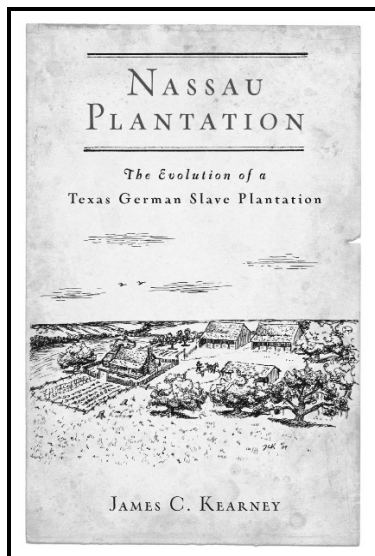




University of North Texas Press



Nassau Plantation

The Evolution of a Texas German Slave Plantation

BY JAMES C. KEARNEY

368 pp. 19 b&w illus.

Hardcover \$32.95

In the 1840s an organization of German noblemen, the *Mainzner Adelsverein*, attempted to settle thousands of German emigrants on the Texas frontier. Nassau Plantation, located near modern-day Round Top, Texas, in northern Fayette County, was a significant part of this story. James C. Kearney has studied a wealth of original source material (much of it in German) to illuminate the history of the plantation and the larger goals and motivation of the *Adelsverein*. This new study highlights the problematic relationship of German emigrants to slavery. Few today realize that the society's original colonization plan included ownership and operation of slave plantations. Ironically, the German settlements the society later established became hotbeds of anti-slavery and anti-secessionist sentiment.

German Pioneers on the American Frontier

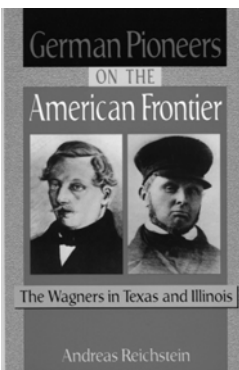
The Wagners in Texas and Illinois

BY ANDREAS REICHSTEIN

288 pp. 26 b&w illus. 6 maps.

Hardcover \$32.95

This is a case study of two brothers, Julius and Wilhelm Wagner, who immigrated to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. Reichstein, the author of the award-winning *Rise of the Lone Star*, discusses their family history within the debate about assimilation and acculturation. "It has so much to offer those of us interested in German-American heritage and, more particularly, German-Texan heritage."—*Victoria Advocate*



Voyage to North America, 1844-45

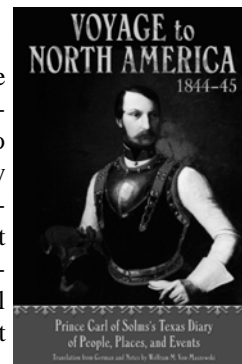
*Prince Carl of Solms's Texas Diary
of People, Places, and Events*

BY WOLFRAM M. VON-MASZEWSKI

256 pp. 4 b&w illus. 11 maps.

Hardcover \$32.50

Carl, Prince of Solms-Braunfel, was the key figure in the largest and most unusual single immigration of Germans to the United States. In his personal diary he wrote daily records of personal contacts with Texas officials and important citizens, numerous Germans of all stations already in Texas, and occasional Indian bands. He described the extent and nature of his daily travels and, when warranted, included descriptions of the region or the city or settlement, particularly the German settlements.



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77880.**

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THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2010

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Vielen Dank to these contributors

Rodney Koenig, Houston
Van Massirer, Crawford
Daniel Bode, Dayton
Dean Weirtz, Schertz
Carl Luckenback, Fredericksburg
Herb Steppenback,

Anna Thompson, Dublin
Connie Krause, New Braunfels
Jean Warneke, Austin
Dorothy Rothermel, Brenham
Wes Schulze, San Antonio



SEE YOU IN FREDERICKSBURG IN SEPTEMBER

In Memoriam



Victor O. Fritze

Victor O. Fritze, born in San Antonio, Texas, December 22, 1909, died April 5, 2010 in New Braunfels, Texas at age 100. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy in 1994 and his son Lee in 2003. Survivors are daughter and son-in-law Joan C. and Larry Crowell, daughter-in-law Joan G. Fritze, 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He graduated from Texas A & M in 1931 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Prior to serving in World War II, he was with the Texas Highway Department in Del Rio and Uvalde. He retired as Deputy Civilian Post Engineer at Ft. Sam Houston in 1971. He was a charter member of Triumphant Lutheran Church and more recently, a member of Peace Lutheran Church. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday at Zoeller Funeral Home, New Braunfels, with funeral services at Peace Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, scheduled for Saturday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Gary Lange officiating. Interment will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13 at Mission Burial Park, South, San Antonio. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the building funds of Triumphant Lutheran Church, Garden Ridge or Peace Lutheran Church, New Braunfels.

San Antonio Express News

New Braunfels Victor Fritze turns 100 today

By Bryan Shettig

The Herald-Zeitung, Published **December 22, 2009**

When Victor Fritze woke up this morning, he had been on this earth for a century. Today is his 100th birthday. He celebrated Monday with friends and family at Eden Hill Communities in New Braunfels. "I feel fine," Fritze said with a smile and a shrug when asked about the big day. He lives independently in a cottage at EdenHill and enjoys taking regular walks and playing bridge.

A native of San Antonio, Fritze graduated from Texas A&M in 1931, worked for the state highway department and served in the Navy during World War II, attaining the rank of lieutenant. After the war, Fritze was a civilian civil engineer at Fort Sam Houston. He and his wife, Dorothy, raised two children and were married 62 years before she passed away. Fritze's three grandchildren and six of seven great-grandchildren traveled from Houston, Ohio and Colorado to be there Monday.

His granddaughter, Sharon Anderson of Houston, said Fritze's longevity might have to do with her grandfather's love of games such as bridge and cribbage. Or maybe it was Blue Bell Ice Cream, she said, which Anderson remembers her grandfather always had on hand and which EdenHill staff served along with the birthday cake Monday. But longevity is also in the Fritze genes. Victor Fritze's mother, whose paternal grandfather emigrated from Germany to New Braunfels in 1845, also lived to be more than 100 years old.

There was a slideshow Monday of photos from Fritze's childhood, war years and hunting trips. Also on display were letters of congratulations from U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Doug Miller. Members of the Peace Lutheran Church in New Braunfels held a party for Fritze on Sunday with more than 150 in attendance.

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President's Notes

Your *Journal* is smaller for two reasons. First, we are using the *Schulhaus Reporter* for the more time sensitive events so you don't miss out on anything and secondly, fewer submissions this time around! I know there continue to be great stories out there so don't hesitate to send them to me or to headquarters in Austin. And do you like the new font on the front cover? Or would you prefer the old one? Or can you suggest something else? This is the 101st edition so I thought it might be time for a change. Would love your feedback.



Graduations and Maifests are over, thank goodness. GTHS participated in the Brenham Maifest on May 8 as well as throwing our own Maifest at the German Free School the same day! Your board members were stretched thin. Thanks to the hard work of our carpenters in residence, the "stage" was finished just in time to house all the German bands that came to play. While participation was down due to questionable weather and the market having plunged that Friday, we continue to establish ourselves as **THE** place to be with children in tow to get the real feel of a true German tradition. I think that bodes well for our mission!

The "stage" is just perfect and will be a continuing presence seen from the street to let people know who we are and what we do. It will be used at our Oktoberfest and can't you just see it festooned in Christmas lights for a place to sit and drink hot gluwain at our Christmas Market! We continue to work on getting appropriate permits to begin to use the building in many more ways to raise funds for our organization. And we will host a lovely wedding in June.

The Bryan German class has taken off like gangbusters with members participating in several "immersions" (actually an excuse to drink the appropriate German beer and get to know one another). They have a wonderful time and many new friends are being made and recipes shared. Let us know if your community would make a good project for German classes.

Check out the special section on the Fredericksburg area beginning on page 145. I thought it would be helpful to "educate" those of us who will be going to the annual meeting in September, to show up smarter than our presenters! I hope you are making plans to attend as there is a great lineup of speakers and things to do. We are extending to our Texas German Society member friends GTHS rates for the meeting so encourage them to come. Many of us attending their annual meeting in Brenham in March were welcomed with open arms.

I would also encourage you to support our sponsors. I had the pleasure of hearing James Kearney twice in Brenham in reference to his new book, "Nassau Plantation" which the University of North Texas Press has for sale. Your participation as a sponsor or in support of a sponsor can be so helpful in many ways. There is a sponsor agreement in the back of your *Journal* for your use as well as a membership form for you to give to a friend. And also at the back is a listing of the books GTHS has for sale. Is your library complete? Watch for some really good bargains at the annual meeting as we need to deplete our inventory!

We have three board positions unfilled and are looking for individuals who want to have as much fun as we are having!!! Consider getting involved at the board level.

See you in September in Fredericksburg. *Mary*

Executive Director's Report

Briefly ...

I consider working in the beautiful and historic German Free School to be a job benefit in and of itself. While the best kept secret in Austin, we still receive a considerable number of visitors and we are the recipient of all things German when people move. Not a week goes by that we don't find another box (or boxes) of German language books, whether novels or text books, cassette tapes of music, or furnishings.



Recently we got an out-of-the-blue call with a furniture donation. Linda and John Amey were moving house and had one piece that wouldn't fit in their new place. Knowing it to be built by German craftsmen in the early 1900's, they asked if we would accept their donation of a *Gründerjahre* style buffet. We could hardly say no to such a gracious offer, but knowing it to be a big piece (10' tall, 6' wide) we had to measure and find the right spot. The Amey's not only donated the buffet and paid to have it delivered, but at the last minute, threw in a rug as well. The *Gründerjahre* buffet is now the showpiece in our parlor.

Getting to know our members and volunteers has really been fun. Everyone has a reason for joining and everyone has a story. It is encouraging to know how popular our German language classes are, not just in Austin, but around the state. In addition to adults and children classes in Austin, we offer courses in Round Rock, San Antonio, and Brenham. This year we began classes in Byran, which have proved to be very popular. Not only is the group learning *der, die oder das*, but new friendships are forming around the class experience. Talk about *Gemütlichkeit!* We would like to see this repeat around the state. If you are interested in getting something started in your area, contact Melanie in our office at programs@germantexans.org or call 512-482-0927 or 866-482-GTHS (4847).

Your board is working hard on the Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg planned for September 24/25. Meeting chair Carl Luckenbach has put together a line up of speakers that truly speak to our roots. Registration forms will be ready soon and will be announced on our website and in the next *Schulhaus Reporter*. Membership in the German-Texan Heritage Society is more than receiving a newsletter, the bi-monthly *Schulhaus Reporter*, and the quarterly *Journal*. It is a pledge by our members to keep alive the stories of their ancestors and pass them on to their children. Your membership dues also help keep the administration of the Society alive and we appreciate everyone who has renewed or even stepped up their level of membership. In just the last two months, we have two new life members. Thanks to all of you.

Jean Warneke
Executive Director

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig (past President of GTHS)



There are numerous ways to Leave Your German Mark. Jim Kearney has just published a wonderful book entitled “Nassau Plantation” which details much history of the headquarters of the Adelsverein in the 1840s. It speaks of run-away slaves, German Princes, extravagant parties, a shootout on the streets of La Grange, disappearance of valuable art and publishing it in Europe as the work of another. Nassau Plantation is located in the Jack League of Fayette County, Texas, outside of Round Top and Winedale. This property belonged to the Adelsverein, to Otto von Roeder and to my sons’ maternal great great great grandparents von Rosenberg. In his wonderful book, Jim Kearney has left his German mark and has pulled together the exciting history of Nassau Plantation. Why was it called Nassau Plantation? You may order a copy from the University of North Texas or through Amazon and find out.

The Texas German Singing Societies are also actively leaving their mark. The Nord-Amerikanischer Saengerbund held its National Saengerfest in San Antonio, Texas, on April 9-11, 2010. This is the first National Saengerfest held in Texas. We had Houston Saengerbund, Houston Liederkrantz, Austin Saengerrunde, Beethoven Maennerchor, San Antonio Liederkrantz, Dallas Frohsinn Gesangverein and Damenchor, Beethoven Damenchor, Houston Saengerbund Damenchor, Austin Saengerrunde Damenchor, New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonie, the Germania Chor, Chorgemeinschaft Texas, as well as a number of out-of-state German choruses which attended. We had over 1500 voices singing on Saturday evening at the Convention Center in San Antonio. German Consul General Roland Herrmann attended and greeted the numerous singing clubs from all over the United States. Horst Britsche of Houston Liederkrantz designed the beautiful program. The singers joyfully left their mark!

How will you leave your German Mark? Join one of the German singing groups. Write up a family history of your German ancestors and present it to your family reunion this summer. Include portions of your German family history in news articles about your reunion. Use the internet to locate long-lost relatives in America and in Europe. Genealogy is a never-ending puzzle which can keep you and your cousins busy almost indefinitely. Have you found and translated old letters sent by your forebears? Providing funds to publish the history of German singing and other groups is important.

Another good way to Leave Your German Mark is by providing funds in your Will or by beneficiary designation of your IRA, 401(k) or life insurance policy. Name German-Texan Heritage Society (GTHS) as one of your beneficiaries to provide for further research of German-Texan history. For help, please call Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333, or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com. Any GTHS board member will also be pleased to speak with you and help.

Genealogy Inquiries: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

If you have information that will assist with the following queries, please respond to the submitter at the address given.

Do **YOU** have a genealogy question? Send it to Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor, e-mail: erootrot@usa.net or 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. We reserve the right to edit queries. Queries are printed as space permits at no charge.



WICKERSHEIM – SENSENBRENNER Bible:

Lydia E. Beigert, 5011 Krueger Dr., Dickinson, TX 77539-7514 is trying to find a descendant of August Wickersheim born 24 Sept. 1846 and Maria Sensenbrenner born 22 Jan. 1846, they were married 17 Sept. 1871 Lutheran Church in Meissenheim, Germany. Children: August b. 1872, Maria Uresele b. 1874, Wilhelm b. 1875, David b. 1876, Friedrich b. 1879, died 8-11-1954, Wilhelm b. 1881, and Theobald b. 1884. Ancestors of this couple include Magdalena Sensenbrenner, Jacob Sensenbrenner and Eva Heimburger all of Meissenheim. This family bible was found a few years ago in Texas.

Reply: August and Maria Sensenbrenner died 15 July 1889 Polk County, Iowa. He and his wife are buried in the German Cemetery. Possibly, some direct descendants can be found in or near Polk County? There are some Wickersheim listed in the 1920 Des Moines City Directory. I checked the family trees on Ancestry.com. Only two people with Wickersheim as collateral lines responded to my query. Neither was a direct descendant. If you could obtain an obituary for August and/or Maria, you might have survivors as of their respective time of death.

Rebentisch:

Dr. Cornelius Fischer, Käathe-Kollwitz-Weg 12, D-37085 Göttingen, Germany, fuerstengraben@googlemail.com researching Karl/Carl F. Rebentisch born 1806 Geyersdorf (a village close to the town of Annaberg in the Erzgebirge, Saxony). He immigrated 23 Dec., 1853 to Galveston (information from “New Homes in a New Land” by Ethel H. Geue). I am interested in where Rebentisch settled in Texas.

Reply: The only Rebentisch I’ve found so far is a G.W. Rebentisch in New Orleans on the 1860 census. He was born circa 1810 Hannover. 1870 New Orleans census has a Charles Rebentisch born Louisiana circa 1845. There are other people with surname Rebentisch on later US censuses, but none matching your criteria. I’ve checked Texas and US censuses, Galveston Tax Lists and Naturalizations, and just about everything I can think 1860 and before.

The translated and transcribed ship’s list for the 1853 ss “Suwa” is in “Volume I Passenger Lists for Galveston 1850-1855”, research by Eva Lembcke, translation by Joseph Bittersman and Bernard Kneuper, September, 1985. According to the forward in this book, Mrs. Lembcke was a librarian in the Chamber of Commerce Library, Hamburg, Germany. Also stated the published lists are from German newspapers: “Allgemeine Auswanderer Zeitung” published in Hamburg, and the “Deutsche Auswanderer Zeitung” published in Bremen. To complicate matters, the listing in “Volume I Pass. Lists for Galveston 1850-1855” has ‘E. F. Nebentisch from Kassel’ listed as passenger on the ss “Suwa” NOT Rebentisch. Perhaps Nebentisch is a typo? But what about the E.F.? I would suggest you try to find the before mentioned German newspapers in Germany. No matter how careful the transcriber or translator is, errors can unfortunately still occur.

KLATT – KRUEGER – KUNKEL – BERNHARDT – SEIBERT:

Gail Ferguson, 532 CR 420A, Comanche, TX 76442, txfarmboy35@yahoo.com, Researching Wilhelm Klatt and Wilhelmina Sommerfeld and others of Washington County, Texas. Wilhelm and Wilhelmina married in Schokken, but church records state she was from Margonin. Is film available for Margonin?

Reply: Margonin, Posen, Germany, now Chodziej, Poznan (Poland). Use www.familysearch.org, click on Search Records, click on place search, enter Margonin, Germany. Records available from LDS/Mormons are:

Kirchenbuch (Church books) 1790-1944 for Evangelical, and Catholic 1810-1819 & 1690-1955. Also, use www.tsl.state.tx.us to see what Washington Co., TX records have been microfilmed (Deeds, Naturalizations, Probate, Tax rolls, etc.) and available to you on interlibrary loan from the Texas State Library and Archives in Austin.

HOLZHAUSER – LIPS:

Deborah Longest, e-mail: dllongest1@yahoo.com need proof of family information regarding death and/or burial of Christian Siegfried Holzhäuser born Patersburg, Germany, 20 April 1810 married Anna Katharina Lips 19 Feb., 1832, arrived Galveston on the ss “Gerhard Herrman”, 1846, went to Indianola, Texas with five sons. Family tradition has Christian going to New Braunfels to claim his land from Prince Solms. Christian supposedly died before he could claim his land.

Reply: (1) Christian could be buried “along the route” from Indianola to New Braunfels. Try cemetery records for counties along the way in 1846-1850 at www.usgenweb.com. Also, www.findagrave.com. (2) Christian Holzhäuser’s German Emigration Contract, dated 22 Oct. 1845, file #001975, can be viewed and printed at the Texas General Land Office site: <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/archives.html>. Click finding aids, then Land Grant Database, do search for Holzhauser. There is also a Peter Holzhauser, deceased, listed for Comal County. You should also check Calhoun Co. Deed indices.

FEUGE – KREUZ – JUNG – BETZ - FISK:

Robert Feuge, 45 Sedona View Dr., Sedona, AZ 86336, e-mail: lobobobbo@npgcable.co, looking for information on the Kreuz ferry located on the confluence of the Comal and Guadalupe River. How did this ferry operate? Also, Jacob Martin Jung died from an accidental gunshot. His widow, Catharine Betz Jung, is rumored to have married a Fisk, and moved to Gillespie Co., TX.

Reply: There is a reference to this ferry in “Civil War Letters of a German Texas Family”, Bieseles’ “German Settlements of Texas” page 205, Oscar Haas’ book pages 81-82, and according to GTHS member, Edgar Oelkers, Jr. of New Braunfels, “New Braunfels Comal County Texas A Pictorial History”, page 45 identifies Florenz Kreuz as (eventual) owner of Ferry...Adolph von Wedemeyer established the first ferry in 1845, with Justus Kellner, Carl Bardenwerper. Gertrude Rawson’s “New Braunfels: A Story of Triumph in Texas”, page 45 has a sketch of loaded ferry boat. Use www.worldcat.org to locate a copy of these books at a library. Try for an interlibrary loan. Florenz Kreuz born 1 June 1827, died November 1885, and is buried in Comal Cemetery, NB.

The 1860 federal census for Gillespie Co., TX has a John Fisk age 60, wife, Cathrine age 60 born Nassau listed. 1870 Gillespie Co. has Catharine Fisk born 1802, Nassau, Germany listed. A search of Comal or Gillespie Co. marriage records might prove the marriage of Mrs. Catharine Betz Jung to John Fisk.

MEINECKE:

Kathy Manuell, 10702 Overbrook Ln., Houston, TX 77042, e-mail: manuellkm@sbcglobal.net still researching Albert Meinecke. Anyone researching the Meineckes of Harris and Austin Cos. Texas?

Reply: “A New Land Beckoned” by Geue lists Albert Meinecke from Schöppenstedt, arrived Galveston 31 Oct. 1846. There is a Ludwig (Louis) Meinecke and wife from the same place and on same ship. There is probably a connection. Branch out. Researching Ludwig Meinecke and family may lead to information on Albert. Also check indexes to Deeds for Harris and Austin Cos. for any land transactions between the two.

ARHELGER – REICHENAU – GEISTWEIDT:

Thomas Porombka, Im Gildenstück 3, 65510 Idstein, Germany, e-mail: thomas.porombka@web.de, would like to make contact with Texas Arhelgers. One member of my Arhelgers, Johann Jacob Arhelger, emigrated to Texas in 1845. Please checkout my website at www.pomware.de.

Reply: “A New Land Beckoned” by Geue has three Arhelgers arriving on the 1845 Voyage of the ss “Herschel”. Jacob age 49 from Rittershausen Nassau, wife, Elis. nee Mueller age 50, children: Elis. 18, Catherine 16, Henry, killed by Indians in 1863 near Fredericksburg, Wilhelm 8 and August 2 to Gillespie County, TX. Others listed are a Jacob age 27; and a Wilhelm from Rittershausen, wife, Catherine nee Gruen. I would check your surnames on www.switchboard.com or www.anywho.com to see if any listed in Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, San Antonio, or

Texas since not common name. <http://pilot.familysearch.org> has Texas Death Certificates and 1900 census.

MOELLER – HENKHAUS - WILDE:

Stefan Wiemann, e-mail: ahnenforschung.luedinhausen@googlemail.com. Would like information on Christoph Moeller who emigrated to Texas with his family. He was born in Lüdinghausen, Westphalia, Germany in 1802 and died 1862 in Frelsburg, Texas. His oldest daughter, Gertrud 1826-1872, married an Otto Henkhaus, another dau. married Bernhard Henrich Wilde, also born Lüdinghausen, Germany. I will be glad to share information on the family in Germany.

Reply: The Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus, TX has a published listing of Colorado County, TX cemetery records. Christophe Moller (probably Möller/Moeller) born 8 Sept., 1802, died 27 Nov. 1862, and Anna Maria Moller born 21 Sept. 1803, died 2 April 2, 1885 buried with other Moellers in St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Cemetery, Frelsburg, TX. A search for “Christoph Moeller” at www.google.com turned up papers on this family in the Herman Brown Free Library, 100 E. Washington Street, Burnet, TX 78611-3114. I’m guessing a descendant donated Möller/Moeller this family information.

Genealogy Tips and Helpful Websites:

The Catholic Archives of Texas has moved to new location: 8900 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 103, Austin, TX, phone: (512) 476-6296.

German Roots: German Genealogy Resources-<http://www.germanroots.com>

Find Texas County maps (early and modern) at this Texas General Land Office site: <http://wwwdb.glo.state.tx.us/central/arcmaps/ArcMapsLookup.cfm?Customer=27236381-10109>. This will take you to online map database. Put in Texas county name and do search. Good maps for Comal Co. #73113 and #3429; Gillespie Co. 547, 3580 & 3583. You can zoom in and move around on individual maps. County maps can be ordered online w/credit card.

Another Map link: <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/maps>

Family History Library Online Education (FREE):

The FHL is offering a number of free online classes on variety of topics. One is a 3 lesson series on Reading German Handwritten Records. Use www.familysearch.org click on “Free Family History Library Classes Online” under “News and Events for general info. on classes available. For specific information, click on “Free Online Classes” under “Family History Library”.

New Hours for Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline St., Houston, 77004

Effective April 17, 2010 (due to budget cuts by City of Houston) Clayton will be open:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Library Closed on Friday & Sunday

While looking at microfilm of the Hamburg Passenger Lists at Clayton Library yesterday, I noticed passengers giving Indianola/Galveston or just Indianola or Galveston as destination. This was for 1852 Hamburg Passenger Lists. Since the records for the Port of Indianola were destroyed, this appears to be another source for arrivals to that Port.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Launches National Fundraiser, Preserve the Pensions!, to Digitize the War of 1812 Pension Files

SALT LAKE CITY — With the approaching bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, a non-profit genealogical organization headquartered in Austin, Texas, is pleased to announce a national fundraising initiative to raise \$3.7 million to digitize of the War of 1812 pension files. The digitization process will enable online access by historians and family researchers to the memories and biographies of those who fought to protect our nation's independence. This announcement is being made at the start of the National Genealogical Society's 2010 conference, an event that will draw more than two thousand genealogists to Salt Lake City, Utah.

The War of 1812, often referred to as America's second war for independence, significantly shaped this country's identity both internationally and domestically. Many remember the War of 1812 as the war that give us the "Star-Spangled Banner" and the burning of the White House. Some of the great leaders of our country, including three presidents, took part in this conflict. Nearly 300,000 men served, including members of at least eighteen Native American tribes.

The pension records for the War of 1812 consist of more than 7.2 million documents in 180,000 files. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) receives more than three thousand requests per year for War of 1812 pensions, placing them among the most requested sets of records. Digitizing these valuable records will preserve the originals by removing them from continued heavy use. It will also make the images of the records much more widely available. NARA reports these important historical records already have been conserved and readied for digitization, so scanning could start as soon as funds are received. With the cost for digitizing and saving a single page from a pension file being fifty cents, supporters will see progress from the earliest days of the fundraising initiative.

Genealogists, historians, and scholars of military history have long appreciated the value of pension files. A typical pension file may contain documents that describe a veteran's service as well as why he, his widow, or his dependents qualify for a pension. In the cases of widows' and dependents' filings, there are typically a number of documents proving the claimant is related to the veteran. The testimony of a veteran's comrades can provide unique and valuable data on what military life entailed, the rigors of everyday camp life, and details of particular skirmishes and battles. One may discover numerous details of an ancestor's life in these pension files, some of which may be many dozens of pages long.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is committed to projects that link the genealogical community and advance the cause of preserving records and making them more accessible. The Federation will be working with the genealogical and historical societies nation-wide, particularly in states where War of 1812 activities took place, as well as the many War of 1812 societies and bicentennial commissions, to raise awareness about this vital preservation and access project and to raise the funds necessary to complete the project.

Those interested in contributing to the Preserve the Pensions! Project or wanting additional information should contact the Federation of Genealogical Societies via their website at www.fgs.org/1812, or contact Curt Witcher at 260-421-1226 or 1812@FGS.org.

Letters to and for the Editor:

Actually an email from Helga with a copy to me: Dear Randy. Just to let you know...I met with the new German Consul General, Roland Herrmann, from Houston the other day. He talked about the GTHS Journal and how much he liked reading it. He mentioned especially your story about the Varusschlacht, that song and - the best of all - that he found the Greek version there. Having learned Greek in school many years ago, he enjoyed refreshing it with the help of the Journal. Helga

3/10/2010

Hi Mary: In the past two months, I have been doing more research on Christoph Feuge, trying to complete some loose ends about his life. To do this, I have been working closely with Liz Hicks of G-THS, getting access to various data bases and books. Her knowledge of genealogical information is just short of awesome! As a result, she has dug up new information about Christoph Feuge's life. Liz found Christoph's signed contract with the Adelsverein and also his tax records for the 1846-1851 span, buried in TGLO historical records for Gillespie County. Those records were considered lost in a FBG fire in 1850. She, with the help of other members, have also found a lot of historic information about the Guadalupe River crossing at New Braunfels, including the Kreuz Ferry. I also found Christoph's legally recorded cattle brand in Gillespie County. These details don't change the story but they change the time line a little and buttress key parts of the story that I had to deduce.

Liz suggested that I inform you of all of this before May 1st. If you need more detail, please email. Thank you! Sincerely, Robert Lamar Feuge
(*Editor—see book review by Kevin Mitchell, next page*)

Web site that will help those of us that are just learning to speak German:
http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_example.php?sitepal. While it seems to advertise the site as a demo for a program you can buy, I found it useful for phrases that I needed immediately. Don't know how long the "free" use will last. Editor

Correction to email address:

ute@tgac-us.com—Ute Boese, The German American Connection

BOOK REVIEW: *Christopher Feuge: A German Pioneer's Story*

Robert Lamar Feuge, Ph. D.

