

# German Texan Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME III

NUMBER 3

WINTER 1981

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NEWSLETTER

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.....SEE BACK COVER FOR CONTINUATION OF EDITORIAL BOARD AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RENEW NOW!!

RENEW NOW!!

# German Texan Heritage Society

If you have not already done so, it is time to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP now. You will not receive a special notice this year, because we would rather spend money on publication instead of postage.

We need your support. Please take a few minutes now to renew your membership and help us through another productive year. Our costs are steadily rising, but we are holding the line and not increasing dues.

Remember, a membership in the GERMAN TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY makes a lasting Christmas gift for someone who shares our interests. We will be happy to send a greeting card, announcing such a gift from you.

We still have a few copies of our poster, which also makes a nice Christmas gift. Please return the form below with your renewal check. Help us save postage costs.

Please send gift memberships to: @ \$5.00 each

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_
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Mailing Chg. \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my renewal for 1982

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Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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Rt. 2 Box 239A  
Buda, TX 78610

# German-Texan Heritage Society

If you have not already done so, it is time to renew your membership. We will not receive a special notice this year, because we would rather send money on publishing instead of postage.

We need your support. Please take a few minutes now to renew your membership and help us through another productive year. Our costs are steadily rising, but we are doing as the time and not increasing.

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We will have a copy of this letter, which also asks for a nice Christmas gift. Please return the form below with your renewal check. Help us save postage costs.

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I would like to receive \_\_\_\_\_ copies of GTHS each year \$1.50 mailing cost to each address. Please include my other addresses.

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Enclosed is my renewal for 1981

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_____	Regular	2.00
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_____	Family	12.00
Total enclosed		_____

Return to: John Lueger  
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GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Number 3, Winter, 1981

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her husband from Cologne. They  
have a very complete menu, plenty  
of room for parties and good food.  
Renate bakes her own Schwarzwälder-  
kirchtorte! Try it.  
If you know of other good German  
restaurants, let us know. We need to  
support them:

ZUM 4. JULI:

- Das Leben gilt nichts, wo die Freiheit fällt.  
(Theodor Körner 1791-1813)
- Nicht der Ruhm, sondern das, wodurch man ihn verdient, ist das Wert-  
volle.  
(Arthur Schopenhauer 1788-1860)
- Was die wahre Freiheit und den wahren Gebrauch derselben am deut-  
lichsten charakterisiert, ist der Mißbrauch derselben.  
(Georg Christoph Lichtenberg 1742-1799)
- Das schwere Leben ist am leichtesten zu ertragen, wenn man sich  
schwere Aufgaben stellt.  
(Peter Rosegger 1843-1918)
- Nicht allein die allgemeinen Tendenzen entscheiden in dem Fortgang  
der Geschichte; es bedarf immer großer Persönlichkeiten, um sie zur  
Geltung zu bringen.  
(Leopold Ranke 1795-1886)
- Auch die Völker der Erde stehen wie Geschwister nebeneinander, und  
ein Volk hilft Leben und Schicksal des andern bestimmen. Alle zusam-  
men haben gelebt, gelitten und gearbeitet, damit du lebst, dich freust  
und schaffst.  
(Gustav Freytag 1816-1895)

Den Vereinigten Staaten:  
Amerika, du hast es besser  
Als unser Kontinent, das alte  
Hast keine verfallenen Schlösser  
Und keine Basalte.  
Dich stört nicht im Innern,  
Zu lebendiger Zeit,  
Unnützes Erinnern  
Und vergeblicher Streit.  
Benutzt die Gegenwart mit Glück!  
Und wenn nun eure Kinder dichten,  
Bewahre sie ein gut Geschick  
Vor Ritter-, Räuber- und Gespenstergeschichten.  
(Goethe)

Friedrich Klopstock (1734-1803)  
besingt die neue Nation in seinem Gedicht „Der jetzige Krieg“  
Du bist die Morgenröthe  
Eines nahenden großen Tags  
Der Jahrhunderte strahlt . . .

STAMMBAUM:

Dieter Detlev von Liliencron sagte zu einem Mann, der sehr  
stolz auf seine Ahnen war: „Sie erinnern mich an eine Kartoffel.“  
„Wieso?“ fragte der Mann erstaunt. „Bei der Kartoffel liegt auch das  
Beste unter der Erde.“



On July 9, 1776, the Pennsylvania Staatsbote published the  
Declaration of Independence in German. Not until several days  
later, did it appear in the English language.

1981 Vol. III, No. 3

EVENTS CALENDAR

November

1 Cost.....Fifteenth Annual German Hymn Festival  
 Monthalia United Methodist Church  
 (This church was founded by Germans  
 in 1886)

1-8 New Braunfels.....Wurstfest (began October 30)

1, 7-8 Magnolia.....Renaissance Festival (began Oct. 3)

14-15 Round Top.....\*Classical Music at Festival Hill  
 4 pm each day. Tickets \$5.00

21-22, 27-29  
 Dec. 5-6 Schulenburg.....Intl. Christmas Village

December

3-4 Canyon.....Old-Fashioned Christmas at Panhandle  
 Plains Museum

4 Lubbock.....Texas Tech Carol of Lights

4-6 Lubbock....."Nutcracker" Ballet

5 Fredericksburg.....Santa Claus Day. Sponsored by the  
 Jaycees

5 Fredericksburg.....Kinderfest. Pioneer Museum.  
 Sponsored by the Gillespie County  
 Historical Society

5-6 Schulenburg.....Intl. Christmas Village (began Nov. 21)

6 Lubbock.....Embroiderers Guild Display

9-10 Lubbock.....Candlelight Tour at Ranching Heritage  
 Center

12 Fredericksburg.....Candlelight Tour of Homes. Pioneer  
 Museum, 5 pm. Sponsored by the  
 Heritage Federation

12 Fredericksburg.....Kristkindl Market. 118 West Main,  
 9 am to 6 pm. Sponsored by the  
 Fredericksburg Merchants Association

13 Corpus Christi.....Symphony Concert "The Messiah"

15 Austin.....Christmas Party of the GTHS Capital  
 Area Group. Call 282-1933 for more  
 information

18-20, 26-27 El Paso....."The Nutcracker" Ballet

19-23, 26-30 Houston....."The Nutcracker" Ballet

January

16-17 Round Top.....\*Classical Music at Festival Hill.  
 4 pm each day. Tickets \$5.00

February

13-14 Round Top.....\*Classical Music at Festival Hill.  
 4 pm each day. Tickets \$5.00

March

12-21 Nederland.....Heritage Festival

20 Fredericksburg.....Wild Game Dinner

20 New Braunfels.....Antique Car Auction

20-21 Round Top.....\*Classical Music at Festival Hill.  
 4 pm each day. Tickets \$5.00

\*Reservations may be made by calling (713) 249-3129 or writing,  
 Festival-Institute, Post Office Box 89, Round Top, TX 78954.  
 All reservations should include a phone number. Tickets are  
 held at the door. For more information write to above address.

# Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg, founded in 1846 on the Indian frontier after John O. Meusebach led a wagon train of about 120 German settlers from New Braunfels, retains some of its early customs and cherishes its heritage. If you go to the *Kristkindlmarkt* and the Candlelight Tour, plan to spend the entire day or stay overnight to see many other historic sites and enjoy the food at several outstanding restaurants. Dining out in Fredericksburg is delightful, not only because of the tasty food and courteous service but also because of the *Gemuetlichkeit*, or good fellowship in the German fashion, among other diners in the place.



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# Kristkindl Market

A unique Christmas market place brimming with an amazing variety of special toys, food, ornaments, greenery and hand-crafted items.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1981

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

118 W. Main



The German Texan Heritage Society Newsletter is published three times a year by volunteers of the Society. See inside front and back covers for names and addresses of members of the editorial board. Beginning in 1981, the publication schedule is:

Spring issue .....February 20  
 Summer issue .....June 20  
 Fall issue .....October 20

Back issues of the NEWSLETTER for 1979 and 1980 (two issues per year) are available for \$2.50 each, or \$5.00 per year to members. Order from Dona Reeves, Rt 2, Box 239A, Buda TX 78610.

The German Texan Heritage Society also has a large poster available on the German Texans. Cost is \$1.00 each, plus \$1.50 mailing cost to each address. (Postage is so high because it is so big.) Order from Dona Reeves, address above.

If possible, please type SINGLE SPACED on 8½" x 11" paper, with only a 1/4" margin on all edges. For sharpness and clarity, try to use a film, or a new cloth, ribbon. And don't forget to clean your typewriter keys!!

Announcements, articles, genealogical inquiries, reunion dates, news of events, etc., are always welcome from members. Send to the appropriate associate editor, or to the editor-in-chief.

1981 STEERING COMMITTEE  
 Leola Tiedt, Chairperson

Registration  
 Anna Thompson, Chp.  
 Miriam York  
 Leola Tiedt

Publicity  
 Daphne Garrett, Chp.  
 Theresa Gold

Food  
 Ella Kautz, Co-Chp.  
 Rosa Lee Hinze, Co-Chp.  
 Bernita McCormack

German Music and Singing  
 Ronnie Sachs, Chp.  
 Der Fröhliche Gesangverein  
 Sharon Spiess

Program.  
 Mary El-Beheri, Chp.  
 Dona Reeves  
 Gloria Jaster

Tours  
 Mrs. Charles Bybee, Co-Chp.  
 Verlie Wegner, Co-Chp.  
 Margie Williams  
 Ann Meredith

Festival Hill Concert  
 Lisa Kahn, Chp.  
 Lydia Nagel

German Church Service  
 Elizabeth Lehmann, Chp.  
 Thecla Dallmeyer, song leader  
 Ella Kautz, organist

Round Top Rifle Association Hall.  
 Gladys Krause, Chp.  
 Carolyn Fuchs

Henkel Square  
 Don Nagel, Chp.  
 Lee Krause  
 Wilbert Marburger

Membership  
 Dona Reeves

SPRACHFEST 1982  
 February 13

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Southwest Texas State  
 University, San Marcos

If you know German and would like to help judge plays, skits, recitation, please let us know. If you just want to come and listen to some good spoken German, see some German dancing, hear some German music, please feel free to spend the day with us. This is the annual high school language festival. About 1,000 high school students of German will be there. For further information, contact Mary El-Beheri, Douglas MacArthur High School, 2923 Bitters Rd. San Antonio 78217

TIEDT'S THOUGHTS FOR THINKERS

Tiedt has thankful thoughts for those who attended all planning meetings, those who provided the planning of the program, those who provided the meeting places, those who brought the speakers, screen, and machines. Those who provided the printed material-programs, church songs and readings. To Daphne Garrett for researching information for articles and maps... To the Serbin Wendish Society for their invitation.... To the Florida Chapel for providing the church benches for the over-flow church crowd.... To the River Valley Motel for providing a place and materials for the Friday night get-together,... To the Festival Hill Institute for the concert and the social afterwards... To the Froehliche Gesangverein for their concert and help in the sing-a-long... To Mayor Nagel for his welcome.... To Mary El-Beheri for presiding..... To Meredith McClain for sharing her research project.... To Charles Trenckmann for recalling the wonderful work of his grandfather, Der Wochenblattmann..... To Ted Gish, Lisa Kahn, James McGuire, and Dona Reeves for their reports.... To Herbert's catering for a delicious meal... To Theresa Gold for helping so many with their genealogy problems.... To Inge McCoy for her making and showing of the video tape..... To all the docents at Winedale and Henkel Square who made the "work" of the settlers a "pleasure" for us.... To the Winedale Stew Cookers for making stew eaters of all of us because it was so flavorful and delicious..... To all who came and helped us turn back time.

-II-

Tiedt has thankful thoughts that the G.T.H.S. meeting provided a chance to meet many new friends - shame on you if you went home no richer than when you came.

for Katherine Gebhard Powell of Houston for finding her teacher Agnes Lehmann of New Braunfels.

for Dr. Charles Trenckmann for getting to know his cousins the Carl Jockusch of San Antonio (Mrs. Julius Jockusch of Galveston fell on Friday so she and her husband had to miss hearing Charles). Dr. and Mrs. Charles Adkins from Beaumont were also friends who came. Thank you for getting the Trenckmann klan together.

for Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Steglich joining us all the way from Oklahoma.

for Geneva Tetley of Granite Shoals, Mrs. Dolores Guenther of La Grange, Mrs. D.J. Rohde of Brenham, and Mr and Mrs. A Guettler of Houston for having an informative meeting with Elo Gaertner of Gay Hill.

for Mrs. C. G. Atzenhoffer and her two friends of Victoria enjoying their stay at the historic Country Inn in Fayetteville.

for many, many similar opportunities of which Tiedt is unaware. If you had an interesting experience....why not share it?

-III-

Tiedt has thankful thoughts for the 1982 meeting in Fredericksburg because Tiedt will just enjoy being able to "listen" not "work". Tiedt knows that the Kothmanns, Miss Bracher, Mrs. Weaver and all the others in Fredericksburg will do a superb job...LET'S HELP THEM!!

...directly quoted from Leola Tiedt, Chairperson, 1981 GTHS Meeting

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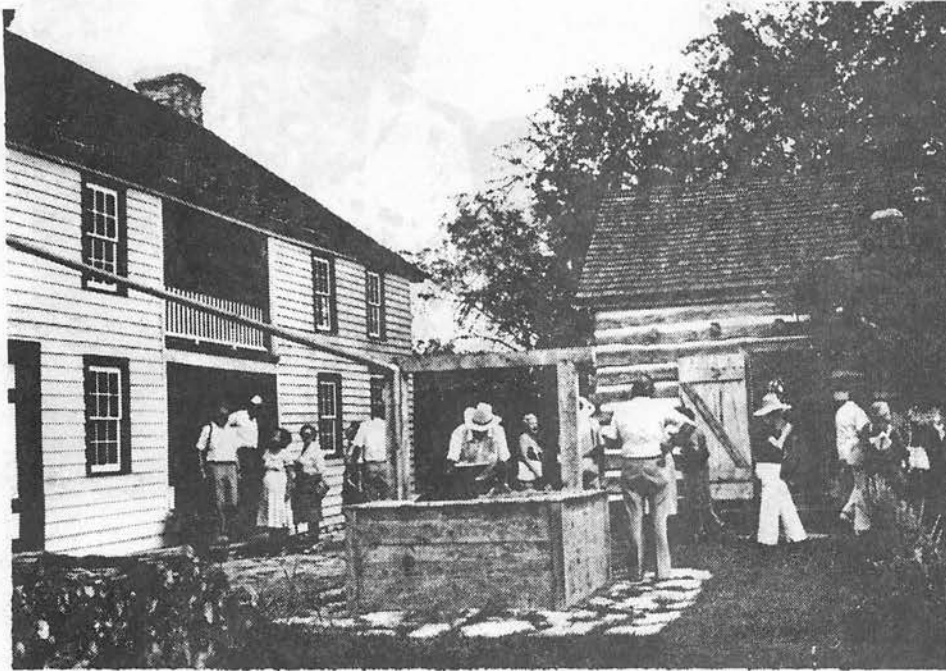
Well, we want to thank our Leola for all the millions of things she did for us....besides baking cookies til 3 a.m., or was it after 3 a.m. the day before our meeting. She made all the arrangements with her fine committee, actually she put evryone else to work. Luckily Daphne Garrett answered her call for help....and we got a terrific publicity chairperson for our Society. We thank Leola for the wonderful sun bonnets...she made one for all of those helping at the meeting...I cherish mine! I guess what we love most about Leola is her big personal touch...she knows how to help people be comfortable and enjoy themselves. Did everybody take her German course? and buy her wonderful work book for learning German?? And she sings, too! We are grateful to Lisa Kahn, Ella Kautz, Elizabeth Lehmann, Daphne Garrett and Miriam York....these were Leola's committee chairpersons. They recruited everyone in the county to help out. Thanks to all. It was memorable. *M. El-Beheri*

SPECIAL THANKS

to Mrs. Charles Bybee for providing Henkel Square for us to tour and the wonderful little church for our Sunday Service. Mrs. Bybee is a gracious lady and herpresence added a lot to our meeting. We recommend a visit to Henkel Square. You may also see some of Mrs. Bybee's furniture in the new Museum of Art in San Antonio. *M. El-Beheri*



# Over 200 Attend Recent German Heritage Meet



LEWIS-WAGNER HOUSE

Pictures taken at the German Heritage meeting show the historic Lewis-Wagner house (at left) which was toured by the members of the society. At bottom left, is Flora von Roeder, great-great-granddaughter of Friedrich Ernst and Ludwig von Roeder, who is a native of Park, now living in Houston. At bottom right, is Irene Fordtran Buchholtz of Dallas, great-granddaughter of Charles Fordtran, who is a native of Fayetteville and formerly lived in La Grange. Pictured with her is her daughter Kathy McDaniel.

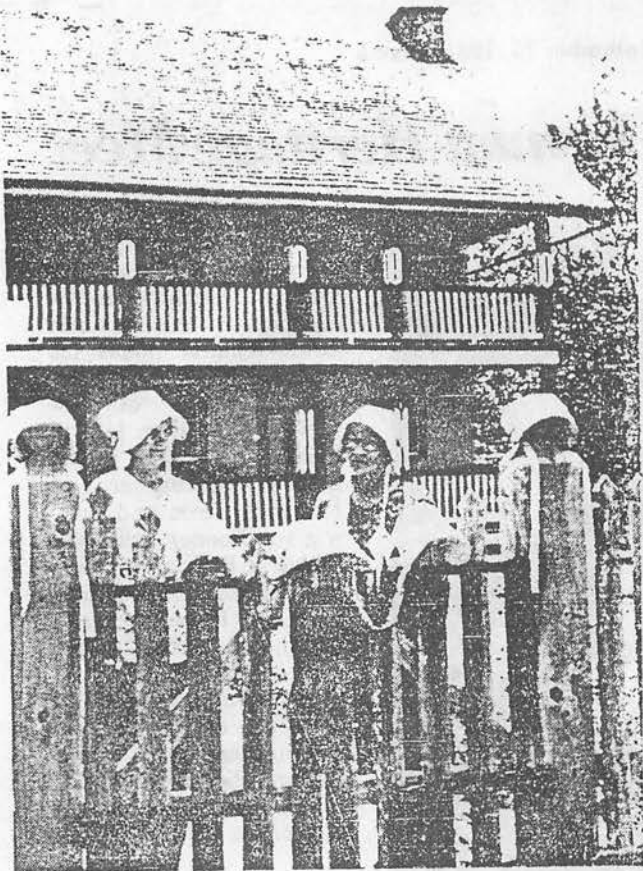


FLORA VON ROEDER



IRENE BORDTRAN BUCHHOLTZ





### Modeling GTHS Bonnets

Leola Tiedt (left) and Dora Schellberg model sunbonnets which Mrs. Tiedt has made for the local committee and officers to wear at the Annual Meeting of the GTHS. In the background is the Lewis-Wagner house at Winedale.

Fayette County hospitality and hard working committee members produced a "memorable meeting" according to the officers of the German Texas Heritage Society.

The third annual meeting of the society was held Sept. 12 and 13 at Round Top and Winedale, with 200 members in attendance.

Due to the unusual situation of using several locations instead of hotel meeting rooms, a combined effort of many people was required. Fayette County residents,

too numerous to list, played a major role in planning and assisting Leola Tiedt, general chairperson, carry out the plans. Statewide newspaper publicity was achieved through the efforts of the publicity chairman, Daphne Garrett of Warda.

The program opened Saturday in the Round Top Rifle Association Hall with a welcome in German by Mayor Don Nagel. Following lectures, workshops and lunch the group moved to Winedale where Gloria Jaster and her staff welcomed the visitors to tours and pioneer craft demonstrations. While enjoying the famous stew cooked by the Winedale Stew Cookers, members were entertained by Ronnie Sachs and "Der



ELLA KAULT

### THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

Froihliche Gesangverein." Saturday evening offered a choice of a German sing-along, or a special event arranged by Lisa Kahn, a piano recital by James Dick. Around 80 members attended the recital, which was followed by a reception prepared by Mr. Dick's staff at Festival Hill. Sunday attendees were the guests of Mrs. Charles Bybee, developer of Henkel Square in Round Top, for a German service in the Haw Creek Church and tours of the restored buildings.

Several former residents of Fayette County were among the registrants, notable two who are descendants of the earliest German pioneers to Texas. Flora von Roeder, formerly of Park,

is a great-great-granddaughter of Friedrich Ernst who came to Texas in 1831 and founded Industry, and also of Ludwig von Roeder who arrived in 1832. Irene Fordtran Buchholtz, formerly of Fayetteville, is the great-granddaughter of Charles Fordtran, who came to Texas with Ernst. She was accompanied by her daughter, Kathy McDaniel.

The German Texan Heritage Society wishes to thank those who made this meeting in Fayette County such a success, and invite all who are interested in preserving our state's heritage to join the organization and attend the 1981 meeting in Fredericksburg.



GTGS MEMBERS PRESENT  
PROGRAMS AT DENVER MEETING.....

