys Ranch. It was an 80 acre farm, a place for troubled boys from the Dallas area to live a structured and supervised life, and to help them get back on the right track.

The Society is now seeking any information on the ranch and would love to be able to obtain any photos that may exist.

If you know anything about the ranch, please contact our secretary, Pete Wilson at [info@coppelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@coppelhistoricalsociety.org).

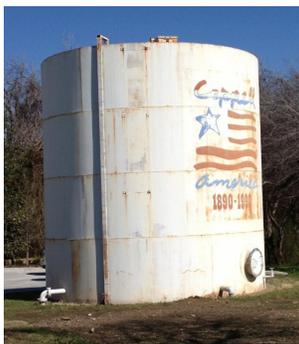
## Landmark Of The Month

### Old Town Coppel Water Tank

Coppel's first public water storage tank is located on the property between Coppel Home Decor and the House of Style. The tank, erected in 1960, was restored by the city in 2013. The artwork that was painted by the Exchange Club in honor of the City's Centennial in 1990 was restored to its former glory.



See the "before" photo below.



**Help Us Make History**

## From Wheelice Wilson, Jr., Historical Society Secretary

Every now and then someone new to Coppell will ask me something about our town's history. If the question is about Sam Houston's visit in 1843) or about the city's first mayor in the early 1960s, I can often answer it off the top of my head. But lately the questions have been about something from the 1980s or 1990s. Whoa! That's no history to me. That's barely yesterday!

The point is, sometimes we get so busy collecting historic photos and making oral histories, we forget that history is being made every day and needs to be recorded. After all it was some local citizen's casual snapshot from 1950 that so intrigues us today, and it will our smartphone snapshot that may intrigue members of our Historical Society in 2050. I have resolved to go out and take photos of every major intersection in Coppell at least once a year.

That's just one example of the kind of project that our Society has taken on in the last few years. There have been many, and we're starting to bust with pride from our successes. Preserving our oldest house. Filling it with antiques. Conducting tours. Creating our own historical markers. Identifying our oldest trees. Identifying our town's namesake. Influencing our city to preserve our past. Organizing our historic records. Honoring our pioneer families.

Our Historical Society is a doing group. You're invited to join us. After all, what we do today will be history tomorrow.

## Our Display Case

Don't miss out on viewing our display case at the Coppell Senior Center? We change the theme and items approximately every 6 months. Our first topic was early life in Coppell, followed by the Cotton Belt Railroad, and now we have early schools in Coppell. If you have not visited the center to see the case, be sure to go by and take a look. We also welcome your suggestions for future themes.



## Coppell Historical Society Officers 2015

**Don Carter**

**Pat Lambert**

**Patti Carpenter**

**Pete Wilson**

**Barbara Lee**

**Jan Lorrain**

**President**

**Vice-President**

**Vice-President**

**Secretary**

**Corresponding Secretary**

**Treasurer**

We hope you enjoy receiving the monthly newsletter, in which we will try to keep you informed of events impacting the historical sites within Coppell, especially Old Town Coppell.

We want you to feel free to pass this newsletter along to your anyone you think may be interested in the Society or the history of Coppell in general.

You can join our Society for only \$10.00 a year and enjoy the many benefits of membership.

Go ahead, give us a try. Click on the **Pay Now** button below.



Sincerely,

*Don Carter*

Don Carter  
President  
Coppell Historical Society

**Bonus: See a story about the mysterious past of Bethel Cemetery**



## Our Mission

**We, as members of the Coppell Historical Society, will concentrate on Preservation, Restoration, and Communication of Coppell History.**

Please visit our web sites.

[www.coppellhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.coppellhistoricalsociety.org)

[www.coppellheritagepark.org](http://www.coppellheritagepark.org)

Follow us on 

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