Llumina Press

Available: \$43.95 at Amazon.com

ISBN 978-1-60594-347-3

New World, New Struggles for German Pioneers

by Kevin Mitchell

When tourists stroll the quaint shops and immerse themselves in the German *Gemuetlichkeit* of Fredericksburg, most have little notion of the travails that the town's early settlers endured to begin new lives in a new country. Robert Feuge, who grew up in the hill country town, might have known a little more than most people, but he was still surprised when his high-school English teacher informed him that his great-great grandfather was among the town's original settlers in 1846.

Intrigued, Feuge began a 40-year quest to learn more about the life of his great-great grandfather, Christoph Feuge. It wasn't easy, because Christoph Feuge left behind no diaries, letters or photographs. Writes the author:

“The more I learned, the more questions I raised. Why would someone uproot his family, leave the relative sophistication of Europe, make a long, dangerous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in a wooden sailing vessel, land on the shores of Texas, forge into the wild interior of that state, and build a farming life on the primitive and dangerous frontier of Texas?”

To try to answer those questions, the author uses what he calls “freeze frames” of specific times in his ancestor's life contained in documents including passports, census records, tax records and land-transfer documents. Then, combined with careful period research – including information gleaned from diaries of other German immigrants – the author tells the pioneer's story through a blend of factual and fictional composites of people and events.

Pioneer Feuge, his wife, his younger brother and seven young children (another daughter was later born in Texas) decided to leave their lives as farmers in the kingdom of Hanover in Germany, likely enticed by advertisements from the *Adelsverein* society. This nobility-sponsored society saw the opportunity to build German colonies in Texas and promoted exaggerated claims of perfect weather, fertile soil and promised provisions of cabins and land grants in central Texas. But to farmers like the Feuges, the selling job probably wasn't difficult. High taxes, religious repression and a poor economy in Germany at the time led a wave of German pioneers to emigrate to Texas.

The author chronicles the myriad hazards that the Feuge family faced, starting with the risky cross-Atlantic voyage and continuing with a poorly financed *Adelsverein* that couldn't fulfill its promises to provide housing, relocation assistance and big land grants northwest of Fredericksburg. By 1846, pioneers like the Feuges had to settle for smaller town lots in the new town of Fredericksburg and build their own tiny log shacks there.

In the course of a few years, Feuge and his family manage to transition from subsistence farming in town to growing corn and other cash crops on fertile land he bought just northwest of Fredericksburg, in an area called *Klein Frankreich* (little France) because of its resemblance to French countryside. Within eight years, the 43-year-old Feuge scratched and toiled to establish a relatively prosperous farming life – only to lose his life in a hunting accident.

Feuge's story reminds us that the German heritage of central Texas was built on the blood, sweat and tears of incredibly determined and hardy pioneers. Those who read this book will never see Fredericksburg the same way again.

Editor's note: This is a lovely book with great pictures.

Shootouts, Slavery, Royalty, Revolution...

By H. H. Howze

The Fayette County Record

Jim Kearney is the kind of guy who goes to war without a rifle - and lives to tell about it.

A former combat medic in Vietnam, Kearney flew more than his share of "dust off" missions" - helicopter rescues into fire fights in hot landing zones. He's got the wounds and decorations to prove it

That was then.

These days he's a Colorado County rancher, chair of the Foreign Language Department at Katy High School; and the author of a new book-"Nassau Plantation" which one reviewer said, "will be of interest to scholars of German-Texan history as well as to the large element of German Texans".

It's also of interest to anyone who cares about the history of Fayette County.

Kearney graciously consented to answer some queries about his new work published last month by the University of North Texas Press.

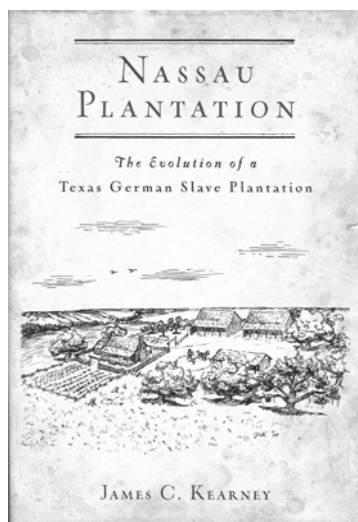
How did an Anglo rancher from Colorado County develop an intellectual interest in German immigration in Fayette County?

K: I really don't know. Maybe because I grew up in a little rural community west of Glidden with an interesting demographic mix: German, Czech, Anglo and African-American—a microcosm of South Central Texas.

I graduated from UT with a double major in German and History. I declined several job offers in the business world in favor of moving back to the family ranch in Columbus where I have been ever since.

I never gave up my interest in either German or history. In Columbus I fell in with a group of historically-minded people at the Nesbitt

Drama, Dark Side of Fayette County's Early German Settlers Plays Out in New Book, "Nassau Plantation"



Library including Bill Stein and Anders Saustrop. I began reading Texas German History.

Nassau plantation kept coming up, but there had been no substantial research done. I decided to take it on as a way of joining my interests in German and history.

Then I discovered a treasure trove of original source material in the Solms-Braunfels Archives and appear to be the only person, past or present, to have done any original research in them. Like a bull in a butter bean patch: I didn't know whether to beller or bawl.

Why should Fayette Countians read your book?

K: It is the most dramatic story in the county! Runaway slaves, German princes and extravagant parties, a shoot-out involving an important future German author, another shootout on the streets of La Grange involving a former secretary of state, disappearing portfolios of valuable art, dramatic supreme court decision, the survival of Fredericksburg, etc.

In addition, the plantation shaped Round Top, both demographically and culturally. Without the plantation, Round Top would not be what it is today. The inhabitants wouldn't be living in a charming little town trading on its German heritage and boasting certain cultural pretensions.

The stereotype is that German immigrants weren't interested in owning slaves and found slavery distasteful. Is this accurate?

K: I do not dispute that most German immigrants were not interested in owning slaves, but a few were.

The irony is that the association of German noblemen responsible for bringing thousands of German immigrants to Texas predicated their program, at least initially, on the continuation and expansion of slavery. The Germans they brought over, however, turned out to be, by and large, pro-Union and anti-slavery, especially those who settled in the Hill Country.

There are elements of a Western pulp novel here: a shootout, stolen artwork, popular revolt, runaway slaves.

K: It's definitely a B-western plot: the plantation is taken over by a band of ruffians, "a class of men unknown to me before" (Spiess), who are playing a double game with Strubberg, aka Dr. Schubbert, who has legitimate grounds for his actions. The shootout takes place, two men fall, one on each side. Spiess flees on the slain Rohrdorf's horse with a posse in pursuit and seeks refuge at Bettina settlement. on the Llano River.

Strubberg gets the slain Rohrdorf's drawings. goes back to Germany and becomes a successful author of adventure novels based on his experiences on the Texas frontier. In his first book, he pans off some of Rohrdorf's drawings as his own.

Eventually Spiess returns to face trial and in a complicated way this leads to a dramatic high-noon shootout between Bostick and Mayfield on the streets of La Grange, and so on and so on. And don't leave out the young, beautiful, and beguiling slave girl, Emily, whose

reputation spread to two continents.

There are also some current themes: economic overreaching, incompetence, collapse and foreclosure.

K, Yes, all these things, but the real connection to the present is on the theme of immigration.

The real business of Texas from the get go has been immigrants. This is what built Galveston, and to a large extent Houston. This is what fueled the economies of umpteen small towns for generations, catering to the needs of fresh immigrants.

This is what the Wolters family did in Schulenburg and the Heinsons in Frelsburg and the Fehrenkamps in Columbus.

This is also what Otto von Roeder did at Nassau and then later Georg Weyand and Axel von Rosenberg. Immigration is once again in the forefront of national discussion, but we in Texas need to put the current debate in context, and the study of Nassau can help in this.

The effort to "help" German immigrants seems to have succeeded almost in spite of itself even though the German noblemen did not achieve their real goals.

K: That is true. Judged by the goals they set for themselves, the Adelsverein's program was a catastrophic failure. But insofar as thousands of Germans that they sponsored eventually did make the successful transition to a new home and community and were for several generations able to preserve their language and customs, it has to be viewed as success. As the historian Hawgood wrote: "the greatest tragedy, but ultimately the greatest success."

Was part of the real goal to establish an independent, feudal German state in Texas?

K: There were those in the Society who had something like this as a goal. I am thinking of Prince Solms specifically. But in truth, the gentlemen who made up the Adelsverein did not share a common

vision as to what the real purpose of the organization should be.

This disunity of vision was one of the chief reasons for the ultimate failure of the organization. But it would be a fallacy of judging the whole by its parts to leap to the generalization that this was the "secret" agenda of the society. Meusebach certainly was appalled at Prince Solm's virulent anti-Anglo bias and said so openly.

How can people interested in buying your book obtain a copy?

K: Kathy Carter has copies for sale at the Fayette County Library. I will give a talk and have a book signing in Round Top on June 12. The book can also be ordered directly from the UNT Press (ISBN-13:978-1-57441-286-4) or through Amazon. **Friday, April 23, 2010**

Submitted by Rodney Koenig,
Houston and Carl Luckenbach,
Fredericksburg

Patronize our sponsor,
University of North Texas
Press by ordering from
them as above!!



James Kearney

GTHS is actively looking for books we could publish that are consistent with our mission of promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas. If you are a budding author, let us know.



OUTREACH

GTHS SCHOLARSHIPS 2010

Sprachfest takes place each February and hundreds of Texas high school students participate. For the third time, the German-Texan Heritage Society awarded cash prizes to students who wrote essays based on German-Texan themes. It was my pleasure to hand these awards out at the closing ceremony at Gregory Gym at the University of Texas at Austin and it was a thrill to see how excited a crowd of kids can be about learning German!

The awards went to:

1st place: **Katelyn Kuhl** of Taylor High School, Taylor. Teacher: Leslie Decker
Topic: **Eine Reise Wert: The Painted Churches**

2nd place: **Rachel Quay** of Austin Waldorf School, Austin. Teacher: Ann Coltman
Topic: **From Austria to Austin: A Jewish Refugee's Story**

3rd place: **Ariana Pondexter** of Atascosita, Humble. Teacher: Karen Frye
Topic: **Here's to 100.** (The story of Shiner beer)

4th place: **Justina Maloney, a senior** at Cinco Ranch in Katy. Teacher: Heidi Kirby.
Topic: **The Road Not Taken** (about Round Top, Texas)

5th place: **Max Peterson** of Connaly High School, Austin. Teacher: Sandra Biles
Topic: **Aus Nichts, Wird Nichts: The History of New Braunfels**

Winners received a certificate and a financial scholarship. 1st place received \$1000; 2nd & 3rd places received \$500 and 4th & 5th places received \$250. The requirements for the research paper are that the topics have an original German-Texan culture theme, something not commonly known, such as a specific person, family, place, building, home, business, area, group, settlement, organization, or church.

Education is very important to the GTHS, which was founded in 1978 by three educators - Mary El-Beheri, Dona Reeves-Marquardt and Anna Thompson. Through this annual scholarship, GTHS is pleased to provide encouragement for the youth of Texas to pursue the study of German-Texan history and the German language.

Jean Warneke

Eine Reise Wert: The Painted Churches

by Katelyn Kuhl

Traveling the country roads of Central Texas between LaGrange and Schulenburg, one can find small charming churches built by the Germans and Czechs. These would be “The Painted Churches of Central Texas.” Built by sturdy, religious farm families during hard troubling times, these churches still stand today, their steeples rising in the rural Texas sky.

Upon entering one of these painted churches, it is as if one were transported back a hundred years or more when the churches were first constructed. Much detail has been left untouched or has been reproduced. Architects are currently restoring these churches because of the breathtaking interiors and the historic value of the churches. We all should appreciate the Germans and Czechs for making these remarkable contributions to Texas.

When Germans immigrated to Texas in the 1850's and 1860's to escape Austro-Hungarian oppression, they were very poor (Sherley, 1989). They had no money to build massive, expensive cathedrals like the ones in their old country. Because they had little money to build churches, they used less costly materials, usually locally found wood. They would paint the wooden columns, staircases, and statues to look like marble. The Germans would also hire people to paint religious scenes and to stencil the interior of the churches. Replicating their native village churches caused the Germans to feel more at home in the new country. Churches gave them spiritual strength to strive for a better life in Central Texas.

A few people say the interior of the painted church in Ammansville is the color of cotton candy. Others say it is the color of Pepto-Bismol. Whichever impression one seems to get, the church is a soft, rosy pink. The church represents the beauty and the respect Germans had for their religion. The church seen today is the third church built in that very same spot since 1890 (Sherley, 1989). In 1909 a hurricane destroyed the first church and eight years later the second church burned to the ground (Sherley, 1989). Despite the intense heat, which melted the church bells, parishioners risked their lives to rescue the statues, which still can be seen in the church today. The town really hit the mark saying, “Third time's the charm.” This church is more open and airy, and they even hired a painter to give the church more pizzazz. Although it seems strange to twenty-first century churchgoers, women and men of the church were segregated so they would not be intermingling or be distracted from listening to the priest. This church, like all the others, has a tall steeple highly visible throughout the countryside. Every Sunday mass is still held at 10:00.

Dubina is the smallest of the painted churches (Spencer, PBS, 2001, Film). The painted German church in Dubina is an excellent reminder of the early settlers' faith in God and their will to survive. A former slave, Tom Lee, forged the cross on the steeple of the first church. When a hurricane came through and wiped out the church in 1909, the cross remained undamaged (Sherley, 1989). After the storm, the town came together to raise enough money to rebuild. When rebuilding, not only did they stencil and paint the inside but the outside of the church also. The cross that remained undamaged was put back on the top of the steeple and is still there today. On the interior of the church there are a thousand silver stars painted by the current parishioners. Marbleized columns topped with green and gold capitals hold statues of saints. Women saints are on the left side of the altar while men saints are on the right. In murals angels float above the clouds. The staircases and columns that look like marble are actually made of wood. They painted the wood to look like marble so that it gives a more appealing impression. The church still has mass every Sunday at 8:45 in the morning (The Facts.com).

If one were to go through the countryside from the painted church in Dubina to the painted church in High Hill, one has to cross an old wooden bridge. This bridge is known as the Piano Bridge because as a car rumbles across the wooden planks it sounds like the “plinking” of a piano. From a distance, the steeple of St. Mary's in High Hill rises above gently rolling hills. The church founded in 1860 is among the oldest in Texas (Sherley,



Katelyn Kuhl with teacher,
Leslie Decker

1989). The current church building was blessed in September 1906 (Schulenburg, 2010). This church was among the first to be built of brick instead of wood. It has a Gothic Revival style but displays Victorian features. Herman Kern and Ferdinand Stockert were commissioned to decorate the interior of the church (Klru.org). The church has high ceilings and a beautiful altar. Twenty-five stained glass windows along with artwork, stenciling, ornate woodwork, and a huge chandelier give the church the title of “The Queen of the Painted Churches” (Schulenburg, 2010). Parishioners still celebrate mass every Sunday at 10:00.

“The Painted Churches of Texas” are part of the German-Texan heritage of our state. They are where young girls dream they will be married and where families spend time together going to church on Sundays and festivals. One could never get lost finding these churches because their steeples will guide the travelers through the countryside. These quaint churches demonstrate the beauty that Texas has and the reason they are being restored. The Painted Churches of Central Texas are definitely eine Reise wert.

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From Austria to Austin: A Jewish Refugee’s Story

by Rachel Quay

Gertrude Schmidt (Gertie) is a petite and well-liked 84 year old woman with gray coiffed hair and glasses. She zips independently around the room at the Jewish Community Center, greeting every single person she knows and introducing herself to the few with whom she is not acquainted. The only aspect of her speech that belies her non-Texan origins is a slight German accent. Gertie was born in Vienna, Austria in 1925 where she spoke German growing up. Her father was an affluent businessman, and she was the only daughter and youngest of five children.¹

On March 13, 1938, Hitler invaded Austria and annexed the country. Throughout that spring and summer, personal assaults on Jews increased dramatically, and in November the nationwide pogrom against Jewish businesses and synagogues “Kristallnacht” (Night of Broken Glass) further encouraged Jewish emigration.² On November 10 of that same year, Gertie’s father and eldest brother were taken to the Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, which was the largest Nazi extermination camp.³ Fortunately, Gertie’s father was able to use his business connections to obtain Swiss visas, and the family escaped to Switzerland.⁴ They were not the only ones— about 36 thousand Jews left Germany and Austria in 1938, and 77 thousand left the following year. By September 1939, 117,000 Austrian Jews had emigrated, leaving 57 thousand behind.⁵

This sudden increase in Jewish refugees created a major global immigration crisis. 1939 was the first year



Rachey Quay

that the United States filled its Jewish refugee quota: 309,000 German, Austrian, and Czech Jews applied for the 27,000 immigration slots available. President Franklin Roosevelt organized a conference in Evian, France to address the issue. Although representatives of 32 different countries attended the Evian Conference, only the Dominican Republic agreed to accept more refugees.⁶

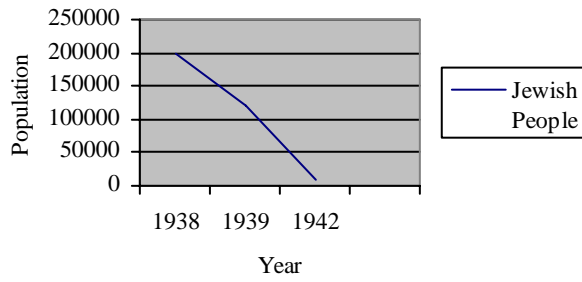
Meanwhile, Gertie's family traveled to Italy and boarded a boat to America. Her uncle lived in New York City, so they were able to obtain visas. Many countries, as mentioned above, did not take Jewish refugees, and her family was very grateful to have the affidavits to come to the United States. When they landed in America, Gertie was almost 14 years old. She attended school in New York City and began to learn English, and at first, it was "a little bit scary because the culture is so different." Gertie was sixteen years old when she met her future husband, Jonas. He was also a Jewish refugee from Vienna. Her father passed away the same year, 1944, leaving his wife and only daughter to provide for themselves. As a result, Gertie had to start working at seventeen. She graduated high school by attending night classes, and married Jonas in 1945. Gertie worked in the diamond industry, and her husband founded a jewelry store.⁷

In 1950 Gertie and Jonas moved to Dallas, Texas. A year earlier, Jonas and Gertie had "decided to come to Texas on a vacation- 'just because we had heard so much about Texas.'" They liked it so much better than New York that they decided to move.⁸ New York was too much of a "hustle and bustle", and there was too much pressure from their competitors. Once in Dallas, Jonas started another jewelry store, and Gertie got her first job in Texas working at a bank. The Schmidts both liked Texas, even though the culture was very different than that of New York, because it was an easier and slower-paced life. In addition, the mix of Jews and non-Jews living in close proximity in Texas was more familiar to them, and more similar to Vienna, than the segregated tenements of New York City. People in Texas were very tolerant and understood their situation as Jewish refugees from Europe. In Texas, as opposed to Nazi Austria, Gertie did not have to be afraid to go to synagogue. In fact, Jonas and four other Jewish men founded a synagogue named Beth Israel in Mesquite. There were many Jewish families besides the Schmidts in their North Dallas neighborhood, and they had a strong Jewish community in which their two children could grow up.⁹

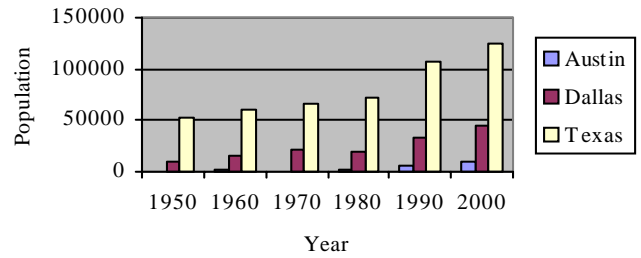
When Gertie moved to Dallas, the city had a population of approximately 10,000 Jews, and Jewish people made up 0.67 percent of the population in Texas.¹⁰ Naturally Gertie had a lot of non-Jewish friends too, which was possible through their mutual respect of each other's religions— something that was missing in Vienna. Gertie recalls that her non-Jewish friends in Austria changed after Hitler annexed the country. Her friends began to call the Schmidt family "dirty Jews", and she was taunted at school. These memories were brought up for Gertie when, 65 years after leaving Vienna, she was able to return, thanks to a donation from a Jewish organization in Austria that gave Gertie an all-expense-paid trip. She professes to having a love/hate relationship with her native country. Gertie was excited to see her former house and neighborhood, but the old surroundings reminded her of all the people she knew who were murdered by Hitler in World War II: elderly neighbors, relatives, and even friends from her congregation. Gertie's family was one of the fortunate few to survive the Holocaust intact. After World War II, two of her brothers immigrated to Israel, while the other three siblings remained in America.¹¹

Gertie Schmidt is just one example of the Jewish-German Holocaust survivors living in Texas. She is profoundly grateful for the religious tolerance and freedom in the United States. She says that "we thank God every day that we came out alive." Her story of religious persecution and immigration to America, her journey from Austria to Austin, contributes greatly to the culture of German-speaking Texans. After Jonas died eight years ago, Gertie moved near family in Austin, Texas, where she still lives, participating weekly in senior activities at the Jewish Community Center and talking to classrooms of children about her holocaust and immigration experience. In this way she continues to contribute her heritage to the German-Texas culture. Gertie can often be overheard saying, "I've lived a lot of places, but Texas is home."¹²

Jewish Population of Austria



Jewish Population of Texas



Hitler addresses a crowd in Vienna on March 15, 1938 after Germany annexes Austria.¹⁵



Delegates to the Evian Conference in Evian, France, July 1938.¹⁶



A Jewish refugee family poses for a picture as their ship arrives in New York harbor, 1939.¹⁸



A Jewish refugee girl from Vienna, Austria photographed on December 12, 1938.¹⁷



Gertie working at her first job in Texas, at the Republic National Bank of Dallas, 1950.¹⁹



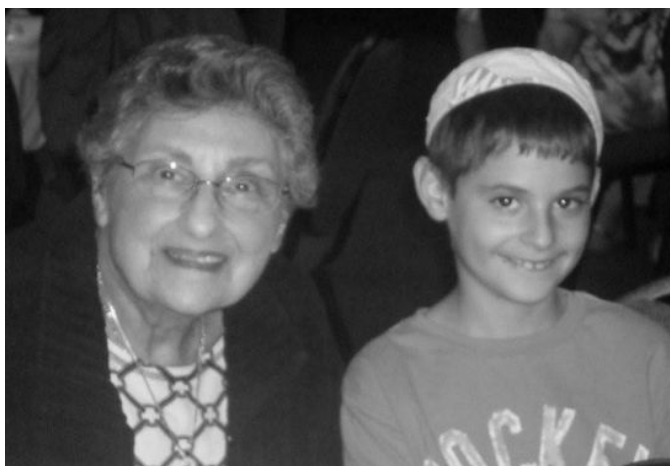
Gertie and Jonas at their home in Dallas, Texas.²⁰



Gertie's childhood home in Vienna, Austria.²¹



Gertie's high school in Vienna, the Bundes-Realgymnasium.²²



Gertie Schmidt with a fourth grade student at the Jewish Community Center in Austin, Texas.²³

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Here's to 100 Years

By Ariana Poindexter

Historically, and currently, Texans are very stereotyped. Supposedly we ride horses to school, have thick country accents, live on farms, and know little about city life. One stereotype however, I find to be historically justified. Texans are known for loving beer and drinking lots of it. In fact, surveys show that beer is the preferred alcoholic beverage of Texans. "It wasn't until the Germans arrived in force throughout the last half of the nineteenth century...that the true golden age of...brewing got started" (O'Hara 20). The history of Texan beer has great Germanic influence, and the small town of Shiner testifies to this fact.

Shiner, Texas was originally founded and populated by those of "the Old 300." It became a town of German and Czechoslovakian immigrant farmers soon thereafter. "Well over 50 percent of residents claim Czech or German ancestry" of the town's 4,000 citizens in 2000 (O'Hara 88).

In 1909, such immigrants founded the Shiner Brewing Association with a yearning for the Germanic beers of their homeland. The "Little Brewery" debuted their first brew with Shiner Premium in 1913. "German brewers, supported by a built-in worker and customer base of their fellow expatriates,



Ariana Poindexter with teacher, Karen Frye

rapidly took the...beer industry by storm” (O’Hara 21). The people of Shiner were not yet satisfied though, and would not be until the appearance of a great brewmeister in 1914 (shiner.com).

Kosmos Spoetzl, born in Germany, attended brewmaster’s school and “apprenticed for 3 years in Germany” (Kleiner). He immigrated to Texas via a scenic route, taking him through Cairo, “where he spent the past eight years working in an Egyptian brewery” (O’Hara). On the way to the Lone Star State he perfected his brewing talent and arrived in Texas with “the recipe for a Bavarian beer made by his family from pure malt and hops” (Kleiner). In 1914, Spoetzl leased the Little Brewery and began the true legacy of Shiner beer. He drove his Model T Ford farm to farm with cold Bock in the back, spreading the reputation of the brewery and creating the loyal following of their brew. Spoetzl’s dedication helped “German lager beer spread like the flu” (O’Hara 26). Spoetzl officially purchased the brewery in 1915, becoming the brewmaster that would reign for the next 35 years (shiner.com).

Spoetzl reinvented the brewery and brewing techniques in the years to follow. He updated equipment, introduced glass, returnable bottles, and perfected the brewing process while introducing new recipes, such as Shiner Blonde (shiner.com). Spoetzl showed his true greatness during Prohibition. While many breweries did not survive the great experiment, Shiner stayed in business selling ice and “near” beer. Rumor has it that Shiner Premium was still made available to local farmer during this period (Kleiner).

After the 21st Amendment was passed repealing the prohibition act, the Little Brewery was one of only five Texas breweries to have survived. Spoetzl began expanding the Shiner legacy to other parts of Texas during this time, including Houston. In the years until Spoetzl’s death, the brewery continued to grow and prosper. Aluminum kegs were introduced and “Spoetzl constructed the white brick Alamo-style plant still in use today” (Kleiner). Spoetzl also increased the size of the brewery and surrounding land (shiner.com).

In 1950, the great brewmaster passed away and the Little Brewery was renamed the K. Spoetzl Brewery in honor of its first brewmaster. Spoetzl’s daughter, Cecilie “one of the only female brewery owners in American history, and the only female owner at the time,” took over for a short time, turning over the reigns to Gussie Haselbeck first, then other brewmasters over the years including John Hybner, the longest serving brewmaster in Shiner history (O’Hara 88; shiner.com). In 1971, the K. Spoetzl brewery was honored with a State Historical Marker, which still stands by the brewery with honor (Kleiner).

The popularity of Shiner beer only continued to grow. Its distribution network expanded and in 1993 Shiner hosted the “Thanks a Million Concert” after the sale of its millionth case of Shiner beer. The following year the first Bocktoberfest concert was held, and in 1999 the concert had a whopping 17,000 people in attendance. Another annual celebration of Shiner’s history is G.H.A.S.P., the Greater Houston and Austin to Shiner Pedal. This 90 mile bike ride takes participants through historic towns and landmarks on their way to the site of the historic Shiner Brewery. The event is gaining popularity and proceeds go to charity groups (shiner.com).

As the oldest independent Texas brewery, the K. Spoetzl Brewery has a lot of history to tell (shiner.com). “The German Beer Barons pursued brewing with such a passion that they forever changed the cities their breweries were founded in,” which is especially true in Shiner (O’Hara 21). The brewery was established just over 100 years ago and continues to thrive today. Without the influence of German immigrants back in 1909, Shiner’s legacy would not have been made possible. Here’s to 100 years, and to 100 years more to come.

