

**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**THE JOURNAL**



**Volume XIII Number 2 SUMMER, 1991**

**Affiliated With: The Society For German-American Studies**

**ISSN 0730-3100  
Price Per Issue  
\$3.00 (Members) \$3.50 (Non-members)**

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# GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 1991 MEETING

September 6, 7 & 8, in Corpus Christi, Texas

## REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 17

Pre-registration cost: \$36.00

Late registration: \$41.00

Registration includes: Registration, Friday reception, Heritage Park tour, Saturday night dinner-dance with orchestra, programs and entertainment.

Registration:	(by Aug. 17)	No. of persons _____	@ \$36.00	\$ _____
	(after Aug. 17)	No. of persons _____	@ \$41.00	\$ _____
Optional:	Bayfront Cruise	No. of persons _____	@ \$ 5.50	\$ _____
Total				\$ _____

List the name of each person as you want it on the name tag.:

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SEE PAGE 102 FOR SPECIAL DELTA AIRLINE DISCOUNTS!

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### HOTEL RESERVATION

#### GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Annual Meeting, September 6, 7, 8, 1991

A block of 75 rooms is being held at the special GTHS rate of \$54.00 per night plus tax for 1 to 4 persons occupancy at Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach, Corpus Christi. **Deadline Aug. 23.** Please reserve early. Mention German-Texan Heritage when reserving by telephone.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arr. date: \_\_\_\_\_ Dep. date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail hotel reservation to:

Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach  
 1102 S. Shoreline  
 Corpus Christi, TX. 78402

Telephone Nos.:  
 800 / 465-4329  
 512 / 883-5731



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# ABOUT GTHS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ann Lindemann

What exciting times GTHS is experiencing. As my time as your president winds down, I can't believe all the momentum our Society is experiencing. As we focused on widening GTHS' concepts, the realization of the far reaching influence of German-Texan Heritage has mushroomed. It is awe inspiring to watch this happen.

My goal while directing GTHS was to involve more people and use their talents, expertise and abilities. Utilizing the talented people who make up GTHS has uncovered masses of German-Texan Heritage and created a broader base than in the past. We have all begun to realize and become aware of how far reaching the influence of German heritage is spread, with still more areas of heritage to be explored. We must always try to discover German-Texan information and keep learning, that is what keeps GTHS so exciting.

I feel very strongly about the need to involve new people and gain new energy from all the Society members, to keep broadening the horizons of the organization. Trying new avenues and instigating new ideas keeps us from stagnating. We must allow the aspirations of all our members to aid us in attaining new heights of GTHS development.

There are some astonishing developments in dealing with the future of GTHS. An announcement about the future location of GTHS' headquarters is under the guidance of Board member Rod Koenig. A very generous gift to the Society may be revealed as early as the Annual Meeting in September. However before any announcement can be made, details must be completed.

In connection with this subject, the GTHS Board will be formulating a team of experts and willing volunteers who will begin to develop an endowment fund drive. If you have skills and talents in grant writing or financial and planning expertise please let us hear from you. We need your help!

Along the lines of the acquisition of a gift of historic property, one must necessarily need to have an adequate funding structure in place to protect commitments and obligation for such a gift. If this has peaked your curiosity, then you must register right away for the Corpus Christi Annual Meeting--hopefully the important announcement about all this mysterious information will be ready to be made public at that time!

The excitement is not over--there is more activity developing and slated for completion by the end of 1991 for GTHS. Another of our Board members, "Von" Von-Masezewski, has been actively working on a translation and publication project to be completed by year's end. We should have a new GTHS book for sale thanks to the skills, diligence and energies of Von and some helpful GTHS associates. Von has even had family members in Europe actively corroborating facts and research details to allow his work to be as accurate as possible. Details of this project may also be ready to announce at the Corpus Annual Meeting.

With all these tidbits and titillating revelations, I don't see how anyone will be able to exist until all these projects are made public at the September meeting.

To make my final months as GTHS president even more thrilling, I am ecstatic about the progress being made in preservation spearheaded by Board member Miriam York. (see details elsewhere in the JOURNAL) With the process of preservation set in motion by Miriam's generous gift, we have several other similar projects that can use our attention.

As you know from past JOURNAL articles, the Austin History Center has a massive German-Texana collection--the "Bickler Family Papers". Progress is being made in preparing these files for easy research access at the

Continued

History Center. Helga von Schweinitz has been GTHS' envoy and has had ongoing contact about this collection. The History Center's archivist was instrumental in acquiring a graduate research assistant last semester to begin categorizing this material. This project is now in need of volunteer German readers or financial backing to acquire the skills of a German reader to move the material processing along. If you can help volunteer with reading or money please contact the GTHS office. (Checks may be designated for this preservation endeavor by labeling them: "Archival Assistance Fund".

Another long running preservation project that GTHS has been involved with is the micro-filming of the TRENCKMANN PAPERS. These papers are located at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas. The donation for the filming has been used to expand Barker's massive newspaper project by allowing matching grants to be sought. The value of the donation now represents three times the original sum through this process. Although the microfilming of the TRENCHMAN PAPERS has not yet been completed, patience with this project has greatly increased the benefits derived from the original donation.

Board member Patsy Hand has also been in contact with the Barker History Center about a listing of all their German-Language News Papers. Patsy has been granted permission for a GTHS volunteer to use the computerized master newspaper list from which to extract all the German-Language Newspaper titles. This separation would be helpful to German-Texan researchers. If there are interested volunteers for this project contact Patsy Hand or the GTHS office.

The resignation of our faithful JOURNAL Book Reviewer, Hanna Lewis, from Sam Houston State University has saddened us. Hanna's work schedule prevents her from continuing this service to GTHS. Hanna has been a dependable, efficient and reliable contributing editorial board member for the JOURNAL for many years. Her service will certainly be missed and our gratitude for this long standing quality work for GTHS is most certainly appreciated.

Dr. Meredith McClain of Texas Tech University has graciously accepted the position to serve as the JOURNAL Book Review Editor. We are fortunate to be able to have such talented people to help continue the successful operation of the editorial board. If you have a book you would like to have reviewed in the JOURNAL please forward it to:

Dr. Meredith McClain  
Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, TX 79409-2072

Traditionally the book becomes the property of the reviewer and is placed in the library of reviewers choosing or in the GTHS library.

Another note of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Saunders for the donation of a gorgeous antique German clock. More details of this handsome time piece will appear later after an interview and historical research can be completed.

Other GTHS Board action has been a review of possibly participating in the Institute of Texan Cultures Folklife Festival in 1992. GTHS will also begin collection of material for VOLUME II of the GERMAN-TEXAN HERIGAE HANDBOOK AND REGISTRY. Start the search for entries from your area today!.

I hope every one plans to attend the Annual Meeting in Corpus September 6,7, & 8. The program represents an outstanding line-up of talent. The energetic committee headed by Ingrid Brock is finalizing preparations for your visit. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! (Send vendor suggestions to Ingrid, she wants to expand this phase of the meeting).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS information is due Oct. 10, 1991. See an announcement elsewhere in this JOURNAL.

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

Material for this JOURNAL was supplied by the following people. We appreciate all the effort these members spend collecting and forwarding the information to the JOURNAL. We encourage all our members to watch their local sources and forward any items that would be of interest to all GTHS members. Thank you also for sharing manuscripts and research topics. If you speak on German-Texan Heritage topics, please consider submitting these texts for inclusion in the JOURNAL.

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**GTHS OFFICE REPORT****GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CONTINUE!**

This is the second year the German-Texan Heritage Society has attempted to encourage growth and interest in German ethnicity and heritage through direct contact with Texas universities. A successful program was inaugurated last year by the Board of Directors and continued this year with the participation of seven select universities.

The Society allows each interested university, in cooperation with GTHS, to donate one copy of Rudolph Bieseles' The History of the German Settlements in Texas to an outstanding student in any field of German studies. Additionally a second award is offered, a one year student membership in GTHS.

1991 Award Winners and schools attended are:

Pio Schurtti of the University of Texas at Austin  
 Lisa Schwamkrug of Texas Tech University at Lubbock  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of Texas Lutheran College at Seguin  
 Richard L. Johnson  
 and Mark L. Nolen of Angelo State University at San Angelo  
 Rebecca Baucum of Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos  
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 Marie de los Angeles Ramirez  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ of the University of San Antonio at San Antonio

The Society hopes to be able to continue the program in future years. Should members know of interested colleges or universities, kindly inform any member of the GTHS Board of Directors or the GTHS Office.



## GTHS OFFICE BULLETIN

A special reminder that the GTHS publication: **HANDBOOK AND REGISTRY OF GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE** is available. This volume makes a handy travel companion as you vacation in German-Texan areas of Texas. These make nice gifts for traveling friends and contain interesting German-Texan facts. Cost is \$8.00 plus \$2.00 handling, order from: GTHS, P O BOX 262, MANCHACA, TX 78652.

The **GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY** has a supply of attractive flyers with GTHS information and membership applications. If you would like some for distribution or know of a library or location that might help in circulating them please contact the GTHS office (512) 280-3351 to receive free copies.

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**GTHS MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

In the words of the GTHS Membership Chairperson "GTGS is exploding!" This is a good feeling. We are experiencing phenomenal history making growth! Thank you for this support. GTGS members are the best advertisers we have and the numbers are proof of the good job everyone is doing. Keep this momentum going as we continue to widen our scope and broaden GTGS horizons.

A note about GTGS membership--it runs from January to December. We have no staff person to service dues on a daily bases, **BUT**...we do accept dues all year long and provide 12 months service going back to January of the calendar year. Members are sent all materials and JOURNALS from January though dues may not have been received in January. All renewal notices are issued in December. If there are volunteers to process memberships year round, GTGS would be glad to hear from you!

## A LIVING LEGACY OF GERMAN-TEXAN PRESERVATION

Mrs. Miriam York, a charter member of the German-Texan Heritage Society and a member of the Board of Directors since 1984, is responsible for saving 22,000 pages of German-Language Newspapers in the University of Houston's Special Collections Library. Mrs. York's generous gift to the University of Houston has made micro-filming of the University's entire collection of German-Language newspapers possible. Many of these documents are fragile, rare and deteriorating.

The generosity of Mrs. York has been made even more special to the German-Texan Heritage Society because Miriam's philanthropic gift was made in the name of the German-Texan Heritage Society. This generous act has allowed GTHS to share in the honor of the preservation of German-Texan Heritage.

I know everyone in GTHS joins me in thanking Miriam for this selfless action of leaving a Living Legacy (or "German Mark") for generations of future German-Texans.

Eventhough Miriam York holds both a Bachelor and Master's Degree from the University of Houston, it was not until 1989, while doing personal family research at this library that Miriam learned of the extensive German-Language newspaper holdings housed there.

As a GTHS Board Member and family researcher, Miriam had long advocated the need for preservation of rare and fragile research documents. It is not always possible that a person is able to make such a contribution to save precious information. Miriam's dedication to preservation can serve as an example to each one of us.

In an effort to continue this preservation momentum the GTHS Board voted to aid in the processing of the newspapers. One thousand dollars will be donated to the U of H Special Collections to begin category cataloging the massive German-Language paper collection in the fall '91 semester, with an additional \$1,000. donation for the Spring '92 semester. Anyone who would like to join in this effort is encouraged to send a donation to the GTHS Office designated as the "Newspaper Preservation Fund".

To help make known the papers that exist in this collection, the Library's Director of Special Collections, Pat Bozeman, and her staff, have prepared the list that appears on the following pages.



Miriam York and Pat Bozeman, Special Collections Director, shown with the University of Houston's collection of German-Language Newspapers.

## GERMAN-LANGUAGE TEXAS NEWSPAPERS

## Special Collections

## University of Houston Libraries (ISB:#3)

1. Wochenblatt der Union. Galveston, Texas  
January 7, 1866 - October 21, 1866  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 22)
2. Die Union. Galveston, Texas  
October 20, 1868 - December 30, 1869  
(Published three times weekly)  
(Book # 23)
3. Wöchentliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
November 13, 1870 - October 8, 1871  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 1)
4. Die Wöchentliche Texas Post. Houston, Texas  
January 7, 1872 - December 22, 1872  
(Published weekly)  
(Book #1A)
5. Die Wöchentliche Texas Post. Houston, Texas  
October 27, 1872 - October 23, 1873  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 2)
6. Die Wöchentliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 30, 1873 - August 27, 1874  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 3)
7. Wöchentliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 28, 1875 - October 19, 1876  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 4)
- 8a. Wöchentliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 26, 1876 - June 7, 1877  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 5)
- 8b. Die Tägliche und Wöchentliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
June 14, 1877 - July 12 1877  
(Published weekly)  
(Book # 5)
- 8c. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
July 19, 1877 - October 4, 1877  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 5)
- 8d. Tägliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 2, 1877 - April 30, 1877  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 5)
- 9a. Galvestoner Fest-Zeitung. Der Texas Post.  
Mai Fest 1877  
(1 issue)  
(Book # 10)
- 9b. Tägliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
May 3, 1877 - July 7, 1877  
(Published daiy - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 10)
- 9c. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
July 14, 1877 - December 31, 1879  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 10)
- 9d. Die Tägliche und Wöchentliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
June 14, 1877  
(1 issue)  
(Book # 10)
10. Tägliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
September 1, 1874 - December 31, 1874  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 38)
11. Tägliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 3, 1876 - April 29, 1876  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 39)
12. Tägliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
May 1, 1876 - August 31, 1876  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 40)
13. Tägliche Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
September 1, 1876 - December 30, 1876  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 41)
14. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 11, 1877 - October 3, 1878  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 24)
15. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 10, 1878 - October 2, 1879  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 12)
16. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 9, 1879 - September 30, 1880  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 25)
17. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 7, 1880 - October 6, 1881  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 26)
18. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 12, 1882 - July 13, 1883  
(Published weekly - Thursday or Friday)  
(Book # 27)
19. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 4, 1884 - December 26, 1884  
(Published weekly - Friday)  
(Book # 28)
20. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Dallas, Texas  
November 25, 1887 - December 14, 1888  
(Published weekly - Friday)  
(Book # 29)
21. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Dallas, Texas  
December 28, 1888 - September 27, 1889  
(Published weekly - Friday)  
(Book # 30)
22. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Dallas, Texas  
October 4, 1889 - September 26, 1890  
(Published weekly - Friday)  
(Book # 31)
23. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Dallas, Texas  
October 3, 1890 - September 25, 1891  
(Published weekly - Friday)  
(Book # 32)

