Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy the holiday with your family and friends and make many wonderful memories this season. Our volunteers and staff have again decorated the buildings for your enjoyment and as a backdrop for your family photos. Thanks again to a special volunteer who painted the windows of the store in the fashion that was typical of the mid-20th century.

While we had no special tours in November, early voting at Juergen’s Hall brought many new visitors to the park who discovered the museums when they voted. Many will make it a point to return and enjoy the park when they have more time.

History Bus Trip
The November History Bus Trip visited Liendo Plantation in Hempstead and attended the Civil War reenactment that is held every year on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. The Greek Revival-style mansion was built in 1853 as the centerpiece of the Justo Liendo Plantation, one of Texas’ early cotton plantations.

As they arrived at the site, participants were greeted by men marching off to war (or at least reenactors marching off to a reenactment), but one could scarcely tell the difference. A shuttle service was offered from the parking lot, but our seniors chose to walk. They found the army camps lining both sides of the road were too compelling to just zip past on a shuttle.
The mansion survived the War Between the States largely because of military legend George Armstrong Custer. He and his wife stayed at the plantation while he awaited resupply for his cavalry in Hempstead immediately following the war. He was on his way to Austin where he would be the Union Commander of Cavalry in Texas from 1865 to 1866. They were so impressed by the gracious hospitality bestowed upon them by Liendo, that he assured the building was not destroyed.

Special events included a skirmish right in front of the Liendo Plantation mansion and also a fashion show, where ladies presented the *dernier cri* in 19th century apparel. In addition, the participants found a food court where they enjoyed a variety of carnival-style fare. There was also a selection of vendors which included artisans with crafts, authors with books, and displays and presentations by historical organizations. The latter included a booth from Houston's National Museum of Funeral History, which featured an exhibit on the Civil War's new technology: soldier embalming. Further along was "Sutler's Row", a vendor row which provided an impression of merchants during the Civil War time period. These merchants were selling reenacting gear and Civil War-era souvenirs. All of this is anchored by the mansion, which is open for tours and has docents dressed in period clothes stationed in each room.
And of course the main event was the battle which was staged in the afternoon. While we don’t know if our participants were pulling for the Blue or the Gray, they surely felt the day’s outcome was splendid.

Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

Future trips: You may now sign up for the following history bus trips: December 1 Antique Christmas Shopping to Elgin, Giddings and Carmine, January 19 Bell County Museum in Belton, February 16 Danish Heritage Preservation Society Museum Complex in Danevang and March 16 Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton and Chappell Hill Museum in Chappell Hill. Sign up for future trips by emailing cypresstop@pct3.com or calling (281) 357-5324. You may only sign up yourself plus one friend/spouse. No multiple reservations. You will get a confirmation e-mail a week before the trip if you have a seat.
Cypress Top Historic Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The buildings are now open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Formal tours of the museum complex led by CHS volunteers begin from Juergen’s Store at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each Tuesday. However, we are happy to have you visit the store anytime while we are there to give you an impromptu tour of any of the buildings. **Group (6 or more) tours may be booked Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.** Group tours are subject to staff availability, so we recommend you make reservations at least one month in advance. The park and museum buildings are open to all and, as with all events offered at Cypress Top Historic Park, **admissions and tours are free.**

Juergen’s Hall is a community center. It offers many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the Precinct Three website at [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen’s Hall Community Center.

Members of the Cypress Historical Society are in the Cypress Train Depot (bright yellow building) at Cypress Top Historic Park every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and also on the third Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. They have a great deal of genealogy information on most early Cypress area families. Drop in and visit them when you are in the area.

The December and January calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site. [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) There is a link from the park web page as well.