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The Road Not Taken

By Justina Moloney

On the road not often taken there lies a small town filled with history, creativity, and enjoyable people, a town filled with various cultural influences, especially that of Germany. On my own trip to Round Top, I was transported to another time, when simply staying alive and “making it” was your highest goal and by doing so you helped further yourself and your family.



Round Top was founded in the 1830s, beginning as more of a “Townsend Settlement” at first than an actual town. Primarily Anglos settled into Justina Moloney the area initially, but by the 1840s German settlers populated the town opening banks, stores, and restaurants as well as bringing their German traditions (Lentz). Many of the families who truly helped the town prosper as it is seen today were German. The Henkel’s, Schumann’s, and Zapp-Von Rosenberg’s all aided in the growth of Round Top, while many descendants today continue its conservation.

The fact that Round Top’s distinct name originated from German innovation illustrates Germany’s vast influence on the town. Alwin H. Soergel moved to the area in the 1840s and immediately left his mark. A very multitalented man, he excelled in history, music, and architecture, Soergel built the peculiar white house with an octagonal tower that now sits in the center of Henkel Square. This building eventually became the post office in 1847 (Lentz). The oddity of the tower’s shape sparked the idea of what the town should be called. Since the “top” of the tower was almost “round” when viewing it from the ground or afar, the name “Round Top” was born. From what has arisen around the tower it has now become the center of town.

Edward Henkel and the rest of the Henkel family became the foundation of Round Top in its early years and still are even today. Henkel moved to Round Top in 1846 with his family and almost immediately began advancing the small town with his modernization. His home, Henkel House, which still stands in its original location, was his first project built in 1852. He then continued to further Round Top by building a general store, private school, and the first Lutheran church in the area. Apart from adding to Round Top’s surroundings, Edward Henkel became the first Justice of the Peace of Round Top. Much of his legacy is still evident throughout Round Top. Both the main square of the town is named for his family, and the outdoor museum dedicated to the preservation of all early settlers of Round Top, German or otherwise (Lynch).

Various German homes are still well preserved and are places where the German settlers’ customs and heritage live on. In the Zapp-Von Rosenberg home, not only are there two “guest” bedrooms, exhibiting German and Texan hospitality, but a small music room houses an organ and a piano (Lynch). Here lessons were given, spreading an almost instinctive appreciation of music most Germans share. Another tradition brought over from Germany and adopted by Texas is how every home in the Henkel Square Museum displays a table set for meals, the beds made, and an overall orderly home. Each bedroom houses a wardrobe, the long-used predecessor to American closets, as well as a handmade quilt on each bed, a German-Texan (and for the most part American) tradition.

The German settlers who first moved to Round Top were wealthy, educated people who brought knowledge of their traditions and style. Each home exhibits how they tried to incorporate what they knew of their homeland to the rough terrain of the area. They built almost everything they owned, integrating their style of woodworking and architecture with the end result of creating a beautiful town. Displayed in the Weaver’s House are a loom and a candlestick- maker, proving that everything taken for granted today, electricity and machine made fabrics,

were all made by hand by the settlers of Round Top. The second Schuhmann house, built in 1855 by Fredrich Schuhmann, displays some of the most beautiful furniture and interior decorations in Henkel Square Museum. Each wall is stenciled, a rarity for the style of life each family was living at the time, and houses exquisite chairs and cabinetry (Lynch).

The Apothecary, or what people today think of as a pharmacy, was built by Mr. Recknagel in 1875. Mrs. Recknagel also ran a photography studio in the back of the store commencing the initial continuation of the town by its citizens, and its memorable moments early on (Lynch). Her photos are displayed throughout the Apothecary, illustrating daily life in Round Top from 1875 and onward during her life. Now the Apothecary is the entrance to the Henkel Square Museum, run by avid historians of the area, Flora Jahnz and Annie Barnik.

“There are many things you would become accustomed to, such as the cold and the different weather conditions from their homeland,” remarked Flora on the freezing weather conditions of the day I visited compared to the past. I had commented on the unbelievably chilly weather, but Flora reminded me how the German settlers endured the harsh surroundings. Many of the people who populated Round Top are dedicated to the preservation of Germany’s large influence. This amount of appreciation initially surprised me at first. The protection of many of the German homes and other important buildings began with the compassion of Faith and Charles Bybee (Abernethy). Without their enthusiasm for the continuation of Round Top’s history, little would be known of day to day life during the early pioneer years. Both Flora Jahnz and Annie Barnick knew immensely on the settlers’ daily lives in early Round Top, as well as almost all natives to the Round Top vicinity.

Through the naming of streets to the natives of Round Top surnames, there is nothing short of the area’s true appreciation of the fact that they are German-Texans. The continuing preservation of all cultures in Round Top ascertains how this area is truly proud of everything that aided it in its prosperous life.



A hand carved rocking chair with resting place for baby as well in the Zapp Von-Rosenberg home



A beautifully made cabinet housed in the Henkel House. Whether this was transported from Germany or made in Round Top, it is a lovely piece of woodwork.



The exterior of Henkel House. This is a two story building with stairs on the outside leading to the second story.



Avid historians, Annie Barnik and Flora Jahnz. Knowing much about the town and its early settlers, they also showed me around each home.



A very large loom housed in the Weaver's House. Taking up nearly half the size of the room, fabric was made on this for clothes, curtains, table clothes etc.



The candlestick maker also housed in the Weaver's home. It displays some partially made candlesticks, a staple of life that had to be made by hand before electricity.

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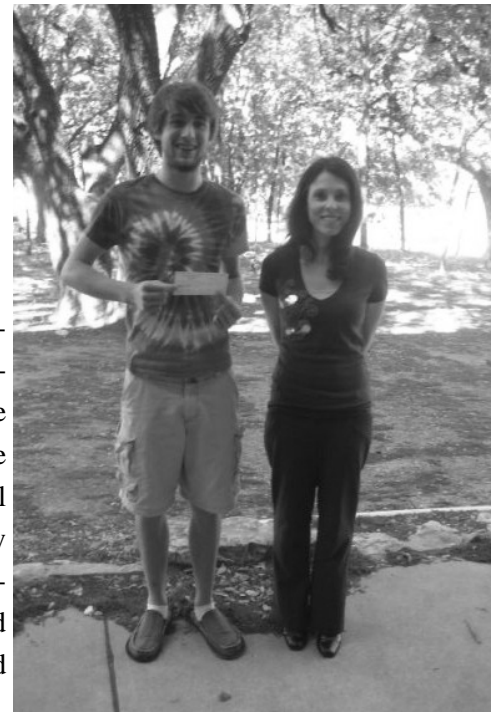
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Aus Nichts, Wird Nichts: The History of New Braunfels

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Max Peterson with teacher, Sandra Biles

The history of New Braunfels is the story of the 1st permanent society in “the new Fatherland on the other side of the ocean,” as the Republic of Texas had once been referred to.¹ Founding that society was Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, appointed first commissioner-general of the *Mainzer Adelsverein* (literally the Mainz League of Nobles)² on April 20th, 1844. As commissioner-general, it was Prince Carl’s task to survey the lands that were to be settled in the coming months as well as to secure a means of travel for the future immigrants. On July 1st, Carl and four of his men arrived in Galveston, setting off on provision-loaded horseback soon after, to accomplish that very task.

One of the first orders of business for Prince Carl was to establish a common port of entry for potential German immigrants. Since the port was to be what Ellis Island was to New York, the location needed to be as compelling as the Statue of Liberty. Keeping the symbolic nature of the port close to heart, the enterprising Prince decided upon a stretch of beach with vast, rolling prairies to the West and the infinite blue expanse to the East. Such geography embodied the belief that a new start overseas afforded one unlimited opportunities. Once the land had been purchased and the port became functional, word was sent for the German settlers to embark on their Trans-Atlantic journey to the New World.

For over eight months, the band of five rode across central Texas, seeking a site suitable for settlement. Then on March 6th, 1845, Prince Carl met with John Coffee Hays, the commander of a company of Texas Rangers, to discuss information regarding available land about fifteen miles north of Seguin. The Prince wanted to fully inspect the suggested area, promptly heading his men where Hays had instructed. What he found was a beautiful Texas Landscape of “fertile prairies,” a “richly-wooded bottom land stretching to cliffs,” and the Comal River, “clear as crystal, . . . gushing out of the [cliffs] in seven large springs, . . . becoming larger and larger, [rushing] along a swift mountain stream.”³ Everywhere he looked, pristine wilderness that even Goethe would have had difficulties relating stretched out to eternity. Such picturesque surroundings served but to remind him of his native Germany’s *Schwarzwald* (Black Forest), leading him to write a letter summoning the settlers and to sign the contract for the land with the same stroke of the pen.

March 15th saw the proverbial stroke of the pen between Prince Carl and the husband-wife duo of Rafael E. and Maria Antonia Garza. For a sum of \$1,111, the Prince secured the area for the *Adelsverein*, effectively building solid the foundations for what would become one of the most prosperous and enduring German towns in America.⁴ With one of the most important aspects of founding the society behind him, Carl took his company to further familiarize themselves with the area.

While they were asleep during the night of March 19th, a peaceful snow enveloped their encampment. Upon awakening, they experienced an environment so similar to the Fatherland, that Prince Carl declared the sight necessarily a good omen, confirming the land as being most fit to settle. He simply described the scene as “enchanted.” Regardless to say, he believed with all of his heart that this was unequivocally the best site for the future settlement.

Two days later, on March 21st, *Karfreitag* (Good Friday), the first settlers arrived at a ford on the Guadalupe River. Truly earning the name of Good Friday, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels officially founded the first society of the *Adelsverein*. He named the newly established society New Braunfels, after the castle of his ancestors in Solms, Germany. The Prince led the immigrants to a bluff that towered magnificently over the Comal with an elegance that seemed to imply the future of a great city. Here, the settlers made camp while they imagined what lay ahead of them in building their splendid society from nothing.

For the most part, the settlers were from highly educated, well-to-do families who were interested in investing their time, resources and labor to make glorious their new society. This penchant for entrepreneurship stimulated the economy of the community, attracting artisans and craftsman. Such self-made men as William Merriweather and John Torrey erected water mills on the Comal to assist the burgeoning industries, thus embracing the spirit of industrialism and free enterprise. The town grew with that collective spirit. The first churches were erected within ten to fifteen years and the town's school was the first in the Republic of Texas to be funded by a public tax. While churches, schools and taxes seem like part of everyday life, these institutions were created by a unanimous consensus to better society on the whole, serving as tangible representations of progress that the citizens of New Braunfels so prided themselves in.

These very ideals of free enterprise and progress were precisely what drove Prince Carl to leave his comfortable castle in Germany to assume the risks inherent in the establishment of a new society. Taking into consideration the literal translation of *Adelsverein*, his dreams were made all the more noble. Those noble dreams tap into the desire that we all hold to create beyond ourselves; a desire is best left for expression by Rainer Maria Rilke. "Being arches itself over the vast abyss. Ah the ball that we dared, that we hurled into infinite space, doesn't it fill our hands differently with our return: heavier by the weight of where it has been."⁵

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LOCAL REPORTERS NEEDED

One of the goals of the German Texan Heritage Society Journal (GTHS), as we enter a new decade in 2010, is to improve and expand the inflow of news of German-Texan cultural news and activities from around the state to the editors of the *Schulhaus Reporter*, the *Journal*, and our website. Gathering this information will allow its dissemination to all GTHS members throughout Texas. To implement this process, we seek a least one 'reporter' for each membership region as listed below.



The duties of each reporter are to collect announcements and articles about German related activities and events in his or her area and submit to GTHS. We think we would all benefit from being more aware of activities beyond our neighborhoods. Who knows, this might inspire us to take a weekend trip and have some fun in another part of Texas!

And this is a two-way street. When we at GTHS headquarters learn of an event in your area, we send it your way and ask you contact your local media and submit the information. This can include local newspapers, radio stations, and chambers of commerce, and more.

What types of events? Genealogy Seminars, Cultural festivals, German films, Christmas Markets, Maifest, Oktoberfest, just about any event that ends in -fest!

Please contact the GTHS office at info@germantexans.org or 866-482-GTHS (4847)

Regions:

- Austin
- Brenham
- Dallas County area
- Ft. Worth/Tarrant County area
- Fredericksburg
- Houston and East Texas
- New Braunfels
- North and West Texas
- San Antonio
- Victoria and South Texas
- Waco



Community Events

EASTER meant much more to our ancestors than it does today. In the present era and in our secular society the event has been overtaken by commercialism and is seen mainly as a fun time for families, holidays abroad and big sporting occasions. But for our forbears it was a much-anticipated event in the Christian calendar, preceded by a period of fasting (Lent) to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ.

However, its origins go much further back than the Christian era and can be traced to ancient pagan fertility festivals. The word Easter and the German equivalent, "Ostern," come from a common origin, which to the ancient Scandinavians meant the season of the growing sun or a time of new birth.

The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with a festival commemorating the goddess of offspring and springtime, Eastre. When Christian missionaries came across the pagan tribes of the north, they attempted to convert them to Christianity. Coincidentally, the pagan festival of Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection. In order to win over people to Christianity it made sense to keep the old tradition but to make it a Christian festival. Many family historians and the general public often puzzle over the date of Easter and it can be a little confusing.

In early times Easter was celebrated on different days of the week but in AD325 the Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman emperor Constantine. It issued an edict which stated that Easter was to be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox. However, the "full moon" was the ecclesiastical full moon, which was defined as the 14th day of a calendar cycle where day one corresponds to the ecclesiastical New Moon.

This does not always occur on the same date as the astronomical full moon. The ecclesiastical "vernal equinox" is always on March 21. Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

Submitted by Van Massirer, Crawford

Keep N.B. German

San Antonio Express-News, March 23, 2010

It's always nice to read in the Express-News how folks of all nationalities in San Antonio cherish and protect your city's Hispanic culture and Texas history. The destruction of historical treasures for profit by greedy developers, backed by thoughtless politicians, too often results in a city losing its soul, that uniqueness its founders once nurtured. Sadly, New Braunfels is struggling with such a problem. A downtown improvement committee is debating over minimizing the German flavor of the town, and an outer-loop advisory group is making plans to demolish ancient German ranches in the countryside—to be replaced by a superhighway.

One of those destroyers of all things German used these hurtful words publicly: "New Braunfels will never be an idyllic German village again."

Without its German character, New Braunfels would be just another town. And that hurtful dude is wrong about the idyllic German village. If he'd come to Wurstfest and other German events here, he'd see people of all ethnic groups wearing German outfits, listening to German music and eating sausage. .

What other town in America can boast that it was founded by a prince? The German settlers bought the land and signed a friendship treaty with the Comanches, the only treaty with Indians that was never broken.

The Germans drained the swamps, built the city, tamed the ranchland, and history and beauty abound here thanks to them. Let's keep it that way. Don't mess with it.- Richard Odorfer, New Braunfels

Submitted by Wes Schulze, San Antonio

BY GENE FOWLER, Texas Coop Power, April 2010

Spoetzl Brewery: The Pride of Shiner

In the summer of 2003, when the Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner was thinking about adding a light beer to its product line, the company didn't bring in any slick marketing experts. Instead, they invited folks from miles around to a sippin' social, to see what they thought of the new beverage. After all, most people in this town of some 2,000-plus and the surrounding Lavaca County countryside felt like, well, they sorta owned a little piece of the Spoetzl Brewery.

Kosmos Spoetzl wouldn't have had it any other way. Born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1873, Kosmos emigrated to the New World in search of a more healthful climate. By 1914, he'd found his way to Shiner, some 90 miles east of San Antonio. There, he found a community of Czech and German immigrants and their descendants.

These were folks who treasured Old World brewing traditions established by their ancestors. In 1909, they established the Shiner Brewing Association to honor that heritage and to make beer the way they liked it. The association only had to drill thirty five feet deep to strike fine artesian water ideal for brewing, but no one in town seemed to possess that special magic for mixing barley, hops and yeast into a liquid work of art until Kosmos arrived. A jolly fellow with an ever-present cigar, Kosmos, who bought the brewery in 1915, used a family recipe that had been perfected through generations, adding his own secret ingredient. Folks around Shiner said he wore his hat tilted on his head because he kept the secret ingredient under his hat.

As part of his marketing campaign, Kosmos loaded his Model T with kegs and ice and drove through the countryside, offering refreshment to thirsty cotton farmers toiling under the Texas sun. He started using returnable glass bottles in 1916, and a cold one left on a fence post must have beckoned like an oasis on a hot summer day.

When the 18th Amendment—which had prohibited the manufacture and sale of spirited beverages—was ratified by the Texas Legislature in 1918, the brewery switched to a legal brew with less than 0.5 percent alcohol, and the production of ice. But as noted in author

Mike Renfro's book *Shine On: 100 Years of Shiner Beer* (Bright Sky Press, 2008), Shinerites joined Americans from coast to coast in winking at the law, as many locals knew that to "get some ice" at Spoetzl's meant to get some underground brew.

Caps were popped with gusto when Prohibition ended in 1933. The hard times of the Depression persisted through the rest of the decade, but those who found solace in the modest consumption of beer could now do so with full approval of the U.S. Congress.

In the 1940s, the original tin brewery building was replaced by the brick structure with the Alamo-esque parapet and the iron lettering that reads K. SPOETZL BREWERY. After Kosmos died in 1950, his daughter Cecile, known in the area as "Miss Celie," took over operations, reportedly becoming the only woman to head an American brewery at the time.

She sold the business in 1966, and it has changed hands a few times since. But each new owner has held onto what is special about what some call "the last little brewery in Texas." First, there's the Old World family formula. As Spoetzl Quality Control Manager Peter Takacs puts it, "Most breweries change recipes to fit their equipment. Here, we changed equipment to fit the recipes."

Second, and most important, it's the people, such as the family of former employee Calvin Cosmo "Cracker" Wallace. Cracker's father worked 59 years for Spoetzl, and his Uncle Joe did for 63 years. After Kosmos' death, Cracker placed a Christmas tree at his grave each December for many years.

Nonemployees share that loyalty and affection, as well. In the 2004 documentary "Something's Brewin' in Shiner," by Beef & Pie Productions of Austin, now-retired Shiner city secretary Norma Goetz explains, "We tell relatives who don't live in Shiner that our houses have three faucets. One for hot water, one for cold and one that delivers that wonderful Shiner Beer."

For information about weekday tours, call (361) 594-3852 or go to www.shiner.com.

Gene Fowler wrote "Bonehead Medicine" in the June 2009 Texas Co-op Power.



Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston



There are four stages of live music as well as strolling musicians at the Tomball German Heritage Festival March 26-28

By ANNA SCHUMANN

aschumann@hcnonline.com

Tomball Potpourri, March 27

When Grady Martin thinks back to the first Tomball German Heritage Festival 10 years ago, he can't believe how far it has come.

Ten years ago it was a few dozen people huddled under a tent. Now it has expanded to an event that spans three days, several blocks, draws hundreds of vendors and around 20,000 patrons.

The festival kicks off near 201 S. Elm St. with "Bluegrass Friday Night" on March 26 but officially begins with the "tapping of the keg" at 11 a.m. March 27.

There will be a German-language church service at 10:30 a.m. March 28.

Martin, president of the Tomball German Sister City Organization and one of the event's planners, said the festival will have the same great family aspects it is known for, such as the carnival and stages of live music, but will also feature some new elements.

This year, there will be a grand march, from German and Czech tradition, which Martin described as a "line of people in costume" doing a "walking dance."

In a parade, people will make their way to the large tent near the depot to celebrate with the opening ceremony, which will feature playing of the U.S. and German national anthems and appearances by the

WILKOMMEN TO THE FESTIVAL

•Friday, March 26, 6-20 pm, Bluegrass Friday Night, Alpenfest, Chris Rybak, Walburg Boys, Tube Meisters, Round Top Brass Band, Das Ist Lustig, Terry Cavanaugh, Kenny James, Junge-Meisters, German Folk Dancers Rathkamp, de Texas KlopenDancers (Dutch), Scandinavian Folk Dancers, Aggie Wranglers, Ultimate Cloggers, Tomball Promenaders, Czech music makers, Valina and much more

•Saturday, March 27, 10 am to 10 pm: the "tapping of the keg" and Willkommen ceremony for German exchange students and Tomball host families, and official opening by the Mayor of Tomball. At 9 pm there will be a fireworks display at the depot plaza

•Sunday, March 28, 10 am to 5 pm, German Church service at the gazebo. The biergartens open at noon on Sunday

German exchange students.

Another festival first takes place this year: a wedding.

Martin said a couple met at the festival last year, and have decided to tie the knot where they met. Their wedding will follow the Sunday morning church service.

Martin's theme for this year's event is also new. He can often be heard saying, "You don't have to be German to enjoy this festival." The festival is family-friendly, he said, "partly because of its free admission and parking. It also features a carnival, rock climbing wall, a soccer trick shots demonstration, petting zoo and pony rides.

Adults can enjoy four stages of live music, two dance stages and tons of food.

"You don't have to be German to enjoy this"

Looking back on 10 years, Martin said he is glad to have watched the festival grow slowly as it gains recognition.

He responds to e-mails and inquiries about the festival from across the country and even has gotten notice in Germany.

He said he hopes the future brings more growth in patrons, more quality vendors and performers, and perhaps an expanded location as long as it's still in downtown Tomball.

To him, celebrating Tomball and the German heritage of the area is what the festival has always been about.

"I want people to come, experience a bit of culture and remind them of the German heritage of the area," he said. "I'm just happy looking back on 10 years that the community enjoys it and has a good time, and it's an event Tomball can be proud of."

FAHRRADREISEN: BIKING FOR A CAUSE -

Before picking up beer steins Saturday March 27, the organizers of the "Fahrradreisen," or bike rally, hope people first put on their biking shorts and participate in a bike ride benefiting Texas Wheels of Justice and the families of local fallen law enforcement officers. The event begins at city hall, 401 Market St., at 8 a.m. with sign in at 6:45 a.m.. Registration for the 10 mile, 54 mile and 67 mile rides is available online www.txwheelsofjustice.org and fees are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children.

Relics Remain from Kreische's Beer Business

Transcribed by MICHAEL BATES
Fayette County Historical Commission

The following is reprinted from the January 1959 issue of Brewers Digest

Texas' First Brewery

By E.E. LIEBERMAN

Vice President & Master Brewer; Gulf Brewing Co., Houston, Texas

The Kreische Brewery of La Grange, Texas, passed its 100th anniversary in 1955 under a pall of erie unruffled silence. Now stark and lonely ruins, this old beer factory - founded by Henry Ludwig Kreische - is reputed to be the first commercial brewery of the vast sun-drenched State of Texas.

The Kreische home still retains the old world trappings and dignity. The view of the fuming brewery it once commanded is now completely obliterated with dense, unkempt foliage. This baronial estate has not been vacant many years, as the last maiden daughter clung to the traditional life until finally passing away. She was the last of the strain.

I had the privilege of being escorted through the fascinating brewery ruin by George Adamcik, who knew the Kreische family and who persuaded the last heir to deed the land to the Hostyn Catholic Church. The property is not only closed to the public, but the ruins of the plant are almost inaccessible because of the overgrowth of jungle. The crumbled stone structures of the brewhouse, cellars and lime kiln are in a deep ravine below the sturdy old Kreische homestead.

From the size of the tree trunks, vines and roots that have overwhelmed what used to be a busy industry, this brewery has been idly abiding its time for quite awhile.

Still intact are some of the well-laid stone walls. Stepping into the 40-foot deep vault was a thrill that non-brewers would also experience. At the end of this arched-ceiling cave, the stone fixtures of what used to be the means of receiving the cool spring water are discernable enough to whet the imagination with the difficulties encountered in this type of cellar operation. This unromantic thought would only occur to a brewer, of course.

The roof of the main building above the cellar had collapsed decades ago. Only a few pieces of metal fragments were to be found in the rubble. Where the masonry had escaped the irresistible strength of jungle-growth and pressures from moving earth, it manifests the great pains and skill exercised by the artisans who pioneered this business. Though the vegetation had proved its might, and the twisted trees seem to scoff at mere man through their beards of Spanish moss, it wasn't difficult to picture in ones mind's eye the hustle and bustle that took place around the clearing back in those rustic days.

Strangely, the sight of this old derelict and the stately Kreische home is but a short distance from an imposing monument on top of the hill. In fact, the general location is called "Monument Hill," and over-looks the Colorado River of Texas, and the town of La Grange on the opposite bank. The geographical location might best be described as being between Houston and Austin. Monument Hill has been designated by the State as a memorial to the 58 Texans whose remains are buried there. During the War with Mexico in the 1830s, these soldiers were captured in the ill-fated Mier raid, led by strong-willed Captain Dawson. The party was captured and taken to Mexico where some were cruelly shot. By wooden wagons their remains were brought to this knoll which is now a state park and commands a picturesque view of the countryside.

Few of the many visitors know that beneath the rambling foliage in the ravine below, a possibly more interesting - though less macabre - relic of these formative days of Texas history lies serenely dormant.

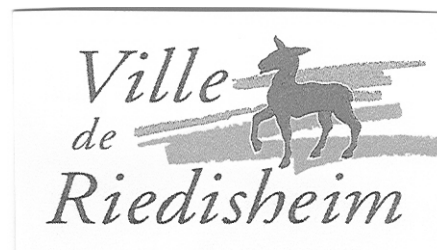
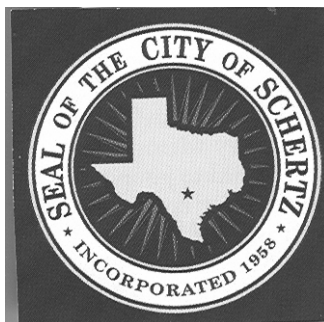
Editor's note: The state of Texas acquired the Kreische property in 1977 and has since made it a state historical site accessible by the public.

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

Schertz's "French Connection" Prospers and Grows

Historical Societies Promote Friendship

Common ancestry and 21st century technologies have joined together to allow for a budding friendship to develop between two historical societies situated a continent apart. The historical societies of Schertz, Texas and the City of Riedisheim, France first realized their common heritage about a year and one-half ago.



The realization for the French occurred during a visit by a Schertz citizen to Riedisheim in search of his own ancestral links to the Alsace region of northeastern France where Riedisheim is situated. It so happened that during his travels, Schertz resident Dean Weirtz, knowing of the ancestral link between Riedisheim and the Schertz community, had the good fortune to visit the town of Riedisheim on the very day it was celebrating its historical past through an exhibition at the City's exhibition hall. Mr. Weirtz, along with an Alsatian cousin and her husband stopped by the exhibit to admire the displays honoring the City's history. Inside the exhibit hall was the President of the Riedisheim Historical Society, Mr. Georges Meyer. The presence of an American visitor in the hall garnered some interest by the crowd and before long Mr. Weirtz was introduced to Mr. Meyer. Since Mr. Meyer spoke only limited English, Mr. Weirtz's cousin who speaks both English and French helped the conversation between the two along. Mr. Weirtz told Mr. Meyer of the story of the Schertz family migration from Riedisheim to Texas in 1843 and of Mr. Weirtz's own family connections to the region of Alsace. Mr. Meyer and others surrounding him were surprised to learn of the Schertz-Riedisheim connection and sought more information about the Schertz family. Mr. Weirtz related as much as he knew about the Schertz family, which, at the time, was not a lot. Mr. Meyer expressed interest in learning more about the Schertz-Riedisheim connection and asked Mr. Weirtz to communicate more information after he returned to Schertz. Before leaving the exhibition hall, Mr. Weirtz was privileged to receive a gift given to him by Mr. Meyer. The gift was a book that in picture and text commemorated the history of Riedisheim. Mr. Meyer penned a short note acknowledging the new discovered connection between his City and Schertz and asked Mr. Weirtz to bring the book back to Schertz for presentation to the City Mayor.