## Continued

24. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Dallas or Galveston, Texas  
October 2, 1891 - September 23, 1892  
(Published weekly - Friday)  
(Book # 33)
25. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Austin, Texas  
July 2, 1896 - September 23, 1897  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 34)
26. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Austin, Texas  
September 30, 1897 - September 22, 1898  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 35)
27. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 2, 1879 - July 1, 1879  
(Published daily - Monday thru Friday)  
(Book # 11)
28. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
July 2, 1879 - December 31, 1879  
(Published daily - Monday thru Friday)  
(Book # 13)
29. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 2, 1880 - December 31, 1880  
(Published daily - Monday thru Friday)  
(Book # 13A)
30. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 3, 1882 - June 30, 1882  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 15)
- 31a. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
July 1, 1882 - October 11, 1882  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 16)
- 31b. Wochenblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 13, 1881 - October 5, 1882  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(Book # 16)
32. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 13, 1882 - February 28, 1883  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 17)
33. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
March 1, 1883 - June 30, 1883  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 18)
34. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 4, 1884 - June 30, 1884  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 19)
35. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
July 1, 1884 - December 31, 1884  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday)  
(Book # 20)
36. Die Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
January 2, 1885 - June 30, 1885  
(Published daily - Monday thru Saturday )  
(Book # 21)
37. Sonntagsblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
February 3, 1878 - February 2, 1879  
(Published weekly - Sunday)  
(Book # 6)
38. Sonntagsblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
February 9, 1879 - September 28, 1879  
(Published weekly - Sunday)  
(Book # 6A)
39. Sonntagsblatt der Texas Post. Galveston, Texas  
October 5, 1879 - December 26, 1880  
(Published weekly - Sunday)  
(Book # 7B)
40. Sonntagsblatt der Texas Post. Dallas, Texas  
November 11, 1888 - November 3, 1889  
(Published weekly - Sunday)  
(Book # 36)
41. Sonntagsblatt der Texas Post. Dallas, Texas  
November 9, 1890 - August 30, 1891  
(Published weekly - Sunday)  
(Book # 37)
42. Austin Wochenblatt. Austin, Texas  
November 8, 1879 - October 30, 1880  
(Published weekly - Sunday evening)  
(Book # 7)
43. Austin Wochenblatt. Austin, Texas  
November 6, 1880 - October 29, 1881  
(Published weekly - Sunday evening)  
(Book # 8)
44. Austin Wochenblatt. Austin, Texas  
November 5, 1881 - July 22, 1882  
(Published weekly - Sunday evening)  
(Book # 9)
45. Das Wochenblatt. Austin, Texas  
January 7, 1914 - December 13, 1916  
(Published weekly - Wednesday)  
(No book #)
46. Das Wochenblatt. Austin, Texas  
January 1, 1919 - December 28, 1922  
(Published weekly - Wednesday or Thursday)  
(No book #)
47. Das Wochenblatt. Austin, Texas  
January 4, 1923 - December 31, 1925  
(Published weekly - Thursday)  
(No book #)

The volumes listed above will be ready (in micro-film form) for research at the University of Houston Library's Special Collections beginning in the fall. Subject categorizing of the material will be an on going project.

# GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY 1991 MEETING

September 6, 7 & 8, in Corpus Christi, Texas

## REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 17

Pre-registration cost: \$36.00

Late registration: \$41.00

Registration includes: Registration, Friday reception, Heritage Park tour, Saturday night dinner-dance with orchestra, programs and entertainment.

Registration:	(by Aug. 17)	No. of persons _____	@ \$36.00	\$ _____
	(after Aug. 17)	No. of persons _____	@ \$41.00	\$ _____
Optional:	Bayfront Cruise	No. of persons _____	@ \$ 5.50	\$ _____
				Total \$ _____

List the name of each person as you want it on the name tag.:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

*A Registration Form to be removed and mailed is provided for your convenience inside the front cover of this JOURNAL.*

Make checks payable to: German-Texan Heritage Society

Mail to: Lewis R. Marquardt, Ex. Dir.  
German-Texan Heritage Society  
P.O. Box 262  
Manhaca, Tx 78652

DELTA AIRLINES are offering us special discount fares: 45% discount on DELTA's regular domestic round trip coach fares, or 5% discount on any special discounted round trip fares, like special promotional air fares.

Call DELTA at 1-800-221-1212, ask for a special meetings booking agent, refer to File Number H 12729.

Reservations have to be made ten (10) days in advance.

### HOTEL RESERVATION GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY Annual Meeting, September 6, 7, 8, 1991

A block of 75 rooms is being held at the special GTHS rate of \$54.00 per night plus tax for 1 to 4 persons occupancy at Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach, Corpus Christi. **Deadline Aug. 23.** Please reserve early. Mention German-Texan Heritage when reserving by telephone.

Mail hotel reservation to:

Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach  
1102 S. Shoreline  
Corpus Christi, TX. 78402

Telephone Nos.:  
800 / 465-4329  
512 / 883-5731

**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
1991 ANNUAL MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 1991  
Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach  
1102 S. Shoreline, Corpus Christi, Texas

**VOLKSFEST AM STRAND**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**Afternoon schedule:**

12:00-6:30

Registration at hotel

4:00-6:30

Reception in "Zak's" Room by the indoor pool overlooking Corpus Christi Bay. Welcome and greetings from officers and dignitaries

*Dinner on your own*

7:00-9:00

Bayfront starlight cruise or dog races. Other entertainment and dinner options in registration packet.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

**Morning schedule:**

8:00-9:00

Registration. Exhibits and sales

9:00-9:30

Opening address: Presidents of German-Texan Heritage Society & German Society of the Coastal Bend. Speeches by German Consul General Peter Maier-Oswald, Houston; Honorary German Consul Eric Wendl, Corpus Christi, and the mayor of Corpus Christi.

9:30-10:15

Dr. Peter Gawenda, history professor at University of Texas Pan American: German Immigrants to Mexico

*Morning Break*

10:30-11:15

Keith Guthrie: Texas Forgotten Ports & South Texas Immigrants

11:15-12:00

Dr. Joe B. Frantz, history professor at Corpus Christi State University: Felix von Blucher, His Family and The von Blucher Institute at CCSU.

*Lunch on your own*

**Afternoon Schedule:**

1:30-2:15

Michael Meier: A German's View of Working in Texas;  
Dan Lindley: An American's View of Working in Germany. Both men, a chemist and a chemical engineer, are working at Hoescht-Celanese Corp. in Corpus Christi.

2:15-2:55

Tony Amos, senior researcher at University of Texas Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas: "Am Strand" (On the Beach), A Look at Beach Ecology.

3:00-3:30

History of a German Settlement, Violet, Texas

*Afternoon Break*

3:45-4:15

Bruce Cheeseman, King Ranch archivist: The King Ranch and the Kleberg Family

4:15-6:00

Tour of Heritage Park and German songs and sing-along with Dr. Gunter Mende and his wife, Marlis, at the reception at the Multicultural Center in Heritage Park. Bus will go back and forth from Hotel to Heritage Park so all can join later.

**SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7**

7:00-Midnite

Dinner and dancing featuring a German orchestra with traditional music and all of those songs you love to dance to. During intermissions a fashion show of colorful Fritzkitel Dirndls will be modeled by Coastal Bend German Society members. Lively entertainment will also be provided by the Corpus Christi Cloggers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Morning Schedule:

- 9:00-9:30 Non-denominational church services: Rev. Larsen of Corpus Christi, a retired Lutheran minister.
- 9:30-10:00 German Society: East Germany Today and Reflections of the Reunification.
- 10:00-10:30 **Jane Woellhof:** History of the Dirndl
- 10:45-11:15 **Edna Brown:** An Easy Way to Learn the German Language
- 11:15-12:15 German-Texan Heritage Society Business Meeting

*Morning Break*

Convention Closed

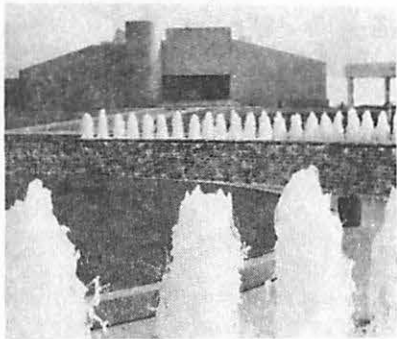
See Vol. 13:1, pages 8 and 9 for pre- and post-convention entertainment and program notes.

## HISTORICAL SIGHT

**King Ranch** Ranch gate located west of Kingsville on Highway 141. Information available at the Kingsville Visitor Center, 101 N. 3rd St. in Kingsville, 512-592-8516. Founded in 1853 by Capt. Richard King, the King Ranch sprawls over 825,000 acres, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. The 12-mile long Ranch Loop Road gives a glimpse of the history of the ranch and a wide variety of native wildlife. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

## MUSEUMS

**Art Museum of South Texas** Located at 1902 N. Shoreline, 884-3844. Summer Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-6 p.m. Located in the Bayfront Arts and Science Park, the Museum features changing exhibits, lectures, tours and educational programs throughout its three levels. Designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson, the Museum is a dramatic architectural statement. Map F-10.



**Corpus Christi Museum** Located at 1900 N. Chaparral, 78401, in the Bayfront Arts and Science Park, 883-2862. Summer Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-6 p.m. Young and old alike will enjoy a stroll through this natural history museum. The Museum chronicles the evolution of naval air training and pioneer life and features informative exhibits of native wildlife and marine life. A major expansion will house shipwreck artifacts from a Spanish galleon. An art gallery with changing exhibits, a touch and feel exhibit and small animals on display enhance the excitement at the Museum. Map F-10.

## HERITAGE PARK

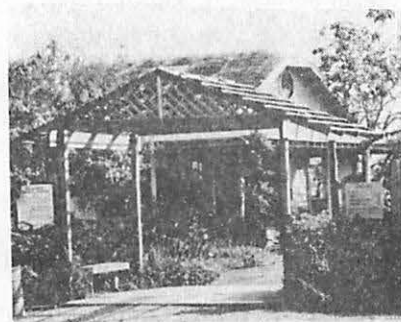
**Heritage Park** Bordered by N. Chaparral and Mesquite streets. The pride our city feels for our broad ethnic cultural history is best reflected in the lovingly restored houses of Heritage Park. History buffs will love the charm and warmth of this haven for the cultural diversity in our community. More than mere showplaces, these houses are homes to various non-profit organizations. For information, 883-0639. Map F-10.

**Gugenheim House** Circa 1905, was built by oil investor Simon Gugenheim. Restored by Campfire, Inc. the house serves as their office. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Multicultural Center** At 1521 N. Chaparral, 78401, 512-883-0639. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed on holidays. Exhibition program of the Arts and Humanities related to the ethnic cultural community. Map F-10.

### Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens

Located South on S. Staples, Past Oso Creek, 993-9885. Though the Gardens exist in an early stage of construction, there is plenty to enjoy in this ethereal setting. The Mesquite trail, picnic area, wildflower trail and nearby lake provide visitors the opportunity to observe native birds in their natural habitat. Many species of local fauna are abundant. Summer Hours: Weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; weekends 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission charge. Map E-14.



CORPUS CHRISTI BOTANICAL GARDENS.

**Grande-Grossman House** Circa 1907, was built by early cantina owner, Benito Grande, and later purchased by the Grossman family. Donated to the city by the Grossman family, the two-story structure houses the LULAC National Education Service Center. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

**Litchenstein House** Circa 1905, houses the Creative Arts Center, a non-profit educational organization providing a wide variety of programs and classes in the visual and performing arts. The house was built by Julius Litchenstein, son of the founder of Litchenstein's Department Store and was restored by the Junior League of Corpus Christi. Hours: Mon.-Fri. noon-4 p.m.

## GALLERIES

**Weil Gallery** Center for the Arts. Corpus Christi State 6300 Ocean Drive, 78412, 512-991-6810 ext. 314. Hours: Mon.-Fri., call for times. Changing exhibits. Map H-13.

## SIGHTS

**Ocean Drive** Once you have driven down Ocean Drive, you will understand why it is considered to be one of the loveliest residential drives anywhere. Palatial homes with lush grounds line the drive which meanders along the bayfront.

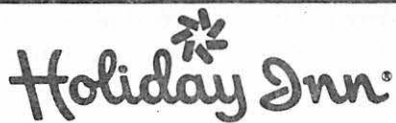
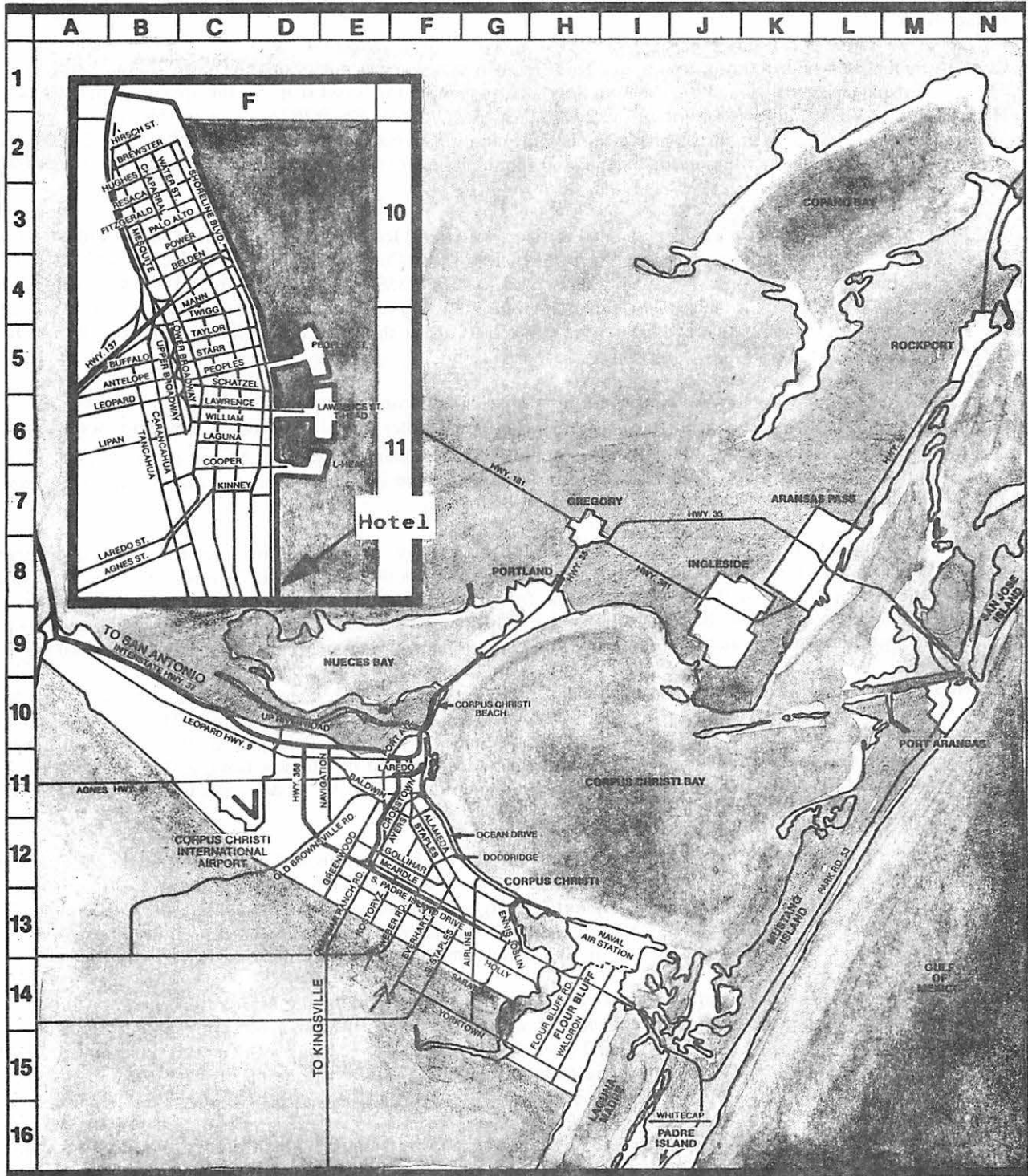
**Watergarden** Dedicated in 1988, the completion of the Watergarden marked the culmination of a dream for a beautiful attraction in the Bayfront Arts and Science Park. Natives and visitors alike will enjoy its peaceful serenity. Water flows from just below the Art Museum of South Texas to the circular pool of fountain jets. This truly magnificent sight may be enjoyed daily from 10 a.m. to midnight. Map F-10.