Dona Reeves and Ingeborg McCoy are showing you to the world at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of German in Denver on November 27, when they show their video program: "Auf den Spuren der deutschen in Texas.."

Mary El-Beheri and Gail Cope are conducting an hour-long workshop about building German language programs.

Lisa Kahn and Barbara Gonzalez are acting as chairpersons for two sessions.

Ted Gish will talk about German-American studies classes in universities.

We German-Texans are well-represented! Many other members will be attending the meeting.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Next Newsletter deadline is Febraury 20, 1982.

Please renew by January 1, 1982 so that you will get all of the Newsletters on time....see enclosed form in the front of this issue.

Ted Gish at the University of Houston is the GTGS contact person for German-American(Texan) courses. If you know of such a course near you, please let us know. If you want to get one going, please tell us.

Hanna Lewis of Sam Houston State U., has volunteered to take over as book review editor. Please help her. She needs to know about new publications, she needs copies of new publications, she needs your help in writing reviews.

Katherine Powell of Houston is our GTGS German geography expert. She knows and has information about historical German places, names,etc. If you need help, let us know.

Congratulations to the Round Top/Winedale members....they were great...we were great... the meeting was so successful that we may never stop talking about it. I really enjoyed doing nothing...well, almost nothing.. It was warm Texas weather and I think we realized just how much our forefathers and foremothers must have suffered in the heat...they weren't as spoiled as we are! The food was wonderful and inspite of inflation, we had plenty of everything. Thanks from us all for total „Gemütlichkeit.“

SAN ANTONIO members of the GTGS - 7 -  
LET'S GET TOGETHER

Where? Boehler's Biergarten  
328 East Josephine St.  
(just off Broadway)

When? Wednesday, January 13, 1982  
7:30 p.m.

What? Let's learn German! Let's speak German(if you already know it)! Let's get acquainted! Let's decide what we want to do as a group.....

Contact(for further information):  
Ingrid Kokinda...654-7170  
Mary El-Beheri...828-7815  
\*\*\*\*\*

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

by 1985, foreign language requirements will be reinstated fully at the University of Texas, Austin. Hopefully all Texas universities will follow this great lead! Back to basics.....

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MORE NOTES FROM THE EDITOR.....

Thank you, a million times to Theresa Gold who did a great job with the last Newsletter. I just dropped it all at her doorstep(really) and she did her "thing"! It is wonderful to know that one(I) can be replaced so easily! Vielen Dank, Theresa.

Needless to say I had a marvellous time in Germany. I studied for four weeks at the Göthe Institutes in Mannheim and Berlin as a guest of the Federal Republic of Germany. The highlights of my stay were: speaking, hearing,reading only German for the entire time; getting to know German teachers from 15 different countries, especially those from behind the Iron Curtain(Bulgaria, Poland,etc.); and experiencing the trauma of going back in time in East Berlin. I was really shocked by the way-of-life in East Berlin, although I had been there many times before. We were special guests at the Haus der Lehrer there and we were amazed by their propaganda. I guess the way-of-life in the East was best summarized by the book seller when we asked her for some humorous books, she answered:"In this country we have no humor." During my four weeks I took over 300 slides, a nice keep sake of such an interesting summer.

Many thanks to all of you for sending so many wonderful articles to us...keep them coming. We need your continued support. We love working with and for you in the Society.

1981 PATRON MEMBERS(Jun.15-Nov.1)

Mrs. C. E. Moore, Jr., Kerrville  
Mrs. Ethel Kern Hughes, San Antonio  
Ken Kramer, Bryan

1981 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS(Jun.15-Nov. 1)

Mr.& Mrs. G. Heye, San Antonio  
Bobby Weaver, Canyon  
Ray Dittmar, Houston  
Hubert Jim & Anna Fowler, Austin  
Lucille B. Hegar, San Antonio  
Thomas M. Runge MD & Gretchen Runge MD,  
Austin  
Merva Pankratz, Boerne  
George Pankratz, Boerne  
Jerome F. Hoelscher, Garden City  
Jo Peebles Adams, Houston  
Mrs. Mary Reinhard Peoples, Conroe  
Mrs. C. G. Atzenhoffer, Jr., Victoria  
Charles Adkins MD & Billie Adkins,  
Beaumont  
Moody Memorial Library, Baylor Univ.,  
Waco  
Mr.& Mrs. Henry F. Bauerschlag, League  
City  
Hazel M. Bassett, Dripping Springs  
Cres & Cynthia Merrell, Lubbock  
Dorothy Thiele, San Angelo  
Jarvis Wieser, Fredericksburg  
Donald Weber Moeller, Dallas  
Clayton Library, Houston

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DOES ANYONE KNOW?????

Ludwig Bene, last general representative of the Adelsverein, is mentioned in both Geue volumes, Biggers German Pioneers in Texas and in Roemer. He arrived on the "Herschel" in 1845 and was active in New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. There seems to be no word about him after 1855. Dr. Ulrich Lampert, Loreley Strasse 28, 6230 Frankfurt a. M. 80, West Germany, would like to know when, where and whom he married, when and where he died, and whether he has descendants. It seems improbable that a man so important to the German immigration to Texas would simply disappear after 1855.

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Ted Goedeke, Houston, has sent us a copy of the song book used by the Houston Liederkrantz. It is twenty-five pages long and contains the texts to well known German songs. One of the nicest selections we've seen.

Did you ever want to pledge allegiance to the Stars and Stripes in German? Here is the text, which Margaret Bracher recently sent us:

Ich gelobe Treue dem Banner der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika und der Republik welche es vertritt; ein vereintes Volk, unzertrennlich, unter Gott, mit Freiheit und Gerechtigkeit für Alle.

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Cres and Cynthia Gruetzner Merrell, 8408 Elkridge Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79423, are interested in receiving any information--photographs, pictures, brochures, anniversary editions, historical yearbooks, etc., on German Catholic and German Lutheran Churches and parishes anywhere in Texas, but especially central, south, and southeast Texas. They are also interested in Czech Catholic parishes.

You may not know that member Susan Lich, mother of editor Glen Lich, is a lady of many, many talents; she is an avid conservationist, wife, mother, rancher (their Sturdy Oak Farm near Comfort has been in the family more than 100 years and received the Family Land Heritage Award in 1979), office worker, and artist. She co-founded the Comfort Art Guild and Gallery, researched for the historical marker on Early Man Campsites on their ranch, has organized and promoted the Lich family reunion since 1970, and hosts school children when they visit their ranch for special programs. It's easy to see that talent--and energy--run in this German-Texan family!

Scenes which touch the heart: descendants of Friedrich Ernst and Charles Fordtran meeting and embracing at the annual meeting of the GTHS at Round Top/Winedale and again at the dedication of the monument to German immigration in the park at Industry.

Mrs. L. E. Loocke, Wharton, is also secretary-treasurer of the Wharton County Genealogical Society.

Nick Fohn, Uvalde, is the author of Fohn Memories: Heritage of a Castro Colony Family in Texas, published 1981. He has done extensive research of many Medina county German-American families.

Nina L. Nixon, now a graduate student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., is researching German-Texan code switching in Fredericksburg and GT home remedies. Let us know your findings, Nina. Nina has also written for the Texas Historian (1978).

Jo Peebles Adams, new contributing member from Houston, is the granddaughter of Julius Schütze, editor of Texas Vorwärts in Austin, Grand National President of the Sons of Hermann Lodge (1896-1904), and state legislator (1870-1871).

The Saengerfest of the Texanischen Gebirgs-Saengerbundes is 90 years old, the Saengerbund itself was founded 100 years ago! They recently celebrated in the Villita Assembly Hall in San Antonio. Contributing member Merva Pankratz is secretary of the Beethoven Damenchor, organized in 1932.

Margaret Bracher, Fredericksburg, directed the translation--and did most of the translating herself--of the original records of the Zion Lutheran Church, written in the old German script. The records begin with the founding of the Fredericksburg colony in 1846. The first pastor, F. Zizelmann, began the record which he entitled "Acta Ecclesiae," and he detailed some of the difficulties and privations endured by the colonists in his introduction. The original colonists worshiped together in the Vereinskirche, built by the Adelsverein in fulfillment of their agreement to provide a church and school for the emigrants to the Texas colony. In the original group of some 120 settlers of Fredericksburg there were some Lutherans, some Catholics, and some Reformed Protestants. The Lutherans separated from the Vereinskirche in 1851 and built their own church in 1852. For the first 150 years, all of the church records were written in German. The translation of those records comprised 776 ledger size pages! Assisting Margaret with the translation were several members of the Gillespie County Historical Society and their friends, including Mrs. A. L. Johnson, Mrs. Adelbert Weber, Mrs. Arthur Welgehausen, Mrs. Lyne K. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hartmann, Mrs. David Neffendorf, and Alfred Crenwelge. Not many persons can still read the old German script and translate it into current English.

Elke Ditges, Houston, a native of Düsseldorf and GTHS member, has published a delightful little volume in German called In Texas. Many of us saw it at the meeting in Roundtop/Winedale. Elke is also a translator and contributing editor of Deutsche Welt USA.

Another course in German-Texana: Prof. Ted Frank, German professor at UT Arlington, is offering an undergraduate course there this semester.

The doctors Runge, new contributing members from Austin, are both descendants of German-Texan families. Thomas Marschall Runge MD is a direct lineal descendant of William Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, notable pioneer settler in the Loyal Valley community in Mason county. Gretchen Runge MD, nee Hermann, is a direct descendant of the well known Hermann medical family of Galveston and Houston.

Mrs. C. E. Moore, Jr., new patron member from Kerrville, is a member of the Hill Country Preservation Society. She also works with the Hill Country Museum which will open soon. She is a granddaughter of the Dietert and Real families.

GTHS connection with Pennsylvania Germans: new member John R. Costello, Assc. Prof. of Linguistics at New York University. He has published widely in the area of Penn. German folklore and language and is a youngster who writes letters to your membership editor in old German script!

Let's not forget to introduce our indefatigable publicity chairman for the 1981 meeting, Daphne Dalton Garrett! She is a former piano teacher turned farmer/rancher and writer and general asset to all preservation efforts such as the Wends and the German-Texans. She has written many articles for Deutsche Welt USA and continues to pursue her interest in the immigrant settlers of Fayette county.

Many of our readers will be pleased to learn that Pastor H. C. Ziehe of Taylor promises that his history of his ancestors and descendants will be in print in the near future.

The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., has requested copies of our Newsletter. We are sending them at no cost for we will be included in their published collection.

We were happy to meet Brenham furniture maker Edward G. Lueckemeyer at our Round Top/Winedale meeting. We recommend you read a most interesting article about him with examples of his work written by Anita Creamer Lund, "Re-producing Texas' Pioneer Past," in the June, 1981, issue of Texas Homes.

Mrs. Charles L. Bybee, our gracious hostess at Henkel Square in Round Top, is the Chairman of the Board of the Texas Historical Foundation. She has most recently been given an award by the Texas Association of Historical Architects.



HAVE YOU READ--

Glen E. Lich, The German Texans, San Antonio: The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, 1981. (Yes, we finally have it!)

Philip Morris, "Putting the Pieces Together," Southern Living, October, 1981, pp. 138-140. It's an article about Linda and Mike Dietert's house in New Braunfels.

Anne Blasig, The Wends of Texas, Brownsville: Springman-King, 1981. This is a long-awaited reprint of the 1954 edition, published by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and available through them, P. O. Box 311, Giddings, TX 78942.

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Coming Event:

The Brown Symposium at Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX will have as its theme Gustav Mahler and his Vienna. It will be held on the campus of Southwestern U. on February 3, 4, 5, 1982, and will feature Prof. Carl E. Schorske, Dayton-Stockton Prof. of History, Emeritus, of Princeton University; Donald Mitchell, chairman of Faber Music Limited of London, who has written two books on Gustav Mahler; Dr. Alessandra Comini, professor of art history at SMU, who has written on Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele; and a concert by one of the leading contraltos of the present day, Maureen Forrester. For more information write Dr. F. Ellsworth Peterson, P. O. Box 80, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX 78626.

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HAVE YOU READ--

Louis E. Brister, transl. and ed., "William von Rosenberg's Kritik: A History of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants to Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly 85,ii(October, 1981), 161-186.

A. Leslie Willson, ed., Dimension. A Reader of German Literature Since 1968, New York: Continuum, 1981. This is an English language only anthology of some of the best selections from the bilingual numbers of Dimension, already known to our readers.

## »Licher« besuchten die Stadt ihres Namens

**30 Texaner zu Gast – Meist Nachfahren hessischer Auswanderer – Viele heißen »Lich«**

Lich (Il). Am Dienstag traf in Kloster Arnsburg eine über 30 Personen zählende Gruppe deutschstämmiger Amerikaner ein, die von Bürgermeister Konrad Hannes herzlich empfangen wurde. Die

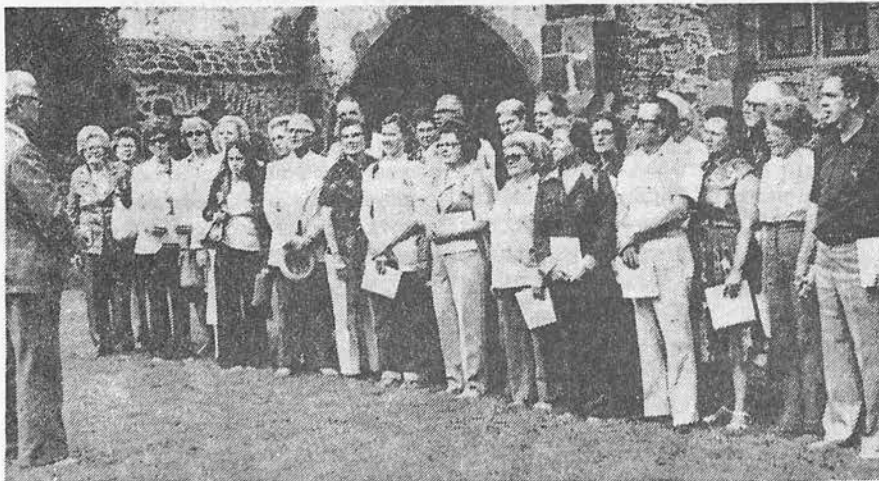
Reisegesellschaft stellte insofern eine Besonderheit dar, als ein Drittel der Gäste Nachfahren hessischer Auswanderer sind, die teilweise den Familiennamen »Lich« tragen. Der Bürgermeister Han-

nes ging auf die Geschichte der Stadt ein, wies auf die historischen Gebäude hin und erläuterte kurz die Bevölkerungs- und Gewerbestruktur der Stadt. Zum persönlichen Studium erhielt jeder Gast eine Prospektmappe, in der Sehenswürdigkeiten und Gegebenheiten im einzelnen dargestellt sind.

Die Reisegruppe wurde angeführt von Professor Glen-Ernst Lich, der nunmehr zum viertenmal mit einer stets wechselnden Gruppe zu Gast ist und bereits ein guter Freund der Stadt wurde. Wie er betonte, findet die 14tägige Reise, die auch durch die deutschsprachigen Länder Österreich und Schweiz führte, in Hessen ihren Abschluß. Die Vorfahren der Besucher seien in der ersten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts aus Hannover und Hessen nach Texas ausgewandert.

Um den Auswanderern eine Existenzgrundlage in der neuen Welt und besonders im Staate Texas zu garantieren, gründeten 1842 deutsche Fürsten in Biebrich am Rhein den »Verein zum Schutze deutscher Auswanderer«. Mit seiner Hilfe gelang es, etwa 10 000 Bürger aus Hessen und Hannover in Texas anzusiedeln, ihnen Land zur landwirtschaftlichen Nutzung zu beschaffen und schließlich den Erhalt der texanischen Staatsbürgerschaft zu garantieren. Auf diese Weise sind in Texas deutschstämmige Gebiete entstanden, in denen noch heute das deutsche Brauchtum und die deutsche Sprache gepflegt werden, so wie sie von den Vorfahren übernommen und gelehrt wurde.

Die amerikanischen Gäste, die ein reichhaltiges Besichtigungsprogramm absolvierten, das auch Kloster Arnsburg und die Stadt Lich einschloß, zeigten sich erfreut, die Heimat ihrer Vorfahren unter der sachkundigen Führung von Glen-Ernst Lich kennen- und auch ein wenig liebgelernt zu haben.

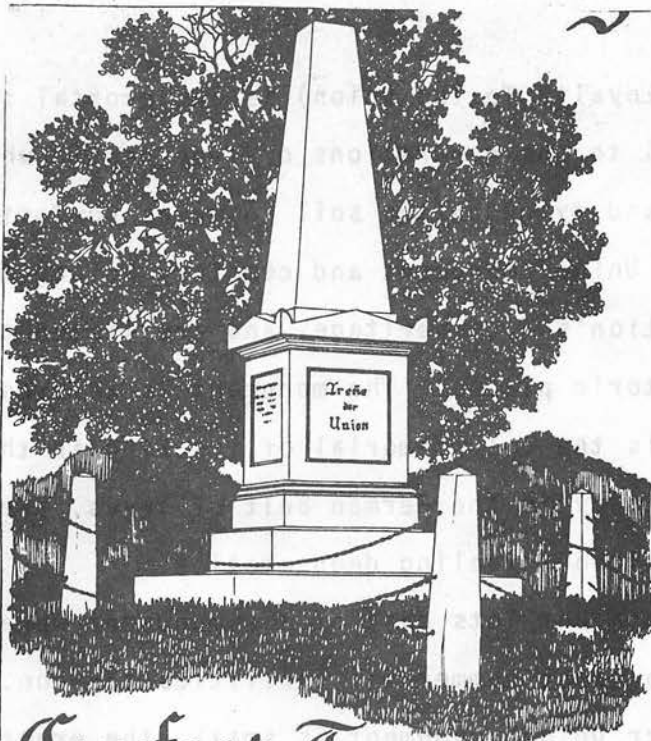


Bürgermeister Hannes empfängt die Gäste aus Texas

(Foto: Il)

Gießener Allgemeine Zeitung, d. 30. vii. 81, S. 25





## Comfort, Texas

NATIONAL HISTORICAL DISTRICT

Founded in 1854

by German pioneers  
in the Heart of the  
Texas Hill Country

**MONUMENT TO LOYALTY.** . . . During the Civil War, 68 local men remained loyal to the Union. Attempting to reach federal troops by way of Mexico, about 40 were killed by Confederates in the Battle of the Nueces, in 1862. After the war, in 1865, fellow townsmen gathered their bones and buried them in Comfort beside a monument, "Treue Der Union." On High St., between Third & Fourth.

### Höhere Mathematik

„Kurt, dein Vater geht von Stuttgart zu Fuß nach Böblingen und legt in der Stunde vier Kilometer zurück, und dein Onkel geht eine Stunde später fort, legt aber in der Stunde sieben Kilometer zurück. Wo treffen sich dann die beiden?“ „Im Wirtshaus, Herr Lehrer!“ **DKF**

### Wie sieht der liebe Gott aus?

*Eine Umfrage unter Kindern, wie sie sich den lieben Gott vorstellen, veranstaltete ein Londoner Massenblatt. Dabei ergab sich folgendes Wunschbild: „Der liebe Gott lebt im Himmel, rasiert sich, duscht manchmal, trägt goldene Pantoffel und hat eine Brille, durch die er alles sieht!“ **fem***

### Erfüllter Kindheitswunsch

„Ist jemals einer deiner Kindheitswünsche in Erfüllung gegangen?“ „Ja. Wenn ich früher mit meiner Mutter zum Friseur mußte, dann wünschte ich mir immer, ich hätte keine Haare!“ **dkf**

### Auch ein Weg zum Wohlstand

Ein Mann übernachtete im Wilden Westen auf einer kleinen Farm. Der Besitzer, ein sehr zufriedener aussehender Mann, war hochofren, jemand bei sich zu haben, mit dem er reden konnte. Er erzählte von den Schwierigkeiten, denen ein Farmer unterworfen sei. Im Lauf des Gesprächs wunderte sich der Besucher immer mehr, wie das kleine Unternehmen sich überhaupt halten könne, und er fragte: „Wie in aller Welt halten Sie sich über Wasser?“ Der Farmer zeigte auf seinen einzigen Knecht und sagte: „Sehen Sie sich den Burschen an. Er arbeitet für mich, aber ich kann ihn nicht bezahlen, und so geht die Farm nach etwa zwei Jahren in seinen Besitz über – und dann arbeite ich für ihn, bis sie wieder mir gehört.“ **dkf**

"Treue der Union" (Loyalty To The Union) is an immortal statement that has been testimonial to the generations of free people who have been living and working and dying on the soil known as Comfort, Texas.