Upon his return to Schertz, Mr. Weirtz presented the gift to Mayor Hal Baldwin who was then beginning the organization of the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee. Mayor Baldwin invited Mr. Weirtz and Mrs. Donna Semmes (another Riedisheim visitor of earlier times) to come before the Committee and some invited guests to speak about their travels to Riedisheim. The presentation was met with some enthusiasm and thereafter Mr. Weirtz was invited to join the Committee.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Weirtz received an e-mail message from a representative of the Riedisheim Historical Society announcing that the Society was very interested in the story of the Schertz Family migration to America. The writer indicated that the French Historical Society was interested in preparing an article about the migration for publication in its annual Bulletin magazine. Mr. Weirtz agreed to furnish the Society more information. He began supplying the representative photos and stories about the migration of Joseph and Anne Marie Schertz to Texas from Riedisheim that he gathered from Walter and Lula Mae Schertz. The information eventually found its way into a thirteen page article of the September 2008 Riedisheim Bulletin, a copy of which was sent to the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee as a gesture of friendship from the Riedisheim Historical Society.

Meanwhile, historical society news continued to be exchanged between Mr. Weirtz, now Committee Chairman, and the Riedisheim Historical Society representative. In August 2008, representatives of the City of Riedisheim and the City of Schertz spoke via telephone and a proposal was discussed regarding



future development of a sister city relationship. The conversation produced joint agreement that such a move would be of interest to both parties and that future discussion may be possible. To date, there has been no formal commitment to such a relationship.

In May 2009, Mr. Weirtz, his wife, her brother and sister-in-law, visited Riedisheim. The Riedisheim Historical Society served as host for their visit. The "red carpet" treatment was unexpectedly provided. First, among many events was a gathering with the Riedisheim Historical Society and City Council members. This event occurred in front of the Riedisheim City Hall with news coverage and photos taken by the local newspaper. Next was a reception held in the Riedisheim City Council Chamber with traditional Alsatian food and drink available for sampling. At the reception was the Riedisheim Mayor (Monique Karr) who led a presentation ceremony that included gifts for the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee, the Mayor of Schertz and the Schertz family. Mayor Karr presented Mr. Weirtz a 10"x14" framed official copy of the marriage certificate belonging to Joseph and Ann Marie Schertz, the first settlers of Schertz, Texas for eventual placement in the soon to be developed Schertz Historical and Heritage Museum.

As a part of the presentation ceremony, Mr. Weirtz provided Mayor Karr with a key to the City of Schertz with the invitation to her and all those present to visit Schertz whenever possible. Mr. Weirtz also provided Mr. Meyer with a proclamation of common friendship between the two historical societies. Following the presentation ceremony, the Mayor and Mr. Meyer led the visitors on a tour of the historical city of Riedisheim. In the midst of the tour, the group stopped in front of a house, which Mr. Meyer announced, represented a special surprise for the visitors. He told the group that the house was the same house that the Schertz family had lived in just prior to

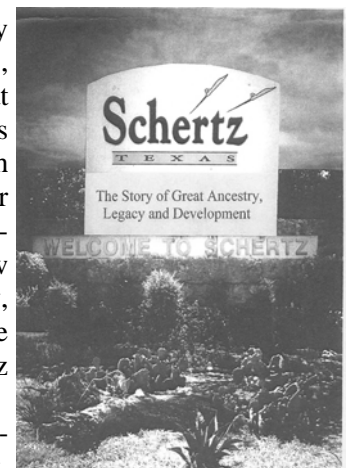


Front row: l to r: John, Joanna, Yvonne, Dean, Dorothy, Pascal Lubow, Marie-Odile Martin. 2nd row, l to r: Georges Meyer, Marie Jordan, Edith Leclert, Michel, Gerard Martin, Cano, Edmond Schwander, Cyrille Laenger, Colette Treichler

their immigration to Texas in 1843. The guests were thereafter treated to a three course dinner at a nearby restaurant that featured a menu of typical Alsatian foods and drink.

The full story of the Schertz-Riedisheim connection is told in a book recently published by the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee titled: "Schertz, Texas, The Story of Great Ancestry, Legacy and Development" that can be purchased at either the Schertz Public Library or the Schertz City Hall. The Schertz family was not the only original settler family to arrive in Schertz from Riedisheim. Along with the Schertz's were the Mergeles and the Rittimann families. More on each of their family stories and others will be featured in the Schertz History and Heritage Museum scheduled to be opened in late fall 2009. The Preservation Committee is now seeking citizen donations of Schertz related artifacts for the museum. On Thursday, June 18th, the gifts offered by the French History Society were presented to the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee and to the living relatives of the Schertz family.

In early June 2009, President Obama and French President Sarkozy met in Normandy, France to honor the fallen heroes of World War II in celebration of D-Day. The connection between France and America is forever cemented by those historic days. For the Schertz community, another French-American connection is being forged through the friendship developing among the two historical societies of Schertz and Riedisheim. Viva La Friendship



Submitted by Dean Weirtz, Schertz

People



Vastine Mueller, one of the students who attended Hanns School looks over albums of documents he has assembled on the school's history and traditions. *Staff photo by Aileen Loehr*

Ex-Student Preserves Memories of County's Early Rural School

By AILEEN LOEHR *The Fayette County Record, March 10, 2010*

When Hanns School opened in Fayette County, it didn't have any bilingual education. All classes were in just one language.- German. It didn't get much interference from the state or federal government. It didn't get any money from them, either.

The Hanns School was built in 1884 on one acre on the north corner of the Henry Harms property of about 640 acres. It was where Mueller Road now intersects with Sandrock Road, just northwest of Rutersville. There is no building there now, only memories of what used to be.

Vastine Mueller, who likes to dabble in history and such, keeps those memories alive. He was a student there himself, though it had become a public school by then.

When the school had opened, all classes were in the German language for the first generation children of immigrants.

The school term was just six winter months. The rest of the year, the children had to work on the farms. Eventually school was extended to seven and then eight months.

Local communities provided funding for schools. The state eventually began supplying textbooks, but not until 1918.

"The State of Texas, even as late as 1920 furnished only a reader, arithmetic, history, geography, civics, health and hygiene and spelling," Mueller said.

They didn't have TAKS tests, either. They had something even more consequential.

"What the seventh grade students feared was the county-wide examination which, if passed, qualified the student to attend any high school in the county."

High schools were usually established in larger towns, while rural areas had "common school districts." A 1911 law established county boards of education to oversee these districts.

When Hanns School opened in



This photo shows Hanns school students in 1902 numbering 32 with two teachers. The picture was taken outside in the Hanns School yard underneath the oak trees. Photo courtesy of Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives.

School Was Community “Hub”

The test was always given at a larger school in the county. This was followed by the graduation ceremony held at the La Grange High School where the student would receive his first diploma.

Adam Citzler completed the seventh grade in 1933 and made the second highest grade in the county-wide finals," Mueller recalled.

World War II brought many changes to America, including movement from farms to towns. Rural schools began closing.

Harms School's last year of operation was 1942-43. That's when the Harms School Common School District No. 78 consolidated with the La Grange Independent School District. From then on, the area's youngsters went to school in La Grange.

It's demise was no more than the end of a sixty year tradition of neighborhood elementary schooling. It marked the end of a community hub," Mueller said.

The school was where meetings were held with county agents and local Agricultural Adjustment Act agents. It was where exhibits were prepared for the county fair and where the community came together to discuss anything of mutual concern to them.

Dances were held at the school-house. "The school also served as a central point for the operation of the local beef club," Mueller said.

Harms School was like many other rural schools in Fayette

County. The building was 36 feet by 60 feet including a front porch and rear cloakroom.

Boys sat on one side and the girls on the other, each in a single row of two-seated desks. The teacher's desk was centered near the back of the room with a wooden bench located in front of it where classes were conducted for grades one through seven in succession.

While the teacher instructed first graders, the other students had to study on their own. Then the second graders would be called back, and so on.

There were two wooden benches on each side of the wood burning heater near the center of the room, Mueller recalled. Blackboards were located in each rear corner. A kerosene lamp and a world globe hung from the ceiling. There was a stage in one front corner and a filing cabinet in the other. A single Texas map hung on the wall.

Two outhouses were near the southwest fence, partially hidden by trees. A band of live oak and cedar trees stood the entire length of the grounds on the southwest side. There was a basketball court and a softball diamond on the school grounds. Other games students played included Annie-over, stealing sticks, marbles, mumblety-peg, red rover and hide-and-seek.

Money was tight then.

"The Hanns School's budget for the 1927-28 school year was \$910," he said. "In the 1930s firewood was

purchased for \$3 a cord delivered, which was probably the major expense item besides the teacher's salary;" Mueller related.

Some of the teachers included a Mr. Sterling, Miss Kaiser, Paula Baron, Emmie Schlick, Maude Beggs, Mr. Knuckerman, Viola Meyer, Frieda Janssen, Hilda Schultz Voelkel, Felix Ziebel, Mary Baron Gau, Emil Kern, and Viola Schott Gest.

Students would help the teacher clean up and the building was swept twice a week. The boys moved the desks and the girls did the sweeping.

The children usually wore shoes to walk to school and would go barefoot during the day. Lunch was brought in Karo Syrup buckets and eaten on the school grounds. They would eat dry sausage sandwiches, ham, boiled eggs or sugar bread.

Even though the school building was locked at night and during the summer, the key was kept on a ledge on the front porch and everyone knew it. It is believed that the building was never vandalized.

There were other problems, though.

Like unruly students. "One of the most persistent stories is that of the 'Seben Besen,' and it is largely a mystery to still living ex-students, Mueller said. "The story is that the 'Seven Angry Ones' were seven boys who were always causing trouble - in school or out of school. So much that the law had to come and deal with them."

Most of the mischief was much milder, though.

"During the noon hour the boys sometimes hunted opossums in the woods. On one occasion Clarence Gest was having trouble retrieving one out of a hollow tree and the hour was up. He and those with him debated whether the teacher would consider their situation a reasonable excuse for being late," recalls Mueller.

But being late himself wasn't an option.

"I never missed a day or was tardy in the eight years attended school," he smiles.

Gillilands are newest Life Members of GTHS

In February of 2010, Christina and William Gilliland became the newest **Life Members of the German-Texan Heritage Society**. Christina also serves on the board of directors of GTHS from the Dallas area.

Christina is active in the German business community in Dallas and is leading the organization for the 2011 GTHS Annual Convention to be held there. She was referred to our society by Van Massirer and has been recruiting members ever since! Last year she returned to her hometown of Cranz, Ostpreussen, now Russia. She contributed an interesting travelogue about re-visiting places she'd not seen since a child.

A German-Texan Heritage Society Life Membership is a commitment to preserve the German cultural history of Texas and leave a legacy for the future.

By joining the German-Texan Heritage Society as a life member, you'll never again have to think about filling in membership forms and you will save the Society the cost of sending reminders! Life members are truly a life-line to GTHS.

Please consider joining this special group of people.

GTHS president Mary Whigham, Christina and William Gilliland



... This just in ...

Just as the *Journal* was to go to print, Lewis and Dona Reeves Marquardt became the newest Life Members of the German-Texan Heritage Society. Dona is a founding member.

German-Texan Heritage Society Life Members as of March 2010

Mrs. Marcella Jo Chapple, Austin
 Mr. William & Mrs. Irmgard Christina Pomper Gilliland, Dallas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Otto Heaton, Calabasas, California
 Mr. Lance Hirsch, Boerne
 Mrs. Anita Locy Johnson, Austin
 Mrs. Roberta Klein, Austin **
 Mr. Robert & Mrs. Laverne Dierschke Knezek, Arlington
 Mr Michael G. and Mrs. Connie L. Krause, New Braunfels
 Mr. Paul Kruse, Blue Bell Creameries, Brenham
 Mrs. Sandra Matthijetz, LaGrange
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Neely, Bellville
 Mr. Ion Ratiu, Austin
 Mr. Donald & Mrs. Velma Rice, Bellaire
 Mrs. Hertha Lina Scott, XXXXXX **
 Mrs. Herta Sokolyk, New Braunfels *
 Mr. Todd & Mrs. Lacey Steigerwald, Austin
 Mrs. Anne Stewart, Comfort
 Mrs. Anna Wirth Thompson, Dublin *
 Mrs. Helen Trenckmann, Austin *
 Mrs. Mariam York, Giddings **

* Charter Member

** Deceased



Nora Braun nears the century mark.
Staff Photo by Aileen Loehr

By AILEEN LOEHR *The Fayette County Record, TUESDAY, Feb. 23, 2010*

Nora Braun was just 18 years old when she became a school teacher. It all began in a three room school house in Carmine.

"I taught three grades and had 44 students at one time," she said. Some came to school speaking German and no English and all the kids were scared.

"Know what? I was scared too." That was back in 1928. And scared or not, she continued teaching for 45 years.

Now she's 99 years old - the oldest member of Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Carmine. And she has some advice for youngsters nowadays,

"Be responsible for your own actions. Be aggressive, and don't wait on people to help you. If you receive advice, accept it and go on from there."

She helped many a child get off on the right foot in school. Many came scared stiff, she recalled. She gained their confidence with her infectious smile and then after a while, she could see a change in their attitude and they were not as scared anymore.

"I always started the day with The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a prayer. I believed that was the correct way to begin each day," she said.

First graders, who were homesick, especially needed the extra time she set aside to help them. She became like their mama away from home.

"You know, I heard lots of

'Pledge and Prayer' Good Way To Start the Day, Teacher Says

stories that are still with me that my school kids told me that their parents never knew," laughs Braun.

A schoolteacher's life was harder then.

"The first thing I had to do was to fire up the old pot bellied stove in the winter time," reminisced Braun. "The children would bring in the wood."

Sometimes the children's clothing would get wet as they walked to school in bad weather. She would take the wet garments, lay them over the pot bellied stove and dry them so the children would not get sick. When dry, they would put them on again.

Today's "English as a second language" is nothing new. It was often a second language back then for local German families. "If the children could not speak English, I did not have a book to teach them, I did it by talking English to them until they would remember the words," she remembers. "Some came to school not knowing their ABC's or even how to count."

She would read a lot to her students, putting great expression into the stories.

"If I started a long story and had to stop in the middle of it, the children were anxious to see how the story continued and ended," she remembered.

Recess was always fun.

"We would play hide and seek, kick the bucket or can whichever was around, volleyball and baseball. And I was always the pitcher," Braun said.

When asked who some of her school children were she named Norman and Loralie (Bauer) Schultze, E. P. Jacob, Jr., Sedalia Ullrich, Pam Schoenst, Wilbert Mueller, Mildred Frenzel, Barbara and Jocie Mueller, the Arndt children, Dr. Royce Keilers, Jerry Jacob, plus so many more.

The art of discipline was talking to the students first. But as a last resort, she would pull their hair or slap their wrist. "That usually got their attention very fast," she said.

Braun learned to "drive in a Model T Ford," and must have learned well. She says she never wrecked it.

Actually, it was really easy to drive, she said. The Model T had flaps that you could put down if it rained or if it was cold weather.

But that didn't protect the riders from other things. "You know my father chewed tobacco and when he was behind the wheel of the Model T going at a good clip and decided to spit, it usually ended up in the back seat if you were sitting there," recalls Braun.

"Mama would tell Papa to stop chewing - in a manner that everyone knew she meant business. He finally quit and it was a mite safer to ride in the back seat after that."

Braun was a very attractive girl when she was young and wore her hair parted down the middle with two bows on each side. She still looks beautiful now and says her secret is that she uses Pond's cold cream and Covergirl Makeup.

"I met my husband at a house dance. We were married in 1938 and did not own an automobile at first. We just borrowed our parents' car if we had to go somewhere," Braun said.

After some time, they purchased their first car, a Chevrolet.

Born May 8, 1910, in Carmine, she made teaching a long career. But when her husband became ill, she took care of him devotedly, until his death on Jan. 4, 1986.

Now she lives at Jefferson Place in La Grange, and enjoys every bit of her time, especially when she plays 42.

One favorite thing is to read Danielle Steele's books. When she finishes one, she puts the date inside the cover. Later, she will look through the books, check the covers, and look at the date. If enough time has passed, she will read the book again.

"Don't wait on people to help you," she advises youngsters.

"Go on from there."

Submitted by Rodney Koenig, Houston

A Possible Inspiration for Heinrich Weltner's *A King of the Rocky Mountains Drawing*

In late 2008, I distributed copies of a booklet that I had written about my great-grandfather, Heinrich Weltner. (*In America he referred to himself as Henry, but to distinguish him from two of his descendants named Henry Weltner, I use his German given name.*) Ironically, the booklet was born at the memorial gathering for my mother, Gretchen Weltner Stappenbeck, which I attended in the fall of 2007 at the Canyon Lake house where she had spent the last six of her 94 years.

Having resided outside Texas since 1969, I had only a general sense of the current status of some components of my Texas years – those minute and even trivial details about people, places, and objects that constitute the color and fabric of everyone's world. A significant element of my youth was great-grandfather's exquisite pencil drawings that I had seen in my home and in the homes of other Weltner descendants, now long dead. I was familiar with seven of his drawings: scenes of nature and realistic portraits of famous people. These works had always been objects of considerable Weltner pride, and I started to wonder what had become of them.

After my return to Alabama, I began contacting cousins and my sister, Grace Stappenbeck Ramsey, in the hope that they could tell me who now owned which drawing. I was entertaining the notion that someone might photograph the drawings so that images of them would be preserved for future generations. Everyone I contacted tried to help, but my cousin Patricia ("Trish") Weltner Funke, the Weltner family genealogist, proved to be the treasurer of information. She knew so much about Heinrich and others of the family that I named her co-author of the booklet that I was planning. Trish provided information about Heinrich from his birth in Germany, through his immigration to America shortly after the Civil War, his work as a carpenter, his residences in Texas, and his interest in music and drawing, to his death seven years before his first great-grandchild was born.

While working on the booklet, which was to include a biographical sketch of our great-grandfather, I realized that that he had produced some of his drawings by copying the works of others. My sister had told me that Heinrich's son (our Opa) had always dismissed the idea that his father was an artist. My cousin Dorothy Weltner Oelkers remarked that she had often overheard Opa and her dad (Opa's son Otto Roland Weltner) comment that Heinrich copied all his drawings. Moreover, I saw the images upon which he surely had based two of his works. One was a photograph of his son taken in 1904 – now owned by Trish, who also owns the drawing that replicates that photograph. The other was a picture of Thomas Paine that I found on the Internet and that was so similar to Heinrich's *Thomas Paine* drawing that I am sure that it was the model that he copied to produce his drawing. The Paine picture was of a painting completed in 1880 by Auguste Millière, who had based it on a print from an engraving by William Sharpe (1749-1824), who in turn had based his engraving on a portrait of Paine painted in 1792 by George Romney (1734-1802). So we can trace Heinrich's drawing of Paine back in time to Thomas Paine the man.

After finding three Heinrich drawings that I had not seen before, Trish and I had by the fall of 2008 a fifty-four page booklet featuring a biographical sketch of Heinrich and photographs of ten of his drawings. I entitled the booklet *Heinrich Weltner: Graphite Pencil Artist*.

Early in 2009, I became aware that the booklet contained errors and that it did not contain valuable information that Trish and I had found since its publication. More important was my discovery on the Internet of what I am convinced are models that Heinrich must have used to produce two more of his ten drawings – the *Wüstenkonzert* and the *Bismarck* – as well as the likely model for his *Lincoln* drawing: an 1863 photograph of the President.

Because of the discoveries of errors, new information, and evidence that Heinrich copied at least three more of his drawings, I decided to revise the booklet. A year after the first edition appeared, I published a sixty-page revised edition with a revised title: *Heinrich Weltner: Graphite Pencil Craftsman*. My referring to Heinrich's work as craftsmanship rather than as art may seem arbitrary, but copying images that others had produced is not the same as artistic creation. That's not to say Heinrich wasn't talented and meticulous or that his

drawings are not impressive. He was, and they are.

Beyond the five Heinrich drawings for which we have found what are almost certainly the models that he copied, additional drawings were likely influenced by specific creations of others. For example, as a young man in Germany, Heinrich must have been aware of Josef von Eichendorff's 1810 poem "Das zerbrochene Ringlein" and/or Friedrich Glück's song "Untreue," with lines of the poem for its lyrics. This song, composed in 1814, became one of Germany's best-loved folksongs. The opening two lines of both the poem and the song are "In einem kühlen Grunde / Da geht ein Mühlenrad" ("In a cool valley, a mill wheel turns around"), and Heinrich captioned one of his early drawings *In einem Kühlen Grunde*. This first line was widely known in Germany, appearing, according to an Internet source, even on German beer steins. If there were steins bearing this line, they may also have displayed a scene similar to what Heinrich drew. Or perhaps Heinrich had copied a print of such a scene. Or perhaps he created this drawing from his imagination of what a "kühlen Grunde" with a "Mühlenrad" might look like. Although we have not found an image that even resembles this drawing, I think it quite likely that the poem/song influenced Heinrich, directly or otherwise, to make the drawing.

Heinrich must also have copied his *Karl Schurz* drawing from a photograph or a print or a painting of Schurz. Though I've looked at dozens of images of the Schurz, I have yet to find even one that resembles the drawing enough for it to have been the model. Obviously, Schurz never sat for Heinrich's drawing, so I'm confident that Heinrich must have used an image of Schurz upon which he based his drawing. I just haven't found it.

The models, if there are any, for three more of Heinrich's drawings remain to be accounted for. One of these depicts a train of the *Queen & Crescent Route* chugging around a curve in the mountains of northeastern Tennessee. (The complete caption for this drawing is "a heavy curve in the mountains near Emory River, Ten. Queen & Crescent Route.") I have yet to find an image that Heinrich might have copied to produce this work.

Another of his drawings shows an Indian surrounded by buffalo skulls and sitting beneath two burial platforms, each with a corpse. He is looking toward the sun about to disappear below the horizon. Between this solitary Indian and the setting sun a train is puffing its way over a bridge crossing a river that meanders through the forested valley below. This drawing bears the poignant caption *Sundown of the Red Race*. Heinrich may have imagined this scene, but I surmise that he based the drawing on a print, whether or not with this title. I'm still looking for this model.

Heinrich captioned the drawing that is the topic of this paper *A King of the Rocky Mountains*. Because we had not found a model for this work, I offered in the revised edition the following conjecture:

... it seems likely that he [Heinrich] based this drawing on a photograph or a painting or a print from an engraving of either ① a North American bull elk perhaps in a similar setting or ② a European red deer stag if this is not a bull elk. Whatever the case, we [Trish and I] have found neither photograph nor painting nor print of such an animal that so resembles the drawing that it might have served as a model.

The last sentence in the preceding excerpt from the booklet remains true: we have yet to find an image that this drawing replicates. However, Trish and I have come upon what I believe may have inspired Heinrich to produce the drawing. In December of 2009, I received an e-mail from Trish asking me whether I had noticed how much the bull elk in Heinrich's drawing looks like the stag



Heinrich Weltner's *A King of the Rocky Mountains*

in the Hartford Insurance Company logo (see below left). Coincidentally, about two hours before reading her message, I had remarked to my wife that the Hartford logo that I had just seen in a television commercial reminded me of the bull elk in Heinrich's drawing. (In 2010, the bicentennial of its founding, the company began displaying a modified logo {see below right} in which a negative image of the original head and antlers of the hart appears atop the animal's neck.)



In the 200 years since its founding in 1810 in Hartford, Connecticut, The Hartford has sold policies to many Americans, including Abraham Lincoln, who purchased in 1861 a policy to insure his home in Springfield, Illinois. That very policy is the earliest known Hartford document to carry what we recognize today as the company's deer logo, although the deer may have been used by Hartford as its logo before that date.

Whatever the case, the image of the deer that became the Hartford logo led me to the source of that image: *Monarch of the Glen* (see below), a painting by the English artist Sir Edwin Henry Landseer (1802-1873). Best known for his paintings of dogs, deer, and horses, Landseer also produced the sculptures of the four lions "guarding" Lord Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. In 1851 he completed this oil-on-canvas painting, one of three depictions of chase (or hunting) scenes from his extensive study of stags in the Scottish Highlands. He had received a national commission to produce a set of three paintings for the Refreshment Rooms of the House of Lords. Upon their completion, however, the House of Commons refused to grant the £150 promised Landseer for the commission. The paintings were then sold to private parties.



Sir Edwin Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* (1851)

Monarch of the Glen was eventually purchased by the Pear's soap company for use in its advertisements. Later, the image of just the stag from the painting was used as the trademark of the John Dewar and Son's Distillery and as the logo for both Glenfiddich Single Malt Scotch Whisky and Exmoor Ales. Landseer's painting, now in the Diageo collection, was so frequently reproduced and became so widely available in the English-speaking world that it "came to be known as the most popular and most recognized picture of the mid-19th century."

The Hartford refined its logo to the point where it retained nothing of the Landseer painting except the animal itself, shown near a stream. The intention was to identify the company with the image of a large mature male deer and a stream – in other words, with a **hart** about to **ford** a stream. The company contributed to making Americans even more familiar with not only the deer but also the Landseer painting itself when in 1890 it commissioned a large steel engraving of that painting. An army of Hartford salespersons then distributed to their customers prints made from this engraving. The Hartford logo, with its Landseer hart, became as well known to Americans as is the logo of any other American company.

The animal depicted in Landseer's painting is a Western European Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus elaphus*) of the Scottish Highlands, the largest non-domesticated animal found in the British Isles. The Red Deer hart looks a great deal like the North America bull Elk or bull Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*) as both are very large members of the deer family and the male of each has a heavy neck mane and a very large set of antlers. In fact, mature males of these two species look so much alike that it was believed until recently that the Elk was a subspecies of the Red Deer. In 2004, DNA evidence suggested that the two are distinct species of deer.

Despite their similarities, the Red Deer and the North American Elk differ in several respects. The Red Deer is indigenous to most of Europe, Asia Minor, western and central Asia, and northwestern Africa. The Elk or Wapiti, the largest member of the deer family except for the moose (which, by the way, is called an "elk" in Europe), is native to North America and eastern Asia. The Red Deer hart of Scotland weighs up to 500 pounds, has a body length of seven and a half feet, has a shoulder height of up to four feet, and carries large antlers. The bull Elk of North America (usually called a stag or a bull or a buck) weighs an average of 700 pounds, has a body length of eight feet, is five feet high at the shoulder, and has antlers that may be as long as four feet.

So we have these two large male animals – a Red Deer and an Elk, believed during Heinrich's time to be members of essentially the same species: the "old world" Red Deer hart, familiar to most speakers of English through the widespread use of its image in advertisements and through the popularity of Landseer's painting, and the bull Elk, representative to many of the expansive wilderness of the American West.

I've already cited evidence that Heinrich used as models for several of his drawings images widely available in magazine and newspaper in the 19th century. Most of these models were probably prints made from wood or steel engravings. In fact, he was producing drawings during the very period when prints made from such engravings were prevalent in magazines and newspapers and when Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* and the Hartford logo derived from it were becoming increasingly familiar to Americans.

Two Heinrich drawings – *Bismarck* and *Wüstenkonzert* – which I contend he copied from specific prints, are so nearly identical to the suggested models that it would be difficult to make an argument that he used others than those suggested. That is not true with respect to his *A King of the Rocky Mountains*, which is not a replica of *Monarch of the Glen*. If we disregard everything in these two works except the deer, we notice that Landseer's hart and Heinrich's bull elk differ in several respects. The hart's head is turned so that it is looking to its right, whereas the bull's head and eyes are toward the viewer. The hart's legs slant toward a central point so that the two hooves of each pair of legs must be quite close together, whereas each of the bull's legs extends straight down from its body so that each hoof rests some distance from any other. The hart's royal tines (outer antler prongs) are a bit lower and its brow tines (the innermost prongs) a bit longer than those of the bull elk. The hart's antlers appear to be wider than the distance from the far left of its rump to the right side of its neck, whereas in Heinrich's drawing, the opposite is true. The hart's back slopes less precipitously to the rear than does the bull's.