**Harbor Bridge** Christened in October of 1959, the Harbor Bridge towers 140 feet above the Corpus Christi ship channel and was the tallest bridge in Texas until the Neches River Bridge was completed in 1986. The spectacular view of the city and port is one which you will not want to miss. Map F-10.

**Port of Corpus Christi** The port of Corpus Christi is the deepest port on the Gulf of Mexico, authorized to 45 feet. For tour information, call 884-1693. Map E-10.



# CORPUS CHRISTI AREA



**Holiday Inn® Emerald Beach**  
 1102 South Shoreline Boulevard  
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
 512/883-5731

**Directions**

From Dallas/Austin and points north: I-35 South to San Antonio. Then I-37 South to Corpus Christi, exit Shoreline Drive. Turn right on Shoreline, hotel 3 miles on left.

From Houston: Highway 59 to Highway 77. Follow Highway 77 to I-37 South to Corpus Christi and exit Shoreline Drive. Turn right on Shoreline, hotel 3 miles on left.

From the Valley: Highway 77 to Highway 44. Follow Highway 44 to Highway 358. Exit North on I-37 to Shoreline Drive. Turn right on Shoreline, hotel 3 miles on left.

## OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS FILL SATURDAY'S PROGRAM

Dr. Peter Gawenda joins us from University of Texas Pan American University, Brownsville, to give us a glimpse of Germans in South Texas and Mexico. A professor of education and history and director of research and planning, Dr. Gawenda has made an intricate and detailed study of German Immigrants into Mexico--who they are, why they chose Mexico, their influence on that society--an intimate look into the lifestyles of our neighboring country to the south.

Keith Guthrie is well known throughout South Texas as an area newspaper publisher and valued Journalism teacher. The five newspapers he edited and published in South Texas covered the broad scope of the area, both old and new. He is better known to most as author of the book: *TEXAS FORGOTTEN PORTS*. It is in this capacity he will give us a look into the old sea ports which afforded entry to our German forefathers. He will tell us of Carlshafen, the forgotten port which later became Indianola, and the thousands of German immigrants who came through that port to settle South Texas.

Dr. Joe B. Frantz is an internationally acclaimed teacher, writer and lecturer. He holds BA, MA, and PhD degrees from UT. He currently serves as Turnbull Professor of History at Corpus Christi State University and serves on the Quincentennial Commission. His many books include *THE AMERICAN COWBOY: MYTH AND REALITY* and *6000 MILES OF FENCE*. He served as director of Oral History in President Johnson's administration and on the Historical Advisory committee at NASA. He will tell us about the von Blucher family, The von Blucher Institute and its work at CCSU.

On Saturday afternoon's agenda we will hear from two scientists from the local Hoescht-Celanese Corp. It is a unique experience that these two gentlemen shared. One, Dan Lindley, chemical engineer, moved to Germany and blended into the German way of life with Hoescht AG. His counterpart, Michael Meler, chemist, came to the United States and was introduced to the American way of life here in Corpus Christi. Their trials and tribulations, both humorous and adventurous, will be recounted for us.

Tony Amos brings to our program a truly unique view of this world we live in. He is senior research staff member at the UT Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. Tony Amos is one of the world's most active and dedicated "beachcomber"! He has roved the beaches from the frozen reaches of the Antarctic, to the glistening white sands of the tropics, to the frigid islands of the Arctic. He is Padre Island's most famous beachcomber, and will tell us of the ecology of the seashore and what faced our German forefathers when they chose to live on the coastal plains.

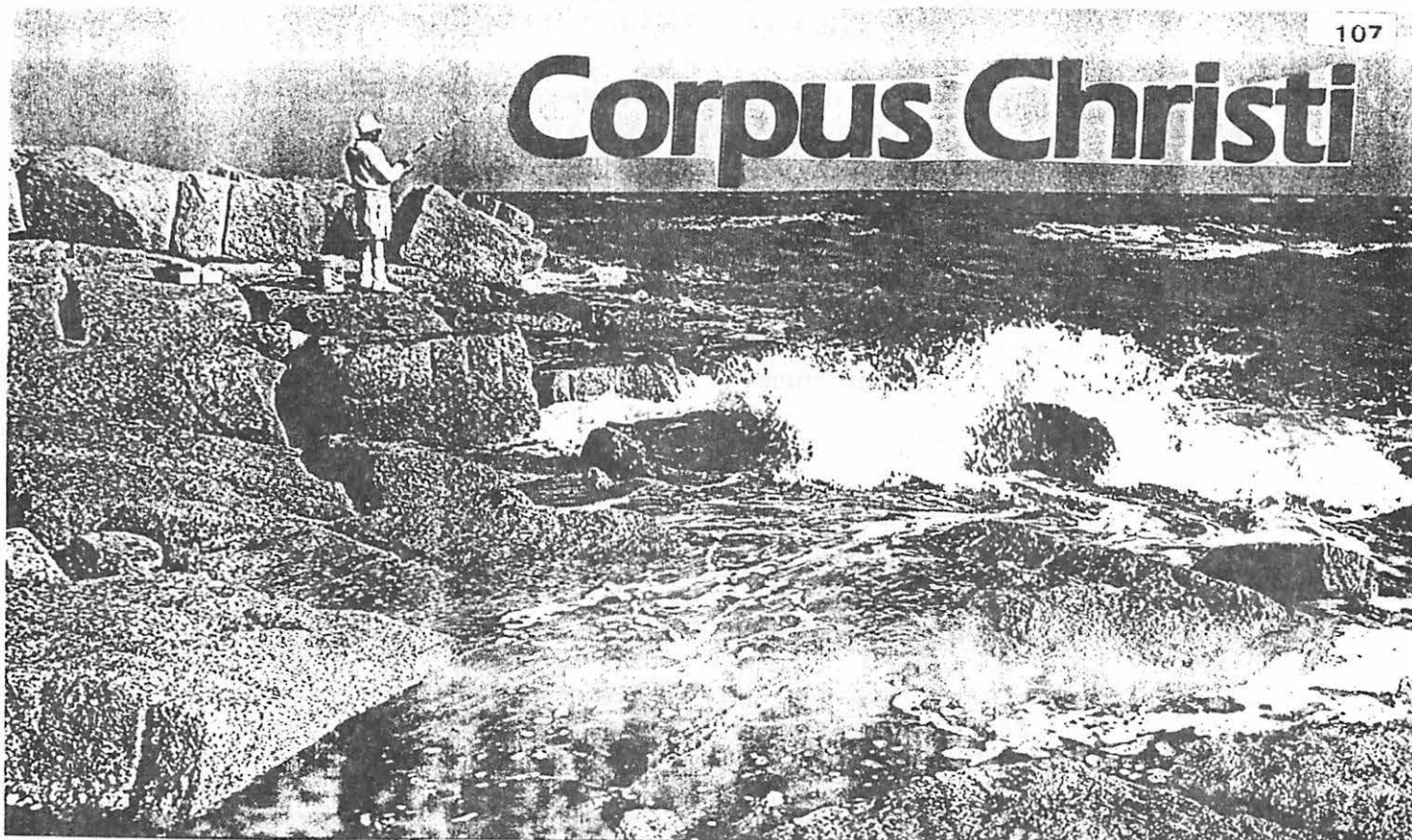
Violet, Texas, is a true Jewel of the Coastal Plains. It is German through and through, from its founding fathers' move from New Braunsfels to its settlement to its present day inhabitants. It is the oldest active German community in Nueces County. The Violet Historical Society will present a slide presentation about a distinctly German community from its founding until modern times. It's narrated by Theresa Gold, a G-T Society director whose relatives still live in Violet and whose husband grew up there. The Violet Museum will be open for tours, where all of the remembrances of the past are on display.

Anyone who hasn't heard of the King Ranch must be new to Texas, or to the world for that matter. Bruce Cheeseman, MA from Texas A&M and King Ranch archivist, will give us a closeup look at this international ranching "spread." We'll hear tales of how Robert Kleberg wooed and wed King's daughter and helped build the ranching empire. We'll learn about the famous Running W brand--was it really copied from unusual markings on rattlesnakes' tails or did King "round snakes up and brand 'em when they were little critters"?

Saturday afternoon will see us boarding a bus or trolley for a short trip along the bay to Heritage Park for a tour of restored early day homes. *The German Society of the Coastal Bend* will host a reception at the Multicultural Center (Galvan House). Dr. Gunter Mende and his wife, Marlis, will serenade us with German folksongs and lead us in a sing-along. An exhibit of German opera from The Goethe Institute will be on display. Refreshments will be served.

**SATURDAY NIGHT GALA EVENT:** Dance to the music of an outstanding German orchestra or sit back, enjoy the music and watch the entertainment. The evening will feature a buffet dinner followed by dancing. During intermission the Corpus Christi Cloggers will regale us with dance routines performed by their accomplished clog-dancing teams. Dirndls will be a highlight of the night when the colorful and varied costumes are modeled by ladies from the Coastal Bend Society.

Edna Brown, an accomplished language instructor, will introduce conventioners to an easy method of learning the German language. If you don't speak German, or are just a little rusty, the method of German study Mrs. Brown uses will put you back on course, and possibly lead you to further study of our native tongue. Mrs. Brown had the unique experience of being a choir director for a group of Germans in Beulah, North Dakota. Imagine--they were immigrants from, of all places, Russia!



Almost as if to coincide with the planned GTHS Annual Meeting scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 6, 7, & 8, 1991**, the March issue of **TEXAS HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE** featured Corpus Christi in their prestigious publication. Calling Corpus the Texas "**COASTAL JEWEL**", the magazine included a vast pictorial layout of the Gulf city. The following excerpts have been included in this **JOURNAL** to further entice you to experience the beauty and appeal of this city and not to miss the GTHS annual meeting and the opportunity to enjoy all the German hospitality waiting for you there.

City promoters have touted Corpus Christi as the "Sparkling City by the Sea" and the "Texas Riviera." Both seem apt.

**S**un and surf lovers have flocked to Corpus Christi for decades, but the city boasts attractions for everyone from the angler to the museum-goer. Tales of shipwrecks, Spanish treasure, and broken love lend the city romance. Blue water and clean sea air give Corpus Christi beauty. The Texas State Aquarium, restaurants, shopping opportunities, and a thriving port all provide dimension to the enticing seaside resort.

Corpus Christi's name comes from the bay on which it sits. Explorer Alonso Alvarez de Piñeda in 1519 discovered Corpus Christi Bay, and claimed the waters and the land

beyond for the Spanish crown.

Diego Ortiz Parrilla in 1766 named the bay for the feast day of the body of Christ.

The area's past comes alive at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History in the Bayfront Arts and Science Park. Near the entrance stands a partial replica of a 16th

Century Spanish *nao*, or sailing ship. Visitors can board the dimly lit deck and try navigating with an astrolabe.

#### *Texas Highways*

*Managing editor Jack Lowry and staff photographer Griff Smith think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the wealth of activities in the Corpus Christi area.*

**T**he Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi brings the Gulf of Mexico right to your fingertips. You can feel a hermit crab's tiny legs tickle the palm of your hand or watch a lemon shark zip toward you through the legs of an offshore oil platform.

The "Official Aquarium of Texas" occupies a 7.3-acre tract of land at the south end of Corpus Christi Beach. Exhibits that show 1,500 marine animals in 350,000 gallons of seawater represent every marine habitat along the Gulf Coast.

At the Texas State Aquarium, you catch a fish's-eye glimpse of the Gulf, its creatures, and their habitats. Along with memories of your journey to the deep, you'll take away a greater understanding of the oceans and their significance for us all.

—Barbara Dunn

# LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

(Estate Planning by Rodney C. Koenig)

(713) 651-5333

We are fortunate to have the many positive aspects of our German-Texan heritage. We can leave our mark on our community if we choose to do so. A number of creative ways exist for all of us to support German-Texan causes. The items below are designed to be a checklist for ways in which German-Texans can help in leaving their German mark.

1. Preserve old family books and letters. Collect and record old letters and stories of your family. Make tape recordings of your mother, father and grandparents.
2. Search out old diaries and account books. Have them rebound to keep or to be placed in local museums.
3. Prepare and record your family history, both in words and in pictures.
4. Help organize and publicize the German aspects of your family reunion. Be certain that someone publicizes this in all of the local newspapers. Identify the towns in Germany from whence your ancestors came.
5. Refurbish the gravemarker of an ancestor. Help clean an old German cemetery.
6. Join and be active in German-Texan singing groups. Organize a German singing group in your locality. Attend the State Saengerfest at Houston Saengerbund on May 19, 1991.
7. Submit articles on German-Texans, including your ancestors, to the Handbook of Texas, which is being republished currently.
8. Create a scholarship fund to support your favorite university which has a German department.
9. Create a German-Texan Heritage Society professorship at your favorite school in honor of your parents, grandparents or other ancestor.
10. Create a lectureship to encourage significant writing and an annual lecture on German-Texan heritage.
11. Underwrite publishing the history of various local German-Texan organizations throughout the state, such as the recent brief history of the Houston Saengerbund underwritten by Asta Grona.
12. Underwrite the maintenance of the German-Texan Society Headquarters.
13. Search out and find other important German-Texan buildings and work toward their preservation, such as the Dr. Kelly Stevens home in Austin, which was the old German school.
14. Provide funds to microfilm old German-Texan newspapers, such as the recent gift to the University of Houston by Miriam York.
15. Provide funds to assist in the support of exchange students to and from Germany.
16. Add your favorite German-Texan charity, university, local museum or similar organization as a beneficiary under your Will.
17. Add your favorite German charity as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy.

## B O O K R E V I E W S (ISB:#16)

Minetta Altgelt Goyne. A Life among the Texas Flora. Ferdinand Lindheimer's Letters to George Engelmann. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1991. \$44.50.

Minetta Goyne was my predecessor as book review editor for the Journal and she has certainly presented me with an outstanding book to review. The achievements of Ferdinand Lindheimer are awesome, "the Father of Texas Botany" are awesome. He classified 1400 species of Texas flora and was the first editor of the first major German-Texan newspaper, the Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung, founded in 1852. Rudolph Biesele called him "the political barometer of the Germans in Texas." He was heavily involved in the civic affairs of New Braunfels. Twenty plant species are named after him, including the Texas yellow star or Lindheimer's daisy. There is even a T-shirt for sale with the "Opuntia lindheimeri" imprinted on the front.