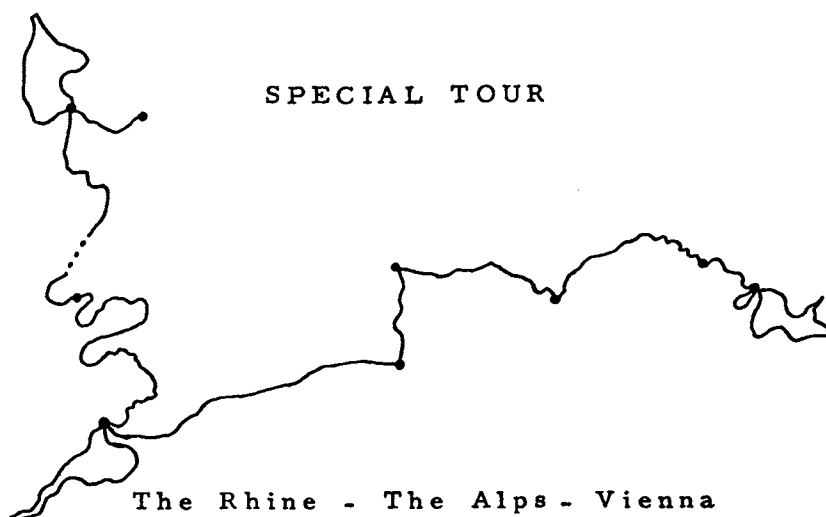
The 1866 "Treue der Union" monument and cemetery belong to the ages, are part of our nation's rich heritage, and are listed on the National Register of historic places. The monument is a Texas Historical Landmark. Moreover, it is the only memorial of its kind in the entire old South, a priceless legacy in the German Belt of Texas. Free men, can not stand before it without feeling deep emotion.

Recently, the two adjacent lots east of the monument were purchased by developers who plan to erect commercial facilities thereon. Since the site of the "Treue der Union" monument is small, the erection of any facilities on adjoining property will interfere with the visibility of the monument, which has stood for more than one hundred years and now stands as a testimonial to the courage and loyalty of those who believed that right lies in preventing the destruction of the supreme government of the land, and as a stimulant to men and women to future deeds of loyalty and patriotism.

Petitions are being circulated in the Comfort area whereby people are expressing their interest in the protection of the monument and requesting that no use be made of the adjoining property which would interfere with its visibility and prominent position.

If you do not have an opportunity to sign a petition, but wish to join in the crusade for the protection of the monument write Petty Construction Company, Inc., P.O. Box 507, Comfort, Texas 78013.

Submitted by  
August Faltin  
Comfort



The sixth annual German Heritage Tour departs from San Antonio and Dallas in the summer of 1982. This forthcoming educational tour will emphasize the history and culture of medieval, renaissance, and classical Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. A special discount is offered for members of the German Texan Heritage Society, and other discounts are also available.

The 1982 itinerary differs somewhat from the five past tours which traced the history of German immigrants who came to Texas in the mid-1800s, primarily for social and economic improvement, political idealism, religious freedom, or just plain "Wanderlust."

This tour, on the other hand, will delve into the broad cultural and political development of the German-speaking countries, from the Holy Roman Empire of the late Middle Ages through the reign of Franz Joseph and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy at the end of World War I.

During two days on the Rhine, the group will journey to the Gothic cathedral of Cologne and cruise past splendid old castles in the rich wine-producing region of the middle Rhine. Then the travelers will motor by touring coach through the picturesque Black Forest to Hohenzollern Castle, and from there into the hill country of northern Switzerland to Hapsburg Castle. Two days in the middle and high Alps will be followed by a drive through western Austria, upper Bavaria, Munich, Salzburg, and the lakes region of northern Austria. The last five days of the two-week tour will take the group through the scenic and somewhat isolated Danube valley to the historic and culturally diverse capital of Vienna. Here the travelers will visit the Vienna Woods, sites from military history, the cathedral and historic churches, the summer and winter palaces of the Hapsburg dynasty, museums, the opera, theaters, and cabarets. The last day features a drive to Mayerling and into the uniquely haunting Burgenland of the Esterhazy family of Austria and Hungary.

The touring pace is relaxed; meals and hotels and lodges are distinctive. Specific departure and return dates will be available upon inquiry. Some places have already been filled. Anyone interested in this tour should contact Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. Lich, Westland Place, 718 Jackson Road, Kerrville, Texas 78028. The telephone number is 512-257-3439.

"SHE'LL BE COMING 'ROUND THE MOUNTAIN"

AND "VON DEN BLAUEN BERGEN KOMMEN WIR,"

By Gilbert J. Jordan

The American folksong "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain" is well known among Texans, especially among S.M.U. students and alumni, where the song was taken over as the school pep song, but nobody seems to know that there is also a German folksong sung to the same tune.

When my wife and I were in Marburg, Germany, some years ago, we heard a group of students sing a song entitled "Von den blauen Bergen kommen wir," and to our amazement they sang it to the same tune as our school song "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain." When I asked them where they had gotten this song, they told me that it was a German folksong, and that most of the German students knew it well. This makes good sense when you remember the post-World-War-II cowboy and ranch craze in Germany, no doubt influenced by the Karl May stories about the American "Wild West."

Some years after our Marburg visit, we encountered the song again among German students, this time in our home in Dallas, Texas. We invited a group of German law students to our house, along with some American students. When we began to sing German songs, one of the German lawyers suggested that we sing "Von den blauen Bergen kommen wir." The German students wanted the S.M.U. students to learn the song they sang in Germany to the tune of our pep song "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain." Again the German students maintained that this was one of their folksongs, just as the Marburg students had done. I remember only one stanza and a refrain of the German song, and I am quoting it below along with our song, which does not contain the refrain:

<p>German</p> <p>Von den blauen Bergen kommen wir,          Von den Bergen ach so weit von hier,          Und wir reiten um die Erde          Auf dem Rücken unsrer Pferde,          Von den blauen Bergen kommen wir:</p> <p>Refrain:          Singen ja, ja, jippi, jippi, je,          Singen ja, ja, jippi, jippi, je,          Singen ja, ja, jippi,          Singen ja, ja, jippi,          Singen ja, ja, jippi, jippi, je.</p>	<p>English (American)</p> <p>She'll be coming round the mountain          When she comes,          She'll be coming round the mountain          When she comes,          She'll be coming round the mountain          She'll be coming round the mountain          She'll be coming round the mountain          When she comes.</p>
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There are many verses to the American version of the song, as for example:

She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes,  
 She'll be driving six white horses when she comes,  
 She'll be loaded with Peruna when she comes,  
 She'll be reelin and a-rocking when she comes,  
 She'll be wearing little red rompers when she comes,  
 We'll all go out to meet her when she comes,  
 Then we'll kill the old red rooster when she comes.  
 We'll all have chicken 'n dumpling when she comes.

And so it goes on ad infinitum.

The Peruna line may have originated on the S.M.U. campus. An apocryphal story tells of an old preacher-staff member who inbibed too freely in big doses of the "Peruna" tonic, an early forerunner of "Hadacol" and "Geritol," all of which contained goodly doses of alcohol. As American students are wont to do,



"She'll be coming round the mountain,"

the S.M.U. students made fun of the old preacher and said of him, to the tune of "She'll be coming round the mountain": "He'll be loaded with Peruna when he comes," that is to say, when he comes to the pulpit. This is a good story, whether true or not.

Now back to the other parts of the song. It has been suggested that the original version, different as it is, was derived from an old spiritual, "Old Ship of Zion." Some of the current lines still suggest the spiritual, as for example: "We'll all sing hallelujah when she comes" or "We'll sing glory hallelujah when she comes. I have not been able to establish the origin of the "She" in the current versions, but the spiritual must have read something like: "We'll all sing hallelujah when He comes." There is also some indication that the "She" form alludes to the coming of the railroads, and in this sense a version of the song can be related to the tradition of railroads. Another explanation of the "She" form might be traced to the "Old Ship of Zion," inasmuch as ships are usually given a feminine gender and referred to as "She."

If anyone knows further history or tradition on the song or additional verses in German or English, please send them to me. Sincerely,  
 Gilbert J. Jordan, 3228 Milton Ave., Dallas, TX 75205.

**SOME PUBLICATIONS THAT I HAVE FOUND HELPFUL IN RESEARCHING MY GERMAN ANCESTORS:**

- A Guide to Old German Handwriting of the Mid-1800's. Mrs. Anne Mashey, 5151 Wexford Run Road, Wexford, PA 15090. Cost \$4.50. Supplement to the above, including printed type alphabets. All translated. \$2.50.
- German Family Research Made Simple. Second Edition. J. Konrad, Summit Publications, P.O. Box 222, Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262. Cost \$5.00
- Tracing Your German Roots, Maralyn Wellauer, 3239 N. 58th St Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216. Cost \$5.50.
- Address Book For Germanic Genealogy, Ernest Thode, Thode Translations, Route 2, Paul Kern Road, Mariette, Ohio 45750. \$11.50
- A Genealogical Handbook of German Research, Larry O. Jensen, P.O. Box 441, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062. Cost \$11.50
- A List of Evangelical Communities in the Province of Posen, Germany, as They Existed in the Decade Before WW I. Maralyn Wellauer, 3239 N. 58th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216. \$2.50
- A list of Evangelical Communities in the Province of Pommern (Pomerania) Germany as They Existed Before WW I With the Postal Numbers For the Places Now Located in the DDR. \$2.50 Maralyn Wellauer, 3239 N. 58th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216.
- Handy Guide To Austrian Genealogical Records. Dagnar Senekovic. The Everton Publishers, Inc., Logan, Utah 84321. \$4.90.
- Germanic Genealogist, The Augustan Society, 1510 Cravens Avenue, Torrance, California 90501. \$10.00 for 4 annual issues.

Elizabeth Lehmann, Brenham, Texas

## GRASSROOTS COMMENTARIES

Glen E. Lich  
Schreiner College

The following outline for a course on historical preservation at Schreiner College may present some ideas for teachers of German-Texan culture. The units of instruction are based in part on resource lists published by the American Association for State and Local History. Basic teaching materials, apart from what teachers themselves may add to their lectures and library reserve reading lists, can be ordered on all but two of the units of instruction outlined below from the Catalog Order Department of the AASLH, 1400 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203. The "Index to AASLH Books," which should be examined before orders are placed, lists resources on more than forty subjects that can be developed into instructional units. Prices for texts in specific subject areas range from \$3.50 to \$25.00, and hefty discounts are available to members of the association. Although reserve reference materials for an entire course, such as this one on historical preservation, can cost as much as \$250, most teachers reading the Newsletter will probably be interested in a smaller number of instructional units, say three or four per year, to be used as supplemental units in the language classroom.

For our purposes at Schreiner College - expecting a January mini-term enrollment of approximately ten degree students, a smaller number of non-degree students, and perhaps fifteen adult auditors from the immediate seven county area - we ordered 1-3 copies of the basic text and for library reserve for seventeen AASLH topics. The other two topics are supported by recent publications of regional presses. We decided this time not to order from a large list of association technical leaflets, primarily because time during the mini-term is quite limited, but the list of 130 leaflets warrants examination. Most are quite specific (e.g., "Authentic Flower Arrangements for Period Rooms," "Organizing Your 2 x 2 slides: A Storage-and-Retrieval System" and "Cemetery Transcribing"); all are short, pithy, and inexpensive.

Our seminar at Schreiner College is an elective, sophomore-level regional culture and local history course with the first semester of the required American history sequence as a prerequisite for degree candidates. The seminar is open to all non-degree students without prerequisite. General public enrolled for non-credit will not be required to complete the course project, though they will have the option of doing so.

The course develops through lectures, workshops, slide and tape training programs, fieldtrips, independent study units, and course projects and follows a syllabus covering these subjects:

- Day 1 Access to the Past  
American Issues
- Day 2 Artifacts and the American Past  
Local Government Records  
Families and Communities
- Day 3 Historic Preservation in Small Towns  
Development, Use, and Care of Historical Collections  
Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs
- Day 4 Interpretation of Historic Sites
- Day 5 Identifying American Architecture (Emphasis on Vernacular)  
American Interiors through the Camera's Eye  
Recreating the Historic House Interior, Exterior, and Grounds
- Day 6 Oral History and Lore for the Local Historical Society  
Transcribing and Editing Oral History and Lore
- Day 7 Published Primary and Secondary Sources
- Day 8 Researching, Writing, and Publishing Local History
- Day 9 Tracing Your Ancestry
- Day 10 Organizing a Local Historical Society  
Primer for Local Historical Societies

Portions of the first, fourth, and tenth days are devoted to administrative matters such as course objectives, project suggestion, progress reports, and establishment of individualized independent study programs. Fieldtrips will be undertaken to historic sites, collections, and projects in some of the following locations: Fredericksburg, Cypress Creek, Comfort, Kerrville, Boerne, and San Antonio. Grades are based on class discussion (each student being responsible in advance to serve once as a primary and once as a secondary discussant on above subjects), on short written project forecasts to be presented orally and then graded, and on completed course projects. There are no tests. Students receive grades of I at the end of the mini-term and will have until one week before the last day of classes in the spring semester to complete projects, after which they will receive final course grades. During the writing of the course projects, students have access to the instructor for guidance and assistance; in fact, at least two such sessions are required: one to review the scope of the individual's project, the second to review the student's rough draft before final typing.

Projects are expected to cover a wide spectrum. Many students will be interested in personal family histories or genealogies; others will have special interests which they will tailor to their college majors and perhaps also to research requirements in other courses. A number of the adult auditors, who have the option of writing course projects, will likely pursue topics relating to their vocations or avocations. The course will be publicized through all media in the seven county area to attract members of local historical societies and county historical commissions. Many of these people



are already involved in grassroots work with museums, historical marker applications, and heritage groups. Their skills and knowledge should enhance class discussion, while for them the course should broaden their understanding and provide new approaches and fresh ideas.

Anyone interested in additional information should contact Glen E. Lich, Schreiner College, Kerrville, Texas 78028. Telephone (512) 896-5411, ext. 255.

### BIEROCKS

3-1/2 C. SHREDDED CABBAGE  
 1 LB. GROUND BEEF  
 3/4 TSP. SALT  
 1/4 TSP. PEPPER (WE USE A GOOD BIT MORE)  
 1 PKG. DRY YEAST  
 2 TSP. SUGAR  
 1/4 C. WARM WATER  
 3/4 C. MILK, SCALDED & COOLED  
 1 TBSP. MELTED SHORTENING  
 2 C. FLOUR + A LITTLE SALT

BROWN CABBAGE IN SKILLET, BROWN GROUND BEEF; ADD 1/4 TEASPOON SALT & PEPPER (TO TASTE). LET COOL. ADD YEAST & SUGAR TO WARM WATER IN LARGE BOWL; LET STAND FOR 5 MIN. BLEND IN MILK, 1/2 TEASPOON SHORTENING AND FLOUR; MIX WELL. TURN DOUGH OUT ONTO FLOURED BOARD. KNEAD FOR SEVERAL MINUTES UNTIL SMOOTH AND ELASTIC. PLACE DOUGH IN GREASED BOWL; COVER WITH DAMP CLOTH. LET RISE UNTIL DOUBLED IN BULK, ABOUT 30 MINUTES - NOTE: AT TIMES THIS WILL RISE MUCH FASTER - KEEP AN EYE ON IT. ROLL DOUGH INTO RECTANGLES, ABOUT 1/4 INCH THICK; CUT DOUGH INTO EIGHT 5-INCH SQUARES. PLACE 2 HEAPING TABLESPOONS MEAT MIXTURE IN CENTER OF EACH SQUARE. BRING 4 CORNERS TOGETHER AND PINCH CLOSED. PLACE, SEAM SIDE DOWN, ON GREASED BAKING SHEET. LET RISE IN WARM PLACE FOR 20 MINUTES. BAKE IN PREHEATED 375-DEGREE OVEN FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

### Leipzig begeht 500-Jahr-Feier als Buchstadt

Berlin. Die Stadt Leipzig begeht im September mit zahlreichen Veranstaltungen die 500-Jahr-Feier als Stadt des Buches. Am 18. September wird der Rat der Stadt in einer Festveranstaltung dieses Jubiläums gedenken, das vom Druck der „Glosa in Apocalypsia“ des Johannes Annius Viterbiensis im Jahre 1481 an errechnet wurde. Aus diesem Anlaß werden in der Stadt, deren 38 Verlage heute mehr als 25 Prozent der Buchproduktion der DDR erstellen, auch Volksfeste, ein Buch-

druckerball und ein Buchmarkt stattfinden. Die Buchstadt Leipzig ist ferner Sitz der Deutschen Bücherei, der Zentralbücherei für Blinde und des Zentralantiquariats der DDR.

Im Rahmen des Jubiläums findet in Leipzig bereits vom 17. bis 22. August auch die 47. Tagung der Generalversammlung des internationalen Verbandes der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen statt. Voraus geht ein UNESCO-Seminar für Bibliothekare aus Entwicklungsländern.

ap

FREDERICKA RICHTER DEBERRY

LOUISE DABELGOTT RICHTER

# Southwest Center for German Studies

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES

P.O. BOX 4579/TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY,

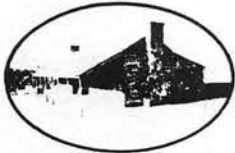
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409/(806) 742-3282

19-

WHERE DO RANCHERS AND FARMERS ROLL BACK THEIR SLEEVES  
TO MIX A 200 YEAR OLD SAUSAGE RECIPE? WHERE DO CATHOLIC  
NUNS HELP YOUNG GERMAN TEXANS TIE UP POUNDS OF "WURST"?

SLATON, TEXAS!

Once again this year, on Sunday, February 21st to be exact, the parishoners of St. Joseph's Parish in Slaton Texas will host their very successful "Wurstfest". Happy eaters from all over the Panhandle-Plains area will line up outside the Parish Hall (20th and Division Street) in anticipation of the culinary treat awaiting them inside: sausage made on Thursday by the Parish committee and smoked all night in the Parish smokehouse right outside the Hall. After a delicious meal everyone is invited across the street to a "Funfest" held in the St. Joseph's School: games, door prizes, Texas Tech German Dancers and Puppenspieler, and a country store.



Hedwig Hill Haus at the Museum's Ranching Heritage Center

"KOMMEN SIE NACH SLATON!"



From  
Meredith  
McClain



DEUTSCH IN SLATON

by Greg Geis

- 20 -

Near the southeastern edge of the West Texas Caprock, 15 miles southeast of Lubbock, lies a community with strong ties to its German heritage. The town is Slaton, Texas, home of St. Joseph's Parish and School. Many of you know the town for its annual Spring Sausage Festival, begun in 1971, where literally thousands of pounds of "Wurst" are made in the St. Joseph's School kitchens, to be shared with an ever-growing crowd of festival visitors.

Keeping the German "Wurstfest" tradition alive requires a lot of hard work, most of one's spare time, and a strong interest in the German heritage in which such an event has its earliest origins. The interest in the German heritage of Slaton has followed its natural course, and has blossomed into a keen interest in the German Language. People are curious about the language.

Through the efforts of Dr. Meredith McClain, Professor of German at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and Mrs. Josetta Heinrich, a very active member of St. Joseph's Parish in Slaton, a German class was organized. Word spread, and now people of all ages are meeting for two hours every week to learn "German for Fun" in Slaton. Some class members are of German background, some are not. Some are already acquainted with the language, most are not. In this class of twenty-two students, there are twenty-two reasons for learning German.

Everyone started at the very beginning, with numbers, common useful expressions, and a very basic vocabulary. For those students with prior experience in German, these first exercises served as a welcome review in pronunciation and spelling. After our most recent class meeting, our third, students are reciting the alphabet, counting to 100 and beyond, greeting one another, asking each other questions about the weather, telling time, expressing themselves with specifics such as days and months, and they are gradually acquiring a useful core of German words and sentences which apply to everyday situations.

The common bond among class members is enthusiasm. Every student wants to learn German. Every student is alert and willing to become totally involved in our classroom activities. For me, the teacher, there is no bigger reward than the enthusiasm and joy with which this most receptive group of German students contributes "zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition". Our German-for-Fun class lives up to its name--Es macht viel Spaß!

# Guten

# Appetit!



*German-speaking Mennonites in Seminole, Texas?*

Yes, there are Mennonites in Seminole, Texas. In January of 1977, Mennonites began emigrating to this West Texas community from Mexico and Canada. Why? They were attracted by the large blocks of land in this isolated area and by Texas' relatively non-restrictive school laws. However, in 1979 the Mennonites lost their landholdings and were forced to return to Canada or Mexico or to move into the town of Seminole. The people of Seminole have helped the Mennonites greatly, especially in obtaining permanent residency. (You may recall their struggle to obtain legal resident status.) However, some people still do not understand the Mennonites' customs very well, and they try to adapt them to their way of life.

The Mennonites are dedicated to retaining the German language within their community (all of them speak some form of German ranging from Plattdeutsch to high German). German is the vehicle of the educational system as well as the religious system. They believe their retention of the language will keep them apart from the "world". In fact, one of the main factors which has always triggered their migration has been government threats to their determined use of German. Thus the migration pattern over hundreds of years from Europe to Russia to Canada to Mexico to Paraguay etc., and most recently to Seminole, Texas.

Since their arrival in Seminole, the Mennonites have undergone a split concerning the education of their children. Some parents feel that instruction in English is essential. As a result of this split, there are now two different educational systems serving approximately 600 people: a fundamentalist group, in which some 40 children are enrolled and are taught from the Martin Luther Bible, and a parochial school in which about 105 children learn under an English curriculum. (There is now a third Mennonite school in Seminole but no documentation has been obtained.)