These visual differences, as well as differences between the terrains in the background of each work, argue against the notion that Heinrich tried to copy the Landseer painting to produce his drawing. If Heinrich had wanted to draw a replica of an image, he could have done so with a high degree of fidelity to the model. We know that to

be true if we compare some of his drawings with the models that he must have copied – for example, his *Wüstenkonzert* drawing and its suggested model. I believe that although Heinrich did not even attempt to copy Landseer's Red Deer hart of Scotland, the theme of Landseer's painting was central to Heinrich's motive for drawing his bull Elk of the Rocky Mountains,

Although Heinrich did not replicate Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* to produce his drawing of *A King of the Rocky Mountains*, it is difficult to believe, given his access to images of such historical figures as Lincoln, Bismarck, Schurz, Paine, and models for some of his other drawings, that he was unaware of that painting. After all, the *Monarch of the Glen* was "the most popular and most recognized picture of the mid-19th century."

Since Heinrich did not replicate Landseer's hart, something that he clearly was capable of doing, what then might be the relationship between Landseer's painting and Heinrich's drawing? I propose that Heinrich's drawing is his reply to Landseer's painting. Inspired by an English nobleman's glorification of a Red Deer stag of the Scottish Highlands, a German immigrant to the United States drew an American counterpart: a bull Elk of the Rocky Mountains.

Point by point, the drawing by this carpenter responds to the painting by the English lord, even down to the captions. The caption for Heinrich's drawing is a linguistic and grammatical parallel to Landseer's caption. Each is primarily a noun that personifies the deer at the center of the work as if the animal were a supreme **human** ruler. Each of these two essentially synonymous nouns – *king* and *monarch* – is modified by an adjectival prepositional phrase (*of the Rocky Mountains* and *of the Glen*) in each of which the preposition *of* is followed by its object, which is the domain or the realm of the animal-king. Thus, Heinrich's caption *A King of the Rocky Mountains* mimics Landseer's title *Monarch of the Glen*. Through the similarities between the captions of these two works, not the similarities of the deer images depicted in them, Heinrich's drawing is linked more emphatically to Landseer's painting than it is to the Hartford logo.

In this vein, most of Heinrich's titles or captions are literal in that they only name the subject. A few, however, do express an attitude, usually figuratively, toward the subject. His "attitudinal" captions convey an emotional verve that Heinrich must have felt about the subjects of some of his drawings.

Two Heinrich drawings bear "attitudinal" captions. Whether Heinrich created or copied his *Sundown of the Red Race* drawing, the word *sundown* in the caption is a metaphor for the literal demise of the Native American, the cause of which is symbolized in the drawing by the white man's iron horse clacketing its way across a bridge that crosses a river winding through a pristine forest that was once the sole domain of the red man. I haven't found a model for this drawing, but if there is such a model, even if it has the very caption that Heinrich placed at the foot of his drawing, he may have used that caption because he agreed with its sentiment. On the other hand, if Heinrich came up with this caption, he probably did so because it reflected his feelings or attitude about the situation depicted in the drawing.

Another "attitudinal" caption (though in this case not one expressed figuratively) appears under his *Schurz* drawing, which Heinrich probably produced shortly after Schurz's death. The first line of this caption names, in upper-case letters, the subject: KARL SCHURZ. Below this name, in script, appears this line: "U. S. Senator 1869. Secy. of the Interior – 1876-1881 – born 1829 in Germany, died 1906 in New York." This second line expresses the pride that Heinrich must have felt as a German-American in a renowned countryman who had succeeded in his adopted country, for Schurz served as an ambassador in Lincoln's administration, as a Union brigadier general in the Civil War, as the first native German elected to the United States Senate, and as a member of the Rutherford B. Hayes cabinet. Unlike the caption for this drawing, Heinrich's captions for his *Bismarck*, *Lincoln*, and *Thomas Paine* drawings are literal and descriptive, showing no discernible attitude or exuberance toward these historic giants, not one mention of their noteworthy accomplishments.

I contend that Heinrich's caption for *A King of the Rocky Mountains* drawing also expresses an attitude toward the subject. After all, he might just as well have given this drawing a non-judgmental, merely descriptive caption, such as "A Rocky Mountain Deer" or "An Elk in the Rockies."

The parallelism between the caption of Heinrich's drawing and the title of Landseer's painting invites a

comparison of the two works themselves. Heinrich's caption tells us that this magnificent bull is the ruler of a mountainous realm just as Landseer's title tells us that this grand hart is the ruler of a highlands area. Furthermore, we see in the drawing that the North American bull Elk is at least as impressive as is the European Red Deer hart. And we see in the background the Rocky Mountains in the American West, certainly as grand as the Highlands in the West of Scotland.

Because I have yet to see an image that more nearly approximates Heinrich's bull Elk in *A King of the Rocky Mountains* than does the Red Deer hart in Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen*, I am confident that Landseer's painting, or some version of it, influenced Heinrich's drawing of an American counterpart to the Scotland hart. Although he was capable of doing so, Heinrich replicated neither the whole of Landseer's painting nor the stag depicted in that work, images that must have been available to him, probably in the form of a print from an engraving. Instead, he drew an American response to everything implicit in Landseer's painting.

In many ways, my great-grandfather remained a German throughout his life, evidenced by at least four of his drawings, two of which carry captions in German and two of which portray historic giants born in Germany – Otto von Bismarck and Karl Schurz. Bismarck represents Heinrich less than he does Heinrich's father, who was buried with full military honors at Schloss Löwenburg in Hessen. Schurz, the most prominent German-American of the 19th century, was much more nearly what Heinrich became. His "German" drawings, however, are only half of Heinrich's known works; the other half have American subjects, suggesting that he had accepted America as his country just as Schurz had. Of these American drawings, none is more impressive than his *A King of the Rocky Mountains*, and none is more evident of his pride in this, his adopted land.

If I'm correct about the relationship between Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen* and Heinrich's *A King of the Rocky Mountains*, my great-grandfather's drawing may be taken as a signal that he was finally and firmly an American. Perhaps he deserves to be called **Henry** Weltner, after all: native resident of Germany for his first eighteen years, immigrant to the United States in 1866, sojourner for a dozen years through the eastern states of America, and resident of Texas for fifty years until death in 1928 gave him eternal rest in Comfort.

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by Herb Stappenbeck

Herb was encouraged to submit this to the Journal by GTHS members Dorothy Weltner Oelkers and her husband, Edgar Oelkers. He is a native of San Antonio, but moved from Texas in 1969. From 1978-2005, he resided in Gadsden, Alabama. Since 2005 Herb and his wife have been in Hokes Bluff, Alabama, a village about 10 miles from downtown Gadsden. Herb married Barbara Pickard 1958; three children (Audrey Elaine - died in 2001; Gregory John of Tuscaloosa, AL), Stephen Charles of Austin). He has numerous aunts, cousins, nieces, etc., in the San Antonio area and will be in Texas for his wife's family reunion in late June. He has joined GTHS, and plans to visit the headquarters in Austin on June 25th.

Herb was born on Feb. 5, 1935. Graduated from Edgewood H.S. in 1953, BA in English from St. Mary's U. in 1956; MA in English from UT-Austin in 1958; PhD in English from UT-Austin in 1968. Taught English at San Antonio College from 1958-1965, at UT-Austin 1968-69; at Univ. of Missouri-Columbia 1969-75; worked in administration at Lincoln U. in Jefferson City, MO from 1976-78; employed by Gadsden State Community College 1978-2000. Retired in 2000.

Welcome Herb!

Senior Lecturer in German Is Named Teacher of the Year by Texas Foreign Language Association

March 25, 2010

Follow us on Twitter: [@BaylorUMediaCom](https://twitter.com/BaylorUMediaCom)

When Rita Abercrombie, a senior lecturer at Baylor University, teaches German, she likes to add extras -- coffee, a German recipe or two and even a German version of Scrabble -- to the basics of pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.

Abercrombie, dubbed "Frau Abercrombie" by her students, hosts a weekly Kaffeestunde (coffee hour) in the German Lounge of Old Main, where students sip java and chat informally in German.

Her approach of blending the practical with the academic is working. Abercrombie, a native of Buchen in Germany's Odenwald Region, has been named German Teacher of the Year by the Texas Foreign Language Association, which has more than 1,500 members. She will receive the award Saturday in Arlington at the association's spring conference.

"She's really good," said Colton Wright, a senior journalism major from Euless, one of Abercrombie's former students. "She's totally energetic. She's one of those teachers you want to work hard for, and it's easy to learn with her."

The Texas Foreign Language Association consists of individuals who teach foreign languages within Texas at junior high schools, high schools and universities. The Teacher of the Year Award, determined by a committee of past teachers of the year, is based on school involvement, participation in professional organizations, club sponsorship and contributions to curriculum and professional development.

An individual's nomination must be done by a "nominator," such as a colleague, with supporting letters from an administrator, a student and a parent. Nominees also must write letters about their goals and teaching philosophy.

Billie Hulke, a lecturer of Spanish at Baylor and a former president of the Texas Foreign Language Association, nominated Abercrombie for the award. Hulke's office is near Abercrombie's in Draper Hall, and she has observed Abercrombie at work.

Abercrombie is "a guide on the side rather than a sage on stage," Hulke wrote in her nomination letter. "She presents her students with new information and concepts and then steps aside to allow them opportunities to take risks in communicative, authentic activities to develop their proficiency skills, while constantly serving as a guide . . ."

"Rita is one of the most cheerful, inspiring, enthusiastic, compassionate and dedicated individuals I know."

In addition to the coffee hour, Abercrombie once a year hosts a Klub Deutsch (German Club) cooking event for students at her home. They choose a menu, shop for the ingredients, prepare the meal using German recipes -- and have dinner conversation in German. "Students want to understand a lot of (German) dialogue from the movies and the old TV shows," Abercrombie said. "The sounds are often like commands -- sometimes hard to do, because they aren't used to using their mouth to make such sounds in English. They're proud to be able to say it correctly."

Abercrombie, who first visited the United States in 1964, said she decided then that "this is the country for me." But she retains her philosophy that learning other languages is important "for opening the world and broadening the horizon."

"Of course I am an advocate for German and see the benefits for research in science, philosophy and religion, partnerships and business within the European Union, to name a few," she said. "I am happy that our 'Baylor' name will be mentioned (at the conference), since many of the teachers present will encourage students to study at our university."

Contact: [Terry Goodrich](mailto:Terry.Goodrich@baylor.edu), Assistant Director of Media Communications, (254) 710-3321.

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Submitted by Van Massirer, Crawford

Taking It All In Stride

Americans join German tradition of volkssporting



NEW BRAUNFELS MARSCH-UND WANDERGRUPPE SPRING WALK,

When: 8 a.m. March 20 and 21 in conjunction with the Mayor's Fitness Council of Wimberley. Information: Call Helgard Suhr-Hollis at 625-6330 or e-mail helgard@satx.rr.com. Visit the New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe Web site www.muw.walktexas.org or the American Volkssporting Association Web site at www.ava.org.

Photos by McKENZIE/Herald-Zeitung

Some of the members of the Marsch-und Wandergruppe pose for a photo Jan. 6 at the Panther Canyon Nature Trail. Pictured are Marlin Brendsel, left, Patrick and Helgard Suhr Hollis, Howard and Jan Waguespack and Claire and Amy Busse.

Marlin Brendsel likes to walk on the beaten path. After serving in the U.S. Army and retiring from a position with the VA Hospital that took him abroad to Germany and back again, it was the walks he participated in that took him to places unknown.

"The walks often take you to places that you might not have known were there or places in state parks infrequently visited," Brendsel said. "I know one walk was in Florida, and it was held in an area that was at the highest point at the Southern Peninsula. It was only 300 feet above sea level, but it was at a spot that I might not have otherwise have gone to had I not gone on this walk."

Amy Busse remembers participating in twilight walks in Germany. "You would see these torches all over the countryside," she said.

Amy and her husband, Jeff, the current vice president of the New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe walking club, often walk with their 2-year-old daughter Claire.

These "walks" are part of the sport of volkssporting - participating in walks, usually 5k or 10K group walks or self directed walks.

"It was founded in Germany by two soldiers in the late 1960s, early 1970s. I know them both," said Helgard Suhr Hollis, immediate past president of the New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe. "And now there are walking clubs in all 50 states."

Here in Texas, Fredericksburg boasts the No. 1 club.

"We are number 12," Helgard said. "Texas has a lot of clubs."



ABOVE: Helgard Suhr Hollis points to the certification stamps inside one of her "walking passport", a document that shows the many places she has participated in walks.

Howard and Ian Waguespack started walking about five years ago after seeing information about the New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe in the Herald-Zeitung. Like Brendsel, the couple said they enjoy seeing new areas they might not otherwise see.

The club currently boasts almost 60 members and meets the third Tuesday of each month at different locations. This Tuesday, Jan. 19, members will meet at 7 p.m. at Friesenhaus and invite newcomers to join them.

There are a lot of walks. Walkers might choose from more than 1,800 walks offered in the United States.

There are self-guided walks, registered weekend and evening walks and guided walks. In addition, events are not limited to just walking, but can also include running, biking, swimming and sometimes, cross-country skiing and roller or ice-skating.

"Walks are rated on difficulty on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most difficult," said Patrick Hollis, Helgard's husband and avid walking partner. "1 is wheelchair and stroller friendly. Many of the walks are rated 1 to 3."

Walkers might bring their walking passports, or AVA (American Volkssporting Association)/IVV (Internationaler Volkssportverband) booklets, to get them stamped to commemorate each walk and log kilometers for future awards and achievements.

Two-year-old Claire won't be able to get her walking passport until she is old enough to participate in a walk on her own, but for now enjoys participating with her parents.

Brendsel has participated in 50 walks in one year, and intends to slow down just a bit after his wife asked him to stay home sometimes.

"I enjoyed the Crazy Horse walk in South Dakota," he said. "I've participated in that walk three times. As many as 10,000 participate in that walk. It is very well attended."

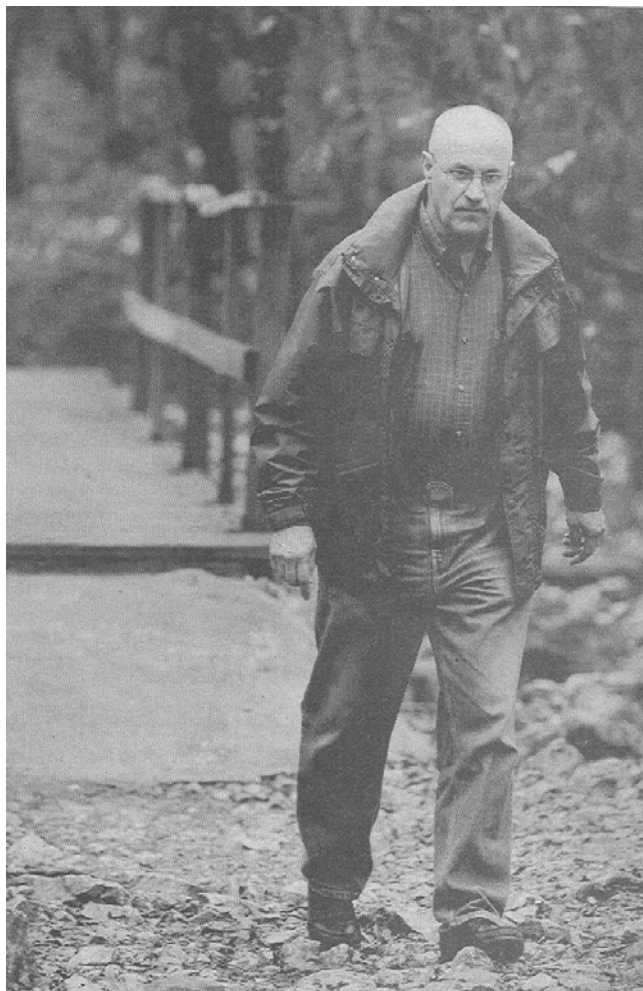
Helgard, who has been participating in volkssports for 30 years, has clocked more than 7,000 kilometers. A volkssportjacket displays her patches, medals and awards from previous walks, including all the countries where she has walked. In addition to Hungary, Germany and Ireland, she added her latest country walk- China. She has many walks that stand out in her memory - including walking in Poland in the snow.

Helgard has walked in all 50 states. Patrick just recently completed some major walks this past fall and will present his program, "Walking the First 13 States and the Battlegrounds of the Revolutionary Wars" at the next Marsch-und Wandergruppe meeting.

The club is preparing to host its Spring Walk, in conjunction with the Mayor's Fitness Council of Wimberley, beginning at 8 a.m. on March 20-21. More than 440 participated in the club's fall Wurstfest walk, Helgard said.

For information, contact Helgard Suhr-Hollis at 625-6330 or e-mail helgard@satx.rr.com.

Visit the New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe Web site at www.muw.walktexas.org, or the American Volkssporting Association Web site at www.ava.org.



Marsch-und Wandergruppe member Marlin Brendsel walks along the path at the Panther Canyon Nature Trail on Jan. 6.

LAURA McKENZIE

Herald-Zeitung, January 17, 2010

Submitted by Connie Krause, New Braunfels

The Erath Arches were commissioned in 1936 to recognize George Erath, the county's namesake. The arches straddle Erath Street in Stephenville

Whitney Lee Photo

By Whitney Lee, Correspondent

George Barnard Erath, like many early Texans immigrated to the frontier from far away lands. Born to a German tanner in Vienna, Austria, on Jan. 1, 1813, Erath harbored a desire to explore foreign countries from an early age.

At age 12, Erath studied English and Spanish at the Vienna Polytechnic Institute. After his father died, Erath's mother sent the young 15-year-old to Germany to avoid the Austrian Army draft. And there began his journey to the West.

When Erath's passport expired after a year, his mother had remarried and encouraged him to stay with family in Germany. But his feet were itching and Erath found passage to the New World with a German colonel.

Erath landed in New Orleans on July 8, 1832 according to records at the Texas Historical Association. He worked as a tanner, earning money to continue his trip and finally made it to the Republic of Texas in March 1833 at the age of 20.

His adventurous spirit continued to drive Erath and he traveled all the way to Colorado before returning to Texas in 1834 when he joined surveyor Alexander Thompson as a chain carrier. The group started out by surveying Robertson County and Erath stayed with Thompson until he was distracted by wars with Native Americans.

In 1835, he joined John H. Moore's Rangers and earned the nickname, "The Flying Dutchman."

He continued to work as a surveyor but the "unsettled frontier" provided ample opportunities for adventure and Erath often switched

The county's namesake: George B. Erath

Stephenville Empire-Tribune, March 28, 2010



from creating topographies to battling Comanche's, even taking time to join the Texas Revolution and fighting in the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836.

In 1837, Erath commanded 14 men against 150 Native Americans at a fight on Elm Creek. Records show that the small group protected nearby settlements from an impending raid.

At the time the Rangers were paid in Texas treasury notes, which converted to about 10 cents on the dollar.

Despite the disparity in pay, Erath continued to switch between surveyor and soldier.

Finally, in 1843, Erath traded the wild frontier for politics when he was elected to the Congress of the Republic of Texas. He represented Milam County in the House of Representatives until 1845 and strongly supported Texas' annexation to the United States.

Between sessions Erath found time to continue surveying and led a team to survey the area now known as Erath County. Texas State Historical Association records indicate that this was the first group of white settlers to explore an area named "el bosque" or "the forest" by Mexican and Spanish settlers.

In December 1845, Erath married a woman from New York and returned to politics in 1846 as a member of the first Texas legislature.

During a break from politics, Erath surveyed and laid out many of the original streets in Waco.

In 1854, Erath returned to present day Erath County with a group of 30 pioneers, including John Stephens who would become the founder of Stephenville.

Erath County was created in 1856 from portions of Bosque and Coryell counties after the state and Stephens agreed to terms, including founding the city of Stephenville and naming it the county seat.

Cathy Hartmann, Chairwoman of the Erath County Historical Commission, said the county inherited a great name.

"The more I read about him and learned, he had a very distinguished career," Hartmann said. "I take pride in the fact that our county was named for him."

But Erath wasn't done yet.

At 44, Erath was elected to the Texas Senate, and was instrumental in persuading Gov. Hardin Runnels to recruit 100 additional Texas Rangers to help protect frontier settlements. He resigned in 1861 to work as a negotiator between Texas

and Native Americans.

But duty would call to Erath again and he fought in the 15th Texas Infantry Regiment during the Civil War.

He was discharged due to ill health, but was named major of a frontier regiment in 1864, recruiting soldiers in Brown and Coryell counties.

After the war, Erath attempted to retire to his farm near Waco. But known as the "walking dictionary of the land office," Erath found little quiet time as his knowledge and expertise was frequently sought.

In 1874, he returned to the state senate once again as part of the 14th legislature.

The city of Stephenville houses one of the few physical monuments to Erath, who died May 13, 1891 at the age of 78.

Along with the county name, a city street was named for him and a set of arches marked the entrance. In 1936, the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations allocated \$1,000 to build the monument to mark the 100th anniversary of the Texas Revolution and the arches were built in 1936 as a tribute to George B. Erath.

Native Erath County son, C. V. Head, was asked to design the monument. He was paid a mere \$30 for his designs.

For local historians, the Erath Memorial Arches are important monuments to the county's history.

"He surveyed a lot of this area, including Waco," Hartman said. "He's known as the father of Waco."

The Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame in Waco bears a monument in Erath's image.

In 2001, the Sons and Daughters of Confederate Veterans placed a monument on the courthouse lawn to honor Major Erath and other fellow Confederate soldiers.

But the arch monument is the only known monument to George Erath in the county.

The arches still sit at the entrance

to Erath Street across from Central Elementary. However, as years rolled by and vehicles replaced horses and buggies, the arches were slated to be torn down to make room for wider streets. An old Stephenville Empire-Tribune newspaper report states that local residents rallied together in the 1960s to save the arches.

Originally, the arches ran parallel to Washington Street. So, instead of tearing the arches down, officials decided to pick them up and move them to make room.

The historical commission applied for a marker in 2008 and Hartmann said they were notified that the city would in fact be able to mark the arches.

"(The historical marker) is coming as we speak," Hartmann said. "We should be able to hold a dedication in March."

The Tarleton State University Library has a copy of the Erath memoirs that he dictated to his daughter, Lucy, in 1886 at the age of 73.

"The Memoirs of George B. Erath" was first published by the Southwestern Historical Quarterly in 1923.



This photo of George Bernard Erath was taken in 1860 when he served in the Texas Legislature.



**The Erath Memorial Arches
1936
Texas Historical Commission
Marker Dedication
Sunday, March 28, 2010**

Program:

Welcome by Cathey Hartmann,
Chairman, Erath County Historical
Commission

Invocation

Posting of Colors/Pledges to U.S.
and Texas Flags

Introduction of Guests
History of Erath Arches—Marla
Bush
Daughters of the Republic of Texas
and United Daughters of
Confederacy

Representing the life of George B.
Erath:

Randy Billingsley—San Jacinto De-
scendants
Danny Briley—Texas Rangers
Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.& A.M.
Sid Miller— Texas Representative
District 59

Thomas Harrison—Camp Com-
mander, 2nd Texas Frontier #1904

Unveiling and Dedication of Marker

Closing Remarks/Benediction

Reception to follow

Submitted by Anna Thompson, Dublin

NOAK FAMILY REUNION AT ROUND TOP

The 66th annual Noak Family Reunion, one of the oldest continuing reunions in Fayette County, was held Sunday, April 25, at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall with 59 members of the Peter August and Johanna Wilhelmine Mitzscherling Noack (Noak) family in attendance.

Robert Leonhardt of Round Top offered the prayer before the noon catered meal. After the meal, David Noak of La Grange called the business meeting to order. Diana Kallus of Victoria read the minutes, and Lanette Williams of Carmine gave the treasurer's report.

Four births were reported since the last reunion, and included Tara Burke, daughter of Joe & Haley Burke on August 28, 2009, Ben Meinkowsky, son of Jared & Brooke Meinkowsky on November 30, 2009, Brody Meinkowsky, son of Brannon and Jamie Meinkowsky of Conroe on January 30, 2010, and Faithlin Culberson, daughter of Keith and Michelle Culberson of La Grange on December 1, 2009. One birth reported after the reunion was Dylan Odom to Jeremy and Sarah Odom of Houston on April 16, 2010. The youngest member present was Brody Meinkowsky, three month old son of Brannon and Jamie Meinkowsky of Conroe. Nola Goehring, 90, of Round Top was the oldest female present, and Fred Weber, 85, of Austin was the oldest male present.

Six marriages were reported since the last reunion, Tamara Zuehlke to Mike Twidel on March 13, 2010, Lauren Hinze to Jackson O'Malley on February 20, 2010, Grant Becka to Jill Sikorski on September 12, 2009, Michelle Noak to Keith Culberson on April 19, 2008, Jessica Bartek to Johnny Pantalion on October 24, 2009, and Kaisa Weigelt to Jeffrey Chovanec, date not known. The most recently married couple present was Michelle and Keith Culberson of La Grange at one year. The longest married couple present was Tom & Dorothy Rothermel of Brenham with 62 years, 4 months.

Recognition was given to Scott Menn of Corvallis, Oregon, who traveled farthest to attend the reunion with 3,000 miles.

Five deaths were reported since the last reunion, Dean Jackson on March 14, 2009, Vernell Weber on July 1, 2009, Nelson Kieke on May 6, 2009, Olga Haney in April, 2008, and Lisa Sanders on February 6, 2010. A prayer was offered in their memory and for all the deceased members of the family.

Special recognition was given to one family member who has been in attendance at every reunion. Neva Noak of La Grange has not missed the reunion once in its sixty-six year history.

Members of the family who are currently on active military duty include Nathan Weigelt in Afghanistan, Zachary Weigelt in Baumholder, Germany, Johnathan Noak, Army, in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Destin Noak, Jr., Air Force, in Kurdistan.

Noak family members who currently reside in rehab or nursing facilities include Lydia Hoel in Clifton, Bill Benson in Katy, Nevilee Marburger in Houston, and Irene Noak, Nolan Noak and Edith Klump, all in La Grange.

David Noak will again preside, Diana Kallus was elected to serve as secretary, and Lanette Williams was elected to serve as treasurer for next year. Dorothy Rothermel of Carmine spoke briefly on family lineage, and had copies of family history papers available for those in attendance. Guessing game winners were announced and door prizes were handed out, after which the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer in German and English.

Article by Diana Kallus, Victoria
Secretary for the Noak Reunion

Neva Noak of La Grange in attendance at all reunions in its sixty-six year history!



Submitted by Dorothy Noak Rothermel, Brenham

THE FAMILY OF DANIEL & LOUISE (SPREEN) IMHOFF

By Daniel Bode

Henriette Charlotte Louise Spreen was born 27 Nov. 1851 in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany. She was baptized 30 Nov. 1851 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wehdem. Louise was the daughter of **Carl Friedrich Spreen** (born 20 Jan. 1819, in Wehdem; died 26 July 1885, in Wehdem) and his wife, **Charlotte Henriette Dreier** (born 1 May 1817, in Wehdem; died 22 Oct. 1856, in Wehdem). Louise's parents were married 21 Nov. 1844, in Wehdem. Louise had three sisters and one brother. They were:

1. **Marie Charlotte Henriette Spreen** born 18 Nov. 1845 in Wehdem, Westphalia, and she died 14 Oct. 1874, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette Spreen married **Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm Bode** on 20 Oct. 1866, in Salem Lutheran Church, Salem, Washington Co., Tx. Wilhelm Bode was born 20 Dec. 1830, in Rosenthal, Hannover, Germany, and he died 6 Dec. 1891, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas.
2. **Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Spreen** born 30 Oct. 1848, in Wehdem, Westphalia, and he died 31 Jan. 1920, in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Wilhelm Spreen married **Marie Henriette Caroline Schramme** on 29 Jan. 1875, in Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wiedeville, Washington Co., Texas. Henriette nee Schramme was born 28 March 1856, in Wehdem, Westphalia, and she died in Prairie Hill, Washington Co., Texas, on 17 May 1948.
3. **Wilhelmine Henriette Louise Spreen** born 18 Feb. 1854, in Wehdem, Westphalia, and she died 28 Jan. 1870, in Wehdem, Westphalia.
4. **Infant Daughter Spreen** born & died 22 Oct. 1856, in Wehdem, Westphalia.