But it's Minetta's accomplishment that is really amazing. Deciphering Lindheimer's letters was a task somewhat comparable to deciphering the Rosetta Stone-- only the writing on that is easier to read. Lindheimer wrote in the old German script in any and all directions, from left to right to left and then over the first writing from bottom to top, sometimes superimposing sketches and writing on the flaps of the envelopes. Minetta includes a photograph of a letter which demonstrates these problems quite graphically. In addition, she was first working from photocopies of texts that were water-damaged and torn, but she persisted and the letters were worth her trouble. They are entertaining, lively and full of not only botanical information but shrewd observations and gossip about prominent pioneer Texans. The book is also excellently annotated and contains a first-rate bibliography-- all in all, a valuable and important scholarly work. It is also beautifully printed on excellent paper and well illustrated. It is expensive and I hope Texas A&M Press will publish it in paperback so we can all buy a copy!

Evelyn Oppenheimer. Gilbert Onderdonk: The Nurseryman of the Mission Valley, Pioneer Horticulturist. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1991.

We'll have to forgive the facts that Gilbert Onderdonk is not German but Dutch, and American-born at that. But he did initiate the major fruit-growing industry of South Texas in Victoria County and became so famous that he even shipped grape vines to France. He lived a colorful life as a Confederate soldier, correspondent for the Department of Agriculture, journalist and horticultural expert. Ms. Oppenheimer has published some of his letters from 1849 (when he was 20) to 1902 (he died in 1920), interspersed with narration to tie the letters together into a biography. The main part of the book consists of a reproduction of the 1888 Descriptive Catalogue of the Mission Valley Nurseries with engravings (very attractive indeed!) from the 1884-1885 edition. Even if you are not interested in the fruit industry in Texas, you will find the descriptions of viable varieties of plants for Texas, their care and promulgation, and the astute and well-written narrative interesting and helpful to the average gardener. I am ready to start my own orchard now, because Onderdonk's listings are so lush-- maybe "Onderdonk's Favorite"-- a peach he describes as "large; skin and flesh yellow; very juicy and sweet; the best combination of quality, appearance and productiveness"-- or the "Countess" which has white flesh and is "tender, melting and juicy"--at only \$.50 cents per tree.

Hanna B. Lewis

Sam Houston State University

# HISTORY

## German Emigration into Fort Bend County, Texas, with An Emphasis on the Needville Area (ISP:#1)

By Esther I. Beard  
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*(By invitation of the host, W. M. Von-Maszewski, the following paper was read before the Board of GTHS during its meeting at the George Memorial Library, Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas, on January 19, 1991, to demonstrate how one grass-root historian preserves the German heritage in Texas.)*

As far back as I can trace, my heritage on both my father's and my mother's sides of the family, is all German. My parents were born in Texas. Dad was born near Neudorf in the western part of Harris County, and my Mother was born near Gay Hill in Washington County. Neither family knew of the other, but on 1892 both sets of my grandparents bought farms several miles south of the community of Needville in Fort Bend County, where Dad and Mom each grew up, married, raised their family, and lived the rest of their lives.

I have memories of being raised in the town of Needville in a bi-lingual household; however, in the business world, my parents spoke English. We kids learned German by ear, understood most conversational German, but we spoke to our elders in English. My family spoke high German, and they never interchanged it with English. They either spoke German or English. My grandmother from East Prussia was a stickler for speaking correctly. She insisted that we use correct German grammar and that we did not mix German and English words in a sentence. I solved that by speaking only English to her, and she did not mind as long as I used correct grammar.

Regretfully, today my knowledge of the German language is only bits and pieces. One must use a language to retain it, and I have not used very much German since I married.

### PHASES OF GERMAN SETTLEMENT IN FORT BEND COUNTY

How, when, and why did the German immigrants come to Fort Bend County?

We know that the first ones came by horseback, ox-carts, wagons, and boats. By 1856 a railroad from Houston to Richmond was in operation. Following the Civil War the network of railroads provided the transportation.

This area was not on the main immigration routes to the supposed lands of the Verein up in the present New Braunfels and Fredericksburg area. The routes from Galveston and from Indianola by-passed Fort Bend County. In the 1840's and 1850's the Fort Bend County prairie land was public domain, used by the early settlers for grazing.

Numerous Germans stopped in Harris County, which was getting a good start in the 1850's and 1860's. This included one set of my ancestors. Right after the Civil War, one of my great-great grandmothers, a widow, and her children from near Dresden, Germany, had their ship's passage paid by a Mr. Wunsche, a German who had already settled in Spring, Texas, just north of Houston in Harris County. She worked for Mr. Wusche for two years, and then having repaid her debt, she re-married and settled in west Harris County where a lot of other Germans had already settled. One of her grand-daughters became my grandmother, who moved to Fort Bend County in 1892.

The question of why Germans came to Fort Bend County can be answered in two words: Economic Reasons.

The things I am going to relate come from my having heard about them as a child, growing up in a German household, and from my research in the County Records.

The actual settlement of Germans into Fort Bend County can be divided into several time frames:

### EARLY TEXAS

During the days of colonization by Stephen F. Austin, the names of the people migrating to Fort Bend County were predominantly Anglo-Saxon. They received their Mexican Land Grants along the main rivers and creeks of the county, and most of them lived on their land.

Richmond was the first settlement, and after the Texas Revolution, it became the county seat. As a result, Richmond became the commercial hub of the county at the time.

The 1850 Fort Bend County Census has a few names that were probably German. But by 1860, the Census contained a good number of names that were unmistakably German, such as: Ulrich, Schumucker, Schultz, Kuntz, Becker, Wessendorff, Schneider, Vogel, Dettmer, and others.

Noticeable about these Germans is that they were young and most were craftsmen living in the town of Richmond. They were carpenters, blacksmiths, brickmasons, merchants and clerks, shoe makers, music teachers, tailors, brewers, wheelwrights, butchers, bakers, boarding house masters. Only a few of the German names on the 1860 Census were listed as farmers or laborers — mainly railroad workers.

It is interesting to note that they represented many crafts; however, they all still lived in or near Richmond or along the main waterways of the county.

#### GERMAN EMIGRATION COMPANY LAND CERTIFICATES

The original land ownership maps of Fort Bend County reveal that several Certificates for land were issued in this county by the State to the German Emigration Company in 1855; however, these certificates were not located until 1875. This company was the name given to the old Verein that was supposed to have located its lands anywhere in the Fisher-Miller Grant where unclaimed land lay. But by the time the German Emigration Company decided to locate these certificates, the lands within the Fisher-Miller Grant had all been located. The holders of these Certificates were then allowed to locate the certificates on the public domain in various parts of the state.

I would like to point out that these particular certificates were property of the German Emigration Company itself and not of the individual German settlers. As a result, the Company assigned, sold these Certificates to absentee investors in whose names the State Patents or Titles were issued.

In other words, no German settlers came to the county as a result of these Certificates.

These lands today are located in what eventually became the Duval Sulphur Field near Orchard and some were in the southwestern part of the county.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL LANDS

Four leagues of good prairie land between the Brazos River and the San Bernard River were surveyed off and set aside in Fort Bend County as early as 1847-1849 for school purposes (Commissioners' Court Minutes, Fort Bend County, Texas, Vol. A, pp. 43; 57). This land belonged to the State and the County and was not open to settlement at the time; however, in 1887 some.

Approved on April 1, 1887, the State Legislature passed an act to provide for the sale of all lands set apart for the benefit of the Public Free Schools, and this included the Fort Bend County prairie surveys. This was not unique to Fort Bend County. Other counties had Public School Lands also; however, our lands were right here in the county. I am told that to this day Washington County still has some Public School Lands around San Angelo in west Texas.

Records show that the earliest purchases of the Public School Lands in Fort Bend County were made the following year in 1888; however, most of the 1888 purchases were cancelled for failure to pay interest or for non-settlement of the land.

During the 1890's and the early 1900's the sale of the Public School Lands in this county resulted in a large migration of families into the county. As the Public School Lands were small surveys (sections) suitable for individual families, people came to build homes and to farm on the newly opened prairie land. Those, who could not afford to buy, farmed as sharecroppers for their friends or relatives.

Who were these people who rushed to Fort Bend County? From where did they come? What encouraged them to migrate to Fort Bend County? Even though Czechs, Poles, and Americans were in the group, a tremendous German migration took place. They came from numerous counties, but particularly from Washington, Fayette, and Austin Counties. Some even came from New Braunfels and other parts of the state. Also, settlers from the mid-west appeared as early as 1891.

In interviews with many, many of the descendants of this Germanic move, my contacts all told me that their families came here because they could not make a living on the sand hills of Washington County, or whichever county had been home.

If you will recall, I told you at the beginning that my grandparents moved here from Washington and Harris Counties. I have visited the old homeplaces in both these counties, and it is still evident that those sand hills did not support a growing family. No wonder the people came to where they could get good farm land.

If they could not pay cash, the State sold the land on a 40 year pay-out @ 5%. The land was sold at \$2-3 an acre, depending on its classification of dry agricultural land or watershed agricultural land.

The State engaged several railroad companies to survey, with their surveyors, and to lay off this land into sections, and each survey to this day is still known by the railroad that surveyed it.

The people could buy this Public School Land direct from the State Land Commissioner, but after several years land agents got in on the sales.

#### BEGINNING OF NEEDVILLE

The community of Needville was started by a German named August Schendel who had migrated from Washington County. In 1892 he bought 1/4 of Section 26, H.&T.C.R.R. (Houston & Texas Central Railroad) Survey, established a general store, then a cotton gin, and by 1894 he was Needville's first post master. The community became the trade center for the area. Six years after his arrival, he set aside 30 acres of his original purchase, had it surveyed, platted, and began selling town lots. Records show that he had four buyers in 1899. In February, 1900, he filed, in the County Deed Records, a "Map of the Original Townsite of Needville."

My research shows that my grandfather, John A. Schmidt, was the first buyer after Schendel recorded his Townsite. He paid \$25.00 for one lot. Restrictions included "no liquor, no gambling, and no houses of immoral purposes, or the land and improvements would be forfeited to the Free White School of Needville."

The German Baptist Church even bought four lots in 1901 after the 1900 Hurricane had destroyed its church next to its cemetery west of Needville.

Schendel revoked the restrictions on some previous sales and did not include them in his future sales. In 1902 my Grandpa Schmidt bought four more lots, but his family did not move to town until the 1920's when Schendel opened a new addition. Grandpa had a blacksmith shop in the Original Townsite but sold it after a few years.

In 1902 August Schendel gave land for a church and in 1905 gave a lot in his town for the Needville Public School, thereby securing a school within the townsite.

#### FORT BEND COUNTY MAP SHOWING LARGE GERMAN SETTLEMENT – 1897

We have an 1897 Map of Fort Bend County showing all the old original Mexican Land Grants and the sections of the Public Free School Lands. An agent in Richmond was responsible for circulating this particular map.

Of interest to our topic is the area around the town of Needville. The map has in bold letters, "LARGE GERMAN SETTLEMENT." This is 1897, a year or two before Schendel started selling his town lots.

#### MENNONITE COLONY - mid-1890's to about 1910

This 1897 Map also shows the location of the "Lands of Most Prosperous Mennonite Colonies." Not connected with the Public Free School Lands, this Mennonite Colony was begun about the same time. The Mennonites purchased the original Barnabas Wickson Mexican Land Grant on Big Creek and just east of the present community of Fairchild which is only a few miles from Needville. These Mennonites were Germans from the mid-west, Kansas and Nebraska, and most of the elders had originally immigrated from Russia.

It seems that they were encouraged to come here by land agents who attracted them by promoting the mild climate and weather; however, the industrious Mennonite people never really had a chance. After several years in a row of crop failure due to severe flooding, the 1900 Hurricane in September, just when the crops were ready for harvest, cut a swath through Fort Bend County with the Mennonite Colony right in its path.

After the Hurricane, the devastated Mennonites began returning to the northern states as they were unable to continue here any longer. Their homes and crops had been destroyed, and some lives had been lost in the Hurricane. Today a tiny cemetery in the Fairchild area has a marker placed by family members about 30 years ago, showing the burial spot of some of the 1900 Hurricane victims.

Many of the farms were eventually sold at Sheriff's Auction, and the few families who managed to maintain their lands had sold by 1910-1915.

Last year in our research, we accidentally came across a Mrs. Henry Bergen who still lives in Needville. She told that her husband was one of the young Mennonite boys who remained here; however, as he is no longer living, we have not been able to find out just how many may have remained and married into the other German families around Needville.

It is ironic, but the next group of settlers, who purchased the Mennonite farms, saw



nature bless them with good crops, health and wealth. Today the lands of the old Mennonite Colony are among the most productive agricultural lands in Fort Bend County.

#### THE GERMAN-AMERICAN LAND COMPANY, 1911-1913

A company, incorporated under the Laws of Texas in 1913, called the German-American Land Company, operated in the county from 1911-1913 with an agent by the name of G. M. Henderson of Harris County, Texas. Very little has been found in regard to this group, but we do know from the County Deed Records that Henderson, who was connected to the German-American Land Company, in 1911 purchased from an Alex A. Sharp, of Kansas, over 7,000 acres of land in the county. Today the heart of this 7,000 acres is in the Brazos Bend State Park in the southern part of the county.

Several years ago while researching another topic, I saw a plat of this property and some of it had actually been laid off in lots. Today, these lots would have been in or near the area known as Pilant Lake in the State Park. But these lots did not sell – we presume that the German-American Land Company was a real estate scheme to try to bring in German settlers, none of which ever appeared.

The German-American Land Company was financed by the Security Trust Company of Harris County, Texas, and was foreclosed on two years later, in 1913, for failure to meet its obligations.

#### THE DAKOTA MIGRATION, 1900 -

Another segment of Fort Bend County's German immigration was made up of farmers from North and South Dakota. Some were originally from Germany and others from White Russia. As they did not like the severe Dakota winters, they headed for Texas and settled in southern Fort Bend County below Needville and in Brazoria County near Damon.

Most came in the early 1900's. A number of their descendants are still in the area, and I personally know some of them. I remember that my parents were close friends with some of these Dakota Germans, such as the Fred Schladts, the Fritz Blakowsky family, the Bertrams, and the Wrucks.

I have to pass on a touching human interest story which was told to me by a granddaughter of one of the families in this story. Two families who were close friends left Southern Russia for America in the very early 1890's. They parted ways in New York with the Henry Wruck family going to the Dakotas while the John George Fink continued by boat to Galveston and then on to Fort Bend County. The Finks eventually settled in the Needville area. But about 1920 the Finks were living south of Rosenberg, where the County Fairgrounds is now located. One evening a wagon train on its way to Damon in Brazoria County stopped at the Fink residence to rest for the night. And who was this wagon train family? They were none other than the Fink's old friends, the Wrucks who were migrating from the Dakotas to this area!

#### GERMAN LIFE IN AND AROUND NEEDVILLE

##### 1. Churches

In spite of the "wild" element that was part of the settlement of a new area, each community of any size in the county had its churches.

Needville had its share of saloons, but it also had a large representation of the various religious denominations.

Before 1900, at least four different church groups had been formed: the German Methodist, the German Baptist, the German Emmanuel Evangelical Congregation, and the German Lutheran Church between Needville and Beasley.

By 1912 the Needville Catholic Church was built; however, its members were Czechs. And it was not until 1924 that the Presbyterians officially organized with members of mainly Czech descent.