This spring the National Endowment for the Humanities will fund my research of the two educational systems mentioned above. (I received a Youth-grant.) This subject is important because it will investigate two educational systems that are different from the traditional public school system in Texas. It offers a unique opportunity to study the relationship between language and the maintenance of a minority culture. The immediate goal of this project is to render certain aspects of Mennonite life more understandable to the people in the Seminole area. This goal will be accomplished by slide presentations there and at Texas Tech University.

Hazel Gilley  
Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages  
Texas Tech University

**Heine-Schau**

**Düsseldorf. Eine Amerika-Ausstellung „Heinrich Heine“ zur Erinnerung an den deutschen Dichter bereitet das Heine-Institut in Düsseldorf vor. Die Schau soll von Oktober 1981 bis Januar 1982 im Goethe-Haus in New York und in der Georgetown-Universität von Washington gezeigt werden.** dpa

**Tanz des Texaners**

Von Peter Cerf

Ein Mann aus Texas, den es wurmte, daß er nur im zweitgrößten Staat der Vereinigten Staaten lebte, flog nach Alaska und fragte: „Wie kann ich ein richtiger Alaskamann werden?“ Der Barmixer im „Alaska-Eck“ hatte Humor und Ideen: „Nun, Texasmann, ein richtiger Alaskamann wirst Du nur wenn Du ein Bierglas voll Whisky in einem Zug leer machst, mit einem Eskimoweib tanzst und einen Eisbären schießt!“ „Geht in Ordnung“ sagte der Mann aus Texas, bestellte den halben Liter Whisky und schütete ihn ein einem Zug hinunter. Dann verließ er mit leicht verglastem Blick die Bar.

Die Leute warteten bis kurz vor Mitternacht. Dann flog die Tür auf. Der Mann aus Texas taumelte herein, am ganzen Körper zerkratzt, blutend und mit zerrissenem Anzug. „Das war das“, stammelte er, „und wo ist jetzt das Eskimoweib, das ich schießen soll?“

A LOOK AT THE PANHANDLE GERMANS by James Senseney "Denke Regen"

- 22 -

Driving eastward from Hereford on U.S. Highway 60 in the Texas Panhandle, one has a long stretch of flat level road. To break the monotony, one tends to look right and left over the flat fields stretching away to the horizon. Practically nothing breaks the field of view so one is happy when they note some objects in the distance. As one draws closer the object on the right becomes a grain elevator and on the left a restaurant bearing the name "Rhinegold." Unusual, one thinks, for a restaurant with a German name out here on the Texas praries. Even more unusual, one observes, is that three flags are flying in front of the establishment. There is the standard American flag and its local counterpart, the Texas State flag, but the third one is seldom seen. It is the German national flag. Now the name of the community comes into view. It is Umbarger. This is filed in the back of the brain for future conversation and one continues along the flat road in the direction of Canyon. Again objects to break the monotony appear seldom so one really perks up as they note a large billboard on the right side and as they get nearer the large writing appears to be in German. Moving onto the frontage road for a better view of this odd phenomenon, one observes that it declares "Denke Regen" and that it is an advertising sign for the First National Bank in Canyon. The coincidence of a restaurant flying a German flag and a billboard with a German slogan on these flat plains causes wonderment and a desire to investigate further.

Leaving U.S. Highway 60 one drives down the main street of Canyon and there suddenly is the impressive building of the First National Bank. What time would be better than the present to stop and ask about the unusual sign while it is fresh in the memory. Seeking out a knowledgeable person one is directed to Mr. Don Max Vars, Chairman of the Board. A very pleasant man, Mr Vars is pleased that a stranger would wonder about the bank's advertisement. Mr Vars explains that "Denke Regen" is only one of more than a dozen German language slogans that the bank puts on its billboard. He notes that it was established in 1968 when, upon the closing of the Umbarger bank, the First National took over many of the accounts of this predominantly German Catholic community and it is the bank's way of thanking the citizens of Umbarger for their continued patronage. Mr Vars states that the translations are supplied by a Professor Hubert Oppe of the local West Texas State University and that

"Denke Regen" was erected due to the recent long lasting dry period. Mr. Vars suggested that one of the Vice Presidents, J. Pat Hickman could supply additional information. Conversation with Mr. Hickman brought out that various banking services are advertised to the Umbarger community through these German billboards as well as local events from the University and the Knights of Columbus find their way onto the billboard. He notes that the bank even congratulated the United States on its Birthday in 1976 by carrying the wording "Herzlichen Glueckwunsch zum Geburtstag Amerika". Mr. Hickman very quickly pointed out that when typographical errors or incorrect German makes it's way onto the billboard that his office is flooded with telephone calls bringing the error to his attention. Supplying some of the additional slogans, such as "Sei ein junger Texaner," "Texas heisst Sie Willkommen," "Nummer Eins in Canyon seit 1900" and its direct invitation to Umbarger in "Canyon's und Umbargers Bank seit 1900" Mr. Hickman also noted that the bank goes a big step further in its support of Umbarger's events. For the once a year, on the first Sunday in November (On 8 Nov 1981) when all of the citizens of Umbarger team together to put on their huge Sausage Festival that the bank takes out a quarter page advertisement in the local Canyon News telling all the residents of Canyon and the communities nearby of this chance to feast on homemade German Sauer kraut and Sausage, but that is another story in itself. However, should you be in the vicinity of Amarillo, Canyon or Hereford on the 8 November 1981 then travel on down to Umbarger and experience for yourself a culinary treat among the Panhandle Germans.

TEXAN SEEKS RELATIVES IN GERMANY - Fritz Finke, R 1 Box 134, Round Top, Texas 78954 USA, tells the following story: Years ago, after WWII, nine families in Germany contacted his father in the hope that he would send CARE packages to them. These families were related to his grandfather, Dietrich Finke, who came to Texas in May 1871 with his wife, whose maiden name was Marth. Dietrich Finke came from Leuchenburg, in the province of Dortmund. All nine letters were sent to Fritz Finke's father while he lived in Brenham, in Washington County. Fritz' father started sending the CARE packages, one at a time. He never finished, since the letters with the addresses were lost due to an unfortunate incident. Fritz would like to contact these relatives, but has no idea how to go about it. Is there someone in Germany who can help?



GERMAN TEXANS' GENEALOGY SECTION

Theresa G. Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213

Wasn't it a great third meeting! The location and hospitality found in Fayette County make it one-of-a-kind. Thanks to all who helped stage such a great gathering. My especial thanks go to Arliss Treybig and Walter Noser, both our GTHS members, who shared their experiences in family tree climbing with the other members. It is particularly gratifying to see how many of our members are so seriously interested in researching their families. On a personal note, Arliss is preparing a history of St. Roche Catholic Church at Mentz, which includes the Bernardo Prairie area, for a State Historical Marker. She hopes to catalogue the church cemetery, also. Walter is continuing to look into the Beimer and Brod families, searching for more records to tie things together and answer those questions that always crop up. Thanks to both!! Which brings up next year...the next meeting will be in Fredericksburg, and we are open to suggestions for topics for the genealogy workshop. Let's hear from you....

News of a Member: Marilyn Collins, 500 River Rd., Seguin TX 78155 (our faithful surname indexer) has taken the office of History and Archives for the Friends of the Library in Seguin. She hopes to gather copies of genealogies and other family records for people in Guadalupe County, and she asks our other members to help her out. Besides published works, she is interested in manuscript-type of papers for the vertical file. Anything that pertains to the history of the area will be welcomed.

Polish Families: From time to time we have a tie in with Polish families. The Polish Genealogical Society, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago IL 60622 maintains an ancestor index card file at the Library of the Polish Museum of America (same address). Write for information on this, and other, services.

Galveston Baptisms: Many thousands of German Catholics entered through the port of Galveston in the mid-1800s. Not all of them stayed in Galveston; many moved to other German settlements in Texas and throughout the US. Some stayed in Galveston only to await the birth of a child. Records of these baptisms are in the books of the St. Joseph German Catholic Church, established April 23, 1860. The Galveston County Genealogical Society has published a 212-page book of the baptismal records from 1860 to 1900, including the names of the person being baptized, the parents (including mother's maiden name), and the godparents, also the dates of birth and baptism. Order (\$10.50 per copy) from Mrs. Ella E. Lee Sheffield, 1215 25th Avenue North, Texas City TX 77590.

Mason County Methodist Records: Several years ago, the Hilda Methodist Church published records from that church and its parent organizations. The records date from 1856 to 1955 and include births, deaths, marriages, and membership lists. Some history is also included. These records were translated from the German, with spellings and dates given exactly as on the records. Order (\$3.00 + \$1.00 postage) from Julius E. De Vos, Fredericksburg Rt., Box 55, Mason TX 76856.

Fredericksburg Vereins-Kirche records will be published, also. The Kirchen-Buch will be off the press by December 1, 1981, with 180 pages of the ministerial services of Rev. B. Dangers from 1849 to 1870. Also translated from German, the records include baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths. Information shown for baptisms is the same as noted for Galveston, above. Only 100 copies will be printed, so orders will be filled as received. Order from the translator; Ella Gold, 106 W. College St., Fredericksburg TX 78624. The price is \$14.00, including tax and postage; payment must accompany orders.

Cooke County History: E. I. Wiesman of Keller TX has donated a copy of Cooke County, Texas: Where the South and the West Meet to our GTHS library collection. This county is the home of the German settlements, Muenster and Lindsay, of



particular interest to Mr. Wiesman since they were settled by his families. This 72-page, softcover book was written by Michael Collins of the Cooke County Heritage Society. It is well written, amply documented as to sources, and has a good collection of black and white photos. Inquire from the Heritage Society at P O Box 150, Gainsville TX 76240.

Records from Germany: Members wanting to research German records are reminded to check the July, 1980, issue of our GTHS Newsletter for the names and addresses of area genealogical societies in Germany. Also highly recommended as a guide is Larry Jensen's Genealogical Handbook of German Research, available from Everton Publishers, P O Box 368, Logan UT 84321. The price is \$11.50. Not only is this a guide to using L.D.S. (Mormon) records, but it also has guides to place and family names, and letters (you fill in the blanks) in German and English.

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FROM OUR MEMBERS

The following section was compiled by your Genealogy Editor from letters received from our members. If you have an interest in any of the families named, write directly to the member. To have your story or query appear in a future issue, write to your Genealogy Editor, Theresa G. Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213. Items are published at no charge to our members. For non-members, there is a \$3.00 query fee.

Fredericka Richter DeBerry, 1023 Kemberton Dr., Houston TX 77062 is hoping to learn more about Christian Grimm and his family. He was born in Germany, possibly Westphalia, but his birthdate is unknown. Fredericka located citizenship papers in Austin County stating that he arrived in the U.S. in 1853 and that he received his citizenship on Sept. 18, 1871. He married Helen(e) "Lena<sup>a</sup> Brendt/Brandt", but the date is unknown. Their daughter Louise was Fredericka's grandmother, but she does not know if there were other children. Louise was born in 1876 at Wallis. Her father must have died when she was very young, as her mother remarried in 1878 to Joseph Windt. (Her mother Helen(e) was born in 1849 in Hanover.) Helen(e) died in 1929 and is buried beside Joseph Windt in Brenham. Fredericka is looking for death records and the burial place of Christian Grimm. She is also looking for more information on Christian and Helen(e)'s parents.

Curtis C. Dunk, 11507 Shakespearian Way, Austin TX 78759 is researching the history of his great grandparents, Johann and Anna E. (Hempel) Dung/Dunk. They came to Bastrop County from Germany in 1856, with their children Henry, Katharina, Anna Elizabeth, Mary, and Dorothea. Curtis would like to correspond with others having information on Franz Weise (1827-1906) and his wife Katharina Dunk Weist (1840-1901). They are buried in the Grassyville Cemetery in Bastrop County. In their family were two sons, August and Ernst Weise.

Reba S. Parks, 2504 54th St., Lubbock TX 79413 is looking for more information on her great-grandfather's family. Henri Charles Schroeder came to the U.S. about 1869 with his father (name unknown), brother William, and sister Henrietta. Some reports say Henrietta came later, in July of 1853. She married Fritz Gallas. Although the father's first name is unknown, it is reported that he remarried in this country. Henri married Augusta Muller; her first name is also given as Bertha, Annie, and Louisa. She came in 1878, at age 19, possibly with relatives. They lived at Miles (Runnels Co.), Coupland (Williamson Co.), and Wolffarth (Lubbock Co.). Reba is looking for a further explanation of the Census entry showing Augusta Shrader, age 77, living in the Fritz Gallas household, relationship, "grandmother." Henri's family had lost contact with William's and Reba is trying to locate William's descendants. Some of his children were: William, Amiel, Lavis, Annie, John, Herman, Adolph, Francis, Rosa, and Gustave. Some might be living in Williamson County still. She feels that, since William was the older brother, his family may have some records, since the others "headed west." Reba is also trying to verify information that Henri was born Feb. 13, 1860 in Westphalia, that Augusta Muller was born Nov. 25, 1859 in Posen, and that they were married in June of 1879 in Washington County, Texas. Anyone knowing about this Lutheran family, please contact Reba.

From Our Members, continued

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Barbara Lee York, 505 Merrill, Houston TX 77009 sent a query on behalf of Prof. Wolfgang Fix, Langanargen 7994, 8 Heckenweg in Germany. Dr. Fix, of the University of Stuttgart, is seeking to solve a Texas mystery in his family. Constantin Fix (born 1806, Oberrrdorfam, Nockar, Ger.) and his wife Theresia Ferber came to Texas in 1846 with two children, Johann Evangelista, born in 1845, and Carl Anton, born in 1844. Two more sons were born in Texas; Charles, around 1851, and Conrad, in 1853 in Houston. Conrad married Mary Emma Priest, but they were divorced in 1884. Conrad left Texas and moved to Germany. Dr. Fix is wondering what happened afterwards to Mary Emma, and would like to follow up on this family. Also, does anyone know what happened to Carl Anton; he is not listed in the 1850 Census. Any member knowing of this family, please contact Dr. Fix directly, or through Mrs. York.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Meurer, 2324 Westoak Dr., Austin TX 78704 are researching the Tatsch family. They have found quite a bit of information on one side of the family but know very little about the Adam Tatsch family. Meta Tatsch was the daughter of Adam Tatsch (born in 1847), settlers of Gillespie County, probably Protestant. Mr. and Mrs. Meurer have a nice chart of the Johannes Meurer and Barbara Monsieur descendants. They brought eight children from Heiligenroth to Fredericksburg via Galveston in 1845. Johannes was the son of Christian and Helen (Sturm) Meurer and Barbara was the daughter of Herman Josef and Marie Barbara (Köchele) Monsieur. Other names on their chart include; Kunz, Ersch, Ward, Langhennig, Wahrmund, Klein, Jenschke, Nebgen, and Dani.

Ann Stokes, 2130 E. 11th, Ada OK 74820 is searching for the previous generation for certain couples. Carl/Karl August Druschke and his wife Emily arrived in this country around 1882 and settled in Milam County. Five children immigrated with them and two were born here. Florence Venghaus arrived in the U.S. around 1867, possibly with his parents. They, too, lived in Milam County. Florence married Anna, who was the widow of a Mr. Spill. Any information leading to the parents of these people will be appreciated.

Mary Jane Kuntschik, 3742 Manana Dr., Dallas TX 75220 is trying to verify the old country origin of the Kuntschik family, possibly from Schlesien or Brandenburg. This family arrived here in 1873, at Galveston, and settled first in Fayette County, then in Lavaca County, and later in Gonzalez County. Mary Jane would like to correspond with others researching families from those provinces in Germany.

Arliss Treybig, 112 W. Norris, El Campo TX 77437 is looking for the old country birthplace of three ancestors. First is Joseph Hennecke/Henneke/Heneke. Some members of this family immigrated in 1834, and others came later. On available records, the family members are referred to as Munsterlanders and/or Oldenburgers, and some Census records state simply Prussia as the country of origin. Joseph's wife was Anna Maria Midike/Mitige. The eight children in the family married persons with surnames Maas, Jurgens, Redgate, Foster, Miller, Vonderwerth, Glober, and Burtschell. Arliss is also looking for the birthplace of Heinrich/Henry Marx who may have immigrated to Texas in 1866. A Henry Marx is listed on the ship Weser with the Knebel family, sailing in 1866, but is this the same one? That Henry Marx was from Oberndorf, Prussia. Heinrich Marx did marry Louise Knebel, and after her death Heinrich left their two children with the Knebel family. The third family of interest is the Heine family. Arliss is looking for the exact birthplace of Johann Heine of Hesse Kassel. He married Anna Martha (surname unknown). She died in 1861 and he in 1883. Probate records show his heirs were Elizabeth, wife of Wilhlem Dippel, Catherine, wife of Charles P. Frank, and Henry Heine, husband of Auguste Koenig, as well as Elise, wife of Bernhard Treybig. However, the exact relationship of these is not shown; could they be children, brothers and sisters, or nieces and nephews? Although Arliss has published books on these family lines, the questions are never fully answered. More information brings more questions.

Rev. John M. Gambro, O.P., 7200 W. Division St., River Forest IL 60305 is looking for records on Otto Reifschlaeger and his wife Bertha Louise Juergens. According



From Our Members, continued

to the 1900 Census, Otto arrived in the U.S. in 1885. About 1888, he and Bertha married, the exact place in Texas still unknown. Bertha was the widow of a Mr. Senf. In order to find birth records, he will be writing to Germany for civil or Evangelical church records. The information available shows that Otto was born in Sulge, Mecklenberg, but Sulge might be the name of an estate rather than a town. Bertha was born at Bisforte, which also might be an estate name. Otto died in 1902 at Giddings, Texas, and Bertha in 1921 at Gregory. Other family names of interest are Reivschlager, Jecker, and Michalke.

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GTHS MEMBERS' GENEALOGICAL EXCHANGE

Members are encouraged to use this column format in sending information for the Newsletter. It gives the reader names, areas, and other facts "at a glance." Also, it is quicker for you to jot down, and easier for the typist to compile. Let's have more for this section!

MEMBER	RESEARCHING FAMILIES	TEX CO SETTLED	RELIGION
Nelda V. Griffin 503 E. Bee Cave Rd. Austin TX 78746	Rieger, Lorenz	Williamson	Catholic
	Bachmeyer	Williamson	Catholic
	Dieble, John	Bastrop	
	Witte, Frederick	Lee	Lutheran
	Griffin, Jehoiakim	Haywood (Tenn)	
	Burt, James	Harris, Bastrop	Catholic
	Scott, Walter	Travis	
	Kirby, Henry or J.M. Fuchs, Johann	Travis (Kent)	Lutheran
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Fredericka DeBerry 1023 Kemberton Dr. Houston TX 77062	Grimm	Austin, Wash'n	Lutheran
	Brendt/Brandt	Austin, Wash'n	Lutheran
	Richter	Austin, Wash'n	Lutheran
	Emshoff	Austin, Wash'n	Lutheran
	Dabelgott	Austin, Travis, Ft Bend	Lutheran
	Schröder/Schroeder	Austin	Lutheran
	Prinz	Travis	Lutheran
	Sterdt	Travis	Lutheran

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THE MYSTERIOUS VON ROEDER

The following commentary and two newspaper articles were submitted by Flora von Roeder, 2515 Shakespeare #2, Houston TX 77030 ---

For those who love a mystery, columnist Henry Wolff, Jr., of the Victoria Advocate has a gem. From my own research, including documents in the Victoria County Courthouse, I found no record that a second Otto von Roeder ever existed. This includes the fact that by 1917, the year the second Otto is said to have died, there should have been a death certificate filed on him. The 1880 and 1900 Federal Censuses of Victoria County reveal no such person living in that county either.

Considering that Col. Otto von Roeder was a lawyer, having been educated at Goettingen, was exiled from Germany, did marry a titled woman, one wonders if this Union soldier and Indian fighter might not have claimed Col. von Roeder's identity unofficially when the Carpetbaggers and courts relieved the latter of his fortune after the Civil War.

If anyone knows anything about this mysterious Professor von Roeder, I'm sure Mr. Wolff would like to hear about him, as would I. I thought I knew all about the von Roeders, especially those who had been exiled!  
(Flora von Roeder)

2A—THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Sunday, April 5, 1981



Henry's Journal

Professor Mysterious

By Henry Wolff Jr.

I've been trying to trace down Professor Otto Von Roeder.

Why, I don't know, except he appears to be a person of some mystery, one who left his mark on local history without much explanation.

It was said that he had been exiled from Germany, had something to do with a romance he had with a princess. That in itself is enough to stir one's interest.

He died in poverty around 1917, best I can tell, was buried in the Confederate plot in Evergreen Cemetery, a Union soldier laid to rest with soldiers of the South.

Surely, there is someone around who knew him, could

tell us more about the magnificently bearded old man who appears in numerous old photographs taken in Victoria around the early 1900s.