Louise's paternal grandparents were **Friedrich Wilhelm Hoegemeier** known as Spreen (born 8 Feb. 1778, in Wehdem; died 26 Aug. 1832, in Wehdem) and **Marie Elisabeth Klocke** (born 21 June 1775, in Wehdem; died 26 June 1850, in Wehdem). They were married 16 Dec. 1801, in Wehdem.

Louise's maternal grandparents were **Johann Christoph Dreier** (born 1 Feb. 1794, in Wehdem; died 2 March 1834, in Wehdem) and **Anna Marie Charlotte Winkelmann** (born 19 June 1797, in Wehdem; died 14 Sept. 1870, in Wehdem). They were married on 17 April 1817, in Wehdem.

Louise was not quite five years of age when her mother, Charlotte Henriette Spreen nee Dreier, died in childbirth on 22 Oct. 1856, along with Louise's baby sister. Louise's father, Carl Friedrich Spreen, did not remarry. Louise, her brother, Wilhelm, and sister, Wilhelmine, were raised by their widowed father and their oldest sister, Henriette, who was almost 11 years of age at the time of their mother's death. Louise's maternal grandmother most likely also helped in rearing her deceased daughter's children. In 1860, Louise's oldest sister, Henriette, left Germany for Texas with an uncle and his family. The departure of her older sister certainly must have left a huge vacancy in Louise's life, especially since she had no mother. Louise certainly must have taken on more responsibilities in running the family home.

Louise was confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wehdem on Palm Sunday, 1866, and later that same year, in September, Louise and her brother, Wilhelm, left Germany to join their oldest sister in Washington County, Texas. Their sister, Henriette, had become betrothed to a widower, Wilhelm Bode, whom she married on 20 Oct. 1866. Wilhelm's first wife, Albertine nee Jahnke, had died of yellow fever on 2 Aug. 1866, leaving Wilhelm with two small children, a daughter, Wilhelmine Bode, and a son, Wilhelm (Bill) Bode.

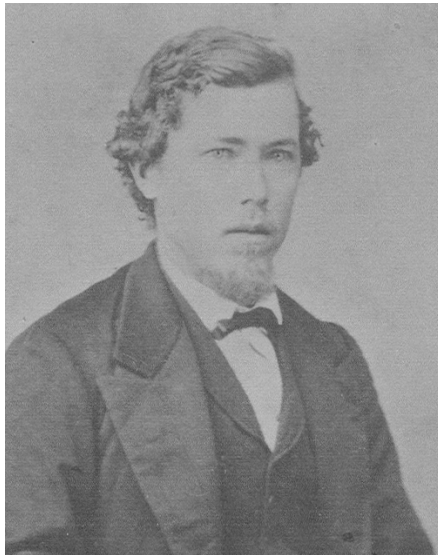
As excited as Louise must have been to know she would see her sister Henriette again, it also must have been heartbreaking for her to leave her father and younger sister, Wilhelmine, behind in Wehdem knowing she would most likely never see them again. Wilhelmine died of a fever in 1870, just before her 16th birthday, and their father, Carl Friedrich Spreen, died in 1885, at the age of 66.

Wilhelm and Louise Spreen's ship, the *Fortuna*, docked in Galveston, Texas, in Oct. 1866, and the brother and sister made their way to Washington County, Texas, where they joined their sister, Henriette.



Louise Imhoff nee Spreen, a native of Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany. She came to Texas with her brother, Wilhelm Spreen in 1866 at the age of 14.

Louise had made this long journey, just before her 14th birthday, with her nearly 18 year old brother. Louise and Wilhelm lived with their sister and brother-in-law until they established themselves in their new homeland. The 1870 Washington County census shows Louise and Wilhelm living together with Wilhelm working as a laborer and Louise keeping house. Louise stood as a godmother to her niece, Sophie Bode, upon Sophie's baptism at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington County, Texas, on 11 Feb. 1871.



Daniel Imhoff, a native of Eusserthal/Rhine, Bavaria, Germany. He was a Confederate veteran in the War Between the States. Uncle Daniel was a godfather to both my great-grandfather, Friedrich Carl Daniel "Fritz" Bode, and my grandfather, Henry Friedrich Daniel Bode.

At the age of 22 years, on 4 January 1874, Louise Spreen married **Georg Daniel Imhoff** in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington County, Texas. They were married by Pastor H. Pfenninger, and their witnesses were Johann Jost Hoffman, Hugo Wueste, and Karl Kuehner.

Daniel Imhoff was born in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, Germany, on 22 July 1840. He was baptized in August 1840, and confirmed in 1853, in the Lutheran Church in Eusserthal. Daniel was the son of **Georg Adam Imhoff** (born in 1808; died 17 June 1878, in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria) and **Anna Marie Hoffman** (born 29 Oct. 1810; died 30 March 1873, in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria). Daniel Imhoff had the following sisters and brothers:

1. Elisabeth Imhoff born 11 March 1837, in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, and she died in Berlin, Washington County, Texas, on 14 January 1906. Elisabeth married a widower, **Johann Jost Hoffmann** on 14 January 1862, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Johann Jost Hoffmann was born 22 August 1832, in Gleimanhein, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and he died in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas, on 29 May 1898.

2. Magdalena Imhoff born 5 July 1849, in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, and she died in Berlin, Washington County, Texas, on 9 Oct. 1877. Magdalena married **Edmund Kuhn**.

3. Heinrich Imhoff born 25 Sept. 1852, in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, and he died on 10 August 1879, in Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. He was buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Cemetery in Berlin, Washington County, Texas.

4. Gottfried Imhoff born in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, and he remained in Germany.

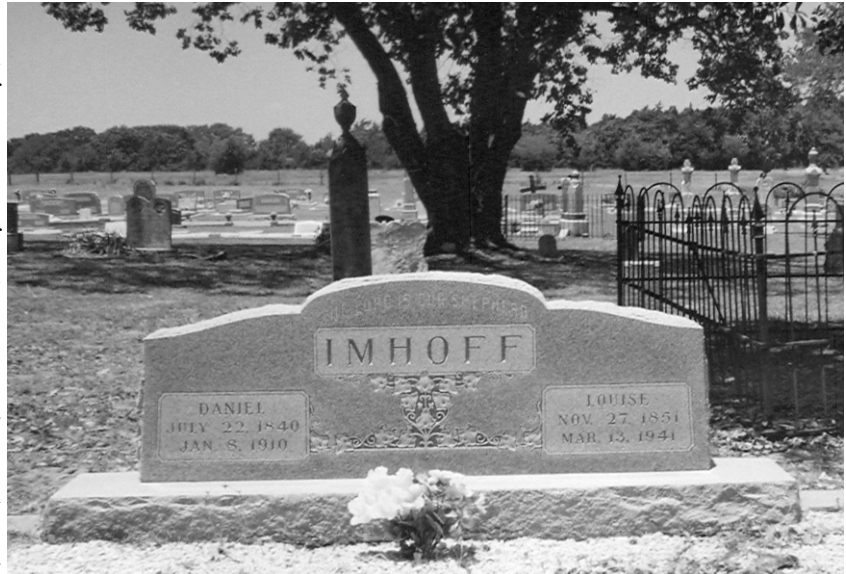
5. Anna Maria Imhoff born in Eusserthal/Rhine-Bavaria, and she remained in Germany. Her married name was **Kleinfelder**.

Daniel Imhoff left Germany with his sister Elisabeth in 1860. After their arrival in Texas, they settled in Washington County where Daniel worked as a laborer. Daniel served as a Private in COMPANY G, 1st REGIMENT, TEXAS REA VY ARTILLERY in the War Between the States. After the organization of the Washington Camp No. 239, United Confederate Veterans, Daniel became an active and honored member of this organization.

After their marriage in January 1874, Daniel and Louise Spreen Imhoff took up farming in the Berlin Community, just west of Brenham. They were active and faithful members of the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Daniel and Louise were to have 10 children, but only four lived to adulthood. Just 10 months after Louise's marriage, her oldest sister, Henriette Spreen Bode died of complications 10 days after giving birth to a son, Fritz. Henriette died 14 Oct. 1874, at the age of 28 years. It certainly must have been a crushing blow to Louise to have lost her older sister. Louise and Daniel took Henriette's son, Fritz, and kept him until he was nearly two years old. Fritz was then returned to his father, Wilhelm Bode, and stepmother, Emma nee Kalbow. Daniel Imhoff and Louise's brother, Wilhelm Spreen, stood as witnesses to Wilhelm Bode and Emma Kalbow when they married on 6 Dec. 1874, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. The Imhoffs maintained close ties to the Bode Family after the death of Henriette and the remarriage of Louise's brother-in-law. Daniel Imhoff also stood as a godfather to Fritz Bode when he was baptized at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin on 23 July 1876. Louise's brother, Wilhelm Spreen, married Henriette Schramme on 29 January 1875, in the Wiedeville Community in eastern Washington County. The Spreens lived not far from the Imhoffs in the nearby community of Zionsville the first years of their marriage before moving to the Prairie Hill Community in northeastern Washington County. From all accounts, Daniel and Louise Imhoff were well-respected citizens of their community. They were married 36 years when Daniel died at their home in the Berlin Community at 5 0' clock on Saturday afternoon, 8 January 1910, at the age of 69 years.

Daniel's funeral and burial took place on Monday morning, 10 January 1910. Daniel was buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Cemetery of Berlin. Louise Imhoff was to be a widow for 31 years. The 1910 census shows Louise living in her home with her son, Dan, and her daughter, Lena, and Lena's husband, Henry Roehling, and their son, Alvin. When Lena and Henry moved from Berlin to the Long Point Community in 1912, Louise moved with them. Louise made her home with Lena and Henry Roehling the rest of her life. Even though she maintained her membership at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Louise attended worship services at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville Community during these years where both of her daughters and their families had church membership. The Zion Lutheran records show "Mother" Imhoff receiving communion on several occasions. Louise became the last survivor among her

siblings when her brother, Wilhelm Spreen, died at age 71 years on 31 January 1920, at his home in the Prairie Hill Community of Washington County, Texas. Louise Imhoff nee Spreen died at the age of 89 years at 6:45 in the morning on Thursday, 13 March 1941, in the home of her daughter, Lena Roehling. She died nearly 75 years after she and her brother, Wilhelm, made their long journey alone together from their father's home in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany, to their new homeland in Washington County, Texas. Louise's funeral and burial took place on Friday afternoon, 14 March 1941. Her obituary states she was survived by her four children, 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Louise was buried beside her husband, Daniel, in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Cemetery of Berlin, Washington County, Texas.



The tombstone of Daniel and Louise (Spreen) Imhoff, Eben Ezer Lutheran Cemetery in the Berlin Community of Washington County, Texas.

The children of Daniel and Louise (Spreen) Imhoff:

I. Johann Jost (John) Imhoff born 29 August 1875, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. John Imhoff was baptized 9 December 1875, and later confirmed 14 April 1889, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. John Imhoff married **Rosalie Wilhelmine Philamine "Rosa" Groene** on 11 December 1900, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Rosa Groene was born 30



John & Rosa Imhoff Family, ca. 1910. Standing in back is Rosa and son, Edwin. Front: Raymond, Estelle, and John Imhoff

June 1877, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas; she was the daughter of **Heinrich Groene** (born 12 May 1851, in Wehdem, Westphalia, Germany; died 11 March 1920, in Berlin, Washington Co., Tx) and his wife, **Juliane Haubelt** (born 25 Nov. 1856, in Laudmer, Moravia, Austria; died 21 Nov. 1926, in Berlin, Washington Co., Tx). Heinrich Groene and Juliane Haubelt were married in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin on 7 Oct. 1873. Rosa was the third of 13 children born to her parents. Rosa Groene was baptized 10 February 1878, and she was confirmed on 17 April 1892, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. After their marriage, John and Rosa



Johann Jost (John) Imhoff and his wife, Rosa (nee Groene) Imhoff. John and Rosa were married 11 Dec. 1900 at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington County, Texas. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters.



John Imhoff and his wife, Rosa (nee Groene) Imhoff in their later years

Imhoff lived the first years of their marriage in Washington County, Texas, where they farmed and their first three children were born. They remained lifelong members of the Lutheran Church. From Washington County, John and Rosa moved to Germantown (now Schroeder) in Goliad County, where their last child was born. The 1920 census shows John and Rosa living with their children in Victoria County where John's occupation was listed as a farmer. From Victoria County, John and Rosa moved to Ganado, in Jackson County, Texas, and later to El Campo, in Wharton



John & Rosa Imhoff family, 1927/1928
Standing from left: Edwin Imhoff, Raymond Imhoff & John Imhoff. *Sitting from left:* Lorene Imhoff, Ryland Imhoff, Minnie (nee Creason) Imhoff holding Edwin, Jr., Estelle Imhoff and Rosa (nee Groene) Imhoff



The tombstone of John Imhoff in the Rose Hill Memorial Park in Corpus Christi, Texas

County, Texas. In 1929 John and Rosa moved to Corpus Christi, in Nueces County, where their oldest son had moved, and where they lived out their lives. Rosa Imhoff nee Groene died at home in Corpus Christi, Texas, on 16 July 1935, at the age of 58 years.



The tombstone of Rosa (nee Groene) Imhoff in the Rose Hill Memorial Park in Corpus Christi, Texas

John Imhoff died in the Roberts Hospital Annex in Corpus Christi, Texas, on 12 January 1944, at the age of 68 years. John and Rosa Imhoff are buried in the Rose Hill Memorial Park Cemetery in Corpus Christi.

John and Rosa (Groene) Imhoff were the parents of four children:

- 1. Edwin Daniel Wilhelm Imhoff** born 23 Dec. 1901, in Berlin, Washington Co.,



Edwin Wilhelm Daniel Imhoff (1901-1954), the oldest son of John & Rosa (nee Groene) Imhoff

Tx. Edwin was baptized 16 March 1902 in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, and he was confirmed 16 April 1916, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Germantown (now Schroeder), Texas. Edwin married **Minnie Anna Ceason** on 13 January 1925, in the Ceason home in El Campo, Wharton Co., Texas. Minnie nee Ceason was born 7 Nov. 1906, in La Crosse, Wisconsin; she was the daughter of **Fred J. Ceason** and **Alma Emilie Wolter**. Edwin and Minnie Imhoff lived their married life in Corpus Christi. They were the parents of four sons. Edwin Imhoff died in a Corpus Christi hospital on 16 Sept. 1954, at the age of 52. His funeral and burial took place on 18 Sept. 1954. Edwin Imhoff is buried in the Rose Hill Memorial Park Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Tx. After Edwin's death, Minnie married **Samuel Merchant Richardson** on 28 Oct. 1955, at First Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi. Minnie Ceason Imhoff Richardson died in Corpus Christi, at the age of 77 years on 14 Dec. 1983. Her second husband, Mr. Richardson, died



Minnie (nee Ceason) Imhoff (1906-1983), the wife of Edwin Imhoff. Minnie and Edwin were the parents of four sons.

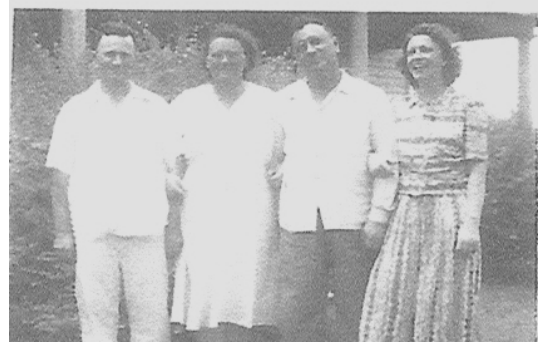
on 7 May 1985. Minnie is buried in the Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Corpus Christi.



Minnie (nee Creason) Imhoff Richardson in her later years. After the death of Edwin Imhoff in 1954, Minnie married Samuel M. Richardson



Edwin Imhoff, Sr., and his youngest son, Larry Imhoff



Imhoff siblings in late 1940's. From left: Raymond Imhoff, Estelle Bender (nee Imhoff), Edwin Imhoff, Sr., Lorene Cloud (nee Imhoff)

The four sons of Edwin and Minnie Ceason Imhoff:

1.a: Ryland Edward Imhoff born in Corpus Christi on 8 Aug. 1925. Ryland married **Edith Amelia Mary Plachy** on 23 July 1947, in Corpus Christi. Ryland Imhoff died in Columbus, Tx. on 7 January 1990, and he is buried in Salem Memorial Cemetery in Flatonia, Texas. **1.b: Edwin Daniel Imhoff, Jr.** born 28 Aug. 1927, in Corpus Christi. Edwin, Jr. married **Betty Lucille Vallowon** 15 January 1949, in Corpus Christi. Betty was born 1 Sept. 1928, and she died 4 May 1991, in Corpus Christi. After Betty's death, Edwin, Jr. married **Leonor Vasquez** on 17 Sept. 1993, in Corpus Christi. **1.c: Delbert John Imhoff** born 14 June 1930, in Corpus Christi. Delbert first married **Nancy Lou Davenport** on 30 June 1949, in Corpus Christi, and secondly to **Ann Snowden** in Dec. 1971; and **1.d: Larry Bernard Imhoff** born 2 Feb. 1934, in Corpus Christi. Larry first married **Danice June Barton**, and secondly to **Ora Frances Turner**.

2. Raymond Hermann August Imhoff born 11 Feb. 1905, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Raymond was baptized 13 August 1905, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Raymond Imhoff married **Mamie Fischer** on 13 August 1936, at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Rehburg, Texas. Mamie was born 25 Jan. 1913 in Rehburg, Washington County, Texas; she was the daughter of **Gustav Fischer** (born

1862; died 1943) and **Louise Knispel** (born 1875; died 1964). Mamie was baptized 2 March 1913 and confirmed 10 April 1927, at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Rehburg. Raymond and Mamie Imhoff had one child, a daughter, **Rae Jean**, who died at birth on 23 June 1939 in Corpus Christi. Rae Jean is buried in the Rose Hill Memorial Park Cemetery in Corpus

Christi. Raymond and Mamie lived several years in Corpus Christi until moving to Dallas in 1952 where Raymond was employed by the Dallas Independent School District. Raymond died in Oak Hill Medical Hospital in Dallas on 25 May 1974, at the age of 69. Raymond Imhoff was originally buried 27 May 1974 in the Laurel Land Cemetery in Dallas, but in the late 1980's, his body was exhumed and reburied in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. After Raymond's death, Mamie moved to Brenham where she continues to reside today.



The wedding of Raymond Imhoff & Mamie Fischer. They were married August 13, 1936, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rehburg, Washington County, Texas



Raymond & Mamie (nee Fischer) Imhoff in their later years.



From left: Mamie (nee Fischer) & Raymond Imhoff, Lorene (nee Imhoff) Cloud, August & Estelle (nee Imhoff) Bender, Easter 1957, Dallas, Texas



Mamie Imhoff (nee Fischer) - the widow of Raymond Imhoff. Picture taken on March 20, 2010 in Brenham, Texas. Mamie is 97 years old in photo.

3. Estelle Julia Imhoff born 7 April 1908 near Brenham, Texas. Estelle's baptism information has not been located, but she was confirmed 17 June



The wedding of August Bender & Estelle Imhoff. They married Oct. 8, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Tx. August & Estelle farmed cotton in El Campo, Tx. Until 1955. They were the parents of five daughters.

1923, at St. James Lutheran Church in Ganado, Tex. Estelle Imhoff married **August Carl Bender** on 8 October 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas. August Bender was born 2 May 1900, in El Campo, Texas; he was the son of **August Bender** (born 1863; died 1932) and **Marie Schultz** (born 1867; died 1952). August C. and Estelle Imhoff Bender were the parents of five daughters. August and Estelle lived in El Campo where they farmed until 1955 when they moved to Pasadena, in Harris County, Texas, on the east side of Houston. August C. Bender died in the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, on 11 May 1972, at the age of 72. Estelle Bender nee Imhoff died on 9 Oct. 2001, at the age of 93 years. Estelle was the last surviving grandchild of Daniel and Louise (Spren) Imhoff. August and Estelle Imhoff Bender are buried in the Grandview Memorial Park Cemetery in Pasadena, Texas.

The five daughters of August C. and Estelle Imhoff-Bender:

3a: Doris Roslyn Bender born 29 Nov. 1931, in El Campo, and she died 20 Sept. 2001. Doris married **Robert Bomar Brown** on 22 Jan 1955. Doris and Robert Brown are buried in Forest Park East Cemetery in Webster, Texas; **3-b: Elva Jane Bender** born 18 April 1935, in El Campo. Elva married **Sidney Donald Cochran** on 14 Oct. 1955; **3-c: Lavon Marie Bender** born 6 June 1937, in El Campo. Lavon married **Hubert Charles McKenna**; **3-d: Olline Lorene Bender** born 18 June 1940, in El Campo. Olline married **Harry William Power**; and **3-e: Faye Maurine Bender** born 11 January 1945 in El Campo; Faye married **Albert Wayne Smith**.



August & Estelle (nee Imhoff) Bender in their later years. They moved from El Campo to Pasadena, Tx. In 1955 where August worked in the Maintenance Department for the Pasadena Independent School District.

4. Lorene Jonie Sophie Imhoff born 20 September 1913, at Germantown (now Schroeder), Goliad Co., Texas. Lorene was baptized 28 June 1914, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Germantown. Lorene was confirmed 10 April 1927, at Trinity Lutheran Church in El Campo, Texas. Lorene moved to Corpus Christi with her parents. Lorene married **John C. Carlisle** on 5 Sept. 1944, in Alice, Texas. Lorene later married **T. F. Cloud** in Wortham, Texas.



The family of August & Estelle Imhoff Bender. *Back from left:* Elva Jane (Bender) Cochran, Estelle (Imhoff) Bender, August Bender, & Doris (Bender) Brown. *Front from left:* Olline (Bender) Power, Lavon (Bender) McKenna & Faye (Bender) Smith



Estelle (nee Imhoff) Bender at the age of 76 years. Estelle died at the age of 93 years, and she was the last surviving grandchild of Daniel & Louise (nee Spreen) Imhoff.



Lorene (nee Imhoff) Cloud. Lorene moved to Houston after she married her first husband in 1944. Lorene had a long career as a secretary for Shell Oil Co. from whom she retired.

Lorene did not have any children. Lorene Cloud nee Imhoff died in Houston, Texas, on 25 May 1992, at the age of 78 years. Lorene's remains were cremated.



Imhoff siblings, 1957. *From left:* Estelle (nee Imhoff) Bender, Raymond Imhoff, Lorene (nee Imhoff) Cloud

II. Johannes Heinrich (Hen'') Imhoff born 29 August 1875, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Henry was baptized with his twin brother, John, on 9 December 1875, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Henry died at the age of 12 years. According to the *Brenham-Banner Press*, Henry's parents, Daniel and Louise Imhoff, went visiting a neighbor on the afternoon of New Year's Day, 1888, leaving their two oldest sons at home. Henry and his twin brother, John, were playing with John Bode--who was also 12 years old. John Bode was a half-brother to John and Henry's first cousins, Sophie and Fritz Bode. Henry and John Imhoff and John Bode got hold of some gunpowder which they put into a glass bottle and then went out into the yard. John Bode applied fire to the bottle and a terrific explosion occurred, followed by a loud report. Henry Imhoff was struck under the chin and his throat was blacked with powder burns. There was no abrasion to the skin and no wound could be found, but his face and jaws began to swell enormously and blood flowed from his nostrils. It was believed that very fine particles of glass too small to make perceptible wounds distinguishable under the black powder burns penetrated the flesh.. John Imhoff and John Bode escaped unharmed. Henry Imhoff died at 5 o'clock the next morning of 2 January 1888. Henry was buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Cemetery of Berlin, Texas.

III. & IV. was another set of twin boys born to Daniel & Louise (Spreen) Imhoff on 9 July 1878, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. One of the twin boys died at birth and the other twin died on 12 July 1878

V. Anna Minna Imhoff born 29 August 1879, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Anna was baptized 25 January 1880, and she was confirmed 26 March 1893, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Anna Imhoff married **Heinrich August Lehde** on 3 December 1903, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. Henry Lehde was born 6 December 1877, in Zionsville; he was the son of **Karl Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Lehde** (born 6 Oct. 1843, in Westrup, Westphalia, Germany; died 1 March 1894, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas) and his wife, **Karoline Charlotte Wilhelmine Westerfeld** (born 29 Nov. 1844, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia, Germany; died 23 Dec. 1917, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas). Fritz Lehde and Karoline Westerfeld were married 14 January 1869, in Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington Co., Texas. Henry Lehde was the fifth child out of 10 children born to his parents. Henry was baptized 11 August 1878, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, and he was confirmed 26 March 1893, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Gay Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Henry and Anna Imhoff Lehde lived their married life in the Zionsville Community of Washington County where they farmed, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Henry and Anna were parents of two children—a set of twins. **Elma and Helmus.**

Henry Lehde died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on 21 April 1952, at the age of 74 years. Henry and Anna were married 48 years at the time of Henry's death. After his death, Anna lived in the home of her daughter, Elma Winkelmann, in Columbus, Texas, where she died on Thursday, 23 January 1969, at the age of 89 years. Henry and Anna Imhoff Lehde are buried in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas.



The tombstone of August & Anna (nee Imhoff) Lehde, Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Zionsville, Washington County, Texas

The children of Henry and Anna Imhoff Lehde:

1. Elma Karoline Louise Henriette Lehde born 17 August 1908, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. Elma was baptized 20 September 1908, and she was confirmed 25 March 1923, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Elma married **Karl Friedrich Heinrich Winkelmann** on 14 June 1938, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville; Karl, or Charles, Winkelmann was born 6 September 1906, in Zionsville; he was the youngest child of **Fritz Winkelmann** (born 1866; died 1943) and his wife, **Sophie Quebe** (born 1867; died 1960). Charles Winkelmann was baptized 28 Oct. 1906, and he was confirmed 20 March 1921, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Charles was a graduate of Blinn College in Brenham and Texas A&M in College Station. After their marriage, Charles and Elma lived in College Station where Charles was associated with The Main Experiment Farm at Texas A&M. Charles was also a veteran of World War II. After World War II, Charles and Elma made their home in Brenham for a few years until Charles was transferred to



The tombstone of Charles & Elma (nee Lehde) Winkelmann in Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

Columbus, Texas, where he worked for the Department of Agriculture Office in Colorado County until his retirement. Charles and Elma Winkelmann were lifelong members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Charles Winkelmann died in a nursing home in Brenham, Texas on 8 July 1978, at the age of 71 years. After his death, Elma moved back to Brenham. She had kept the house plans of the home she and Charles built in Columbus so she built an exact replica of their Columbus home on Munz Street in Brenham. Elma remained active well into her late 80's until she suffered a broken hip. Elma Winkelmann nee Lehde died in Brenham on 17 August 1999, which was also her 91st birthday. Elma and Charles Winkelmann are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Elma and Charles were the parents of only one child-a son-**Charles Henry "Chip" Winkelmann**-who was born 17 April 1945 in Brenham. Chip was baptized on 17 June 1945, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Shortly after his third birthday, Chip was diagnosed with leukemia and he died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham on 16 August 1948. Chip's funeral took place on his mother's 40th birthday, 17 August 1948, and he was buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery of Zionsville.