I have several documents, a Baptismal and a Marriage Certificate, from the German Dreieinigkeits (Trinity) Church (the Lutheran Church between Needville and Beasley and of which my Grandpa Schmidt was a Trustee. This church moved to Rosenberg in 1950.)

##### 2. Public Schools in the Needville Area

Public schools in the Needville area sprang up as the population increased. As the school system was under the control of the County Commissioners Court and a County Superintendent, English was the official language used in the schools.

In my research I found several interesting facts. One of the rural schools started south of Needville in 1916 was named the Kaiser School, but due to anti-German sentiment during World War I, the school was renamed the Woodrow Wilson School in honor of our President at the time.

Another interesting school incident that I came across dealt with the book Witter's German-English Primer and New First German Reader for Public Schools, first published in Missouri about 1881. A Needville lady, whom I have known all my life is 84 years old. She told me that in 1916, when she was eight years old and in the 2nd grade in Needville, her teacher, Miss Augusta Engeling, a young teacher of German descent, was teaching her pupils to read and write German. This "Lesebuch" was their text. When the authorities found out about this "anti-American" behavior during WWI, the children were ordered to throw their German readers in the pot-bellied stove in the school room to be burned. For some reason, my friend managed to save her book from the fire, and to this day she has it on her bookshelf. The ironic part of the story is that my friend was Czech whose parents spoke both Czech and German, and she wanted to learn the language also, at the early age of eight!

### 3. Lodges and Clubs

a. Still active in Needville is Lodge #153 of the Sons of Herman which was started in Needville in 1896. Strictly limited to Germans at first, now any one can be a member.

b. A Needville Gun Club existed for a long time. August Schendel, the founder of Needville, sold the Club four acres out of a piece of land that he owned adjacent to his Townsite. In 1910 this Club was responsible for building the Schützen Vereins Hall, also remembered by many as the famous Needville Round Hall, a huge round dance hall which lasted until after World War II when the American Legion bought the property and erected a new hall.

c. Needville also boasted a Bowling Club which was begun about the same time as the Gun Club and whose membership overlapped with each other. They had a long building located about a mile due east of Needville. Last summer I visited with the last Manager of the Bowling Club. Now 83 years old, he said the building was destroyed by the 1932 Hurricane and was never rebuilt.

d. Of course, most rural folks belonged to Beef Clubs, and the Needville area had a good number of them. None exist today.

### CONCLUSION

I hope that I have conveyed to a bit about how the German migration into our county took place. Needville was not the only Germanic community, there were a few others such as Cottonwood, Beasley, Orchard, Modena, Guy, Fairchild -- all had numerous German settlers.

The population of Needville within the city limits today is about 1500. When I was a child, the population was about 500. This is not a fast rate of growth; but Needville serves a large rural area and many people today prefer to live in the country even though they work elsewhere.

Though the city of Needville has some industry, along with the usual stores, Needville could be considered a bed-room community -- a good place to raise a family. The schools are very good -- the kids rated higher than the State average on the TAAS tests last year (1990).

Incorporated since 1944 (my Dad was on the first city council), Needville is a very homogeneous town. The clannish characteristic that I knew as a child is no longer evident.

In hopes of preserving the community's historical background a group of citizens organized a historical society several years ago, and now are busy working on collecting things for their museum building.

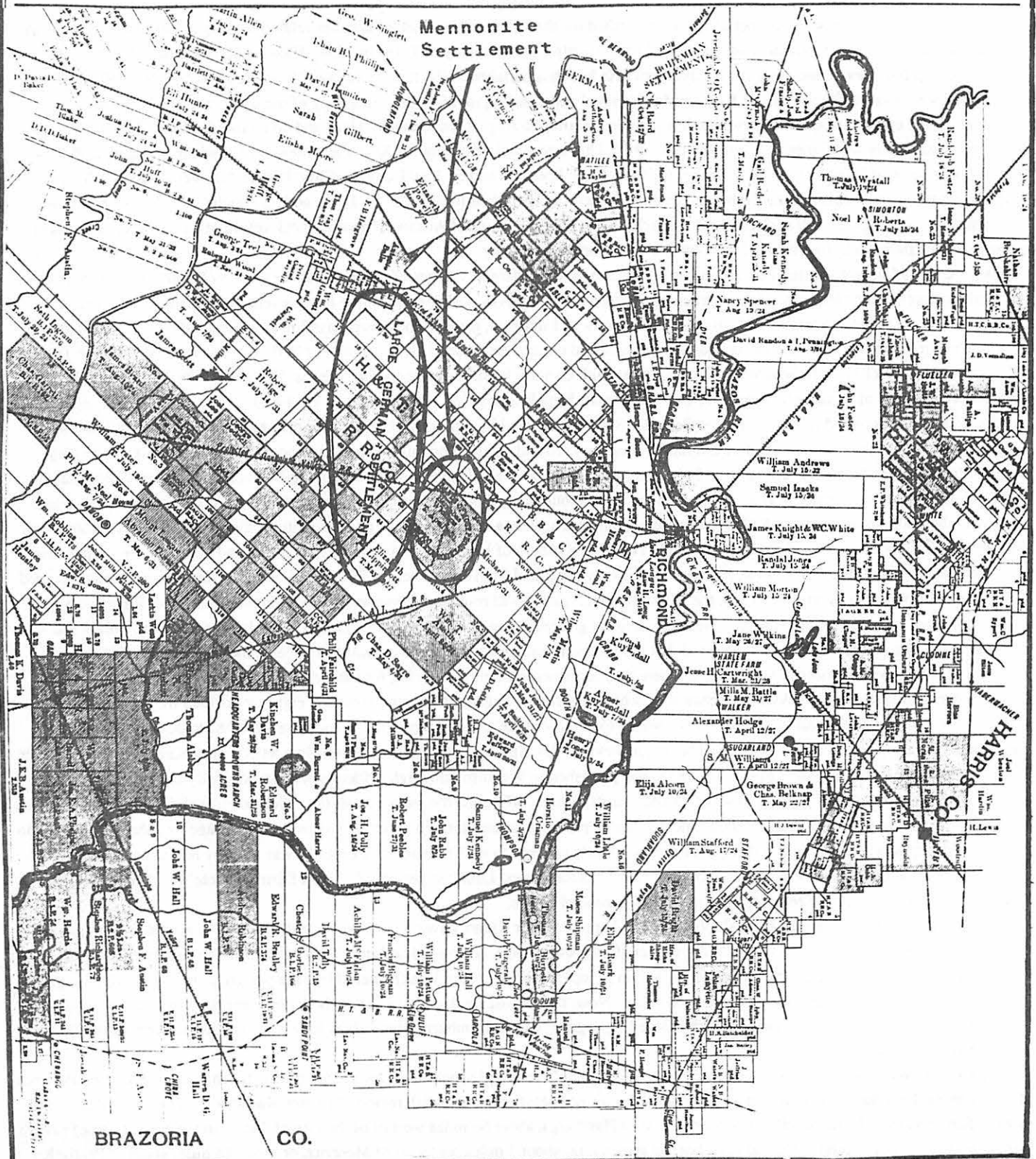
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

It is time to collect dates for public German Heritage Events in Texas for 1992. We want to expand the list that appeared in the JOURNAL last year. Attractions and activities sponsored by towns, communities and organizations with German related events are needed. (Family reunions and anniversary listings are limited to special dates as 75th or 100th.)

The deadline for this information is October 10 1991. Contact local Chamber of Commerces, and clubs or organizations for information in you area, then forward the dates to JOURNAL "Events Editor" P O box 218, Industry TX 78944. Thanks for your help!

# MAP OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

SCALE—4000 VARAS TO THE INCH.



August Haak's Diary of his Voyage to Texas in 1854 on the Ben Nevis, as Translated by Mrs. Edith Zeiske  
(ISB:#26)

Joseph Wilson with the help of Arthur Wammel  
Dept. of German & Slavic, Rice Univ., Houston, Texas 77051

In February of 1989, Arthur Wammel of Houston notified me that his family and other families related to August Haak had copies of an English translation of a diary which Haak had kept during his trip from Germany to Texas in 1854. Haak had crossed the Atlantic on the English sailship Ben Nevis, departing from Liverpool. He had thus partaken of the famous voyage of the group of over 500 Wendish-German Lutherans under Pastor Johann Kilian. Mr. Wammel generously provided me with a copy of the diary translation and of genealogical and other historical materials he has gathered relating to August Haak and the Haak and Wammel families. These materials fit together beautifully with other new information which I have accumulated, from the Kilian archives and elsewhere, relating to the voyage and to August Haak. I am also indebted to Pastor Paul Hartfield and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin, Texas, under whose auspices I have been working in the Serbin archives, to Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis and its director, Dr. August Suelflow, where many of the original Kilian documents are archived, to Dr. Ruth Haak of Austin for genealogical information on the Haaks, and to my wife, the former Adele Herbrich (of the Ben Nevis Herbrigs) for typing.

Pastor Kilian's Lutheran emigration group had come from many different villages of the Wendish area north of Bautzen, in what is now the southern part of East Germany. After a tragic voyage on the Ben Nevis, during which more than seventy people died, they finally reached Galveston in December of 1854. Because of poverty and sickness, some of the group stayed in Houston, and others settled among the Germans in the Industry area. The nuclear group continued on and established the settlement of Serbin. The major book on the Texas Wends is George Nielsen's 'In Search of a Home: Nineteenth Century Wendish Immigration' (Texas A&M Pr., 1989); also useful is Anne Blasig's 'The Wends of Texas' (Brownsville, Tx.: Springman-King Printing Co., 1981; reprint of 1954 ed.).

The Wends had departed from Bautzen on Sept. 4, 1854, and traveled by rail to Hamburg, where they took a steamer to Hull (or the neighboring Grimsby) on the east coast of England. Then they crossed England by rail to reach Liverpool on the west coast, where they were to board the Ben Nevis and embark for Galveston. A few people were delayed a week in leaving Bautzen; they traveled separately to Hamburg, took the next steamer to Hull, and joined the main group in Liverpool. Pastor Kilian, himself, and his family were also unable to leave with the main group, because Kilian had to defend himself against a charge of inciting to emigration. Fortunately, he was able to clear himself within a few days; he and his family went to Harburg, a suburb of Hamburg, arriving after the group had departed. Hoping to save time, the Kilians went through Belgium, became harrowingly separated from each other for 24 hours, found each other again, and proceeded via Dover and London to Liverpool. Thus, the Wendish congregation was re-united; however, the reunion was ill-starred: there was a cholera epidemic in Liverpool and the Ben Nevis passengers got caught up in it. Many were sick and a number died, and the sailing had to be delayed. After two weeks, they finally departed, but the epidemic among the passengers continued to be so bad that the captain (Herron) anchored in the harbor of Queenstown, Ireland, where they remained quarantined, caring for the sick and attempting to disinfect the Ben Nevis. After three and a half weeks in Queenstown harbor, they finally began the Atlantic crossing; eight weeks later they landed at Galveston. We do not know nearly as much as we would like to about the arduous trip of the Wends; we have had to put together bits and pieces of information from various sources. The major previous description of the trip is contained in a letter Pastor Kilian wrote to Teacher Dutschmann in Weigersdorf, dated March 19, 1855, and published in Wendish (although evidently written originally in German) in the Wendish Newspaper Serbske Nowiny in several installments in June, 1855, and the weeks thereafter; Nielsen utilized the letter, but it has not yet been published in its entirety. The second most valuable previous description is a memoir written in his old age by Johann Teinert, who had made the trip as a thirteen-year old boy; this report, usually referred to as 'Ein Brief' ['A Letter'], was used by Nielsen and others. Although it was published, in the original German, in the Missouri Synod Lutheran periodical 'Texas Distrikts-Bote' in 1929, its details, like those of the Kilian report, have remained unknown to the general public.

A few years ago, I discovered a brief shipboard diary kept by Pastor Kilian, covering one week of the sailing; it is a precious fragment, the first account to be found which was actually written during the voyage, and by Kilian himself (first published in this Journal, v. 5 (1983), no. 2). I also recently discovered the names of the Kilian group (including that of Haak) entered into the passenger records at Hamburg, so that a number of gaps in our knowledge have been filled. Now, the August Haak diary opens a whole new panorama, with a day-by-day account of the entire Ben Nevis voyage, plus the preceding segments from Hamburg, where Haak joined the few late-comers of the Wendish group, to Hull to Liverpool.

August Haak was not a Wend, nor was he a member of Kilian's group. He came from the village of Prit(t)isch, which was in the Province of Posen, in the Kingdom of Prussia, an area about 100 miles northeast of the Wendish region. Prittisch was about 7 miles east of the small town of Schwerin (not the larger city of Schwerin east of Hamburg), about 60 miles west of the city of Posen, in the central part of eastern Germany (now part of Poland). He had been born at Bauchwitz, about 7 miles southeast of Meseritz, or about 14 miles south of Prittisch. The Polish names these places now have are: Prittisch: Przytoczna; Bauchwitz: Bukowiec; Schwerin: Skwierzyna; Meseritz: Miedzyrzecz; Posen: Poznan. August Haak was born Aug. 28, 1830; he was, consequently, just 24 years old when he left for America. There happened

to be room on the Ben Nevis for a dozen or so more passengers, besides the Wends, and Haak was one of them. His passage had been arranged by the same agency, V. L. Meyer of Hamburg, which was taking care of the Wendish group. Coming from a different area, his route was different from that of the Wends until he reached Hamburg, where he joined them. As his diary informs us, he arrived in Hamburg two days after the main Wendish group had departed on a steamer for Hull (Grimsby), but he found the small group of Wends who also had arrived late. He and they took the next steamer for Hull, and a few days later joined the main group in Liverpool. Haak evidently identified informally with the Wendish group throughout the journey. As we see in his diary, he took part in their church services (the German ones, no doubt), and speaks of Kilian as 'our pastor'. However, after reaching Texas, he had no more connections with Kilian or the group (his father, Johann Gottlieb Haak, did later live at Serbin and became a member of Kilian's church; he and his wife and another son had come to Texas a few years after August). August Haak settled at Bellville and lived the rest of his life there, except for three years service in the Confederate Army. He continued the trade of shoemaker that he had learned in Germany until he later became a merchant. He married Emilie Wamel in 1857 and had 8 children; he died in 1901.

The version of the diary that Arthur Wammel made known to me is a photocopy of a handwritten English translation, made by Mrs. Edith Zeiske of Bellville from the German handwritten original. Mrs. Zeiske deserves credit for having made a serviceable translation for the family, but since she was not otherwise acquainted with the events and places mentioned, the translation naturally suffers from a number of flaws. Mr. Wammel and I have been trying for the last two years to find the German original or a photocopy of it, but without success so far, although we have reason to hope that it will still be found. I have waited until now with a publication about the diary because I wanted to work with the German original; however, since it seems that it may yet be another year or longer before the original is found, I have decided to publish Mrs. Zeiske's translation in the interim, adding corrections and notes.

The following is Mrs. Zeiske's translation, with my notes in brackets. I have not changed Mrs. Zeiske's spellings or punctuation, nor her various question marks and dashes, indicating something illegible or not understood. Information on people who died is taken from Pastor Kilian's death and baptismal records. In a few cases, the death actually occurred the day before the date given by Haak.