The most information I've been able to find on him is in the files of the late Sidney Weisiger, who mentions that Von Roeder once had a photograph gallery in Victoria with Louis de Planque, which probably explains why he appears in so many old photographs.

His notations show Von Roeder as having come from Germany after the revolution in 1848 and indicate he participated in a number of expeditions against the Indians, at the outbreak of the Civil War was a first sergeant in the

New York light artillery company that later located at Indianola. Would presume that's how he got to Texas.

He evidently served in the Union Army under the name Otto Hoppe, was granted a back pension of \$2,200 in 1916.

He was said to be an accomplished musician, taught piano in Victoria around 1875, acted as a legal adviser to old settlers, must have been considered a man of knowledge, yet evidently died a man of little means, at 81 years, or thereabouts.

With such an interesting life behind him, it would seem history should treat him as more than just another town character, a man who got his pic-

ture took a lot.

I have found no reference to indicate he was related to that other Otto Von Roeder — the colonel — who pops up with some frequency in the pages of Victoria history, also a native of Germany, brother-in-law of Robert Justus Kleberg, the Cuero lawyer who went on to King Ranch fame.

Col. Von Roeder was at one time among the principal planters in Victoria County, out around Mission Valley, I believe. Declared 45 slaves in the census of 1860, a sign of considerable wealth in itself. He was 52-years-old at the time.

Historian Victor Rose made mention of him on a number of occasions, once mentioned that soon after the war he

stepped into J.O. Wheeler's store on Main Street and found the colonel buying a pair of shoes. He also mentioned that Von Roeder removed west after the war, broken in fortune and with health impaired, that he died about the year 1869. He said Col. Von Roeder had sons and daughters of whom he was unable to speak advisedly. I find nothing to indicate that the professor was one of them.

What an interesting man this professor must have been, this man of nobility from Germany who came to Texas as a Yankee and died a Southerner.

Surely there is more to be known of him.

Not to mention the princess.

(see previous page for further explanation)

2A—THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Friday, August 21, 1981



Henry's Journal

'Professor' Mystery

By Henry Wolff Jr.

No one has come forth with any additional information about Victoria's mystery man, Professor Otto Von Roeder, since we mentioned him back in April.

Had hoped someone might remember the old gentleman, who supposedly is the man with the magnificent white beard who appears in numerous old photographs and who is said to have died in poverty around 1917 shortly after receiving a small back pension for service in the Union Army under the name Otto Hoppe, which presumably was his real name.

The mystery is how he came to be known as Professor Otto Von Roeder, evidently having

assumed the name of Col. Otto Von Roeder, even some of the background attributed to him is similar to that of the colonel, a Confederate officer, lawyer, exile, married a girl of nobility.

We have received some background on the colonel, a most interesting man, from Flora Von Roeder of Houston, who has compiled a 300-page history of the family and its role in Texas history. Her great-grandfather was Albrecht Von Roeder, a brother of the colonel.

She tells of the Von Roeder family's departure from Germany, how they were shipwrecked at Galveston, their association with Aus-

tin's colony, the founding of the town of Cat Spring.

Otto, at the time of the family's departure, was married to Pauline Von Donop. A son, Ludwig Joachin, was born to the couple on April 13, 1836, during the Runaway Scrape. The mother died at Galveston shortly after the revolution.

In 1848, Otto bought the Nassau Plantation in Fayette County from the German Society for the Protection of Immigrants. That same year, Albrecht moved his family to DeWitt County, as did Robert Kleberg, who was married to one of the Von Roeder girls. Think we said before that this brother-in-law of Colonel Von Roeder had gone on to King

Ranch fame, stand corrected on that, it was his son by the same name.

Otto Von Roeder and his family — he married a second time and had more children — moved to Victoria County between 1850 and 1860, settling in the Mission Valley area, became one of the county's principal planters.

The Von Roeders eventually sold out at a loss, and Otto, his wife and younger children moved to Agua Dulce in Nueces County where he died.

Ludwig Joachin, educated at Baylor, moved his family to Runge, later to Kenedy, finally to Beeville.

The man known as Professor Otto Von Roeder supposedly came to Texas in 1848, participated in a number of expeditions against the Indians, at the outbreak of the Civil War was a first sergeant in the New York light artillery, once located at Indianola.

Why he became known as Professor Otto Von Roeder is the mystery, did he assume the name himself, did someone give it to him, perhaps because of some resemblance to one of the Von Roeders?

Flora Von Roeder points out that a picture of the professor in the "Pictorial History of Victoria and Victoria County" bears a striking resemblance to Ludwig Joachin.

Could some of the pictures of the professor not be him at all?

Surely there must be someone around who can remember him, certainly stood out in the crowd, like in a picture we recently saw of him, standing in front of the August Kriem Saddle Shop, just one of many old pictures in which he appears.

Then again, it might not be him.



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Mrs. Kathleen C. Barrett, 757 S. Monroe Rd., Port Angeles WA 98362 obtained 25 pages of naturalization records of Austin, Guadalupe, and Washington Counties from the Arizona State Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O.Box 42075, Tucson Ariz. 85733. She paid \$3.00 for a copy of these records and notes that there are over 1,000 names, most of them German. The records are primarily from the 1860s through the 1880s, but there are some earlier dates. If our members want to order a copy of this material, ask for "Naturalization Records of Austin, Guadalupe, and Washington Counties TX." For anyone not wanting to buy a copy of the whole record, Mrs. Barrett has offered to search her own copy for a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope and 50¢ per surname, which may be sent in stamps.

OTHER MEMBERS INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY

Please write to your Genealogy Editor to get your story into print. Feel free to use the column format. You might even locate a cousin!

Lori Smith, 5022 Casa Oro, San Antonio TX 78223  
 Frederick & Frances Mosel, 111 Oak Ridge Cir., Georgetown TX 78626  
 Marvin S. Feller, 2201 E. Thomas, Pasadena TX 77506  
 Mary Burden Seales, P O Box 8278, Lumberton TX 78644  
 Betty C. Clough, 314 W. pecan St., Lockhart TX 78644  
 Wm. V. Dielmann III, 9110 Powhatan, San Antonio TX 78230  
 Larry Brehm, 5710 Cacias Rd., San Antonio TX 78222  
 Helga von Schweinitz, 2319 Village Circle, Austin TX 78745  
 Jane R. Raeke, 9106 Balcones Club Dr., Austin TX 78750  
 Roy Addicks, P O Box 682, Eagle Lake TX 77434  
 Karen Cavendar Chadwell, 1009 Mission Dr., New Braunfels TX 78130  
 Connie Moss, 3005 Ave. H, Hondo TX 78861  
 Elmo G. Marburger, 8433 Raylin Dr., Houston TX 77055  
 Rev. Cecil E. Henninger, 1211 Tillery St. Austin TX 78702  
 Faith Martindale, 1203 Lime Rock Dr., Round Rock TX 78664  
 Edna Maxine Sullivan, P O Box 367, Buchanan Dam TX 78609  
 Nick H. Fohn, 2628 Garner Field Rd., Uvalde TX 78801  
 Evelyn G. Weyel, 2511 Danbury Dr., San Antonio TX 78217  
 Dorothy Grafe Bujnoch, Rt 4, Box 180, Hallettsville TX 77964  
 Mrs. L. E. Loocke, Rt 2, Box 315, Wharton TX 77488  
 Charlene Hillman Thorpe, 5203 Tom Stafford, San Antonio TX 78219  
 Mrs. David H. Peterson, P O Box 63, Hitchcock TX 77563  
 Hazel M. Bassett, P O Box 315, Dripping Springs TX 78620  
 Virgil Wiley Ellis, 1418 Arlington St., Houston TX 77008  
 Esther E. Etzel, Rt 1, Box 6, Round Top TX 78954  
 Elizabeth A. Ruth, 2343 Rigsby, San Antonio TX 78222  
 Mrs. Ben F. McCormick, Box 13, Warrenton TX 78961  
 Daphne Dalton Garrett, 12427 Pebblebrook, Houston TX 77024  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Rothermel, 1702 S. Day, Brenham TX 77833  
 Barbara Eikel Weymouth, 910 McNeel Rd., San Antonio TX 78228  
 Mrs. Clayton B. Ethridge, 105 Lee Lane, Bellville TX 77418  
 Anna Kelsey, 2709 78th St., Lubbock TX 79423





# Beiträge zur Familiengeschichte <sup>-30-</sup> der Stämme Kautz

Herausgegeben vom Familienverband Kautz e.V.

Editor: Dipl. -Ing. Herbert Kautz, Escherberger Str. 23, D3549 Breuna 1.

## Introduction

From 1710 until the latest past great numbers of Kautz' emigrated out of Germany into the USA. The most of them are coming from Southern-Germany: Ispringen and Lichtenau with Helmlingen in Baden, Wetterau in Hessia, Edigheim in the Palatinate and Besigheim in Wurtemberg. Only one of them has been coming out of Posen in Eastern-Germany.

Already before the establishment of the "Familienverband Kautz" in 1912 my father Walter Kautz (1855 - 1951) had knowledge out of the literature about the American general August Kautz, who emigrated with his parents in 1828 out of Ispringen into the USA.

In 1924 we have heard that descendants of another Kautz, who emigrated 1872 out of Lichtenau, are meeting every year near Chicago. After stronger efforts my father got connection with these in 1929, but it ended at the beginning of the war 1939.

In consequence of the last war for the first time the interest in family-research was generally diminished and especially the Familienverband Kautz was reduced in its stock and was obliged to recover gradually. 1970 we were able to take up again the family-research intensively. 1972 and 1976 we have tried by advertisements in american genealogical reviews to get in contact with Kautz' in USA again. Since then the number of interested in contact with us has become greater steadily. Therefore we think the time has come to give a summary about the matter. Because we know a great many of them dont understand the German language this number will be published in German and English.

From our previous researches, that the family-line Kautz reduced to middle of 14th century, we know the emigrants into the USA together with the greatest part of all Kautz' are of the same descent. The eldest of this family-line is Georg Kautz, born 1394 in Zabern/Saverne in Alsace. He was living in Straßburg in Alsace from about 1415 until his death 1477. But we know his ancestors further back to his great-grandfather Albert Kautz in Alsace, born about 1328, died 1416.

I hope this review with articles about Kautz' in USA will help to get further connections with our relatives there. With this wish I give my kind regards to all cousins in the USA.

## Emigrations from Germany into the USA

On 6th of October 1683 13 families out of Krefeld landed in Philadelphia and founded the settlement of Germantown, today a quarter of Philadelphia. Since this day a constant flock of German emigrants has moved to North-America, at first slowly, but since 1709 begins an emigration in masses out of the Palatinate and South-Germany. Among the emigrants out of Krefeld from 1683 was no Kautz, because at this time no one was living there. By the spread of the Kautz' in South-Germany still numerous are to be found amongst the emigrants, who later were nominated in a detailed specification with names, origin and destination in USA as far as known.

## Kautz Family, continued

- 3/-

Searches for emigrants respectively immigrants

As far as these searches are concerned we must distinguish between 2 routes:

- a) searches from Germany for remaining of emigrants in Amerika, that is from past to present, and
- b) searches from Amerika for origin of immigrants, that is from present to past.

The second possibility would be of greater chance for result, therefore we must make an arrangement of a family-line, in order to find the immigrant. For him we must find the connection to our known family-line.

Details of possibilities for searches would be too extensive for this article, for this we have special literature.

The family name Kautz in USA

On arrival of the immigrants in USA the German names were often americanized, translated or abridged by the writer there, who only understood the English language. If it has happened with the name of Fautz, we don't know. In any case it is written in the German spelling at all families of whom we know their remaining.

Following the opinion of cousin Fritz Kautz (East-Pomeranian main-stock), who was living from 1934 till his death 1958 as a doctor in New York, the spelling "Coutts", which is repeatedly founded in USA, is approached to the Anglo-Saxony usage. But up to this time we don't know any case of this change.

The family name Kautz as geographical denomination in USA

In the "Mount Rainier National Park" in the state of Washington on the Mount Rainier with an altitude of 4394 meters are existing a "Kautz Glacier" and a "Kautz Creek" which is streaming out of it. The spelling proves that the designation is connected with the name Kautz and selected from a name-bearer who was especially wellknown in the USA. According to our knowledges it could be the general August Kautz.

Our connections with Kautz' in USA today

On account of the nationalsozialism in Germany and especially in consequence of the last war the interest of the Americans concerning their German descend has greatly been diminished. Meanwhile this dislike has disappeared by and by, so that we hopefully look out for connection with our american cousins. For this purpose we have delivered advertisings in american genealogical reviews, in September 1972 in "The Genealogical Helper" and in April 1976 in "The Germanic Genealogist". Both of them brought several letters to us. A further contact we got by the pastoral office of Lichtenau, which had received an inquiry from a Kautz out of USA.

Meanwhile we have nearly 20 addresses of interested in USA, from whom we partly received genealogical particulars, so that we were able to make her connection to the German occurrence.

Recently we received an information from our member Mrs. Valeska Vicars in Seabrook in Texas, that in USA is existing a "Kautz Family Organisation", which arranges yearly on the 2nd sunday in June a meeting in Texas. We try to get connection also with these Kautz'.

All this initiated us to the edition<sup>of/</sup> this special number and we hope it will contribute to expand our connections to our American relatives.

Kautz' emigrated into the USA

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Year of emigrat.	Names	year of birth	place of origin	domicils in USA
1710	Johannes Kautz	1670	unbekannt	unbekannt
1744	Caspar Kautz m. Frau u. Kindern	1709	Ispringen	Pennsylvanien
1744	Christoph Kautz m. Frau u. Kindern	1710	Ispringen	Pennsylvanien (?)
1744	Johannes Kautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1749	Jacob Kautz		Göbrichen nahe	Philadelphia
1749	Michael Kautz		bei Ispringen	
1752	Jacob Kautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1752	Johannes Kautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1752	Christian Kautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1752	Andreas K(a)utz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1752	Johann Georg Kautz mit Mutter	1735	Helmlingen	Salem/Cohenscy, N. Jersey
1753	Johann Jacob Kautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1754	J. Heinrich Cautz		Franken oder Hessen	unbekannt
1764	Johann Georg Cautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1773	Heinrich Cautz		unbekannt	unbekannt
1828	Johann Georg Kautz m. Frau u. Sohn <u>August Valentin</u>	1800	Ispringen	Baltimore, Cin- cinnati, George- town, Ripley
1835/ 40	Johann Wendel Kautz	1806	Edigheim/Pfalz	u.a. Dayton, Ohio
1847	Friedrich Kautz	1825	Helmlingen	Ohio, Iowa, Kansas
um 1850	Jakob Friedrich Kautz	1834	Ispringen	Mount Pulaski, Illinois
1850	Georg David Kautz	1824	Besigheim	unbekannt
kurz nach 1851	Johann <u>Christian</u> Kautz m. Frau u. Sohn	1823	Ispringen	unbekannt
kurz nach 1853	Johann <u>Jacob</u> Kautz m. Frau u. Kindern	1820	Ispringen	unbekannt
1853/ 60	Michael Kautz	1835/ 43	unbekannt	unbekannt
1872	Friedrich Kautz m. Frau u. Kindern	1817	Lichtenau	Chicago
1876	Gustav Kautz	um 1840/ 50	Zupoly/Posen	
nach 1885	Hermann Kauz	1869/ 72	Besigheim	unbekannt
nach 1894	Gottlieb Kautz	1869	Ispringen	unbekannt



THE CAPITAL AREA GROUP of the German-Texan Heritage Society was formed August 20, 1981 when thirty members and one guest assembled at the Coors Hospitality Room in North Austin. Anna Thompson explained possible goals as well as educational, historical and social activities. The members then had an opportunity to express their preferences on a written survey form. The group nominated six members to the first executive council to serve for one year. It was hoped that by that time permanent rules for electing officers would be established. The group decided to meet once a month, but to have the second meeting in October, one month after the state convention in Round Top. The meeting continued with a singalong of folk songs accompanied by the viola and violin of Irma Goeth Guenther and Anna Thompson.

The Executive Council met on September 23 to discuss program, date, location and finances for the next meeting. The Council members, Irma Goeth Guenther, Julia Penn, Charles Trenckmann, Richard Burges, Hubert Heinen and Anna Thompson each assumed some activity to make the next meeting a reality. It was decided to collect \$5.00 in dues from those GTHS members, who wanted to be part of the Capital Area Group. This move was necessary to defray the cost of printing and mailing the announcements and possible charges for meeting rooms.

The second meeting took place on October 20, 1981 at the Quality Inn in South Austin. Thirty members and guest attended. Hubert Heinen gave an interesting report on the German-Texans during World War One. His talk was followed by discussion. Then the members divided into three groups: the skat players, the German speakers and the German learners. All three activities were high on the list of preferences. The German beer provided by a generous prospective member helped make this another enjoyable evening. The group is planning to learn about German Christmas decorations and customs at the November meeting.

Joseph A. Kraus was born in Fredericksburg on January 27, 1906, the youngest of the eight children of John and Gertrude (Koehler) Kraus. His grandparents on both sides immigrated from Germany to Fredericksburg. Mr. Kraus attended St. Mary's School and business school in his hometown and moved to San Antonio at age 19. He was employed by the Mobile Oil Co. for 39 years, first in San Antonio and then in Dallas. Upon retirement, he returned to San Antonio.

Since the German heritage was so much a part of his youth, Mr. Kraus reads, writes, translates, and speaks German and has devoted many years of service to German Catholic organizations. Following in his father's footsteps, he has been active in Catholic State League and its predecessor, *Keutsch Roemisch-Katholischer Staatsverband* for some 40 years. This organization was founded by German Catholics in 1898 to assist pastors, support Catholic schools, and maintain and nurture the German language and culture. Mr. Kraus served as CSL president for four years and has been secretary since 1967. For the past six years, he has edited the CSL publication, *The Catholic Layman*. Mr. Kraus has served as a Grand Trustee of Catholic Life Insurance Union, an outgrowth of the *Staatsverband*. For 16 years he was chairman of CLIU's investment committee.

Mr. Kraus is also active on the national level, serving as vice-president of the Catholic Central Union of America from 1960 to 1964. He attends the national meetings and serves as a trustee. Organized in 1855 as the *Central-Verein* by German Catholics, this is the oldest Catholic organization in the US and is the parent organization of the Catholic State League.

Since 1934, Mr. Kraus has belonged to St. Joseph Society, founded in 1885 by German-speaking Catholics of San Antonio. It was at St. Joseph's Church that he was married in 1937 to Alice Coll. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kraus have been awarded the "Pro Ecclesiae" medal, Mr. Kraus in 1954 by Pope Pius XII, and Mrs. Krause in 1972 by Pope Paul VI.

←  
**MARGIL AWARD**  
 (German)  
**JOSEPH A. KRAUS**

Austin American-Statesman  
 Sunday, April 26, 1981



**talk of texas**

Jack Maguire

...  
**TEXAS FIRST** — America's oldest shooting club is in New Braunfels.

It is the Schuetzen Verein, and its members have been matching rifle shots each month since 1849. The sport of competitive shooting originated in Germany in the 14th century and was brought to Texas by German settlers.

Once, more than 200 shooting clubs thrived in Central Texas. Except for the Comal County group and a few others still active in communities that are predominantly German, the sport has all but disappeared.

...

## BI-FOCAL

First, please accept my apologies for not having provided a column for the issue preceding this one. Not only had I received too few books to review by the deadline for the column's submission, but I was suffering from an ailment that I strongly suggest none of you ever incur, a relative of bursitis, commonly known as a "frozen shoulder." Typing was perhaps the immediate cause, and it was certainly something I had to avoid doing to excess then, as I must continue to avoid it for quite a while longer. For someone who must constantly comment upon the papers of her students and who uses all her spare time translating, corresponding, or trying to record information with the help of the typewriter, this has been a great handicap. Fortunately, physical therapy of several weeks' duration has helped to get me back to the point of carrying on when my classes begin in a few days. However, I regret to say that I must pare from my schedule all the activities I can that involve repetitious use of my right hand and arm and that are unessential. The result is that this will be the last BI-FOCAL column I expect to be able to contribute to the Newsletter. I hope that there are among you some who will miss reading my comments as much as I have enjoyed reading the works that I have attempted to evaluate during my tenure as an associate editor for book reviews.

This time around I want to call to your attention two collections that many of you will surely wish to add to your collections of German Texana. German Texana, in point of fact, is the first of these. Its sub-title, A Bilingual Collection of Traditional Materials, succinctly describes its contents. The publisher is Eakin Press of Burnet; the collector, as many of you perhaps already know, is Gilbert J. Jordan, whose recent Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country (Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1979) received much attention when it appeared, and deservedly so.