2. Helmus Daniel Christoph Heinrich Lehde born 17 August 1908, in Zionsville, Washington County, Texas. Helmus was baptized 20 September 1908, and he was confirmed 25 March 1923, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Helmus Lehde married **Nola Helen Balke** on 6 July 1932, in Sealy, Austin County, Texas. Nola was born 5 July

1913. Helmus Lehde was a graduate of Blinn College in Brenham, and he was a navy veteran of World War II. Helmus worked for over 40 years as an accountant for the Great Southern Life Insurance Company. Helmus and Nola Lehde lived most of their married life in Houston before moving back to Washington County in their later years where they lived in the Berlin Community, and they became members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lu



The tombstone of Helmus Daniel Lehde in the Prairie Lea Cemetery, Brenham

theran Church in Brenham. Helmus Lehde died in Brenham, Texas, on 27 November 1998, at the age of 90 years. Helmus is buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Nola Lehde nee Balke is still living in Brenham. Helmus and Nola were the parents of one child-a daughter-**Jeraldne Louise Lehde** born 29 Oct. 1939, in Houston. Jeraldne was baptized 17 Dec. 1939, and confirmed 29 March 1953, at Zion Lutheran Church in Houston. Jeraldne Lehde married **Julian Weisler, Jr.** on 29 Oct. 1968, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill, Washington Co., Texas. Jeraldne Weisler nee Lehde died of cancer in Brenham, Texas, on 12 January 2004, at the age of 64 years. Jeraldne is buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

VI. Louise Henriette Carolina (Lena) Imhoff born 10 February 1882, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Lena was baptized 9 July 1882, and she was confirmed on 29 March 1896, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Lena Imhoff married **Hermann Heinrich Wilhelm "Henry" Roehling** on 6 December 1905, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Henry Roehling was born 22 July 1879, in Oppendorf, Westphalia, Germany; he was the son of Christian Friedrich Wilhelm "Fritz" Roehling (born 16 Nov. 1850, in Oppendorf, Westphalia; died 15 Sept. 1908, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas) and his wife, **Louise Wilhelmine Karoline Hohlt** (born 13 June 1855, in Oppendorf, Westphalia; died 9 June 1922, in Zionsville, Washington Co., Texas). Fritz Roehling and Karoline Hohlt were married 22 November 1877, in Oppenwehe, Westphalia. Henry was baptized in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wehdem. Henry was the second child of 11 children born to his parents; the first three children were born in Germany and the other eight children were born after the family's arrival in Texas in 1882. Henry Roehling was confirmed 18 March 1891, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Gay Hill Community of Washington County, Texas. Henry and Lena Imhoff Roehling lived the first years of the marriage in the Berlin Community of Washington County until 1912 when they moved to the Long Point Community where they farmed. They became members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. They were the parents of two children-a son,

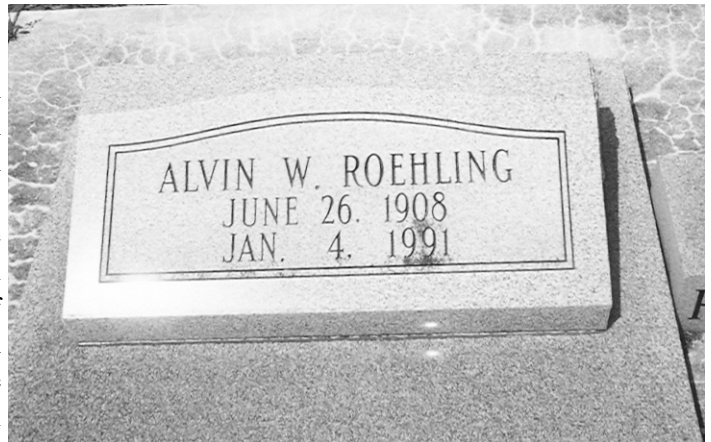


The tombstone of Henry & Caroline "Lena" (nee Imhoff) Roehling, Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Zionsville, Washington County, Texas

Alvin, and a daughter, **Helen**. Henry Roehling died of a heart attack on Monday, 28 April 1947, at the age of 67 years. The Brenham newspaper reported that Henry dropped dead about 3 o'clock in the afternoon while plowing in the field near his home, and that his horses stood quietly until help arrived. Henry and Lena were married 41 years at the time of Henry's death. Lena remained on the family homeplace in Long Point after Henry's death. Lena Roehling nee Imhoff died in the Milroy Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on Wednesday, 21 May 1958, at the age of 76 years. Henry and Lena Imhoff Roehling are buried in the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery of Zionsville, Washington County, Tx.

The children of Henry and Lena (Imhoff) Roehling:

1. Alvin Daniel Wilhelm Roehling born 26 June 1908, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Alvin was baptized 11 October 1908, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, and he was confirmed 25 March 1923, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Alvin served as a TEC 5 in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was later involved in various organizations such as the Burton American Legion, Burton Fire Department, and Gay Hill Sons of Hermann Lodge. Alvin married **Ella Mae Haarmeyer** on 10 December 1953, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Ella Mae was born at Sandy Hill, Washington County, Texas, on 19 October 1920; she was the daughter of **Otto Haarmeyer** (born 1892; died 1977) and **Bertha Becker** (born 1895; died 1975). Ella Mae was baptized 19 Nov. 1920, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Sandy Hill, and she was confirmed 25 March 1934, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wiedeville, Washington Co., Tx. Alvin and Ella Mae Roehling lived their married life in the Long Point Community of Washington County, and they were members of Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Alvin worked at the Homeyer Store in Long Point, and later for Maddox Furniture in Brenham. They had no children born to them. Alvin Roehling died in the Trinity Medical Center South Hospital in Brenham, Texas, on 4 January 1991, at the age of 82. Alvin is buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham. Ella Mae Roehling nee Haarmeyer continues to reside in Brenham today, and she is a member of Christ Lutheran Church..



The tombstone of Alvin W. Roehling in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.



Ella Mae Roehling (nee Haarmeyer), the wife of Alvin Roehling and daughter-in-law of Henry & Lena (nee Imhoff) Roehling. Picture taken on May 7, 2010 in Brenham, Tx. Mrs. Roehling will be 90 years old in Oct. of 2010

2. Helen Karoline Louise Roehling born 14 September 1910, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Helen was baptized 13 November 1910, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, and she was confirmed 5 April 1925, at Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Helen Roehling married **Frank Herbert Mikeska** on 11 August 1934, in Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Frank Mikeska was born 28 January 1907, at Nelsonville, Austin County, Texas; he was the son of **Frank W. Mikeska** (born 1870; died 1953) and **Henriette Leps** (born 1875; died 1968). Helen and Frank Mikeska lived their married life in the Kenney Community of Austin County, Texas, where Frank farmed and ranched. Frank also worked more than 20 years at Texas Southeastern Gas Company, and later after his retirement, at Bellville Golf and Recreation Club. The Mikeskas were members of the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Phillipsburg where Helen was active in the Ladies Aide Circle, and Frank was a member of the Brotherhood and served on the church council. Frank Mikeska died in Bellville, Texas, at the age of 82 years, on 25 February 1989. Helen Mikeska nee Roehling died in Bellville, Texas, on 26 June 1999, at the age of 88 years. Helen and Frank Mikeska are buried in the St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery in Phillipsburg, Austin County, Texas. Helen and Frank Mikeska were the parents of two sons: **2-a: Delano Frank**



The tombstone of Frank & Helen (nee Roehling) Mikeska in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Phillipsburg, Austin Co., Texas

Mikeska born 21 January 1935; he married **Donna Fry** on 1 June 1979 in Brownwood, Texas; and **2-b: Floyd Allen Mikeska** born 13 July 1941; he married **Patricia Ann Lynn** in Feb. 1965.

VII. Friedrich Wilhelm Daniel (Dan) Imhoff born 30 May 1884, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas. Dan Imhoff was baptized on 2 November 1884, and he was confirmed on 3 April 1898, at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin. Dan Imhoff married **Anna Heinemann** on 23 November 1910, in Washington County, Texas. Anna nee Heinemann was born 29 July 1886, in Hessen, Germany; she was the daughter of **Klaus Heinemann** (born 1857; died 1928) and **Margarethe Deiss** (born 1858; died 1933). Anna had four brothers and four sisters.

Dan and Anna Imhoff lived the first years of their marriage in the Mill Creek Community of Washington County. For a brief time in the mid-1920's, they lived in South Texas, at Beeville, in Bee County. They returned to Washington County where they settled in the Mill Creek Community and farmed. Dan and Anna were the parents of two children—a son, **Alfred**, and a daughter, **Willie Mae**. Unlike many of their relatives who were of the Lutheran faith,

Dan and Anna Imhoff became members of the Baptist faith. They were active members of the Greenvine Baptist Church in the Greenvine Community of Washington County. (The Greenvine Baptist Church was formerly known as the Ebenezer German Baptist Church. It is the oldest German Baptist Church in Texas, having been organized on 20 October 1861.) Anna Imhoff was a charter member of Greenvine Baptist Church's Women's Missionary Society. The Imhoffs were also involved in the Sunday School De-



The Greenvine Baptist Church (formerly Eben Ezer Baptist Church) in Greenvine Community,

partment and other ministries in the church. Dan Imhoff died in the Brenham Rest Home in Brenham, Texas, on 17 February 1966, at the age of 81 years. Dan and Anna were married 55 years at the time of his



death. Anna Imhoff nee Heinemann died in Brenham on 9 September 1979, at the age of 93 years. Dan and Anna Imhoff are buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham.

The children of Dan and Anna (Heinemann) Imhoff:

1. **Alfred Imhoff** born 4 September 1911, in Mill Creek Community, Washington County, Texas. Alfred was baptized 8 October 1926, at Beeville Baptist Church in Beeville, Texas. Alfred graduated from Brenham High School and Blinn College in Brenham. Alfred lived his adult life on the Imhoff Farm in the Mill Creek Community where he farmed and ranched. Alfred was a member of the Greenvine Baptist Church where he served as an assistant Sunday School teacher. Alfred died at his home in the Mill Creek Community on 11 July 1988, at the age of 76 years. Alfred was buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Texas, on 14 July 1988. Alfred married **Elsie Luedemann** on 30 September 1941, in Washington County, Texas, but this marriage eventually ended in separation. There were no children born in this union.

2. **Willie Mae Imhoff** born 8 October 1915, in Mill Creek Community, Washington County, Texas. Willie Mae was baptized 8 October 1926, at Beeville Baptist Church in Beeville, Texas. Willie Mae served over 20 years as the pianist at Greenvine Baptist Church. On 19 June 1955, Willie Mae married **Friedrich Otto Albert "Fred" Hueske** at Greenvine Baptist Church in Greenvine, Washington County, Texas. Fred Hueske was born 23 October 1912, in Muellersville, Washington Co., Texas; he was the son of **Albert Hueske** (born 1883; died 1953) and **Anna Holle** (born 1888; died 1980). Fred was baptized 26 Dec. 1912, and confirmed 1 April 1928, at Salem Lutheran Church in the Salem Community of Washington County, Texas. Fred and Willie Mae had no children. After their marriage, Willie Mae began attending Salem Lutheran Church. Willie Mae was confirmed at the Salem Lutheran Church on 28 March 1958. Willie Mae and Fred Hueske made their home in Brenham. Fred served as a PFC in the US Army during World War II, and he was a recipient of the Purple Heart. Willie Mae was active in the American Legion Auxiliary. Fred was vice-president of Brenham Production Credit Association at his retirement in 1978. Fred Hueske died in Brenham on 24 November 1995, at the age of 83 years. Willie Mae Hueske nee Imhoff died at her home in Brenham on 8 June 2000, at the age of 84 years. Willie Mae and Fred Hueske are buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery in the Salem Community of Washington Co., Texas.



Tombstone of Albert Fred & Willie Mae (nee Imhoff) Hueske in Salem Lutheran Cemetery, Salem Community, Washington County, Texas

VIII. Elisabeth Imhoff born 9 November 1888, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas, and she died at the age of 10 days on 19 November 1888. Elisabeth was buried in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Cemetery of Berlin.

IX. Louise Imhoff born 20 March 1890, in Berlin, Washington County, Texas, and she died at the age of 8 days on 28 March 1890. Louise was buried 29 March 1890, in the Eben Ezer Lutheran Church Cemetery of Berlin.

SOURCES: My late great-aunt, Lydia Bode Grudziecki (1908-1996) who told me about *her* great-aunt, Louise Spreen Imhoff; the late Elma (Lehde) Winkelmann (1908-1999), a granddaughter of Daniel and Louise Spreen Imhoff; Mr. Edwin Imhoff, Jr., of Corpus Christi, Texas, Mrs. Elva (Bender) Cochran, of Pasadena, Texas, Mrs. Mamie (Fischer) Imhoff of Brenham, Texas; Mrs. Ella Mae (Haarmeyer) Roehling of Brenham, Tx, Mrs. Virginia Fischer of Brenham, and Danny Imhoff: of Portland, Tx.

Church records of Eben Ezer Lutheran Church of Berlin, Washington County, Texas; Zion Lutheran Church of Zionsville, Washington County, Texas; and Christ Lutheran Church of El Campo, Texas. Church records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wehden, Westphalia, Germany, obtained with the help of Mr. Wilhelm Niermann of Stemwede-Wehden.

The publication, The Church Records of the Pioneer Families of Berlin, Texas by Dr. Edward C. Breitenkamp and Dr. Jack Autrey Dabbs.

Newspaper archives of *The Brenham-Banner Press* archived in the Blinn College Library in Brenham, Texas.

Submitted by Daniel Bode of Dayton, Texas-a Spreen descendant through my great-great-grandmother, Henriette Spreen Bode-the oldest sister of Louise Spreen Imhoff.

Special Section: A Tutorial on the Fredericksburg Area: Early Settlers and Interesting Happenings from the Handbook of Texas. Editor's Note: As we are planning to have our annual meeting in Fredericksburg, here is some background that will make the trip even more eventful:

FISHER-MILLER LAND GRANT. The Fisher-Miller Land Grant, made by the Republic of Texas on June 7, 1842, and renewed on September 1, 1843, resulted from a petition made by Henry Francis Fisher, Burchard Miller, and Joseph Baker on February 8, 1842, to be permitted to settle 1,000 immigrant families of German, Dutch, Swiss, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian ancestry in Texas under the auspices of the San Saba Colonization Company. The grant included more than three million acres between the Llano and Colorado rivers. The original contract allowed the introduction of 600 families and single men. Fisher and Miller did not succeed in colonizing the grant within the allotted time and took advantage of a legislative amendment passed on January 6, 1844, which extended the deadline. The amendment also increased the number of settlers to 6,000 families and single men. After seeking and obtaining the title of Texas consul to Bremen, Fisher went to Germany to promote colonization. On June 26, 1844, he sold an interest in the contract to the **Adelsverein (the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas)**. On December 30, 1845, Fisher and Miller sold their rights in the grant to the society. As a stipulation of the sale Fisher was appointed to the society's colonial committee. Along with the rights to the grant, the society had the responsibility to settle the area and take over any expenses accrued by the San Saba Colonization Company. The grant actually received few colonists from the society, which made only five small settlements; of the five, only Castell survived. Many of the settlers moved to New Braunfels or Fredericksburg and subsequently sold the grants they had received in the Fisher-Miller tract.

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CASTELL, TEXAS. Castell is at the intersection of Farm roads 2768 and 152, on the south bank of the Llano River in extreme western Llano County. Castell was established in 1847 on the north side of the Llano River by German immigrants under the auspices of the Adelsverein. They were led from Fredericksburg by Count Emil von Kriewitz to a site selected by John O. Meusebach to comply with the terms of the Fisher-Miller land grant, which the organization had acquired. The town was named for Count Carl Frederick Castell-Castell, business manager of the Adelsverein. Other Adelsverein settlements—Leiningen, Bettina, and Schoenburg—were established at the same time but did not survive. In 1872 a post office was established on the south side of the Llano River, where the community has since been centered. The site held the first church services in the region, conducted by Rev. Charles A. Grote in 1852. Castell has remained a center of religious activity. The local Methodist and Lutheran churches date their founding from that year. By 1972 the ranching and recreational community had declined to a population of seventy-two, mainly descendants of the original German settlers. A population of seventy-two was still reported in 2000, when the community was the oldest surviving settlement in the county.

(Editor's Note: Current population is 23 according to Web Site!)

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ADELSSVEREIN

The Adelsverein, also known as the Mainzer Verein, the Texas-Verein, and the German Emigration Company, was officially named the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas). Provisionally organized on April 20, 1842, by twenty-one German noblemen at Biebrich on the Rhine, near Mainz, the society represents a significant effort to establish a new Germany on Texas soil by means of an organized mass emigration. Such German publications as Charles Sealsfield's *Das Kajütenbuch, oder Schilderungen aus dem Leben in Texas* (1841), Detlef Dunt's *Reise nach Texas nebst Nachrichten von diesem Lande* (1834), and G. A. Scherpf's *Entstehungsgeschichte und gegenwärtiger Zustand des neuen, unabhängigen Staates Texas* (1841), which depicted in glowing terms the great personal liberty and the plentiful and productive land to be found in Texas, had served to direct the nobles' attention to the Republic of Texas as the best destination for an increasing German emigration. Accordingly, in May 1842 the association sent two of its members, counts Joseph of Boos-Waldeck and Victor August of Leiningen-Westerburg-Alt-Leiningen to Texas to investigate the country firsthand and purchase a tract of land for the settlement of immigrants. Once in Texas, the two agents discussed colonizing a land grant with President Sam Houston, who, under the provisions of a law passed on February 5, 1842, was authorized to grant entire tracts of land to contractors who would colonize them. Boos-Waldeck and Alt-Leiningen declined Houston's offer of a grant, however, when they learned that it would be in frontier territory west of Austin and still inhabited by hostile Indians. In January 1843 Boos-Waldeck purchased a league of land (4,428 acres) in what is now Fayette County, near Industry, as the base for future colonization, and named it Nassau Farm, in honor of Duke Adolf of Nassau, the patron of the society. Boos-Waldeck remained in Texas a year developing the farm, and in May 1843 Alt-Leiningen returned to Mainz. Though Boos-Waldeck recommended against an immediate large-scale colonization effort, Alt-Leiningen supported such a venture. Accordingly, on June 18, 1843, the association was reorganized as a joint-stock company with a capital stock of 200,000 gulden (\$80,000) for the acquisition of more land in Texas. In September the association was approached by Alexander Bourgeois d'Orvanne, a speculator, who with Armand Ducos held a colonization contract for a tract of land west of San Antonio. On March 25, 1844, the association was formally constituted as the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas with Prince Carl Emich III of Leiningen as president and Count Carl of Castell-Castellas business manager.

The society's goals were both philanthropic and commercial. They included the economic relief of the German proletariat by the direction of emigration to Texas and the establishment of German settlements in Texas, which would supply markets abroad for German industry and promote the development of German maritime commerce. In April 1844, when the society purchased from Bourgeois the colonization rights to his grant, the contract had already expired. Nevertheless, later that month the society dispatched Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels as general commissioner and Bourgeois as colonial director to Texas to seek renewal of the grant and to prepare for the arrival of colonists. Upon his arrival in Texas in July, Solms learned that Bourgeois could not renew his contract and that the society had acquired from him neither land nor colonization rights in Texas. In the meantime the society had already severed its ties with Bourgeois and, on June 26, 1844, had purchased colonization rights from another speculator, **Henry Francis Fisher**, who with **Burchard Miller** held a colonization contract for a tract of land between the Llano and Colorado rivers. The first immigrants disembarked in Texas in December 1844, near Carlshafen (later Indianola), the society's port of entry established by Prince Solms. Since no preparations had been made for settlement on the Fisher-Miller land grant, the immigrants were settled on two leagues of land at Comal Springs that Solms purchased on March 15, 1845, and named New Braunfels after his estate in Germany. On May 8, 1845, **John O. Meusebach**, Solms's successor as general commissioner in Texas, arrived at Carlshafen; in November he began making preparations for the arrival of 4,000 new immigrants. Fredericksburg, the society's second colony, was established by Meusebach in 1846 near the Pedernales River, where the year before he had bought over 11,000 acres of headright land.

Under Meusebach's administration, from May 1845 to July 20, 1847, when he resigned as general commissioner, the major part of the society's work in Texas was accomplished. Between October 1845 and April 1846 a total of 5,257 German emigrants were brought to Texas. In 1847 five settlements-Bettina, Castell, Leiningen, Meerholz, and Schoenburg-were established in the Fisher-Miller grant on the banks of the Llano River. Under Meusebach's successor, Hermann Spiess, no new settlements were founded.

By the end of 1847 the society was facing bankruptcy. Neither the appointment of Gustav Dresel as special business agent nor the attempt in 1848 to sell the society's holdings to another company was able to save the Adelsverein. Fisher attempted to revive the society under a new name, German Emigration Company. Spiess and Louis Bene, who succeeded Spiess in 1852 as general commissioner, carried on the society's business in Texas

under that name until September 1853, when the company assigned all its properties and colonization rights to its creditors. Besides bringing over 7,000 German emigrants to Texas, the chief contribution of the society was to establish Texas as a major goal of subsequent emigration from Germany.

During its brief existence and long after its demise, the Adelsverein was beset by controversy. Though most of its critics acknowledged the philanthropic motives of the society's aristocratic founders—the desire to ease economic pressures on the German proletariat by providing in Texas a refuge for surplus German labor—they were also aware of the society's commercial objectives—assured markets for German industry, a reliable source of raw materials for her factories, and dividends and profits for the society's shareholders. Contemporary criticism of the society came chiefly from two sources: victims of the society's inept planning and mismanagement, who published in Germany letters to friends and book-length exposés of the hardships that they suffered in Texas; and German travelers to Texas who had visited the society's settlements there. The reports of the latter group, which included such writers as Viktor Bracht, Friedrich Kapp, and Ferdinand Roemer were generally much more balanced than the former in their view of the society's motives and its achievements. Some later accounts, written often by journalists, emphasized the more sensational and anecdotal features of the society's history. Chief among the popular chroniclers was August Siemering, a journalist and Forty-eighter, who even alleged that the Adelsverein had been founded at the instigation of Great Britain as a measure to halt the spread of slavery in Texas and to prevent the annexation of Texas by the United States. Recent historical research supports, however, a mixed view of the society's motives and achievements. As an effort to establish a new Germany in Texas, the venture was a fiasco. The chief causes of its failure were not greed or the mean-spirited parsimony of its members, however, but their lack of business sense, the intrigues of land speculators and some members of the society, the naïveté of the nobles involved, and a lack of trust even in their own officers in Texas.

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BETTINA, TEXAS. Bettina, a short-lived commune on the north bank of the Llano River in western Llano County, was settled in 1847 by a fraternity of highly educated German communitarian freethinkers influenced by the writings of Étienne Cabet and Charles Fourier. Bettina was the seventh, and last, of the Adelsverein colonies in Texas. It was one five settlements attempted by the Adelsverein within the Fisher-Miller Land Grant after John O. Meusebach concluded a treaty with the Comanches in the spring of 1847. It was named for Bettina Brentano von Arnim, a German liberal and writer. The first building was a thatched common house forty feet long by twenty-two feet wide. An adobe house, with a shingled roof and a massive fireplace, was built next. Crops were planted, and the first harvest was satisfactory. However, cooperation gradually foundered because of dissention over work details and the role of a young woman cook, a Hispanic captive presented as a gift by a Comanche chief who underwent successful eye surgery while visiting Bettina. The utopian venture lasted less than a year, but many of the members of this group went on to make major contributions to Texas life. Notable were Dr. Ferdinand von Herff, an eminent San Antonio physician and surgeon; Gustav Schleicher, an engineer who helped to expand the state's rail system and who thereafter became a member of Congress; and Jacob Kuechler, a vocal Unionist who became commissioner of the General Land Office in Austin. Others, such as Christoph Flach and Johannes Hoerner, founded large and prominent Hill Country families that for four or five generations retained vestiges of freethinking liberalism and ethics. The writings of Louis Reinhardt and Friedrich Schenckqv, two members, illustrate the everyday experiences of the group in Texas; Herff wrote a political treatise in which he touches on the colony and generalizes on the founding principles. The journalist Emma F. Murck Atgelt, the geologist Ferdinand von Roemer, the editor Ferdinand J. Lindheimer, and others not directly associated with the fraternity also wrote about the settlement and its individual members. Vera

Flach wrote a moving twentieth-century account of the acculturation of one of the Bettina families. The former commune is commemorated, along with the nearby Adelsverein settlements of Castell and Leiningen, by a state historical marker placed in 1964 on the north side of the Llano River across from Castell.

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Baron Otfried Hans Freiherr von Meusebach (John O. Meusebach)

Baron Otfried Hans Freiherr von Meusebach (John O. Meusebach), founder of Fredericksburg and peacemaker with the Comanche Indians, was born on May 26, 1812, at Dillenburg, Germany, one of the four surviving children of Baron Carl Hartwig Gregor von Meusebach, a judge solicitor, and Ernestine von Witzleben Meusebach. He attended the parochial school at Rossleben. In 1828 he enrolled in the Mining and Forest Academy at Clausthal in the Harz Mountains. In 1832 he enrolled at the University of Bonn, where he specialized in law, with cameralism and finance as supporting fields. During the course of his studies Meusebach learned to read five languages and speak English fluently. He eventually transferred to the University of Halle and took his bar examinations at Naumberg in 1836. Afterwards he worked in various administrative posts in Trier, Berlin, Potsdam, and elsewhere.

In 1845 the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, the [Adelsverein](#), appointed Meusebach to succeed [Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels](#) as its commissioner general in Texas. As executive administrator for the Adelsverein, Meusebach received an allowance of \$2,000 for the purchase of scientific equipment, a salary of \$790 annually, a commission of 2 percent of all net profits of the society, and an allocation of 500 acres of land. If the society should dissolve within five years, he was to receive an indemnity of \$5,000. In early May of 1845 Meusebach arrived in Galveston. He and his small entourage rode horseback to New Braunfels, 165 miles away, finishing the trip with six overnight stops. Meusebach labored to serve the needs of the new immigrants with a diligence true to the motto on his family's crest, "*Tenax Propositi*" ("Steadfast in Purpose"). However, indebtedness, lack of cash, the arrival of too many immigrants in too short a time, the shortage of the necessary vehicles for transporting them to the interior of Texas, the outbreak of war with Mexico in the immediate disembarkation area, the unexpectedly severe winter, and disease of epidemic proportions all hampered his efforts. Nevertheless, while he took charge of the affairs at New Braunfels he also founded the settlements of Fredericksburg, Castell, and Leiningen.

Soon after his arrival in New Braunfels, Meusebach put aside his German title of nobility and adopted the name John O. Meusebach. Convinced that use should be made of the land in the [Fisher-Miller Land Grant](#), he acquired headrights in it on credit. Before surveying and settlement of the site could occur, it was necessary to arrive at an agreement with the Comanche Indians. In December 1846, speaking through Indian interpreter [Jim Shaw](#), Meusebach arranged to meet with ten Comanche chiefs on the lower San Saba River in early March 1847. Despite current reports that the Comanches were on the warpath, Meusebach and a delegation of German settlers met with the head chiefs—Buffalo Hump, Santa Anna,^{qv} and Mopechucope (Old Owl)—and their people. He promised the Indians presents worth \$3,000 in return for the Indians' pledge not to disturb the surveyors or harm the colonists. On May 9, 1847, the Comanche chiefs came to Fredericksburg to sign the [Meusebach-Comanche Treaty](#) and collect their gifts. This treaty was one of the most important pioneer works of the Germans in Texas. After it, in July 1847, thinking that his work for the society was complete, Meusebach gave up the office of commissioner general.



Sculpture "Gathering, Lasting Friendship, 1847-1997," dedicated at Fredericksburg's 150 anniversary

"[Irene Marschall King](#), John Meusebach's granddaughter, brought the original Meusebach-Comanche treaty document from Europe in 1970. She presented it to the Texas State Library, where it is now on display." Info courtesy of John Wilkins—Wikipedia web site

Among Meusebach's close associates in Texas were botanist Ferdinand Lindheimer and geologist Ferdinand von Roemer. He also corresponded and exchanged native plants with George Engelmann, founder of the Missouri State Botanical Gardens. With Engelmann as his intermediary, Meusebach annually supplied from his land in Central Texas thousands of cuttings of native black Spanish grapes to replace the phylloxera-ravaged plants of French vineyards. He also supplied Texas yucca plants to the American and foreign markets. At least once Engelmann provided Meusebach with *Catalpa speciosa* seeds.