#### *Diary of August Haak Describing his Voyage 1854*

[The first part of Haak's trip was via a different route from that of the Wendish group, since he was coming from a different area. In Hamburg he joined the late-comers of the Wends, and from there on, the route was the same as the main body of the Wends had taken. Who his companions at first were, we do not know. They were not his family; they (his parents and brother) came a few years later.]

*Departure from Rittsick* [evidently Prit(t)isch, see above] *on September 8 at 1 A.M. On the first day we drove or rode as far as Drossen* [presumably Drossen, (now Polish Osno) about fifteen miles northeast of Frankfurt on the Oder, east of Berlin]. *On the second day from Drossen* [Drossen] *to Frankfort* [Frankfurt on the Oder] *where we arrived at 10 A.M.;* [from Frankfort to Muenchenberg [Muencheberg, thirty miles east of Berlin]; and arrived Sunday afternoon at 4 in Berlin. [Note by Mrs. Zeiske:] *He did not state whether he traveled by coach or train* [presumably by coach; there was no rail line for this route at the time, as there was, however for the segment from Berlin to Hamburg]. *On Monday I had several things to bring in Berlin, and missed the early train, and had to take the afternoon train at 6 P.M., which arrived in Wittenbergen* [Wittenberge] *where I stayed overnight, and got up at 5 and came to Hamburg at 10 [am.], Tuesday, with other immigrants that went to New York. Here in the station were many agents, that took charge of the immigrants. But I did not pass as immigrant and took my card* [ticket] *which agent Berger* [evidently the A. W. Berger who was Meyer's agent in Berlin and who had made out the ticket for the Kilian family, see picture in Blasig] *had given me, agents wanted to ? take me along but I did not find any of my company* [the Kilian group]. *Later I found the agent Berger and two families* [the families of August Groeschel and Andreas Miertschin, which had arrived in Hamburg after the main group had left] *from my company the others had gone ahead. I paid thirty dollars* [probably the balance due on his ticket, allowing for the down-payment he had made before leaving home; according to a letter from Seydler and others, each adult in the Kilian group paid 55 Thalers (roughly equivalent to dollars)].

*Wednesday September 13, 1854 we received our passes* [passports?]. *For our eats we had to go back to our place of lodging until the ship was ready to start. In the afternoon at 5 we took a boat or the Steam ship with which we went to Hull* [from the Hamburg passenger lists we learn that the steamer was the Hammonia Wendt]. *It did not start until 7 with many immigrants. Our lunch consisted of bread, butter, cheese, and a bottle of wine. Until Liverpool fine weather.*

*On Thursday 14, at 6 A.M. embarked. She had stopped when we left the Elbe* [evidently meaning the steamer had left the harbor at 7pm., proceeded out to the mouth of the Elbe River, anchored for the night, and started out into the North Sea at 6 the next morning]. *High winds, the first day. Many were seasick, and we laughed at them until we became sick ourselves. Second night high winds, so that the dishes were thrown around, as if we were sitting in a swing.*

*Friday the 15th the wind kept on blowing until noon. Everybody was sick in the storage* [evidently the ship's 'hold', where most of the passengers were housed] *and there was no order at all. Some had taken their mattresses out. I was up early and on deck because I could not stand the foul air.*

*Saturday the 16th we arrived in Hull but had to stay out in the sea for a long time then we sailed through several canals those that*

stayed in Hull [Grimsby?] or wanted to go to London got out of the Ship. [It is unclear here and from the Kilian and Teinert reports as to whether they disembarked at Hull, as said here and by Teinert, or in nearby Grimsby, as Kilian says. Haak's description would seem to indicate that the steamer stopped first at Grimsby, which is on the south bank of the river and farther out towards the mouth, to let off people who wanted to go to London (to the south) or stay in Grimsby, then it proceeded to Hull, farther inland and on the north bank, with those who wanted to go to the west (Liverpool) or north.] *Our chests were inspected by the police. When we got out there were two agents that brought us to the depot going all through the town. Our goods stayed in the Ship [evidently to be sent directly by rail to the Ben Nevis at Liverpool]. Only small things that we could carry, we were allowed to take along. We were being searched to see if one had any tobacco or cigars. I was worried about my things. At 2 o'clock [pm.] we left and arrived in Liverpool at 10:30[pm.]. Everything was nice and green wheat etc. was still in the fields. Sometimes we traveled through mountainous regions and tunnels where it was so dark that we could not see anything. We met other trains, and every time we passed them it gave a terrible noise. We had fun at the station for the workers came running when they heard that we were Germans, and wanted tobacco, when we gave them some they thanked us very much because tobacco there was very high.*

*Sunday 17th we went to the decks [evidently 'docks'] to see if we could find the rest of our company [the main Kilian group], but everything was in confusion. At one o'clock we had to go back to our lodging house. In the afternoon I went to town with a brewer and a man from Vienna and we got some beer.*

*Monday the 18th we had to go back on the Ship [evidently the Ben Nevis; before the 22nd, the ship must have been docked, and the passengers were able to go on and off the ship, but were still living in the boarding houses] to look after our baggage which was all being inspected also we were examined as to our health by a physician sent by the Government. At 3 o'clock we went on board. We had been about 200 in one and 400 in another boarding house [he and the other few late-comers have now found and re-joined the main Kilian group, living in houses provided by agent Meyer] nearly all of whom were held on account of sickness. [It may be that they went on board today with the hope of staying there, since Kilian's birth records state that a child, Magdalena Falke, was born on the ship on this date.]*

*Tuesday 19th. We were not sailing yet as the ship had to be scrubbed and cleaned first. One woman died. She had been well up to a short while. She wanted to go to New York [thus not one of the Ben Nevis group; Haak had noted above that he had become acquainted with emigrants headed for New York], the next day Wednesday a boy died [five members of the Kilian group had already died: Matthäus Schulze, 47, in Hamburg, and Hanna Schatte, 26, Rosina Schatte, 53, Agnes Pampel, 45, and Marie Magdalene Neumann, 2, in Liverpool; the boy here is August Noack, 7]. We were again sent off the ship. Again we had to look after our baggage, everything was there.*

[Sept. 20th. Pastor Kilian arrived in Liverpool. -- Died: Carl Heinrich Pampel, 2].

*Thursday 21. We went to a German church [the German Evangelical Church of Liverpool] where services were held every Sunday at 7 and were attended by all immigrants. Our own pastor [Kilian] was there.*

*Friday 22nd. A Steamer took us to the Sail Ship. The Ship's name was "Bennervis" [Ben Nevis; in anticipation of sailing, the ship has left the dock and is anchored out in the harbor. From now on, the people are living on the ship]. An English physician came on board to see about the general condition of health. A woman and her child were sent to the hospital where eight others had been left. [The Ben Nevis finally sailed on the 26th, without these sick people; luckily for them, the Ben Nevis had to stop at Queenstown, Ireland, and ten people who had been left in Liverpool rejoined the ship there (see below). Kilian's report indicates that not all who had been left at the hospital recovered. -- Died: Matthäus Schatte-Mrosko, 52; Matthäus Schatte, 8; Ernst Urban, 2; Caroline Bertha Dunzer, 1. Pastor Kilian baptized Magdalena Falke, born the 18th (see above), and Peter Fritsche, born Sept. 11th on the steamer from Hamburg, on the Ben Nevis.]*

*Saturday 23. Today we were given hope of sailing soon. Therefore our pastor held services in the afternoon. The text was: 13 verse 14-15. But he soon had to stop, as the sailors started singing. [Died: Magdalena Falke, 4 days (recorded in the baptismal records, which specifically state that she died on the Ben Nevis); Matthäus Schelnik, 6; Johann Ernst Jeschke, 3]*

*Sunday 24th. German church services then in Wendish. In the afternoon the wind became stronger and the waves upset a boat with three persons. Some boats went to the rescue, but I don't know if they were saved. In the afternoon we had communion in German and in the Wendish language.*

*Monday the 25th. At 10 this morning another Ship came by to see if anybody was sick. In the evening we had services again. [Died: Hanna Schatte, 1].*

*Tuesday 26. At last we embarked from Liverpool. It is a beautiful sunny day and little wind. A woman died [Rosina Schatte, 32] and was taken back with the steamer that took us to the Sail-boat. The wind became stronger. In the afternoon German services.*

*Wednesday 27. The wind became stronger. A man died [Johann Merting, 74] also a boy 7 years old [Johann Schatte, 6; also Johann Merting, 3]. They were lowered into the water. At eight o'clock we met a Steamer. The Captain gave a sign, which was answered by the other captain. We sailed by the coast of Ireland.*

*Thursday 28. A man 30 died [Johann Schelnik]. Seasickness was bad as the Ship rocked bad back and forth. Today we saw light-houses off the coast of Ireland. We met another Ship. The Captain said if more people were to become sick he would stop in Ireland which did not suit us at all.*

*Friday 29. Again a man and his wife died and were buried in the sea [Andreas Miertschin, 44, and Hanna, 45] and many others were*

sick. Therefore we sailed on to Ireland where we were to stay until everybody was well again. Soon a boat met us with a Pilot that took us to Ireland Greenstown [Queenstown, also called Cobh], the police were also there. That is we had to stay on our Ship, only the sick ones were taken ashore. They thought it cholera. We admired the beautiful mountainous coast of Ireland.

Saturday 30th. Today we got provisions like we did every Saturday. The sick persons were transferred to an old Man-of-War, which had no more Masts [masts?]. Our cook was discharged. [Kilian's report says 'the healthy were moved to an old frigate, the Inconstant, while the sick remained on our ship, Ben Nevis, until an old ship, the Elisa, was readied as a hospital.' Since Haak does not give the names of the ships, but simply says 'our ship, the other ship,' etc., it is difficult to be sure just who was where from one day to the next. Apparently, at first the sick were transferred to the Inconstant, as Haak says, then, when the Elisa was ready as a hospital-ship, the sick were moved there, the well were moved to the Inconstant, and the Ben Nevis was cleaned and disinfected.]

Sunday October 1st. We saw the first big ? Several persons died [Sept. 29-30: Michael Dube, 47; Johann Schatte, 29; Johann Paulus Kohl, 2; Johann Symmank, 6; Andreas Pilak, 56; Christoph Hohle, 20; even the English physician sent to them (Dr. Blennerhassel) died, himself, on Sept. 30, according to Kilian's report]. Today we had church services. At noon in Wendish, in the evening in German.

Monday 2nd. Today we received fresh bread, as well as milk from the City as well as yesterday, which shall help us remain well. I saw a big fish which looked like a man. The doctor came on board again. [Kilian mentions two more English physicians at Queenstown, Dr. Scott and Dr. Kelly, and two German ones, one named Dr. Hanka, sent by agent Meyer; he says Dr. Kelly was later assigned to them for the voyage.]

Tuesday 3 October. Today everything was quiet. Only sick persons came over every day to the other ship, many died [Oct. 1-2: Johann Traugott Jeschke, 41; Elisabeth Trink, 60; Hanna Fritsche, 6]. Evening German lessons [? Presumably the German word is Stunden or Abendstunden, meaning, in this case, not lessons, but (evening) devotions; Kilian writes, 'in the evening we held devotions'.]

Wednesday 4. [Now, Haak and the other well people are evidently on the Inconstant:] Some went to our Sail Boat [Ben Nevis] to get some of their things. They said everything had been thrown around. I left my Felleison [backpack]. I found it again. A Mr. Meier from Liverpool came on board today. He came with the Government probably to investigate the health conditions. [Died: Hanna Merting, 28; Hanna Matke, 6].

Thursday 5th. The sick ones were taken to another Ship, three men. [Died: Johann Fritsche, 43; Hanna Lorentschk, 48; Andreas Kurjo, 5; Hanna Hohle, 57].

Friday 6. Strong winds. [Died: August Neitsch, 1; August Miertschin, 34 days].

Saturday 7. Strong cold winds. Meier came back. He said the beds had to be packed, changed. [Died: Hanna Pilak Birnbaum, 1].

Sunday 8. Wendish church services in the evening German. Today no sick persons were transferred to the other ship like they had been on all other days. [Died: Rosina Tschornak, 4].

Monday the 9th. Again sick people were sent to the other vessel. [Died: Magdalena Kurjo, 34. -- From the Serbin archives, we know that on this date the Kilian congregation held a meeting on board the Inconstant and elected their church elders. Some of the Wends were Prussians and some were Saxons, and for the election they divided into these two groups and each group elected its own elders. Haak does not mention the meeting because he was not a member of the congregation.]

Tuesday the 10th. High winds today and the Ship rocked back and forth so that I became seasick, it did not last long, towards evening the winds quieted down. Another woman in our Ship died. Several got sick. [Died: Johann Lowke, 5; Christiane Reinhart Miertschin, 20; Johann Urban, 67; Johann Ernst Wuensche, 8].

Wednesday 11th. Nothing important today. [Died: Matthäus Merting, 1; Maria Ritter, 2].

Thursday 12. The sick ones came from Liverpool, there were ten of them. [Died: Carl August Dube, 1].

Friday 13th. The Government physician came on board. These that had not been sick were to go to the other Ship 240 then we would finally sail. [Evidently the well people are now moved back from the Inconstant to the Ben Nevis; '240' may signify the number of people who had not been sick. Some people still stayed on the Inconstant, perhaps because they were sick; see note to the 15th, below.]

Saturday 14th. Again some sick ones but they stayed on our ship [evidently now the Ben Nevis].

Sunday 15th. This morning church services in Wendish. [Died: Rosina Iselt, 44. -- From the Serbin marriage records, we know that on this date Pastor Kilian performed his first two marriages since leaving home: on the Ben Nevis Christoph Vogel was married to Agnes Jenke, and on the Inconstant Joseph Birnbaum was married to Magdalena Pilak. Thus, there still were some people on the Inconstant.]

Monday 16th. About 100 passengers came from the other ship [the Inconstant or the Elisa] who had been examined by the doctor.

Tuesday 17th. Very cold. The deck had been washed. [Died: Johann Kiesling, 67].

Wednesday 18th. High winds towards evening, some people came on board from the other Ship, only four. [Died: Hanna Kiesling, 57].

Thursday 19th. About 100 persons were examined. Some died. German lessons [presumably 'devotions']. [Died: Johann August Buettner, 3].

Friday 20th. The rest of the passengers came, only 4 families stayed on account of sickness.

Saturday 21. This morning the 4 families came. Tomorrow they say we will sail. The anchor was heaved or \_\_\_.

Sunday 22nd. We are still in the same place. The Captain came from the city at about 11 o'clock. The second anchor has been heaved.