German Texana incorporates entries from autograph albums such as youngsters in grade school still kept to remind them of their classmates when I was a child. Our verses, to be sure, were no longer German ones, though many of us spoke heavily-accented English then. Professor Jordan has fortunately included when possible the name of the one who wrote the verse in the album, the name of the owner of the album, and, occasionally, the date and place of the writing. Some of these verses have considerable charm in their original forms. Presumably all the writers knew the verses from other sources, but one must not expect great poetry. Rather they are rhymed quatrains in most instances, obscure in source, distinguished chiefly by a sweet sentimental or folksy philosophical tone. I thoroughly enjoyed reading them and seeing where Professor Jordan had found them. I am at a loss, however, to understand his rationale in attempting to translate them in verse. It seems to me that a prose rendition that was scrupulously accurate in meaning would have been preferable, because those who cannot read the original with understanding would benefit more from such versions and because it is extremely unlikely that anyone would care to memorize or use the Englished ones. To some extent this is a continuing argument among translators, but ordinarily the argument, if such it may be called, arises when groups of translators are discussing serious poets' efforts. Since these are not the works of serious poets, I cannot see the need for any treatment except a simple prose rendition to convey the exact meaning in each case. Some readers may feel otherwise.

Professor Jordan follows the approach used in the case of the album verses throughout the book, which includes in addition nursery rhymes, school book verses for older children, various types of songs and verses (including musical notes when appropriate) connected with special holidays or occasions, religious verses such as prayers and blessings, rhymed epitaphs, humorous or nonsensical ditties and tongue twisters, proverbs, admonitions, picturesque expressions, as well as riddles, anecdotes and jokes. One might say that the book provides something for everyone. It should be a great reference book for teachers of elementary German, whether the learners be young children using the oral approach exclusively or older students wanting some insight into the minds and spirits of ordinary folk who spoke German as their principal language in the nineteenth century, and more specifically into the attitudes of Germans who came to Texas during those years. Those of us who already have some familiarity with such people and their writings will, I assure you, find the book entertaining too.

Before I leave the discussion of German Texana let me make very clear that Professor Jordan was being altogether too generous in including me among the informants (p. 149). I am not in the least upset that my first name is slightly misspelled (it almost always is!), but I do want to stress that my ancestors included not merely Altgelts, Coreths, Murcks, and Erlers, but also Zeschers and Dangerses. It would take a very long time to explain just how all these families are connected with me, and I shall not even begin to do that. I simply want to point out (in case anyone else



Minetta Altgelt Goyne

## BI-FOCAL

noticed what was surely my own oversight) that, whereas I know and treasure my Zesch-Dangers kin, I never knew personally a single Murck or Erler. I would be grateful for any details anyone else may know about the two last-named great-grandmothers (Mrs. Altgelt and Mrs. Coreth respectively) and their families, for I know much less than I should like to know. For instance, does anybody know whether the Max H. Reinbach whose epitaph appears at the top of p. 75 (St. Mary's Cemetery, Fredericksburg, 1896) was the uncle (like-named) of Emma Murck Altgelt? I have in my possession some lovely letters that "our" Max Reinbach wrote to Ernst Hermann and Emma Altgelt before he came to Texas, where he later seems to have helped my great-grandfather with viticulture at their place at Wassenberg. Since the epitaph describes him as a father, I would be delighted to discover who among his descendants may still be living. I have so few close relatives that I value very highly the more distant ones I have come to know over the years.

I hope my readers will excuse me for departing from my usual subject matter at this point by mentioning a book of a very different nature, an anthology to which I had the privilege of contributing last year. I hasten to add that I do not receive royalties for it and am in no way trying to promote the book for personal gain, therefore. This is the collection entitled The German Mind of the 19th Century: A Literary & Historical Anthology, edited by Hermann Glaser (New York: Continuum Pub. Corp., 1981). The selections included were the choice of Christoph Wecker, director of the Goethe House of New York, and the originals were published simultaneously by Carl Hanser Verlag of Munich and Vienna. As I have said, I was asked to translate specified works by Raabe, Grillparzer, Goethe, and Hölderlin, surely my most challenging assignment in the approximately forty years during which I have done translating of various sorts on a professional basis. One goes at poems of masters like Goethe and Hölderlin with fear and trembling, because the originals are so magnificent, and I assure you that for all my enormous and sustained efforts, I could not begin to do the works justice. No conscientious translator of great literary works is ever fully satisfied with the results of his labors, I feel quite sure. In these cases (and in the Grillparzer scene) it was imperative that the results preserve some of the form of the originals, because form was inseparable from content, as is true of works of the highest order. I like to think that my translations do not do violence to the great originals, if I may be so daringly immodest. More one can hardly hope for, if one is not a poet oneself. I can say without hesitation that the selection of works was judicious, and that, between the editor and the several translators, we came up with a book that ought to be very useful to anyone wishing a better understanding of German culture of the nineteenth century but lacking the facility in German to ferret out the primary sources and read them with understanding. There are, it should be added, essayistic comments to give the book the necessary cohesion. I wish it had been available when I taught upper-level undergraduates German, for it seems to me very well suited to courses for such students.

Getting back to German Texans, let me mention how very much I enjoyed Ancestral Voices: The Letters of the von Rosenberg and Meerscheidt Families (1844-1897), compiled by Charles W. von Rosenberg. I assume that, if one wished to purchase a copy, one might be had from Mr. von Rosenberg, who is a member of our organization. Privately published and intended chiefly for members of the family, the book is bound in spiral format and printed very legibly on both sides of the pages. There are some typographical errors (a few occur in the Jordan book too; it seems to be inevitable nowadays), but they do not detract greatly from the charm of the collection of personal correspondence. The compiler has, fortunately, been considerate enough to add some explanatory material that helps outsiders like me to make better sense of the connections between the correspondents and relatives only referred to in the letters, for the arrangement is not conducive to clarity at all times. Mr. von Rosenberg tries to justify that in an apologia, but I often wished for a more consistent labeling of the letters and would have welcomed a chronological arrangement, I believe. Having just finished a book of old Texas German correspondence myself, I am thoroughly aware of the tremendous difficulties one confronts. One must make decision after decision, and it is hard to imagine that everyone will agree that one's conclusion was the best possible one. At any rate, I enjoyed the work very much and hope that others of the sort will continue to come to my attention, though not sent to me for review henceforth.

Once more--and finally this time--I must inject a personal note. What a relief to learn a little more about Minette Teichmueller! (She is one of the people related to the von Rosenberg-Meerscheidt clan and is mentioned in the letters.) Though I was not named after Judge Teichmueller's daughter in the strictest sense, I am sure my very conservative mother would never have chosen the name Minetta for me had she not had Minette Teichmueller as a precedent. How she did



Minetta Altgelt Goyne

BI-FOCAL

come to name me is so peculiar that, at the risk of boring you, I think I will tell the story. After all, many of you are genealogy buffs, and names usually interest such people.

My parents wished to name me after my grandmothers, who were named Minna and Ottilie, but because many people at that time still called both ladies by their first names, mother leaned toward finding a suitable diminutive of my grandmother Coreth's name. Shortly before I arrived on the scene, National Geographic Magazine featured the Minetta Waters (New York State, I think) among its scenic beauties, and because mother had pleasant associations with the name as she thought it was spelled (the Teichmuellers were friends of her family), she decided then and there that, if she had another girl (she already had two), that was to be her name. Imagine my surprise on reading in an Archibald MacLeish poem when I was a college freshman a reference to the killing of some anarchists in Minetta Street in Greenwich Village! Not a very pleasant association. When some years later I had occasion to be in that area, I found Minetta Street (actually there are several segments that form a sort of circle). I was far from delighted to learn that the vicinity has deteriorated still further since earlier this century when the killings took place there. I rather suspect that by now it is best avoided altogether, but at that time it was not far from the marvelous Luchow's that was a mecca for so many who sought as good a meal as Gotham had to offer.

But enough of this chit-chat! The time has come for me to sign off. I have indulged myself a little in writing this last column. If I submit items to future issues, I will use more restraint and contribute more to your edification. Meanwhile, I thank all who were patient enough to go this far with me on my detour. I have enjoyed acquainting you with some of the excellent books that I have given my attention ever since the first issue of the Newsletter. It is time that some of the younger and perhaps less busy members take over the job and I get back to my projects. Soon, I hope, someone will be reviewing my book, which the publishers assure me is nearly ready. It has been out of my hands for quite a while, and I can hardly wait to open the covers which, I understand, are in the designer's office in rudimentary form. Believe me, I am learning more and more about the birth pangs that go with producing a book, and my respect for authorship grows with every day I am forced to wait for the big day.

Best wishes to you all! Let's have some books on Texas Germans from the younger generation soon. That, after all, is one of the purposes of this organization.

BREAKING LANGUAGE BARRIERS . . . . . Research on Bilingual Education

The Ford Foundation reports a \$50,858 grant to the Rand Corporation of Santa Monica CA for an analysis of bilingual education in America, past and present, putting the contemporary debate about it into historical perspective. The Ford Foundation Letter of August 1, 1981, tells that the study will, for example, examine such forgotten episodes as the experiences of German immigrants in the late 19th century. In many communities, according to the Foundation, they retained their own language in the schools while also preparing their children for life in the dominant English-speaking society.

The Rand study will be complemented by an examination of the treatment of bilingual education in the press, which will be conducted under a Ford Foundation individual award to Professor James Cummins, a Canadian researcher.

The researchers believe that much of the discussion about the value of bilingual schooling is based more on stereotypes and misreadings of history than on reasoned judgment. They hope to remedy that with objective information and analysis of the need for language assistance for diverse groups and the educational policies that might serve that need.

---from the Ford Foundation Letter, contributed to GTHS by Theresa Gold

MUSTER ROLL OF THE PIN OAK GERMAN RIFLE COMPANY FOR RESERVE STATE SERVICE

transcribed by Lauren Ann Kattner, Ladonia, TX 75449, from Texas State Archive Document No. 273.

NOTES: The original list was written using German and English script. Cunningham Post Office, Bastrop Co., Texas, from which the men enrolled, was located in the area between present-day Paige and Serbin.

\* names entered service in the Texas Fifth Field Battery, C.S.A. (Creuzbaur's Battery) ca 12 October 1861.

Names in ( ) are spellings found in other contexts.

Names preceded by "G" are persons buried at Grassyville near Paige.

OFFICERS:

Henry GRUSSENDORF, Captain  
 Samuel DALCHAU, 1 Lieut.  
 Franz REIN (KE?), 2 Lieut.  
 Carl WIEDERANDERS, 3 Lieut.

PRIVATES:

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Rudolf BERENS (BEHRENS)         | 18 W. KLUGE                |
| 2 Peter BLETCH                    | 19 J. KIRCHOF              |
| 3 George BECKER                   | 20 G. LIBERTY              |
| G* 4 Henry DUNG (DUNK)            | 21 J. LANCE                |
| 5 W. EBEND (William EBERS ?)      | G 22 W. (William) MOSEBACH |
| 6 W. EISENBACH                    | 23 F. MEILH                |
| 7 Salomon FEHR                    | 24 J. NOAK (NOACK)         |
| G* 8 Peter FRANZ                  | G*25 A. (Albert) ORTS      |
| 9 F. (Friedrich) GRUSSENDORF      | *26 G. PILLOP (PHILLIP)    |
| 10 A. (August) GRUSSENDORF        | 27 A. PIPP                 |
| G*11 A. (August) HAMFF (HAMPF)    | 28 J. RINKE (REINKE)       |
| G*12 F. (Ferdinand) HAMFF (HAMPF) | G 29 H. (Henry) STUSSY     |
| *13 Henry HEMPILL (HEMPEL)        | 30 F. TONN                 |
| G*14 George HEMPILL (HEMPEL)      | 31 E. UMLANG               |
| 15 L. (Louis) HARTUNG             | 32 C. GEIS                 |
| 16 F. KEZLICH                     | G? 33 W. DALCHAU           |
| 17 S. (Samuel) KIELMAN(N)         | 34 F. (Franz) WISE (WEISE) |

**T**oday only 15 percent of American high-school students study foreign languages, down from 24 percent in 1965. Of those who do take language courses, only one out of 20 ever gets past the second year (four years is considered the minimum for fluency). Eight percent of all U.S. colleges and universities now require a foreign language for admission, compared with 34 percent in 1966. Such statistics only support the findings of a recent report from the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies, which concluded that America's linguistic competence is "scandalous."

With so few linguists to draw upon, the country is hobbled in both diplomacy and foreign trade, as well as world understanding, according to the commission. Ten thousand English-speaking Japanese businessmen operate in the U.S., for example, but fewer than 900 American business representatives are in Japan and, of those, only a handful speak Japanese. How did the language gap develop? According to the commission, the current problem began in the late

'60s, when student activists prompted universities to drop language requirements for admission. High schools reacted by trimming language courses. Out-of-date teaching techniques have also been blamed for creating uninterested students.

## OUR TONGUE-TIED SCHOOLS

Are there any solutions? The commission suggested various remedies, including corporation-funded overseas internships for business students and bilingual language programs for all students.

First, the commission urged, schools and colleges should reinstate for-

ign-language requirements. Parents should encourage school boards to improve language programs.

The commission also recommended converting 20 existing high schools across the country into model schools that would specialize in foreign languages and cultures.

The commission also urged schools to begin language studies in the early grades. A federally funded model program in four northern Vermont towns is teaching French to young children. Teachers work with elementary-school pupils in the classroom and visit preschoolers at home, conducting three 15-minute lessons per week. Interestingly, the four-year-olds pick up French the fastest, mainly because they are less inhibited. "In Europe, people learn three or four languages," says one teacher in the program. "Why can't we learn two?"

—RICHARD WOLKOMIR

## GERMAN COURTSHIPS AND MARRIAGES

Marian Schlunegger *Schreiner College*

Wouldn't it be interesting to let our minds drift back into time, say to the early 1900s, to take a glimpse at the way the Germans in this region carried on their courtship and sacred marriage vows, till death did them part? Let us recall that time with its own burdens, humor, and joy.

Due to distances and many demanding chores, families wouldn't go to too many places, narrowing the scope of where couples met to schools dances, church, or the neighborhood. This also haltered the frequency of dating to usually no more than once a week. Parents were careful where their children went, and occasionally, it wasn't unheard of for the parents to go along. Many times a boy would walk miles just to see his girlfriend for a few hours. It has also been said that many times notes would be written underneath the stamps of postcards. Dances were held three times a year at first, these being on the Fourth of July, Easter, and Christmas. Since dances didn't come often, they were always very exciting. Young girls made their new dresses way in advance of the next upcoming dance. These occasions would last from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., and were always talked about weeks before and after. Other occasional sociables were church ice cream parties, house dances, and hay rides. Couples on dates would go to these, or play games with friends, go on buggy rides, go for strolls, picnics, and many times just sit and talk. Some of the games played were Drop the Handkerchief, Who Has It, Catch and Call, Andy Over, Post Office, Baseball, and Horseshoes.

There were many humorous incidents which happened while dating back then, just as now. One occurred to a couple that later got married. The boy had gone to see his girlfriend one Sunday afternoon, and they were sitting on a rope swing talking. At that time, he was scared of her father for he was afraid her father would run him off the place. Wanting to give her a kiss on the cheek, he looked around first to see if her father was looking. Not seeing him, he gave her the kiss and at that very moment the swing rope snapped and down they landed in the dirt. Of course, this wasn't the only type of humor that took place. During those times when two people were dating and a boyfriend was a regular caller at a girl's home, friends and neighbors would sometimes play pranks on them. If he had come by horseback, he might leave only to find the saddle reversed or missing, or the stirrups tied together under the horse. If he had come by buggy, he might find that one large rear wheel was in the front and the smaller front wheel in the back, or all the wheels changed, or maybe even the reins crisscrossed so that the horse would turn left when pulled right. The trouble with these were, he usually wouldn't find out in the dark, till after he was a good way down the road. Gates were even found tied with barbed wire. Later on when cars came into use, deflated tires, crossed wires on spark plugs, and drained radiators or gasoline tanks were found.

College was thought of very seriously in those days, since not too many people ever had a chance to study that far. Only those who were very lucky ever make it, and for that reason college administrators



kept a close eye on social life. The colleges required each student to write his boyfriend or girlfriend's name on a sheet of paper and to report any time they were to go out on a date. Sometimes they even required to know where and how long they would be out. Students were not allowed to socialize too often, for it interfered with their school work. One couple that dealt with this problem got rather clever after a while. The girl, who had a sister living in San Antonio, would tell the school she was going to stay with her sister and study. However, what actually happened was that she and her boyfriend would meet there and go out the whole time they were there. She would stay with her sister while he would stay at the Gunther Hotel.

People at that time were very strict and mannered. The men would help ladies on and off buggies, into and from cars. At church the men and women entered at separate doors. The men sat on one side while the women and children sat on the other. During large gatherings, it was a custom for the men to eat before the women and children. The man was the head of the house always. Therefore, when a wedding picture was taken, the man would always be standing, while the woman would be sitting on his left side. When dating, a couple would never be seen kissing or holding hands in public. The man would ask the father of the girl for her hand in marriage. Sometimes brothers of one family married sisters of another family. Most couples dated two or three years, on an average, before marriage.

Long before a girl ever dreamed about marriage, she usually started her hope chest. This was a collection of cloth items saved for the future use of her married life. It usually contained quilts, braided rugs, pillow cases, bed sheets, drapes, table cloths, doilies, and other things. The men, on the other hand, were left with the responsibility of providing a home before the marriage ever took place. It was stated that in 1912, a two-story house with two bedrooms could be sold for about \$200; also around 1930 the interest rate for borrowing money was about 8 to 10 percent, and a Model-T cost \$444.

In the preparation for a wedding, the girl's family and sometimes friends would help in the sewing of the bride's dress and veil. The dresses were usually made of white satin with frilly white lace. The majority had tiny tucks and fell below the knee or longer. The bouquets were made of flowers from the girl's family yard or from friends' yards - usually daisies, dahlias, carnations, chrysanthemums, or roses. The different types of foods commonly prepared at wedding celebrations were steak, barbecue, turkey, pork, beef, or sausage. Cakes and pies were also made as well as the traditional wedding cake. Some had kegs of beer and/or lemonaid. During the Prohibition one couple had what they called "Near Beer," a type of drink which looked and foamed like real beer, but contained no alcohol. It tasted somewhat like beer, however. Wedding bands were occasionally made from gold coins. In 1912 an 18 karat gold wedding ring could be bought for \$5.50. Inside the band were the bride's initials followed by the groom's. The ceremony was usually attended by only relatives and close friends with other guests only invited to the reception. Some had one bridesmaid and best man, while others had two of each. The bridesmaides usually carried flowers. The people would sit and talk till the ceremony began. It was started with a German sermon. One tradition,

not known too well, was the cutting of the log. This followed directly after the ceremony. In this tradition the bride and groom would saw a log in half together with a special saw, showing their first married labor. After the ceremony they would go to the girl's parents home and celebrate by eating and talking throughout the day. Weddings never took place on the weekends, supposedly because Sunday was God's day, a day for rest, leaving Saturday with many chores. Usually each couple received a gag gift. Some examples of such a gift would be a doll, tin panties, or a chastity belt. At the garden weddings there were usually bands. The groom, besides dancing with the bride, would dance with his mother, mother-in-law, and maid of honor.

Evil spirits were once believed to be dispersed from a wedding site by loud shouts and the firing of guns. This tradition continues in the form of tying old shoes and tin cans to the back of bridal cars. In the early days couples never went on honeymoons; instead they went to their new home to be awakened to a regular working day. They usually went to their home, soon to discover that it had been invaded earlier by friends and neighbors. They would find flour in the pillows, sand, rice, or a sausage in the bed, perhaps even a rolling pin in the pillow case ready to knock out the first one brave enough to dive into bed. Or maybe they walked in to find no lamps anywhere within the house, or maybe they went to the out-house to discover the toilet paper swapped for a stiff catalogue. Then, to top it off, they might find, after jumping into bed, that the bed was rigged to fall apart or to collapse with the slightest touch of a finger, or that a bell with a string leading out the window would be pulled by some vicious beast just outside the window to wake them from their pleasant sleep in the middle of the night. Or else they might discover that bells had been fastened in almost impossible to reach places where everytime the bed moved the bells would sound. Those who went on honeymoons didn't escape from this. Many would have notes in the gas tank written to the gas attendant, bidding him to wish them good luck. Some had dead animals placed in hub caps, finally to be found after discovering that the odor actually wasn't from each other. Pebbles would also be found, or rocks would be placed in their suitcases. Or maybe even their clothes would be knotted up. Or when one came to slipping on a favorite shirt, its ends were sewn together, including the sleeves! Then the entire honeymoon could be spent ripping out sewed ends. Yes, these are some of the pranks married couples would have to live through. Many of them happened during the chivaree, also called Katzenmusik. This was a noisy occasion. In true Texas style, men and boys came on horseback, shooting, yelling, dragging tin cans, beating old washtubs, ringing cowbells, and blowing horns. As years went by everyone joined in to surprise the couple with this clatter. It either happened the same evening of the marriage or several weeks later (more common). This was a time when the whole town got crazy. They would even go as far as sticking an ox tail in a sausage and placing it in the mailbox or turning over the out-house, which on one occasion, shocked the person using the facilities at that time....