While on a trip to Germany in 1851, Meusebach was elected to the Texas Senate to represent Bexar, Comal, and Medina counties. He was a member of Senate committees on state affairs and education, where he advocated universal and compulsory education. In early 1852 the education committee got a bill passed to provide for a system of public schools. In 1854 Meusebach received an appointment as commissioner from Governor [Elisha M. Pease](#) to issue land certificates to those immigrants of 1845 and 1846 who had been promised them by the Adelsverein.

Meusebach lost his first fiancée, Elisabeth von Hardenburg, to typhoid fever. On September 28, 1852, he married seventeen-year-old Countess Agnes of Coreth. They had eleven children, of whom three sons and four daughters reached adulthood. Meusebach retired to his 200-acre farm in Loyal Valley in 1869 and spent his remaining years tending his orchard, vineyards, and rose garden. He died at Loyal Valley on May 27, 1897, and is buried at Cherry Spring, near Fredericksburg.

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Lyman Wight, pioneer Mormon leader

Lyman Wight, pioneer Mormon leader and second chief justice of Gillespie County, was born in Fairfield Township, Herkimer County, New York, on May 9, 1796, to Levi and Sara (Corbin) Wight. He enlisted in the United States Army during the War of 1812 and fought in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. After the war Wight moved first to Henrietta, New York, then to Canada and Michigan. He married Harriet Benton of Litchfield, Connecticut, on June 5, 1823, and they had the first of their six children in Centerville, New York. In 1826 Wight moved his family to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where he converted to Mormonism and was baptized. In 1831 Wight and his family moved to Independence, Missouri, to help establish a Mormon settlement there.

Seven years later, after a small civil war erupted between Mormons and gentiles, Wight and Joseph Smith were among fifty Mormon leaders tried in Missouri for treason and other crimes against the state. The Mormons were allowed to escape, however, and in 1839 founded the town of Nauvoo, Illinois. On April 8, 1841, Wight was elected to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles of the Mormon church and was placed in charge of the Mormon sawmill on Wisconsin's Black River, above La Crosse. In 1844 he traveled the country in support of Smith's presidential campaign. Wight was preaching in Massachusetts when Smith was killed by a mob in Illinois on June 27, 1844. He immediately returned to Nauvoo and then to Wisconsin. Brigham Young was selected to replace Smith as head of the Mormon church and resolved to lead his people to Utah, but Wight refused to accept Young's authority. He claimed that Smith had told him to found a Mormon colony in Texas, on land west of Austin that had been selected by Smith as a possible site for resettlement should the Mormon presidential bid fail.

With some 200 followers, Wight crossed the Red River at Preston on November 10, 1845. They spent the next ten months in Grayson County. In September 1846, they moved to Webber's Prairie (now Webberville) in Travis County, where they met [Noah Smithwick](#). Later that fall they built a gristmill on the Colorado River, three miles west of Austin, but the mill was destroyed by a flood. Wight asked for and received [John O. Meusebach](#)'s permission in 1847 to found a colony on the Pedernales River, four miles southeast of Fredericksburg. He believed that the German settlers of Gillespie County, with their traditions of religious tolerance and opposition to slavery, would make good neighbors.



The community of Zodiac quickly became a central element in the Gillespie County economy. Within six weeks the Mormons had built the first sawmill in the county, a new gristmill, a temple, a school, and a store. They soon became the principal suppliers of seeds, lumber, and flour to the Germans of Fredericksburg. They also helped build Fort Martin Scott. In 1848 Young sent two messengers to Texas to convince Wight to come to Utah, but Wight, nicknamed "the Wild Ram of the Mountains" by his fellow Mormons for his stubborn independence, refused. He was disfellowshipped by the Mormon church on February 12, 1849. Wight ran for chief justice of Gillespie County in 1850 but was defeated by [Johann Jost Klingelhofer](#). He was awarded the office in September, however, when he pointed out that his opponent was not yet an American citizen. Wight stopped attending sessions of the county court in June 1851 and in July of that year the county commissioners declared his office vacant. Klingelhofer, who had by now become a citizen, was elected and installed as chief justice in August 1851.

Later that year, after floods had again destroyed their mills, the Mormons left Gillespie County. They went first to Hamilton Creek in Burnet County. They later returned to Zodiac to recover their buried millstones, the location of which Wight claimed to have seen in a vision. After selling their Hamilton Creek holdings to Smithwick, the Mormons moved to Bandera in March 1854. Wight built a furniture factory there, but in the fall of 1856 he and his followers moved to Mountain Valley, on the Medina River below Bandera. There they established a settlement known as Mormon Camp, now covered by the waters of Medina Lake. Wight performed the first marriage in Bandera County on September 6, 1856, between his son Levi Lamoni and Sophia Leyland. In March 1858 Wight had a premonition of the coming [Civil War](#) and resolved to lead his people back to the north. Wight died at Decker on March 31, eight miles from San Antonio on the second day of the journey. He was buried in the Mormon cemetery at Zodiac and his followers scattered. Three of his sons, Lyman Levi, Levi Lamoni, and Laomi Limhi, fought in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

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Zodiac

By May 1, 1847, a mill site had been selected 4 miles below Fredericksburg on the Peder-nales, and 6 weeks later the advance guard had a gristmill in operation. Crops were planted, the Austin mill site was sold in August, and the whole colony moved to the new settlement, named Zodiac by Wight. Soon the Mormons had constructed a sawmill, general store, temple-storehouse, school, blacksmith and wagon shop, cabinet and furniture shops, shingle mill, and houses for the 20-odd Mormon families.

Wight's colony was a godsend to Fredericksburg; the Mormons supplied the Germans with seed, lumber, and shingles from their mill, cornmeal from their gristmill, and furniture from their shops. The Mormons also helped the Germans adjust to the idiosyncrasies of farming on the edge of the Great American Desert. Many of the German immigrants were becoming farmers and herders for the first time, here in America. The colony also supplied grain and lumber to nearby [Fort Martin Scott](#).

On December 13, 1848, two men from Brigham Young's headquarters at Council Bluff, Nebraska, came to Zodiac, their mission being to persuade Wight to journey to Salt Lake City to counsel with his brethren on the Quorum of Twelve. They threatened him with excommunication should he refuse. Wight replied, "Nobody under the light of the heavens except Joseph Smith or John Smith, the president of the Fifty, can call me from Texas to come to Salt Lake City," and said that he had as much authority to call one of the Twelve--or rather Eleven--to Texas, as they had to call him to Utah. The Wild Ram of the Mountains was excommunicated a year later.

Wight apparently tried to get along with neighbors, both red and white. Chief Buffalo Hump and his Comanches visited Zodiac several times during 1849 and 1850 and gave the

Mormons the privilege of traveling anywhere through their nation. Wight tried to discuss Mormonism with them, which seemed to please the Comanches greatly.

In 1850 Wight entered secular politics, running for chief justice and judge of probate court of Gillespie County. Wight lost the regular election to Johann Jost Klingelhofer, but contested the results on the grounds that Klingelhofer was not a U.S. citizen (he had not yet been naturalized). The contest was decided in Wight's favor, and he took office in September 1850. But since the rest of the county court was comprised of Germans, Wight could not run the county as he pleased. So after attending only five sessions of court, Wight refused to attend any more. He ignored all summons from his fellow commissioners to attend, so the commissioners met, declared the office of chief justice vacant, and called a special election to fill the vacancy. The election was held in August 1851, and Klingelhofer, by now a U.S. citizen, was elected in Wight's place.

Despite the colony's industriousness, its debts seemed to grow larger and larger, owing to Wight's bad financial management. Come 1851, Wight was anticipating a new move, for a variety of reasons: his inability to get along with the county commissioners; sickness in the colony; no more contract work at Fort Martin Scott, to which they had earlier furnished much lumber and grain; a defect in land title that caused them to lose the land, necessitating repurchase; a flood that swept away their crops and mills; and finally, Wight's seemingly insatiable wanderlust, which prevented him from settling down anywhere for more than a few years at a time.

Nothing remains of Zodiac today except a one-acre cemetery plot that lies hidden away, north of the road, on the western banks of the river. Church officials from Salt Lake City visit the plot occasionally to keep it clean, but otherwise, Lyman Wight and his followers buried here sleep on, undisturbed.

Excerpt from "Mormon Trails" chapter in *Hill Country* travel guide by Richard Zelade (2001).

VEREINS-KIRCHE

The Vereins-Kirche (Society Church), the first public building in Fredericksburg, was designed by a Dr. Schubert of the Adelsverein and built by the first settlers of Fredericksburg in 1847. It followed an ancient German style known as the "Carolingian octagon," exemplified by the original portion of the cathedral of Charlemagne at Aachen. Originally all the religious groups in Fredericksburg used the building, which stood in the middle of Main Street and was nicknamed the Kaffeemühle (coffee mill) for its octagonal shape. Each side of the Vereins-Kirche was eighteen feet long and eighteen feet high; an octagonal roof rose ten feet above the sides and formed the base of an octagonal cupola with ten-foot-square sides. The cupola was crowned by an octagonal roof about seven feet high; the original weather vane, in the shape of a rooster, was destroyed by lightning in 1862 and replaced with a cross. Fredericksburg's Lutherans, whose services were led by the Rev. F. Basse and subsequently by the Rev. Gottlieb Burchard Dangers, met in the Vereins-Kirche until 1886; the town's Catholics, whose first services were led by Johann Leyendecker,



used the building until 1848, when they built their own church. The Methodist congregation, organized in 1849, met in the Vereins-Kirche until 1855, and the orthodox Lutheran congregation, organized in 1850, used the building until 1853. The Vereins-Kirche was also used as Fredericksburg's first school, established under Leyendecker in 1847, and also as a town hall, a fortress, a sanctuary, and, in 1896, a pavilion for Fredericksburg's fiftieth anniversary celebration. In 1897, however, having fallen into disuse and disrepair and regarded as an obstruction to traffic on Main Street, the Vereins-Kirche was torn down. When the Gillespie County Historical Society was formed in 1934, its first goal was the construction of a replica of the old Vereins-Kirche, with the assistance of the Civil Works Administration, to be completed in time for the Texas Centennial celebration in 1936, in Fredericksburg's old market square. The replica used the original cornerstone and is designed like the old Vereins-Kirche, though its walls are stone instead of half-timbered **Fachwerk**, the artistic carpentry of the original church (see GERMAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE). It housed the Gillespie County Historical Society's Pioneer Museum until 1967, when the museum was moved to its present complex on Main Street. Since then the Vereins-Kirche has housed the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, the Gillespie County Archives, and a local history collection.

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FACHWERK

German fachwerk buildings are the most varied with a huge multitude of carpentry techniques which have become highly regionalised to be specific per region. In general, the northern states have fachwerk near identical to the geographically close to Holland and England and the more southern, where there was greater forest reserves, most notably Bavaria and Switzerland have the greatest decoration and inclusion of woods. German foundations near universally use stone-work or brick-work sills, some half-wall height, for the framework to mortise into or rarely irregular wooden sills. The three main forms may be divided geographically:

Lower Germany or Alemannic & Franconian: In Franconian timber-work houses (particularly in Central Rhine and Moselle): the windows most commonly lie between the rails of the sills and lintels.

Central Germany (also very similar style to Poland): In Saxony and around the Haartz foothills, angle braces often form fully extended triangles. Lower Saxon houses have a joist per every post. Holstein fachwerk houses are famed for their enormous 12 inch (30 cm) beams.

Southern Germany including Black and Bohemian Forests: In Swabia, Württemberg, Alsace and Switzerland- the use of the lap-joint is thought to be the earliest method of connecting the wall plates and tie beams and is particularly identified with Swabia. Use of tenons was a later innovation- builders left timbers season and held in place by wooden pegs, an inch or two out of intended position, which were then driven home when fully seasoned was also pioneered in Swabia.



The most characteristic feature is the spacing between the posts and high placement of windows. Panels are enclosed by sill, post and plate are crossed by two rails, between which the windows are placed- like "two eyes peeing out". In addition there is a myriad of regional scrollwork and fretwork of non-loadbearing large timbers (braces) peculiar to particularly wealthy towns or cities.

GERMAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE.

The sizable German ethnic presence in Texas, particularly in the south central parts of the state, in the Hill Country, and in Medina County, has made a pronounced architectural imprint, especially on vernacular dwellings and churches. By and large, the peasant immigrants discarded their traditional German house and farmstead plans, in particular the lower Saxon and hill Hessian combination of human and animal quarters under one roof and the "Frankish court," a central German plan in which farm buildings are tightly grouped around an enclosed farmyard. They did so at least partly in order to conform to the customs of their new homeland. They adopted typically southern Anglo-American plans, such as the dog-run house. Still, the Texas German house is often less elongated than those of the Anglos, being built on a squared plan reminiscent of the Frankish central German house. Typically Teutonic roof profiles such as the Westerwald "saltbox" and the Frankish "bellcast" occur frequently; stoves often replace the open-hearth fireplaces prevalent among Anglos; casement windows are common among Texas Germans, as are cellars; and "Dutch" doors occasionally appear. For reasons not clear, Hill Country Germans made greater use of outside stairs than did any other group. Upon arrival, most Germans adopted typically Anglo notched-log construction, a building technique unknown in the provinces that contributed the great majority of the Texas settlers. Only a few among the Medina County Germans imported a distinctively Alpine-Alemannic type of log construction. A local individuality was added to log construction by the Hill Country Germans, who left unusually wide chinks between the logs and filled these with mortared stone. Some other Germans who settled in proximity to Hispanics employed palisado, or picket, walls in their early houses. After the first difficult years of pioneering had passed, Texas Germans, drawing upon their Saxon and Hessian traditions, began building Fachwerk, or half-timbered, structures. This second phase ended about the time of the Civil War, and few if any half-timbered buildings were erected after 1870. Fredericksburg, Comfort, and New Braunfels retain the most notable concentrations of half-timbering, though individual specimens occur in the area between Austin and Houston. Though typically Hessian wattle-and-daub and Saxon fired brick fill the interstices of some Texas German half-timbered structures, builders more commonly used cut limestone blocks or adobe. Often Texas Germans covered their half-timbering with plaster and whitewash or weatherboarding. Beginning about 1850, another type of wall construction appeared among the Texas Germans-hewn stonemasonry.

In Hessian and Frankish regions of Germany, such stonework normally appears in the ground floor of the house, and gives way to half-timbering in upper levels. Its origins probably lie in the Roman rule of Rhenish Germany. Although splendid specimens of German-built limestone and sandstone structures appear widely through south central Texas, the greatest concentrations are in the Hill Country and Medina County. Sometimes all three building phases-log, half-timbering, and stone-are combined in successive additions to individual German houses. In roofing, the Texas Germans departed radically from their European tradition. Some early thatching appeared, but Anglo wood shingling prevailed by 1850, and Germans helped develop the cypress-shingle industry of the Hill Country.

Perhaps the most striking evidence of German architectural influence is to be found in the rural and small-town churches. The half-timbered Vereins-Kirche at Fredericksburg, demolished in 1897 (a replica stands today), preserved in its "coffee mill" shape the venerable "Carolingian octagon" church plan. Far more common are examples of Gothic vernacular, built either in stone or frame. Among the most outstanding German Gothic churches in Texas are St. Louis Catholic at Castroville; old St. Mary's Catholic at Fredericksburg, notable for its convex "helmet" tower; Westphalia Catholic in Falls County, the largest wooden structure in the state; St. Joseph's Catholic in San Antonio; Round Top Lutheran in Fayette County, featuring fine locally made organ pipes; Doss Lutheran in Gillespie County; and Art Methodist in Mason County. Also noteworthy is the brick Romanesque St. Peter's Catholic Church at the German town of Lindsay in Cooke County, containing truly spectacular interior decoration. Germanic influence is also to be seen in a wide variety of other Texas vernacular structures, including frame dance halls, perhaps most notably at Cat Spring in Austin County and La Bahía in Washington County; Sunday houses, lining the streets near churches in Fredericksburg; barns, including an impressive rock and frame structure at Chalk Mountain in Erath County; and schoolhouses, particularly at Sisterdale in Kendall County and Cypress Creek in Kerr County.

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NIMITZ

NIMITZ, CHARLES HENRY (1826–1911). Charles Henry Nimitz, pioneering Fredericksburg hotelier, son of Karl Heinrich (Charles Henry) and Dorothea Magdalena (Dressel) Nimitz, was born in Bremen, Lower Saxony, on November 9, 1826. He joined the German merchant marine at the age of fourteen and followed his family to Sullivan Island, South Carolina, in 1844. The family operated a hotel in Charleston. Nimitz moved to Fredericksburg in 1846 with the first settlers and worked briefly as a bookkeeper for a lumber company. He built the Nimitz Hotel in 1852, and it soon became popular with travelers and local residents. Nimitz married Sophie Dorothea Mueller on April 8, 1848; they had twelve children, nine of whom lived to adulthood.



Nimitz joined the Texas Rangers on August 4, 1851, and served four months. When the Civil War began, he organized the Gillespie Rifles and was commissioned captain of that group by the Confederacy. Two months later, the Confederate government appointed him enrolling officer for the frontier district commanded by John S. Ford. Nimitz, a Catholic and a Democrat, was elected to the Twenty-second Texas Legislature in 1890 from District Eighty-nine, composed of Gillespie, Blanco, and Comal counties. He deeded the Nimitz Hotel to his son, Charles H. Nimitz Jr., on June 6, 1906, but continued to live there until his death on April 28, 1911. He was buried in Fredericksburg. He was the grandfather of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.



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NIMITZ, CHESTER WILLIAM (1885–1966). Chester William Nimitz, who guided Allied forces to victory in the Pacific in World War II, was born in Fredericksburg, Texas, on February 24, 1885, the son of Chester Bernard and Anna (Henke) Nimitz. His father died before he was born. During his early years his grandfather Charles H. Nimitz, a German immigrant, former seaman, and owner of the Nimitz Hotel, served as the father figure whom Nimitz credited with shaping his character and values..... In 1964 a local citizens' group established the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Memorial Naval Museum in the old Nimitz Hotel in Fredericksburg. The project evolved into the state-supported Admiral Nimitz Center and thence into the National Museum of the Pacific War. Besides the memorabilia and multimedia displays pertaining to World War II, the park includes the Japanese Peace Garden, a bicentennial gift from Japan in 1976.



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OPERATIONS

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2010 MEETING GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The January 10, 2010 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Connie Krause, John Siemssen, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans, Gerri West and Christopher Markley. Board members absent were Randy Rupley, Charles Frederick, Christina Gilliland, Daniel Bode and Mary El-Beheri. Also present were GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke and GTHS Advisory Board member Charles Kalteyer. The meeting was adjourned for committee meetings at 10:10 and reconvened at 10:40.

Minutes of the November 8, 2009 Board Meeting

C. Krause moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of November 8 as scribed by the Secretary, M. Whigham. **MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer G. West reviewed the 2009 Investment Report, the Jan.-Dec. 2009 Profit & Loss Budget Report and the 2009 Christmas Market Draft Statement, and also provided the board with a copy of the 2010 Profit & Loss Budget Overview. She reported that investments are showing a positive trend, but new revenue sources are needed, such as grant funds, sponsors and the renting out of the GFS for special events. She also stated that the new job description for the Executive Director includes an emphasis on fundraising and marketing.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director J. Warneke reported that she has submitted GTHS's application for the national Preserve America Stewards designation, is pursuing education grants for language classes, and is looking into a possible German film festival and a state-wide German-Texan Trail.

Executive Committee Report

President M. Whigham reviewed the survey results from the 2009 Annual Meeting and also noted that Advisory Board member Van Massirer has volunteered the Waco area and his help for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Activities Committee Report

Committee Chair C. Luckenbach reviewed plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting set for Sept. 24-25 in Fredericksburg, and he praised the hard work of Fredericksburg resident and GTHS member Glen Treibs in helping plan the meeting.

He also reported on progress toward having GTHS members around the state as "reporters" to submit German event information to the GTHS office for publication in the *Journal* or *Schulhaus Reporter*.

Development Committee Report

Committee Chair G. West reported that the investment policy document is being revised and that the committee is working on a sponsorship package to mail out to prospective sponsors.

Membership Committee Report

Committee Chair M. Whigham announced that a dues reminder notice will be mailed out at the end of January. A subcommittee was set up to develop a proposal for the rewarding of members at different levels. C. Krause, J. Warneke, C. Markley and G. West volunteered to take on that task.

German Free School Committee Report

GFS Chair C. Locklin presented a draft business plan for projects for the expanded use of the German Free School, with the goal that the property will become a multiuse historical and heritage site. The construction of a stage on the west property was discussed as an important component for enhancing festivals and other music events. W. Evans made a motion to approve \$10,000 toward the development of the west property, to include the construction of a stage. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

J. Siemssen made a motion to allocate the just-approved \$10,000 for the west property from the proceeds of the previously-approved sale of the Dreman fund, with the remainder of the proceeds to be re-invested. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Program Director's Report

G. West presented Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont's report with its overview of the GTHS-sponsored German language classes in Austin, Brenham, Bryan, Round Rock and San Antonio and the new German-Texan history class in Austin.

Committee Assignments

The list of committee assignments for board members for 2010 was reviewed. President M. Whigham offered to chair the Publications Committee and pursue the task of compiling a publications policy for GTHS. She asked all board members to submit suggestions for content.

Old Business

A vacant position on the board still needs to be filled, and a GTHS member from the San Antonio area is being sought for it.

New Business

G. West suggested that a volunteer bookkeeper for the GTHS office be found, as well as other volunteers for specific tasks, and also sponsorships for the *Journal* and the *Schulhaus Reporter*.

W. Evans informed the board about the choice of French by the Austin ISD for its foreign language immersion program. J. Warneke will contact Hans Boas at U.T. about contacting the new ISD Superintendent to arrange a meeting to discuss the importance of the German language in the history and heritage of Texas.

Advisory Board member C. Kalteyer commended the board members for their hard work for GTHS.

President M. Whigham reviewed the tasks to be accomplished for the March board meeting: Recommendations for GTHS member rewards; progress report from C. Locklin on the west property; marketing ideas for the 2010 Annual Meeting; suggestions from all board members for the publications policy; finalized investment policy; sale of the Dreman fund.

The next board meeting was set for Saturday, March 13, 2010.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary

Minutes approved March 13, 2010

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2010 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The March 13, 2010 meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors was called to order at 10 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with GTHS President Mary Whigham presiding. Board members present were Connie Krause, John Siemssen, Martha Liehse, Carl Luckenbach, Christina Gilliland, Daniel Bode, Mary Whigham, Charles Locklin, Wing Evans and Christopher Markley. Board members absent were Randy Ruple, Charles Frederick, Mary El-Beheri and Gerri West. Also present was GTHS Executive Director Jean Warneke. The meeting was adjourned for committee meetings at 10:05 and reconvened at 10:40.

President M. Whigham presented William and Christina Gilliland with a GTHS Life Membership plaque.

Minutes of the January 10, 2010 Board Meeting

C. Gilliland moved acceptance of the minutes of the board meeting of January 10 as scribed by the Secretary, M. Liehse. **MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer's Report

President M. Whigham presented Treasurer G. West's report in the latter's absence, with a review of the detailed Investment and Budget Reports. W. Evans moved acceptance of the report. **MOTION APPROVED**

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director J. Warneke reported that student interns have been helping out with projects at GTHS, that work is continuing toward the creation of an online store, and that she is further pursuing the possibility of a German film festival and a German-Texan heritage trail. The GTHS application to Preserve America will be resubmitted for the next cycle. She would like to proceed with new ways to enhance membership benefits around the state and would like to create a flyer outlining benefits to businesses if they decide to participate in a discount program for our members. W. Evans made a motion for J. Warneke to proceed with her idea and report to the board at the next meeting. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Program Director's Report

President M. Whigham presented Program Director Melanie Schmidt-Dumont's report, with an overview of plans for summer and fall German language classes in Austin, Brenham, Bryan, and Round Rock, with a class also in San Antonio during the summer.

Executive Committee Report

President M. Whigham announced that the GTHS **Journal** index for the years 1979 to 2000 is now available for purchase on CD. Also, extra past issues of the **Journal** will be retained for sale to anyone interested.

Activities Committee Report

Committee Chair C. Luckenbach reviewed the plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

J. Siemssen presented the proposed changes to the Investment Policy. C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the revised policy. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

Membership Committee Report

Ideas were presented and discussed for welcoming new members and for possibly involving Advisory Board members with such efforts.

German Free School Committee Report

GFS Chair C. Locklin reported on progress toward the goal of making the GTHS property a multiuse historical and heritage site. He updated the board on the west property development and said that a City permit is being applied for to build the stage on that property for enhancing festivals and other music events.

Committee member C. Markley reviewed the plans for our Maifest on May 8.

Unfinished Business

The Membership Subcommittee set up to develop proposals for the rewarding of members at different levels will aim to announce their plans at the Annual Meeting.

C. Gilliland made a motion to set October 8 as the date for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Dallas. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

New Business

Board members who attended the recent Texas German Society Annual Convention reported on the event and expressed hope that TGS and GTHS members will partner in the future for the planning of and participation in German heritage events sponsored by both organizations.

J. Warneke was asked to lead efforts to establish new criteria for the awarding of any future scholarship funds by GTHS.

President M. Whigham announced receipt of the resignations of board members Mary El-Beheri and Randy Ruple. C. Luckenbach moved acceptance of the resignations and after being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**

C. Locklin made a motion to authorize President M. Whigham to set the location of the next board meeting, scheduled for May 16. After being seconded, the **MOTION** was **APPROVED**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Submitted by Martha Liehse, Secretary
Minutes approved May 16, 2010



Sponsor Space Agreement

German-Texan Heritage Society

P.O. Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171
info@germantexans.org

www.germantexans.org

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German-Texan Heritage Society

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Name: _____ Spouse/Partner: _____
(If joining in the family, patron or life categories)

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How did you find us? _____

Promoting awareness
and preservation of
the German cultural
heritage of Texas

CATEGORY	ANNUAL DUES Jan—Dec (July-Dec—1/2 Price)
Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 (one time pmt)
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German Language Ability

None Beginning Intermediate Advanced Fluent

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BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Journal		ISSN 0730-3106, 4x per year, 8½ x 11, paperback. Since 1978. Each issue of this member publication contains over 100 pp of German-Texan genealogy, history and related info in English, with occasional German articles translated.	\$5 members \$6 non-GTHS members
A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47		ISBN 1-57168-237-6, 400 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, maps, index. Edited by W.M. Von-Maszewski. A Sörgel's Texas Writings. This dual-language edition is filled with observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas.	sale price \$15.00 (list \$21.00)
Church Records of the Pioneer Families of Berlin, Texas		ISBN 1-57168-241-4, 292 pp, 8½ x 11, hardback. Index. By Breitenkamp and Dabbs. Records of births, deaths, marriages, baptisms and more.	sale price \$12.50 (list \$35.00)
Diary of Hermann Seele		ISBN 1-57168-238-4, 504 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Translated and edited by Theodore Gish. Gives a revealing and intimate picture of 19th century Texas. Includes Seele's Sketches from Texas.	sale price \$15.00 (list \$27.50)
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Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage		ISBN 1-57168-239-2, 192 pp, 8½ x 11, paperback. Index. Edited by W.M. Maszewski. Contains information on early German-Texan businesses, churches, cemeteries, schools, etc.	\$9.00
History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861		ISBN 1-57168-236-8, 280 pp, 6 x 9, NEW edition, paperback. Maps, illustrations, appendix, index. By Rudolf Biesele. Covers the actual founding and history of many German settlements and towns in Texas prior to the American Civil War.	\$28.95
The Cabin Book		ISBN 0-89015-525-9, 296 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Illustrations. By Charles Sealsfield. Sealsfield's hopes about America focused on Texas when he wrote this in 1841. This novel, in part about Texas life in the 1830s, became a best-seller.	\$9.00
Texas in 1848		ISBN 1-57168-242-2, 240 pp, 6 x 9, hardback. Bibliography, index. By Victor Bracht. Originally published in German in 1849, this book has been described as a "treasure of German-Texan history." Filled with early Texas observations.	sale price \$15.00 (list \$21.00)

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