*Another woman died [Magdalena Noack, 42]. She was lowered into the water. Then all at once the anchors were let down again. I don't know the reason. [Pastor Kilian's fragmentary diary, mentioned above, begins on this date and covers just one week, through the 27th.]*

*Monday 23rd. At 4 A.M. the anchor was heaved again and then lowered. The wind was high, and had changed. Our hopes were again disappointed. We were up early. A Steamer came to pull us out. Strange looked the two fortresses by Greenstown [Queenstown]. Our Ship was thrown back and forth. Many became seasick. I did too. [Died: Agnes Tschornak, 1].*

*Tuesday 24th. This first night the wind was very high. Many were seasick. I did not go on deck until late. The waves were gorgeous to look at. We met two ships.*

*Wednesday 25. High winds. Our tin dishes were thrown about. Everything had to be fastened.*

*Thursday 26th. Today the weather was fine, everybody came on deck.*

*Friday 27th. High wind. The sky looked red and they said this was a sign of storm, which came soon, and lasted through the night. Boxes were thrown about, so we did not sleep much. Our heads were high one minute and low the next. We did not have a straight course on account of the contrary winds. [Died: Andreas Noack, 2; born: Peter Symmank].*

*Saturday 28th. The weather was better we were sailing southward.*

*Sunday 29th. Fine weather and the ocean is smooth. We saw one ship. This morning we had services in German. In the evening in Wendish.*

*Monday 30th. Last night high winds. Quieter towards morning. We saw a Ship and not long we had overtaken it. It was a Hamberg [Hamburg] 2 master. They hoisted a flag, and our captain let a number be written on a plate. It was no. 1615. They greeted us with their hats and caps. The wind was high in the morning.*

*Tuesday Oct. 31. All day fine weather. Today we celebrated the Feast of the Reformation. In the morning German and in the afternoon Wendish church services in the evening. We saw large fishes.*

*Wednesday Nov. 1st. High winds and rain.*

*Thursday Nov. 2nd. Rain strong winds but favourable.*

*Friday Nov. 3. The good wind continued. We saw a ship. Towards evening the wind grew stronger. [Died: Johann Schatte, 4].*

*Saturday Nov. 4. Very changeable, towards noon very high winds, storm so that the waves rolled over the deck of the ship and no one could stay on it. In the kitchen it was the same, and at night we got our dinner (noon meal).*

*Sunday Nov. 5. This morning the wind had become less, and we saw an island very mountainous. We saw it until about 3 P.M. We saw four vessels. Church services first in Wendish then in English [If this is correct, it was the first of Kilian's few sermons in English; in the English sermon he preached (besides a German one and a Wendish one, of course) at the dedication of the first church building in 1859, Kilian stated that that was his 'first speech in English'. Since the English sailors' work was particularly hazardous during the storms, an English sermon of thanksgiving for them may have seemed appropriate after the storm of the previous day had passed.*

*Monday Nov. 6. Clear. Some wind. Rain in the evening.*

*Tuesday Nov. 7. Favourable wind. More sails were hoisted. A boy of six years died [Andreas Moerbe, 5] the 4th corpse since \_\_\_ ? [since departure from Queenstown], 54 in all since our departure. [The Moerbe boy's death is numbered 57 in Kilian's death records, but the Falke infant's death on Sept. 23, like the later infants' deaths before arriving at Serbin, is not recorded in the deaths, but only in the baptismal records, so that 58 have now died, including the first death in Hamburg; since departure from Liverpool, 43 have died.]*

*Wednesday Nov. 8. Fine warm weather, strong winds.*

*Thursday Nov. 9. Last night I had fever and felt bad, did not eat anything, only drank water. I was on deck a little while. Fine weather. [Died: Maria Moerbe, 2].*

*Friday Nov. 10. This morning a child was confirmed. The pastor made a speech. Strong winds. [This is the first of four confirmations mentioned by Haak; this is some of the most interesting information in the diary, since there is nowhere else any mention of them. Kilian was evidently teaching school on the ship (this was one of the subjects discussed at the meeting on the Inconstant on Oct. 9th), including confirmation instruction. Kilian's confirmation records do not start until 1856; presumably the first year at Serbin, 1855, was too chaotic for school and confirmations. Who the children were who were confirmed on the ship cannot be determined without consulting the records in Germany to ascertain who already had been confirmed there. -- Died: Magdalena Casparik, adult].*

*Saturday Nov. 11. Fine weather. Soft winds. We met a ship going South.*

*Sunday Nov. 12. Fine weather. Not much wind. I saw the first flying fishes. Two children were confirmed. I felt bad with fever heat and chills. [Died: August Jeschke, 3; August Hermann Richter, 2].*

*Monday Nov. 13. Today I was sick with headache - in the afternoon I felt better. The weather was the same as yesterday. We saw a ship.*

*Tuesday Nov. 14. Strong winds toward noon \_\_\_ ? [Died: Maria Schelnik, 2].*

*Wednesday Nov. 15. Cold wind.*

*Thursday Nov. 16. Favourable winds, all sails are up. Very warm, so that we preferred even sitting still \_\_\_ ? [Died: Auguste Noack, 2].*

*Friday Nov. 17. The weather was like it was yesterday. The captain fired two Sky rockets. German evening lessons [presumably 'devotions'].*

*Saturday Nov. 18. Weather like yesterday. Again two Sky rockets were fired, and two packages of torches lit. A Ship was in sight.*



*Sunday Nov. 19. This morning the weather was fine but it changed soon and rained hard. In the morning Wendish church services, and German in the evening.*

*Monday Nov. 20. This morning the wind was cold. I became sick with severe colic and nausea and stayed in bed all day.*

*Tuesday Nov. 21. Same as yesterday. A boy died this morning [Matthäus Schulze, 11] and a woman in the evening [Agnes Pampel].*

*Wednesday Nov. 22. This morning we saw an island in the distance which seemed very mountainous. We passed one very closely at about 7 P.M., and saw several lights. The weather had been fine all day, more windy towards evening. The name of the island is Little \_\_\_ ? [possibly Lesser Antilles (island group). Kilian wrote that they passed through the Lesser Antilles, with the English island of Antigua on their right and the French island of Guadaloupe on their left.]*

*Thursday Nov. 23. Fine weather and little wind.*

*Friday Nov. 24. The wind was a little stronger. We saw many big birds around our ship. German lessons [presumably 'devotions'] in the evening as at noon.*

*Saturday Nov. 25th. Hardly any winds at all. A big gray bird came close to the ship, then many more, also large fishes.*

*Sunday Nov. 26th. Hardly any wind. Towards noon it became stronger the rain and wind became less strong, then stronger again which took all joy out of us. A bird had settled on one of the masts and a sailor got him down. In the evening German church services and in the morning Wendish services. We saw islands in the distance.*

*Monday Nov. 27. Last night favourable wind this morning also. Many birds to be seen. A woman died [Maria Teinert, 38, the mother of the boy Johann Teinert, who later wrote the description of the voyage usually called 'Ein Brief'; he gives a short but touching account of watching his mother's body being lowered into the water]. A child was being confirmed.*

*Tuesday Nov. 28. An island [Santo Domingo] was sighted - it is very mountainous. Many big fishes. [Note that they are passing south of Santo Domingo and Cuba.]*

*Wednesday Nov. 29. Little wind last night. The ship hardly moved. Island Damingo [Santo Domingo].*

*Thursday Nov. 30. This morning we saw many islands. The wind became stronger. Many became sick, so did I. The waves were even with the ship. [Died: Hanna Moerbe, 25].*

*Friday Dec. 1. This morning we saw the island Jamaica. This night was good but much work for the sailors. The Captain was very attentive for he sailed between two islands [possibly Jamaica and Santo Domingo (Haiti)] which was dangerous. All day favourable wind.*

*Saturday Dec. 2. Last night as well as today pleasant sailing good winds, another island. We saw houses. The island is called "Ship Map" \_\_\_ ? Island [Kilian mentions seeing Grand Cayman island].*

*Sunday Dec. 3. Good winds church in Wendish and German. The sermon was about epistle ?*

*Monday Dec. 4. Little wind. Towards noon we saw the last point of the Island of Cuba. We saw two ships. One met us. It was a Spanish Man of War. The flags were hoisted when we met. We ran on a sandbank and had to lower the anchor. We saw many towers on the left we saw a long strip of land. Houses are to be seen. Four sky rockets were ordered by the Captain to be fired. Also two cannon shots. \_\_\_\_\_ ? [this can also mean 'large firecrackers' in German].*

*Tuesday Dec. 5. Last night a Warship sailed around our Ship. Favourable wind, but rainy weather and cold. [Born: Hanna Kasper.]*

*Wednesday Dec. 6. Same as yesterday. A woman died who had been well only the day before [Hanna Fritsche, 38; also the newborn Hanna Kasper].*

*Thursday Dec. 7. Storm. On the middle mast two sails were torn off. We did not know what it was and I quickly went on deck. The storm lasted until noon. This night it rained. [This seems to be the worst of the several storms Haak describes. Kilian said there had been no really big storm, but Teinert gives a chilling report of a storm (probably the one of this date) so bad that the sailors refused to climb the masts to furl the sails, so that Captain Herron himself had to climb up, whereupon one sailor followed him, and the two of them furled the sails. When the captain came down, he was so exhausted and shaken that he could not even walk to his cabin without several men helping him.]*

*Friday Dec. 8th. Fine favourable wind. The anchor chains were being handled out of the ship's storage.*

*Saturday Dec. 9th. Favourable wind. We saw land, provisions for seven days were distributed.*

*Sunday Dec. 10th. This morning new sails were fastened no land to be seen. It rained all day, much fog. At about ten we saw something - was it trees or ships. Again the depth was taken. Towards 3 P.M. the anchor was turned and the sails. Church services in Wendish and in German. [Died: August Jannasch, 9].*

*Monday Dec. 11th. \_\_\_\_\_ [Died: Emil Jannasch, 2].*

*Tuesday Dec. 12th. This morning at 5 o'clock the anchor was pulled up, and we sailed on and we saw land on two sides. We hoisted a flag. The depth of the sea was being measured. And they were on the outlook for a Steamship to meet us. [Kilian explains that large ships had to anchor outside the sandbar off Galveston and transfer their passengers to a steamer]. In the evening we gave a signal with a burning torch. [Died: Andreas Jannasch, 'over 20'].*

*Wednesday 13th Dec. This morning we saw land but it still was not Galveston. Sometimes we saw land and sometimes we did not. We watched for a Steamer. We saw houses.*

*Thursday 14th Dec. This night we were anchored but early in the morning the anchor was pulled up again. We saw many houses which*

was Galveston. The Pilot came on board. The Captain went on a boat and sailed to the mainland [Kilian adds, 'in order to arrange for a steamer to transport us across the bar to the city']. [Died: Ernst Jannasch, 4; the fourth Jannasch child to die in five days].

Friday 15th Dec. Geese, chickens as well as horses and cows. The poor animals (?) stayed outside because it cost half dollar daily, and who had money. [Presumably Haak saw these animals on the land, and was surprised that they were outside in the winter. — Kilian says the steamer came in the afternoon and picked up the people and their things.]

Saturday Dec. 16. [Kilian says they arrived on the steamer in Galveston in the morning.] At about 1 (?) a Steamer [to take them to Houston; from the baptismal records we know this was the Neptune] and our baggage was loaded -- at four o'clock we sailed off. We saw another Steamer which was stuck on a sandbank. We sailed there to help. [Dec. 17th:] At about seven in the morning we arrived in Houston. It was cold. [Born on the Neptune: twins Hanna and Peter Born; they died in Houston].

Sunday Dec. 17th. Everybody was at the landing looking after their baggage. Chests were being inspected. In the afternoon we went hunting.

Monday 18th Dec. This morning we went hunting again. In the afternoon \_\_\_\_? Very few of us stayed in Houston. We were taken to the woods and we stayed overnight. \_\_\_\_? [Kilian writes, 'everybody lay in Houston under the bare sky' for a week, waiting for some who were still in Galveston, before going on inland. Haak, however, did not wait; he left the group and proceeded immediately to Bellville, where he arrived on Dec. 22nd and made his home].

— Translated by Mrs. Edith Zeiske, Bellville, Texas

After beginning the long and difficult trip inland, Haak evidently had no more time to keep up his diary, unfortunately. Since he made relatively good time to Bellville, he must have ridden a horse or taken a coach. The Wendish group went much more slowly, traveling on foot, with ox-drawn wagons for their possessions and for those unable to walk. Pastor Kilian says it took them 15 days to get to New Ulm, where again some settled temporarily (as a few had done in Houston), while Kilian and the leaders went on to the area that was to become Serbin. In spite of the incredible suffering and scores of deaths, Kilian expresses his feeling that they still were fortunate that most of them made it at all, since so many ships wrecked with total loss of life.

Brief as it is, August Haak's diary tells us much that we did not know about the fateful journey that he and the Wends shared. Moreover, it allows us to relive -- to some small degree, at least --the day-by-day experiences of that perilous voyage, filled with tragedy and suffering on the one hand, but also with adventurous excitement and the great hope for a new life.



**GERMAN IMMIGRANT PIONEERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THEIR INFLUENCE**

by Wilfred O. Dietrich

(research assistance by Elizabeth Lehmann) (ISB:#4)

The German settlers in Washington County, during the 1830's thru 1850's, were hard workers and their perseverance helped them to overcome the discomforts and hardships of frontier life. Most of the settlers engaged in agriculture and stock raising and organized agriculture societies for the discussion of topics related to their major occupation. Some did engage themselves in manufacture and trade and thus helped in the industrial development of Texas. They enjoyed music and dramatic art and had their dramatic, literary, and singing societies. These honest, industrious, God-fearing people came to this county to enjoy the freedom of thought and independence in action--the privilege of every citizen of the United States.

Washington County has become known as the birthplace of the nation of Texas because the document declaring independence from Mexico was signed here. Steven F. Austin's Colony was well established when the first German immigrants arrived in Washington county in the 1840's. According to the Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association, Vol I, October 1897, 14 German families came with Austin's colony. Some of the families who were settled by Austin are the Allcorn, Brown, Byrd, Coles, Gates, Kerr, Miller, Walker, Kuykendall, Leahey, Lynch, Robinson, and Singleton.

Taxpayers and candidates for municipal offices were named: Abraham Zuber, J.S. Becker, I.G. Belcher. The Fisher and Hoffman families were among Austin's colony. Christoph H. Stern was a merchant and listed on the tax roll of 1837 Austin Colony Pioneers. German immigrants began to settle in Washington County in the late and mid 1840's. A number of families originally settled in Austin County until land was available in Washington County.

According to Mrs. R.E. Pennington, the first German to locate permanently in Washington County was Henry Eichholt, father of Louis and William Eichholt of Cedar Hill. He arrived at Washington in the spring of 1846 with fifty cents in his pocket. Unable to speak English, he was determined to overcome the obstacle and find a job--driving ox teams and cutting hay. In 1847, he married Louise Roehling and the family engaged in farming.

The first German settlers in the County, the Valentin Hoffmann family immigrated in 1846 and lived in Austin County until they purchased 150 acres of land in the Berlin Community in 1848. Other early German immigrants purchased land in this area, 2 to three miles north of Brenham. They were the Ludwig Lehmann and Henry Herring families.

Approximately 650 German families who listed their birthplace as Germany or Prussia lived in the county according to the United States Census of Washington County in 1860. They purchased land and began farming. This absorbed many of the large slave-owned plantations.

The failure of the German revolution of 1848 prompted emigration. Many of these first immigrants were business and professional persons who sought liberty in a new land. They took interest in public matters and became inspired with democratic ideas, such as a free press, trial by jury, and the like. These families had property that could be converted to cash and they travelled on their own. Documents, letters, and family history show the extent of education of some of these pioneers. An immigrant's diploma listed studies in French and Latin, music, calculations, drafting, mathematics, history, writing, natural science, geography, German language and religion.