It's interesting to learn the way the ever changing traditions take their toll. Many of which have been forgotten. However, stories like these, help us relive those moments and protect them from becoming buried forever. They bring back enjoyable memories which can be shared again and again with the readers of the German-Texan Heritage Society Newsletter. If you have something to share, we would be happy to hear from you.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Frederic Trautmann, The Voice of Terror. A Biography of Johann Most. Greenwood Pr., 1981.

Franz Schüppen, Charles Sealsfield: Karl Postl. Ein österreichischer Erzähler der Biedermeierzeit im Spannungsfeld von Alter und Neuer Welt. (Europäische Hochschulschriften: Reihe 1, Deutsche Sprache und Literatur, Bd. 428) Frankfurt am Main: Lang, 1981.

Jens Motschmann, ed., Kirche zwischen den Meeren. Beiträge zu Geschichte und Gestalt der Nordelbischen Kirche. (Steinburger Studien, Bd. 2) Heide: Westholsteinische Verlagsanstalt Boyens & Co., 1981. Contains Volkmar Drese's Breklum & Kropp als Brücken nach Übersee. Die Betreuung der Deutschen in Nordamerika," pp. 125-32.

Horst Überhorst, "Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben -- Soldat und Demokrat," Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte, 43 (October 25, 1980), pp. 41-46.

Karl J. R. Arndt and May E. Olson, The German Language Press of the Americas, Vol. 3 (Munich, New York, London, Paris, K. G. Saur, 1980). This is new, volumes 1 & 2 have appeared previously with other publishers.

Carl M. Becker, The Village: A History of Germantown, Ohio, 1804-1976. (Germantown, Ohio: The Historical Society of Germantown, 1981). This volume contains 214 pages, tables Illustrations and an index.

Karl J. R. Arndt, The Annotated and Enlarged Edition of Ernst Steiger's Precentennial Bibliography of the Periodical Literature of the United States of America (Millwood, New York: Kraus International Publications. 1980).

Ralph Gregory, The German-Americans in the Washington, Missouri Area (Washington, MO: Missourian Publishing, 1981), 100 pp. The book contains historical articles originally published beginning in 1968 in the Washington Missourian in 1968. Thirty-two articles in all, followed by a sources listing and a names index.

George F. Jones, "John Martin Boltzius' Trip to Charleston, October 1742," South Carolina Historical Magazine. 82 (1981); 87-110.

Gert Niers, Deutschamerikanische Notizen 1973-77. Point Pleasant, New Jersey, 1978.

Gert Niers, Deutsche Gegenwartsliteratur, Rezensionen. Point Pleasant, New Jersey, 1980.

## MacArthur instructor gets foundation grant

Mary M. El-Beheri, teacher of German at Douglas MacArthur High School, has been awarded a four week, all-expenses-paid study grant by the Goethe Institute in West Germany and a travel stipend for the cost of roundtrip flights to Germany from the Fullbright Society of Cologne.

The German language and culture seminar begins on June 28 at the Goethe Institute in Mannheim and concludes on July 23 in West Berlin. Included in the course is a first-hand look at West German schools, businesses, sports, health facilities, families, governments and other aspects of daily life in Germany

1982 in Fredericksburg  
September 11-12

The steering committee for the 1982 meeting in Fredericksburg is being formed. A partial group met on October 24 to set things in motion for 1982. Miss Margaret Bracher and Mr. Glen Treibs are co-chairpersons. In the next issue they will announce their various committees and chairpersons. The Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Association are giving us their full support. Final plans will be made on Saturday, January 16, 1982, at 1 p.m., when the committee meets in the Gillespie County Historical Society building at 312 W. San Antonio St. in Fredericksburg. All G.T.H.S. members are invited to attend. We hope that the Austin group will be able to present Charles Trenckmann's play. All presentation ideas and offers should be directed to Mary El-Beheri, who is program chairperson for the meeting. Of course we will get a tour of historic Fredericksburg. Miss Ella Gold will make a presentation about the history of Fredericksburg with a slide show.

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# Willkommen

## Historical Background

Fredericksburg is steeped in history. The town was founded May 8, 1846, by German immigrants under the auspices of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas. The first colonization

was of New Braunfels in 1845. A few years later Fort Martin Scott was established southeast of Fredericksburg.

The Commissioner General of the Society, also known as the "Adelsverein," was Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach, a German nobleman who took the name of John O. Meusebach when he settled in Fredericksburg. He was a skilled and capable man in handling the affairs of the colony, and was diplomatic in dealing with the Indians. The historic treaty he made with the Comanche Indians on the San Saba River in 1847 was hailed state-wide as the major effort in bringing about peaceful relations with the Indians on the frontier.

The city of Fredericksburg derived its name from a

German nobleman, Prince Frederick of Prussia, who was the highest ranking member of the "Adelsverein." This society sponsored the colonization of the Fisher-Miller Grant in Central Texas. Poor management by those who preceded Meusebach, however, defeated the original plan for colonization of larger areas north of Fredericksburg, except for those who settled in the Mason-Castell area.

During these early years, over 5,000 colonists from Germany landed at the Texas port of Indianola, also called Carlshaven. Most of them settled in Central Texas. The trip from the Gulf Coast to the site of the colony was made in two wheeled oxcarts and on foot. Transportation was scarce due to the war between Mexico and the United States which involved almost all available teamsters.

Sickness and lack of food took a great toll of human life. Many never reached their destination. It was told that one could almost follow the travelers' course by the graves of those who died of the dreaded cholera. With little more than determination, they set about the task of creating a new home in a new world -- a land free of religious and political oppression. These sturdy colonists were confronted with many obstacles, chiefly sickness, inadequate food, and almost no money. Little, however, could be bought because there were few markets.

After a year or so the Fredericksburg colony began to prosper. Indians were, as a rule peaceful during the early years of the colony, due mainly to the diplomacy of John O. Meusebach.

## Historical Society Sponsors Tours

The Gillespie County Historical Society sponsors three tours which are open to the general public each year. For these occasions, owners of historic homes and buildings open them to ticketholders who travel in their own autos. A map accompanies each ticket, making the places included on the tour easy to find.

The next tour will be the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour to be held Saturday, Dec. 12. Between the hours of 5 and 9, the homes and buildings are gaily decorated in the Christmas motif, some with pioneer themes, others traditional, and some in a contemporary style. The variety makes it worthwhile to drive to Fredericksburg for this occasion.

Tickets are usually for sale at the Pioneer Museum and Vereins Kirche.

Since this date also coincides with the Kristkindl Market, visitors will have a lot to see and do that day. They can take in the market

in the morning and make the tour later in the afternoon and evening.

The other two public tours are held on the Saturday afternoon before Easter (April 10, 1982) when a lot of out of town visitors are in town and also on Founders Day. The latter event is usually observed on the Saturday nearest the date of the city's founding, May 8.

The GCHS and Commission charge a nominal fee for the tours, with the funds used for the preservation and maintenance of historic properties owned by them.

Out of town clubs or other organizations that would like to arrange private tours for groups can do so by contacting the GCHS, PO Box 765, Fredericksburg, Texas. Arrangements can be made to show several homes and also to serve a meal, if that is desired. Cost varies with the length of the tour and whether a meal is served.

FREDERICKSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
TIM DOOLEY, MANAGER



P. O. BOX 508  
FREDERICKSBURG, TX 78624

OFFICE: 512-997-3444  
HOME: 512-997-7345

G.T. H.S. Meeting  
September 11-12, 1982  
Fredericksburg

**Willkommen zu Fredericksburg**  
*September  
11-12, 1982*

## Pioneer Museum

309 West Main Street  
Fredericksburg, Texas

The old Kammlah House, circa 1850, which was a pioneer home and store, has 10 rooms completely furnished.

Also

**WEBER SUNDAY HOUSE**, a pioneer Fredericksburg week-end house. Circa 1900.

**ADMISSION:** Adults: \$1.00  
Students: 25c

### WINTER SCHEDULE:

Saturdays - 10-5  
Sundays - 1-5

## Vereins Kirche Archives & Local History Collection

Pioneer Plaza

Pioneer artifacts, photographs and documents depicting Fredericksburg Colony, Gillespie County organization, and development of education in the county.

Open afternoons 1-4 except Sunday.

**ADMISSION:** Adults: 50c  
Students: 25c

Properties of Gillespie County  
Historical-Society & Commission

**WELCOME TO FREDERICKSBURG . . .** "Little Europe, U.S.A." was founded, in 1846, as Friedrichsburg. In 1842, the Adels Verein of Mainz, Germany, began negotiating with Republic of Texas leaders who were anxious to populate the new country. Between 1845 and 1847, more than 6,000 Europeans sought new opportunities, landed at Indianola (Port Lavaca) and made their way into the Hill Country. Rich in history, the city has many fine old homes, churches and a business district restored to graciously reflect a bygone era. Fredericksburg, seat of Gillespie County, is Sister City to Glueckstadt, West Germany.

**SUNDAY HOUSES . . .** The unique 1½ story cottages were used over the week-ends by farmers, ranchers and their families who came to town to gather provisions, attend church and enjoy Saturday evening oompah dances. See fine examples at 506 W. Main; 318 W. Schubert; 406-8-10 W. San Antonio. A complete guide to old homes and historic buildings is available from the Chamber of Commerce.

**ADMIRAL NIMITZ CENTER . . .** Born in Fredericksburg, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, during W.W.II. Here, in the Steamboat Hotel, built by his grandfather, are displayed mementos of his brilliant career. Outdoors, the Pacific History Walk contains relics of the war. A beautiful Garden of Peace was designed and donated by the people of Japan. Corner of Main & Washington, in Fredericksburg. 997-4379.

**VEREINS KIRCHE . . .** Built in 1847, this unique eight-sided structure resembles a coffee-mill. Fredericksburg's first public building is now the home of the Pedernales Arts Alliance where you may view the arts & crafts of area residents. Off Main St., opposite McDermott Bldg.

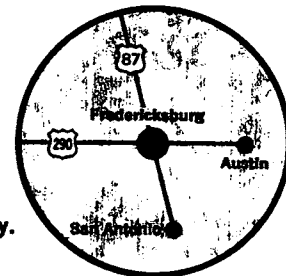
**McDERMOTT BUILDING . . .** Gillespie County's second courthouse; 1882. The handsome stone edifice now houses the Pioneer Memorial Library, Milam Hall and the German Library. Main St. between Adams & Crockett. Phone 997-4604.

In the heart of Texas' rolling hill country, 68 miles northwest of San Antonio and 70 miles west of Austin, the terrain slopes gently into a lush green valley and, suddenly, you're heading down the wide, clean-sweep of Fredericksburg's Main Street, lined with century-old gingerbread buildings and native limestone houses.

At the center of town you'll notice a unique eight-sided building (pictured on brochure cover). This is the "Vereins Kirche," built in 1847 as the town's first public building and restored in 1935. Located next to it is the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce office.

With hometown hospitality, the people of Fredericksburg bid you a friendly welcome and invite you to enjoy the many attractions of this historic German community.

Fredericksburg  
is the county  
seat of  
Gillespie County.



## RURAL GERMAN SCHOOLS

by Shari Lich *Schreiner College*

Although there are very few rural schools left in Texas, one must realize the great history in these one-room schools. This researcher has closely examined the historical background of two rural schools in this area. They are the Cypress Creek School and the Lane Valley School. Both are very unique.

The Cypress Creek School is located west of Comfort in the Cypress Creek Community, once known as Cypressville. The Lane Valley School is located in the Lane Valley Community, once known as Union Valley. These schools look very different in style. The Cypress Creek School is made of limestone blocks. The Lane Valley School is made from lumber. Both of these schools were built by the devoted and hard working people of their communities. The construction of the Cypress Creek School is very interesting. Information from Mrs. Selina Saur's manuscript, "The Cypress Creek School," explains how this school was built:

The great blocks of white limestone were quarried on what was then the property of Otto Lich, but is now owned by Harry Reeh. Only one block at a time could be hauled to the building site, and only then by constructing special wagonbeds formed of two-by-six planks laid side by side forming a six-inch thick base. Heavy iron tongs and chains attached the blocks to winch and ropes, and mules pulled them into place. Five sides of these rough stone blocks had to be smoothed so as to fit tightly together. The outside surface was left rough. All of this labor was done by hand. A mixture of sand and lime was used as a plaster between the blocks. An old lime kiln on the Willy Lich place may have furnished some lime used in construction, but most of it was bought in Comfort, as was the lumber used on the inside construction. A final ceiling of decorative impressed tin squares was used. A narrow entrance hallway with a closet at either end was used as a cloak-room and closet space for lunch pails. This was separated from the classroom by tall wooden shutters, which could be opened or closed. A wood-burning stove furnished heat. It was placed between the two windows on the north wall. A slate black-board filled the west wall, and a raised platform was provided for the teacher's desk.



The Lane Valley School, although it is much smaller than the Cypress Creek School, was also constructed with lots of hard work by devoted people. Members of the Lane Valley Community worked long and hard to build the school house that would protect their children while in school. Both these schools were and still are heated by wood heaters. During the hot weather months, the teachers "turned on the air-conditioning" by opening the windows.

Money for upkeep and supplies for the Cypress Creek School was provided by a school dance. Some state aid became available but parents still had to pay a tuition. According to Selina Saur, parents of children who attended the Cypress Creek School paid \$23.00 per child in 1917-1918.

Parents also paid for their children to attend Lane Valley School. The amount for each set of parents was determined by dividing the salary of the teacher by the number of students in school. Information from Mr. Gerhardt Petermann explains how this was decided.

The terms of these two rural schools differed. The Cypress Creek School started after October and ended in August. Selina Saur explained that September and October were declared as holidays, as these were harvest months and children were needed at home. The Lane Valley School started in September and went until May. According to Mr. Petermann, Lane Valley's holiday was during the summer months when the children helped harvest wheat and oats.

The curricula of the schools were very much alike. Arithmetic, English, writing or penmanship, geography, spelling, and physiology are just some of the courses that were being taught. Due to the small enrollment, sports were not on the curriculum. However, Mr. Petermann set up a volleyball team at the Lane Valley School when he was the teacher there in 1928.

The subjects taught in the schools were instructed in German. A quote by Emma Amanda Gold from "The Rural Scene in Texas: A Changing Regional Perspective," shows that German was the language most used due to the fact that it was the language of the home, and "...the early curriculum of the school was well pervaded by the German language. The extent to which the German language was used in the school room differed somewhat with the teacher. Some, who seemingly felt constrained to use English for instructing in the school room, nevertheless used German for administering scoldings." The last classes taught in German at the Cypress Creek School, according to Mrs. Saur, were in 1924. The last classes taught in German at the Lane Valley School was around 1910, according to Mr. Joe Bohnert.

Teaching in these one-room schools was quite different from teaching in our modern classrooms. Many teachers boarded in nearby homes and walked to school. Mr. Petermann, when he taught at the Lane Valley School, remembers boarding in a nearby home. The Kurt Ehlers family remembers that Denee Cruz, a young teacher at the Lane Valley School, boarded with them. Mrs. Saur remembers walking from her home each day to teach at the Cypress Creek School. When classes began, the teacher was faced with 12 to sometimes 26 students. These children were scattered throughout the first through the seventh grades. The teacher would assign work to one grade, then go to the next grades to explain or give assignments to them. By the time the teacher was finished doing this, he or she had to go back to the first group of children to check them.

Mr. Petermann remembers that sometimes a very intelligent and gifted child would be moved up a grade to make it easier on the teacher. For instance, if a teacher had two children in the fourth grade and only one in the third grade, he or she would move the child up a grade if this child was capable of the work on the fourth grade level. Before the teacher did this, he or she had to consult the parents, Board of Trustees, and Superintendent, who was the county judge.

Mr. Petermann also recalls his teaching days at the Lane Valley School:

"Teaching was quite different, but the children really learned the subjects. With all the grades being together, the younger children listened to the older children's courses. When the younger children passed to the next grade, the courses were easier because they had listened and were familiar with the courses. The one-room schools had a sense of unity to them. At the end of the school year, we had what we called a 'Prufung' or examination. All the parents would come to this examination. I would ask each student questions over the subjects that were taught that year. We had 'Spelling B's' also. Everyone enjoyed this."

Mrs. Saur also believes that the Cypress Creek School has a sense of unity, "The Cypress Creek School held the community together. It was the center of social gatherings then as it is today."

As time went on, the Cypress Creek School and the Lane Valley School consolidated with the Comfort School. The last classes taught in the Cypress Creek School were in 1924 under the supervision of Katie Striegler, according to Mrs. Saur. The last teacher to teach classes in the Lane Valley School was Mrs. Walter Lux in 1948-49.

Children in these communities had to either walk or ride horses to the Comfort School at first. V. Barsch and O. Lux remember that the first school bus was a remodeled hearse driven by Adelheid Fischer. Later, regular school buses were used to take the children to and from the Comfort School.

The Cypress Creek School and Lane Valley School, like many other rural schools, are in our past but are still very much a part of the communities they once served as educational centers.

#### MORE ABOUT WILHELM HOERSTER, THE KIDNAPPED GERMAN BOY

In the summer, 1981, issue of the NEWSLETTER (Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 27) you printed Richard Hoerster's response to your query "Who was he?" NEWSLETTER (Vol. 3, No. 1, March, 1981, p. 68). On the basis of what I know, I would agree with Richard's identification of the little kidnapped German boy as Wilhelm Hoerster.

I heard the story of Wilhelm Hoerster, this "little kidnapped German boy" from my father, Daniel Jordan, Sr., when I was a child; and I included it in my recent book, YESTERDAY IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1979). My account reads as follows:

"We did not have to rely altogether on books for our information and entertainment because my father was a good storyteller. He told many Indian tales, for instance, the account of the kidnapping of Wilhelm Hoerster, which Father witnessed in broad daylight. Wilhelm was guarding the family's horses when a band of Indians appeared, roped him with a rawhide rope, tied him on a horse, and carried him away with the horses they stole. Fortunately, he was able to return home about a year later when he was ransomed...." (p. 33).

It seems most likely that this Wilhelm Hoerster was the "white boy who had been a captive and slave among the Comanches," and who could speak only German when he was rescued by Kit Carson. My father did not mention Kit Carson, but everything in his story agrees with your account. My father witnessed the Indian raid from his father's ranch, about one-half mile from the Hoerster place across the Willow Creek. A group of neighbors formed a posse and tried to overtake the Indians, but they failed to find them. These Indians had also kidnapped another German-speaking boy, Adolf Korn, near Castell, and he was also a prisoner of the Comanches when Wilhelm Hoerster was abducted.

Hope my comments will serve to clarify further the identity of the little German boy.

Sincerely, Gilbert J. Jordan



- 48 -

The University of Texas  
Institute of Texan Cultures  
presents

# The German Texans

A new book in  
The Texans and Texans Series

by  
GLEN E. LICH

*On to Texas, on to Texas  
Where the star in blue field  
Prophesies a new world,  
And makes every heart burn  
For right and freedom and for truth—  
This is where my heart longs to go.*

These words, written by a German song writer, echoed the sentiments felt by many immigrants who looked toward Texas as the promised land.

*The German Texans* is a mirror of the past—a collection of lives, events, photographs and memories which paints a vibrant picture of the Germans' experiences in Texas.

This 240-page book, with 167 photographs and illustrations, traces the history of these proud people, from the moment they left their beloved but troubled homeland to the present day:

- Chapter 1 BEGINNINGS  
*"We hurried toward the sinking sun, the magic West beckoning."*
- Chapter 2 THE OLD WORLD IN THE NEW  
*"I will be a free man in a free earth."*
- Chapter 3 YEARS OF ESTABLISHMENT  
*"I have seen a rich, beautiful world filled with resources, full of challenges for the industrious."*
- Chapter 4 CULTURE ON A NEW FRONTIER  
*"And do not fail to bring the complete works of Goethe."*
- Chapter 5 TRADITION AND ASSIMILATION  
*"This culture is nearly at an end."*

Far from being nearly at an end, as lamented by one observer, the German culture is still strong and thriving in Texas.

The Germans' contributions are felt keenly throughout the state and their experiences are yours to share as you read—

## The German Texans

by Glen E. Lich

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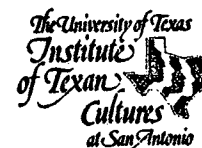
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# ON THE ROAD

With Glen Tucker

**ROUND TOP** — Even the jokes are clean and charming in Round Top. "The fat man at the manger scene," an impish-faced youngster tells me, "was Round John Virgin."

This is a beautiful place to be on Christmas Eve. One of the earliest German settlements in Texas, it has retained that immigrant spirit of pride, resourcefulness, thrift, hard work and scrupulous honesty to this day. Christmas is meaningful here; the few hundred residents of the community are family-oriented, and theirs is a holiday of warmth, song, prayer, thanksgiving, praise. The tiny lights winking from every window I can see are friendly and inspiring.

