La. Cypress Takes Place as ‘Tree Eternal’ in State

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

BATON ROUGE, La. — Cypress long known as the “wood eternal” has been officially proclaimed Louisiana’s state tree — the “tree eternal” — by the Legislature.

Louisiana has never in all its colorful, and sometimes violent, history had a state tree. Cypress, the silent sentinel of the swamps, in the passing of these rugged years has provided a source of warmth, wealth, and shelter for early and latter day Louisianians.

Indeed, it was in 1699 that Lt. Gov. C. C. “Taddy” Aycock aptly put it, was “35 ayes and one pine tree!”

Thus it is fitting, in the wake of this official action, that Louisianians embrace this craggy, ancient tree as their own, giving it the place in their hearts and history books it has so well earned.