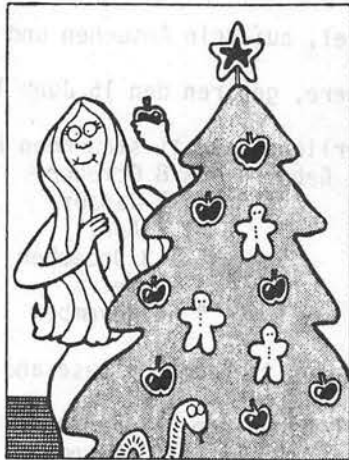
I have just left Birkelbach's Store, in which the meats are still cut by hand and things are weighed on an old-timey scale. The Birkelbachs also serve up the best barbecue in the county. I am on nearby Henckel Square, a marvelously restored cluster of houses and buildings that were named for the most prominent early settler, Edward Henckel. Much money and much love by Mrs. Faith Bybee accounts for the elegant, spanking-clean restoration.

Down the road is the Winedale Historical Center, restored by the late Miss Ima Hogg and now a legacy for the University of Texas. An 1870 Christmas pyramid — an ancient German decoration that eventually merged with the Christmas tree — is on display. The fences are laden with cedar decking; there are handmade wreaths and garlands and a giant tree festooned with ornaments from an earlier time. I wish I had been there.

There are some fetching, early-day Texas toys on exhibit, along with a cedar Christmas pyramid made by German musician Emil Schuhmann in Waldeck about 1870.

We owe, in fact, most of our Christmas decoration ideas to the Germans. Centuries ago, most German families had a Christmas pyramid — with shelves for displaying figurines, toys and other holiday objects. After a medieval play about Adam and Eve became popular, a Paradise Tree was erected in the same room with the pyramid, since Germans observed the feast day of Adam and Eve on Dec. 24. The centerpiece for the drama was a fir tree hung with apples, symbolizing the Garden of Eden.

Also, in those days, the Germans hung wafers on the tree as symbols of the Host, but after the Reformation, these evolved into cookies. Candles to suggest the light of Christ were added. By the early 16th century, the tree and pyramid had combined to become the Christmas tree in many households. However, some families still have both.



San Antonio Light: David Rubenstein

The idea of a tree at Christmas became a deeply rooted German tradition by the 18th century, and was introduced into England a little later. Those old German immigrants brought the Christmas tree custom to America as early as the 17th century, but the use of a tree as a widespread American custom did not occur until the 18th century.

The Germans have been credited with popularizing the Christmas tree, but the use of evergreen trees and branches as symbols of eternal life was traditional among ancient Hebrews, Egyptians and even the Chinese. The early pagan Europeans practiced tree worship, a custom they incorporated into Christianity after their conversion.

This business of the Christmas tree bothers a lot of fundamentalist Christians, because of its undeniable pagan origin, but it never bothered me. If that bothers them, then they should be bothered by Christian wedding and funeral ceremonies, which also borrow liberally from paganism.

From Round Top (Pop. 282), may your day be merry and bright!

Texana collectors who've wanted the out-of-print "Wends of Texas" for a long time will appreciate the Texas Wendish Heritage Society's reprinting of the book by the late Anne Blasing. The society has 1,000 second edition copies.

Send a check or money order for \$9.10, which includes tax and postage, to Mrs. Emma (Harry) Wuensche, Rt. 1, McDade, Tex. 78650.



## Celebrate Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Otto F. Tiedt celebrated their Golden Wedding on August 23. They took a vacation trip, a gift from their son, to Padre Island to celebrate the occasion. They have a son, L. O., and their grandchildren are Sharon, Barry, and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tiedt.

## THE HISTORY OF F. W. LANGE FAMILY

-50-

Frederick Wilhelm Lange was born in Neuhaberg Germany, October the 10, 1817, he was brought up as a prospective citizen of his native country. After he became a young man he began to work with a well known and well informed cooper. This trade was well mastered put him into a position to go out into the world and successfully make use of his learnings.

He had many friends in his boyhood days, among them was a charming young lady, Miss Fredricka Johanna Steinere, who in the year 1840 joined him in wedlock.

August Steinere a brother to Mrs. F. W. Lange, had wandered to America. He kept in close touch with his sister and her husband by correspondance and finally induced F. W. Lange to attempt the voyage to America. So in June 1854 he made application to the Prussian government for a certificate of leave and was issued the following still well preserved document:

Die unterzeichnete koengliche reigierung bescheigt hierdurch dasz den Baettcher -  
Meister Friedrich Wilhelm Lange aus der Stadt Bernstein in Foldiner Krel e geboren den  
10 October 1817 in Nurnberg an der Weichsel, auf sein Ansuchen und Beheife, seiner  
Ehefeau Fredricka Johanna, geborene Steinere, geboren den 15 June 1818 in Nurnberg  
und folgenden muenderjaehriger unter vaterlichen gawalt stehenden kinder :

Marie Elizabeth	Geboren den	8 October	1842
Carl Fredrich Willam	" "	1 Janaur	1847
August Adolf Alexander	" "	2 April	1849
Julius Friedrig	" "	13 December	1850
Helmuth Gottlieb Lsbrecht	" "	7 Mei	1852
Erdman Valentine	" "	5 November	1853

( Also the following were permitted under the same release and under the care of F. W. Lange.

Carl August Neubeuer	Geboren den	11 Febuar	1838	ein Keeffer
Ernstina Willimina Weber	" "	23 December	1835	
Carolina Sophia Aller	" "	16 August	1835	ein Weisenkind

Die entlassung aus dem enschinan unterhalten Verban bewilligt ist. Diese Entlassung orkunde bewirkt jadoch ur fur darin ausdraecklich gennanton personen mit dem zeitpunkten der sushaeudigung der verlust der Eigenschaft als Preuschinan unterhalten.

I 1775 / 6-54 Entlassungs Urkunde Frankfort den 28 Junf 1854.  
(seal)

After the necessary papers had been secured they immediately secured passage on a sailing vessel and braved the mighty deep and with stood many long and lonesome days away from land. All there was to be seen was large waves of water which sometimes splashed upon the deck of the vassel. Sometimes drifting farther back than they had gained the previous day, but after some four to six weeks of batteling the great Atlantic Ocean waves they reached the Texas coast of Indionola.

At this place a man was hired to transport the Lange family and their belongings to San Antonio, Texas, their destination.

This transportation was also slow but sure, but the Langes were enjoying same immensely after seeing all the water.

After arriving in San Antonio, Mr. Lange set out to find a home for his family and after some searching found a house on what is now known as Alamo Street of San Antonio. After being comfortably located he set out to secure a job which was not hard to do. He had learned of the Menger Brewery, to where he went soon after his arrival. He got acquainted with the Mengers and convinced them that he was a good cooper. They employed him to



make kegs for the brewery. He not only made beer kegs but, also built tanks for the brew, water buckets and tubs, in fact all kinds of vessels that could be made of wood to hold water and other liquids.

After two years of work for the Menger Brewery, Mr. Lange had accumulated enough money to purchase 8 acres of land near San Pedro Springs and moved his family to there newly acquired property, which had a small Mexican cottage which was built out of pickets or log poles, the cracks were filled with adobe mixed with straw or grass to hold it together. It has only one door and a very small window. This was far from comfortable for the family, so Mr. Lange and his sons enlarged the hut and prepared the land for truck gardening. Some time later he purchased an additional 12 acres adjoining the first purchase. This gave him a nice truck garden very nicely located on the present site of what is known as the Teck Field base ball field near San Pedro Park. A rancher, Mr. Pat Lewis allowed Mr. Lange and his sons to milk some 25 cows. The boys enjoyed this very much. The milk was sold and delivered in ten gallon can's where it was dished out to customers in pint or quarts as they needed it. They received 10 cents per quart. Best of all was that they had all the milk and butter necessary for the family. This was very beneficial to them as food prices were very high. Plenty of milk and butter interposed with wild game now and then was quite a contrast to the four meals of potatoes that grandmother so often made mention of as having been the common fare in Dutchland. However with all these helps it was a problem as to how to feed a large family, as flour cost from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per barrel and coffee was not in reach of the common people. Mrs. Lange at times porched rye and okra seed for a substitute, and sometimes use sweet potatoes, that were cut into small squares and dried then porched as coffee. These drinks were very much cherrished after one had become accustomed to it.

During all this time the Brother in Law, August Steiners who had instilled the Lange family with the pioneering spirit, was about one hundred miles north west of San Antonio with the Doss Brothers at Doss Valley one of the loveliest vallies in the south west Texas. Besides a cattle ranch these gentlemen had found a wonderful spring gushing out from underneath a ledge of rocks high above Threadgill Creek. The water of this spring impounded could be used in turning an over shot wheel, and here is where the ingunity of August Steiner came into use. Under his supervision a mill was built and a water race from the spring to the wheel gave the first mechanical power ever used in the section. The Doss brothers were very enthusiastic about their location and pictured in their minds what the future held in store for them. They estimated that an abundance of wheat could be gathered in the immediate vacinity that their milling bussiness would flourish, but time was required and the wheat and corn yield did not come up to their expectations and the little mill did not bring the returns that had been anticipated.

The Doss Brothers next venture was the building of a saw mill. In spite of the crude rustic machinery the saw mill did much in serving the surrounding countryside with lumber for building purposes. Having sufficient lumber they built a nice manshon on the hill just south of the spring from where they could look and enjoy the beautiful scenery and also observe their stock and wild game such as deer and turkey. After they had become permanantly located in their home misfortune overtook them. The wonderful structure that they built was totally destoyed by fire. It was ignited by a band of robbers, often refered to as "bushwacker's". This misfortune and the milling business not being what they had antisipated they became discouraged and were willing to dispose of their holdings at a sacrifice. Mr. Steiners their employee upon being informed of their intentions immediately got in touch with his Brother in Law, F. W. Lange and explained the matter to him. He in turn began to investigate and finally desided to advance sufficant cash to the Doss Brothers holdings. Mr. Steiners returned and bought the property paying a handsome price for same.

Mr. Lange then disposed of his property at San Antonio and again the family journeied westward, over hills and valleys for another one hundred miles of unknown country, following cow trails for the greater part of the way. After several days they reached their destination. This was a building that was on the property which was rather small for the Lange family, preparations were made for building of a new home. This was built of post oak logs which Mr. Lange and sons cut near by using only good and sound timber. A fine grade of clay mixture was found near by to close up the cracke between the logs.

Mr. Steiners being a millwright and experienced in many other trades, made suggestions to his brother-in-law which after consideration were carried out by Mr. Lange. A crude lime kiln was built near by where all the lime that was used in the mill building and dam was prepared. Sand was in abundance and the stone was quarried near by.

A Mr. Buchmeyer, a neighbor, Julius Klingelheffer of Fredericksburg, Mr. Cook of San Antonio were employed as stone masons, Mr. Paul Loeffler a near by neighbor, Mr. Zahara of San Antonio were employed as carpenters. The Lange boys as helpers worked very diligently to complete the undertakings. It was the custom of the stone masons to lay their chewing tobacco on the walls while eating, making use of the occasion Helmuth and Benhard Lange occasionally slipped around and took a big chew, sometimes with very bad after effects. The mill building was the first to be erected and completed. Unfortunately Mr. August Steiners died before the structure was completed. This caused a great loss to the Lange family. They continued their work and the mill building was soon completed. After Mr. Buchmeyer who had charge of the masonry work had finished the mill building finished he immediately began to work on the dam (1870). It was his desire to erect a good structure, so he had the Lange boys drag large stone to were the dam was to be located. These were brought on sleds drawn by mules, then placed in position by the use of large bars of iron.

The Lange boys worked hard and diligently in order that their goal might be reached. What interested the boys most of all, was the idea of having a nice large swimming pool in front of the house, served as encouragement for them. After months of hard labor the dam was completed and water released into the proposed pool. It required only 10 to 12 hours to fill the pool to its overflow.

The boys enthusiastic about their project being completed and seeing the pool of crystal clear water celebrated the occasion by diving Indian style into the pool. Near the center of the pool stood a large sycamore tree. This tree the boys judged as a safety line should the dam break. Soon the boys were ready to immerge from the water and dress. Standing at the edge of the pool admiring its beauty and thinking of the great power that could be derived from this structure they had erected, when suddenly a rumbling noise reached their ears and the structure that they had just completed, together with the large Sycamore tree disappeared before their eyes. Debris was scattered quiet a way down the creek. This shock was great to the family and Mr. Buchmeyer was greatly disappointed that the structure did not with-stand the pressure.

Mr. Lange and sons however were not discouraged. They immediately went back to work building a new dam, this time one that was much larger than the first. This of course delayed the grinding of grain for another six months.

At last this structure was completed and the mill was put into operation through the power of an over shot wheel that had been built by the carpenters. The water was turned on the wheel but the power was to great, the shaft was broken. Then preparations were made for a turbine power. Mr. Lange and one son made a trip to San Antonio for the purpose of buying a turbine, one was located at Beyers Mill, Mr. Lange purchase same and returned home. This turbine was finally placed into position and tried out. This proved to large for the amount of water on hand so the cups of the turbine were filled with lead so that a lesser amount of water was required to produce the power. This proved successful and the work of the new industry was started. People from far and near brought in their grain which at this time had become abundant and of very fine quality.

When the customer brought their grain it was weighted and placed into an elevator, where it was lifted to the second floor of the building. There a cleaner or blower had been erected to clean the grain off chaf and dust, then it would pass through a chute down to the mill where it emptied into a shuttle that gradually fed the mill where the stone bur would crush the grain. The crushed substance was again elevated into a beiter, where it was seperated. This bolter was of a cylinder shape, the cut side portion being covered with a very fine mesh of copper wire of three different grades of fineness, placed on an incline postion and as same would revolve, the first section having the finest screen would sift out the tiniest portions of the crushed grain into the bottom of the bolter box. This box was also divided into sections. Immediately under each section of the boster, this box would receive the three different particles that the bolter would sift out, the bran cane out at the end of the bolter.

The customer would thus receive four different products made from his grain sometime <sup>53-</sup> paying cash for the grinding, others would prefer to give toll which was one pound off every ten. This toll was placed into especially prepared sacks which bore the brand of the mill to-wit the words PECAN SPRING MILL incircling a running deer with F. W. Lange across the top. This brand was made by one of the Lange boys. It was made off odd pieces of wood bolted together, making a block 12 by 12 inches square. The carving was all done by hand and was a wonderful piece of craftsmanship.

The flour was also graded by a very simple method, a thin smoothe board was provided which was some 8 by 10 inches square, a small nickle plated blade about one and one half inches wide and six inches long would then be used to spread the flour and if it remained smooth it was considered a very high grade, but if it would show cracks it was graded according to the size of the cracks that would show.

On August 2, 1873 death took a son Erdman Valentine, a young man of 20 years out of the family. This was a sad loss to Mr. Lange.

On October 5, 1877, the father F. W. Lange was claimed death, leaving his berieved wife and children to morn his death. At this time four of the sons were married. C. F. W. Lange the eldest son took charge of the mill and his mother's affairs for the first year. He then took the stock of merchandise that his father kept for the convenience of his customers to Cherry Spring, where he entered into business, leaving the affairs to his brother Julius and his younger brother Benhard to attend to the mill and the mother's affairs until her death September 3, 1910.

Delays during the time that the mill and dam were under construction was when the father F. W. Lange sent Julius and Helmut out one early morning to get the horses that had drifted to Brookmans Point some three miles from home, the horses were found and were brought home, leaving them at the creek that they might graze there until they were needed.

*Submitted by  
Miss Beessie Evers  
Fredericksburg*

from: **October 14, 1981**

**THE CHRONICLE**

**OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Scholars of French and German literature, experts on Japanese kabuki, specialists in Catalan poetry: *PMLA* wants you.

So hard up is the journal of the Modern Language Association for articles on works of literature other than British or American, that the editor has taken the somewhat unusual step of issuing a call for such essays in his column in the October, 1981, issue.

"Our backlog of essays on non-English-language subjects has, like reservoirs all across the country, dried up," writes Joel Conarroe, editor of *PMLA* and executive director of the association.

"I am using this space to urge our members to send us studies on Goethe and Frisch, on Cervantes and García Márquez, Corneille and Char, Chekhov, Kundera, Calvino, and Borges."

To a certain extent, writes Mr. Conarroe, the problem is understandable.

Most of the association's 28,000 members are in English departments, and the journal used to have a policy of publishing only articles of interest to the entire membership—a rule that might easily discourage a potential contributor in a highly specialized foreign-language field.

But Mr. Conarroe is not daunted. "As recently as 10 years ago there were few if any examples of feminist criticism in *PMLA*. . . . We now regularly receive such essays, some of which are superb," he writes. "I like to think that by 1990 we will be able to look back to the 1980's and see significant incorporation of approaches previously unpublished or underrepresented."

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The Texas Commission on the Arts is seeking names of groups and individuals to be included in the first Texas Directory of Folk Artists.

The Texas Commission on the Arts serves Texans by providing information about the arts in our state and supporting arts activities. The Directory of Folk Artists is a means of expanding the scope of arts information to include those skills and events which are central to the lifestyle of many Texans and enrich our common heritage. Your participation in this important project is greatly appreciated.

TEXAS DIRECTORY OF FOLK ARTISTS

From Texas Commission on the Arts  
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For more information, call Pat Jasper or Connie Higdon toll free at 1-800-252-9415.

#### TEXAS REMEMBERS ELISABET NEY

Elisabet Ney (1833-1907) was born at Münster/Westfalen and emigrated to Texas in 1871. She was a gifted sculptor with an established career in Germany. After coming to the United States she temporarily gave up sculpting while she and her philosopher husband lived on a farm near Hempstead, Texas. After a lapse of almost twenty years in her professional career, she built a studio at Austin and renewed her work in sculpture. During the last years of her life she achieved success with portrait sculpture and architectural decorations in the Texas state capital.

Her towered stone structure in Austin is now the Elisabet Ney Museum at 304 East 44th Street. The building is currently undergoing a thorough restoration, financed in part through municipal bonds as well as a \$50,000 grant from the Austin Heritage Society. Last year more than twenty thousand people visited the museum.

Later this year there will be a major exhibition of Elisabet Ney's works at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The exhibition, which is co-sponsored by the Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin, will be the first comprehensive exhibition of Elisabet Ney's works ever organized. It will run from October 29, 1981 through June 27, 1982.

Mennonite Family History, a new quarterly periodical featuring the genealogy and family history of those persons with Mennonite, Amish, and Brethren origins in Europe, will begin publication in January 1982. Regular features will include columns titled "Our European Heritage," "Our Amish Ancestors," "Our Mennonite Immigrants," and "Our Brethren Cousins." For the January 1982 issue, these columns will include articles on "Sources for Mennonite Research in Europe" by Hermann Guth, Saarbrücken, Germany; "Jacob Hertzler, the First Amish Bishop in America" by Paul V. Hostetler, Hamden, Conn.; "1728 Immigrant Heinrich Eshelman," by Helen Blough Crill, Manheim, Pa.; and "Georg Klein, 1738 Brethren Elder," by Carolyn T. Denlinger, Tipp City, Ohio.

Contact: J. Lemar and Lois Ann (Zook) Mast, Mennonite Family History, P. O. Box 171, Elverson, PA 19520.

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The German-Texan Heritage Society was founded in 1978 as a non-profit organization to promote the revitalization of German culture in Texas. An annual meeting is held the second week-end in September. A NEWSLETTER is published in February and July. Members come from all over Texas, from many other states and several foreign countries.

Please fill out and return to: Dona Reeves, Rt. 2 Box 239A, Buda, Texas 78610

# German Texan Heritage Society

Founded in August, 1978, the German-Texan Heritage Society is a non-profit organization seeking members from the general public. Everyone is welcome to join! Descendants of all German-speaking peoples. Researchers. Educational institutions. Genealogists. Historians. Librarians. Biographers. Students. Interested persons.

The Society is an organization devoted to building pride in the heritage of German Texans through historical research and cultural preservation. It is a united effort in Texas to disseminate information about archives, research projects, cultural events, folklore, publications and meetings related to German Texan topics.

The Society publishes a NEWSLETTER of about 60 pages in February and July, as well as supplements when needed throughout the year. The NEWSLETTER is compiled and edited by a group of dedicated volunteers. An annual meeting is held the second weekend in September.

Already serving about 6 members, we want this to be truly an organization for its membership. We need your help. Please join us. Fill out the form on the reverse side and mail it today. And please bring the organization and its objectives to the attention of your friends who might be interested in it. Tell your local newspaper, heritage or conservation society about us. We want to collaborate with all existing historical preservation organizations.

We would be happy to send information about the German-Texan Heritage Society to people who might be interested in our objectives. Just write their names and addresses below, and return to: Dona Reeves, Rt. 2 Box 239A, Buda, TX 78610.

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DIMENSION is a bi-lingual literary journal edited by G.T.H.S. member A. Leslie Willson.

DIMENSION is published three times yearly at The University of Texas at Austin. Subscription: \$9.00 per year for individuals, \$12 per year for institutions in the U.S.; \$12 per year for individuals, \$15 per year for institutions elsewhere. Single copy \$4 in the U.S, \$6 elsewhere. All subscriptions should be sent to DIMENSION, The Department of Germanic Language, P.O. Box 7939, Austin, Texas 78712.

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