The new immigrants became naturalized citizens and were eligible for the Confederate States Army. Soon after they had sworn their loyalty and

support to the Constitution of the United States, the Conscription of April, 1862, demanded duty and service. The anti-slavery sentiment of most of the German soldiers made fighting a cause that they considered mercenary and greedy. This did not deter the men. They served even with this conflict of conscience. On April 28, 1861, the first German Infantry of Washington County was organized. Officers were Klaeden, Hoffmann, Shick, Ahrenbeck and others.

Latium, located in the southwestern area of the county, was settled by a group of persons who were referred to as the "Latin Farmers". Some of these early farmers were Brandt, Giesecke, Von Bieberstein, Witte, and others. Professor Krug, whose descendants are to be found in Brenham, was the school teacher of this settlement.

Somewhat later, Greenvine, a German settlement slightly north of Latium was established. The Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage tells that the first German Baptist Church in Texas was founded at Greenvine in 1860.

About this time immigrants from Rehburg in the Kingdom of Hannover Germany came in a group and joined those who had arrived earlier. Families of Kiel and Broesche became homesteaders here. This settlement was named after the pioneers' birthplace, and located in the Northeastern section of the County near the "ghost town" of Union Hill.

As mentioned before, in the 1840's, a number of young men emigrated from Germany to labor on plantations near Independence. These men were Eicholt and Roehling. Later their brides joined them. They settlement near Independence at William Penn.

Each of the communities had a part in the development of the county. As the history of Washington County unfolds, the influence of German culture and heritage together with the work-ethic is evident in the progress of the county. Education and religion have been an impelling factor in the goals of the Germans. School sessions were conducted from the beginning usually by the pastors in the church buildings. Berlin, founded in 1855, was the first German church in the county, followed by Salem in 1856 and William Penn in 1860. By 1870-1880 churches were founded in all German communities.

The desire for education has been an evident factor in the founding of learning institutions. The first public high school was in Brenham in September 1875. Blinn College began as the German Mission Institute in 1883 and later became Blinn Memorial College. In 1937 this institution became one of the first county-owned junior colleges in Texas.

The large influx of German immigrants came after the Civil War. The "Brenham Daily Banner" October 12, 1881 issue tells of a train chartered in Galveston for 400 German immigrants to travel to Brenham. The majority of these Germans became farmers. Some were merchants, mechanics, saddlers, cabinet makers, wheelwrights, blacksmith and a physician.

New citizens banded together to pursue recreation, business, and social activities. In Berlin, an agricultural society was founded in 1870 - the Land-Wirtschaftlicher Verein fuer Berlin Umgegend, this had no connection to the granges. In the Salem area where an exceptional number of horses were stolen, the citizens organized a group, according to the "Brenham Daily Banner" of July 25, 1877, for "protection against thieves, especially horse thieves, whom it is our intention to follow and capture."

In the early 1900's, many German businesses were established in Brenham. Surnames of owners were as follows: F.W. Schuerenberg, Implements; Schmid Brothers Grocery, G. Herrmann Furniture, Luhn Drugs, Winkelmann Studio, Tristram Pharmacy, Wangemann-Reichardt Wholesale, Schramm Saddler, Windhausen, Amsler, Brochs Schmidt, Holle, Giesecke Tinner, and others.

Socially, and true to form, the Germans enjoyed feasts, singing and dances. In 1870, the Germania Verein was organized in Brenham with more than 200 members. The large hall was located in Germania Park on Germania and Market Streets, and was the scene of social activity. Together with the Verein were the Vorwaerts and Germania singing groups. The Turn Verein, an athletic branch, consisted of the Kegelbahn or bowling alley. The Germania Verein band played from the bandstand in the park for summer entertainment and the hall was used for dances in winter. This organization existed for 59 years and finally merged with the Elks Lodge.

A major annual social event was the Volksfest, now known as the Maifest. In 1990 on May 10, 11, and 12, the Centennial of that festival was observed.

German culture and language suffered during World War I and as late as the mid 1920's. The United States entry into the war against Germany caused stress and fears in the Germans of Washington County to the extent that some persons denounced their German heritage and changed the spelling of their surnames. The language was forbidden by citizen members of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The Ku Klux Klan existed in Brenham earlier. In the days of reconstruction, the group was organized locally "to stabilize the community and establish order" following the burning of Brenham. The city remained under military rule to May, 1870.

Germans, as a whole, were accepted with a few exceptions--that of election time. From correspondence between a prominent German farmer and an attorney who previously practiced in Brenham and relocated in San Diego, California, reads: "How are the Germans responding to the tickets?" He also writes of "the former agitation in full bloom at election time." People who were some of the agitators are named. (Original letters in Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas in Austin, Julius A. Lehmann papers.)

Hidden elements caused deterioration of the German language, culture, and traditions in the period following World War I. On May 21, 1921, in Brenham, Texas, about 400 men arrived by train from Houston. They wore white flowing robes, pointed caps, white face masks, a red circle with a cross on their uniforms. They paraded through the streets of Brenham and went to Firemen's Park where the Maifest was in progress. They carried signs "Our fathers were here in '61, and their boys are here in '21." Speak English or quit talking on the streets of Brenham.

Following this demonstration, a mass meeting of citizens was held to achieve stability in Washington County. It was agreed that the following should be observed: funeral services for soldiers must be in English, business transactions must be in English, ministers must preach in English and German language teaching in the high school should be discontinued. (Accounts of this were carried in the Brenham Morning Messenger on May 21, 1921, also in the Austin Statesman, May 20, 1921 and in the Brenham Banner Press of August 13, 1923.)

The German traditions, culture as well as language, were suppressed. Many persons never had the opportunity to learn the language of their ancestors. In the 1960's, the language was re-introduced in the public schools. Blinn College offered courses in German from the later years of the 1920's through 1960.

After 150 years, Washington County's German immigrants have made an impact on the culture in the county. Besides the influence in the county, some of the members of the early German families moved into other areas of the state and have spread their influence. Similar to the other 253 counties in Texas, Washington County, can only be consider an average county that has tried to uphold its original culture.

THE MEMOIRS OF HENRY CLAY SMITH

Meredith McClain  
Texas Tech University

(ISB:#17)

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Abstract

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After Father Reisdorff, the German-Catholic colonizer of the High Plains of northwest Texas, the next most influential German-born settler of the area was Henry Clay Smith--Heinrich Schmitt--of Blanco Canyon outside Crosbyton. Before his death at age 76 in 1912, "Uncle Hank", as Smith was called by people of the area, had written his memoirs on Big Chief red-backed school tablets presently stored in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.

The original hand-written memoirs of Hank Smith were transcribed by Hattie M. Anderson and subsequently published in two parts in the first two issues of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Review, 1928 and 1929. This transcription, original materials in the Hank Smith Collection of the Panhandle-Plains Museum, numerous letters, interviews and records were woven together by W. Hubert Curry in his biography, Sun Rising on the West: The Saga of Henry Clay and Elizabeth Smith, Quality Printers & Typographers: Crosbyton, Texas, 1979. All quotes used in this paper are referenced from Curry's work.

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The time is early May 1872. The place is Fort Griffin, 250 miles due north of San Antonio and the general atmosphere of that place at that time has been well described by Hubert Curry in his biography of Hank Smith, Sun Rising on the West:

This was the beginning of the wildest era in what was to become the most wicked town in Texas; some said it was the worst in all the wild west. There was everything that made Dodge City, Tombstone and Abilene famous, only more of it. Every other building in the Flats, as the town of Griffin came to be known, housed a saloon or gambling house, and most of them never closed. Houses of prostitution, the lowest dives, lined the river banks, drunken brawls occurred nightly, and shooting deaths happened regularly. But in 1872 Ft. Griffin's worst years were ahead of it. At that time, and during the year of 1873, marauding Indians were still the greatest trouble makers. Cowboys from surrounding ranches, soldiers from the hill, and occasional toughs passing through created most of the problems on the street. It was not until 1875 that Ft. Griffin first became the market and entertainment center for the buffalo hunters. And about this time the Flats became a stop-over for the drovers on the big cattle drives from central and south Texas to Kansas rail terminals (Curry, 127-128).

Into this scene came a man named Hank Smith, 36 years old at the time, and with business to deliver a load of freight from El Paso consigned for Ft. Griffin. Smith's dramatic introduction to the area was apparently not unusual for the times. On the night of May 9th Indians massacred some settlers named Lee in at area where Smith had planned to stay. He writes:

I was camped at Fort Griffin on the bank of the Clear Fork, the river being up bank full. I assisted the troops from the Fort to cross the river to go after the Indians that killed the Lee families.

If the river had not been up so I could have crossed it with my wagon train I would have been into it myself, as I was going down the Clear Fork near the Lee family farm to make me a lot of hay frames out of post oak timber to haul hay on a hay contract at Ft. Griffin. The soldiers and citizens had a fight with the Indians on the head of King's Creek and killed several of them (Curry, 126).

Once again, Henry Clay Smith luckily happened not to be a casualty. This sort of brush with disaster was a dominant theme in the life of this man ever since he left his home village of Rossbrunn in Bavaria at age 14. Once settled safely with his sister and her husband in Peru, Ohio, it only took a few months in the public school for Heinrich Schmitt to decide to become Henry Clay Smith and to strike out on his own. In the 21 years leading up to 1872, this adventurous,

entrepreneurial spirit from Bavaria roamed the American wild west turning up again and again in the midst of action and danger. Smith's biographer, Hubert Curry, has summed up the more important activities of these "Wanderjahre" in the following two paragraphs which cause Karl May's Old Shatterhand to pale in comparison:

He had carried a surveyors chain through Nebraska, spent a winter with the Indians on an island in the upper Missouri River, journeyed over the old Santa Fe Trail, pushed a Mormon two-wheeled cart over the Oregon Trail in Wyoming, driven ox teams on the northern route to California, panned gold in California, Arizona and New Mexico, worked for the Butterfield Stage Coach line, served as a border patrolman into Mexico, became a cowboy, served in the Confederate Army of New Mexico and Arizona as a guide, supply sergeant and Indian fighter, and became a mail carrier for the Union Army after Southern troops were withdrawn from the territory.

He headed a mule caravan over the Santa Fe Trail from Kansas City, contracted to furnish hay and wood to Forts Quitman and Bliss in El Paso County, operated a wagon freight train out of San Antonio, first to the forts in the Texas mountain country and later to Fort Griffin, became a sutler's clerk, contracted to furnish hay to Fort Griffin, and finally built the finest hostelry west of Fort Worth, the Occidental Hotel in Fort Griffin. And through it all he fought Indians--Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas and others (Curry, 7).

Against this background Hank's arrival at the toughest town in Texas seems to be in keeping with his penchant for action. But actually the year 1873, spent settling into Ft. Griffin, was the beginning of a calm and stable time in his life. At the Ft. Griffin New Year's Ball in 1874, Hank met his wife to be, a 26 year old Scottish lass named Elizabeth Boyle. Hank and Elizabeth were married in May 1874 and soon Hank's astute business sense directed him to build a hotel on the main street city lots which he owned. Elizabeth presided over a dining room, while Hank was the bartender and bookkeeper. Even though the bar clientele was restricted to his hotel guests, the ledgers show that it was a very lucrative venture and that many guests paid far more in the bar than in the restaurant of hotel. Behind the hotel was a wagon yard and livery stable, which the local newspaper reported in 1877 was "patronized better than any layout in town" and according to Curry "Cowboys stabled their horses there, and if they did not have the price of a room, they were welcome to bed down in the hay for the night. Families traveling through by wagon often used the facilities of the wagon yard, but usually spent the night in their wagon" (Curry, 131).

With such a solid and profitable start at the Occidental Hotel, it is a surprise to discover the following entry by Smith: "In the fall of 1877 the writer moved to the ranch and finished the work on the Rock House, this being about all that was left to him as a result of placing too much confidence in the wrong man" (Curry, 149). The Occidental was closed on about November 1, 1878 when the Smith family traveled north from Ft. Griffin, following the Mackenzie Trail, heading for the vast unsettled prairie land known as the Llano Estacado and for their new property at Mount Blanco in Blanco Canyon. The "wrong man" in whom Hank had placed "too much confidence" was one of his hotel guests who ran up debts to Hank of approximately \$11,300.00. Here is Smith's explanation of what happened:

In the early part of 1876, Charles Tasker, a young rattle-brain and spendthrift from Philadelphia, and one Jamison, an Irish Lord, conceived the romantic idea of establishing a great ranch in the far west. The writer was recommended as the proper man to locate this ranch. . . .

In the winter of 1876, the writer, Judge John Schimerhorn and three other men, one of them a Mexican, came to Blanco Canyon, camping within a few hundred yards of where the stone house now stands, and put in several weeks prospecting throughout this section of country. It was the result of a rather amusing incident on this trip that Schimerhorn undertook to kill a buffalo bull with an old "pepper-box" gun. The bull resented the insult, and Schimerhorn fled to the mountain for refuge and the name of the mountain was bestowed in honor of the refugee (Curry, 143).

After locating the ranch site for Tasker, work began on a two-storied house planned as the servants' quarters, but described by Smith as "the finest piece of masonry ever done in this section of the country" (Curry, 144-145). We also learn that the foundation for the great mansion was laid, the beginning of what Tasker planned to name "Hacienda de Glorieta"--The Glorious Estate. Smith reports that "While the work was going on at Blanco, Tasker was going the high gate route, gambling and spending money with a free hand around Fort Griffin and Fort Worth" (Curry, 145). Of course Tasker went bankrupt and his creditors tried to nab everything. The unfinished stone house at Mount Blanco however Tasker deeded to Smith before disappearing into Mexico.

And so it came to pass that the 42 year old German-born American and his Scottisch-born wife and two children moved up to the isolation of Blanco Canyon and became the first settlers after the Indians to make permanent residence on the South Plains, about 300 miles from civilization.

For the next 21 years, from their 1878 arrival in Blanco Canyon to the turn of the century, Uncle Hank and Aunt Hank, as the Smiths were lovingly called by everyone, raised a family of five children, and established a veritable oasis of "Gemütlichkeit" on the frontier. The pretentious "Hacienda de Glorieta" became simply Hank Smith's Rock House and in 1879 Aunt Hank was commissioned as Postmistress of the postal designation "Mount Blanco". In those days the mail, according to Curry, "came from Forth Worth to Fort Griffin by stage coach, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, and from Fort Griffin to Mount Blanco by carrier, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles. Dockum was the only post office between Griffin and Mount Blanco" (Curry, 169).

In this vast isolation Hank Smith set about the business of becoming the first rancher as well as the first farmer of the South Plains of Texas. He dug the first well in the area, created the first buffalo bone trail markers, maintained a small store for the buffalo hunters, experimented with planting various vegetables, grains, fruit trees and numerous varieties of grapes. When Crosby County was organized, he served as tax assessor. Because of his interest in geology, he took on the job of Weather Recorder for the U.S. Weather Bureau. And always he took every opportunity to promote the area he and his family grew to love. One of his letters to a newspaper editor concludes with this invitation:

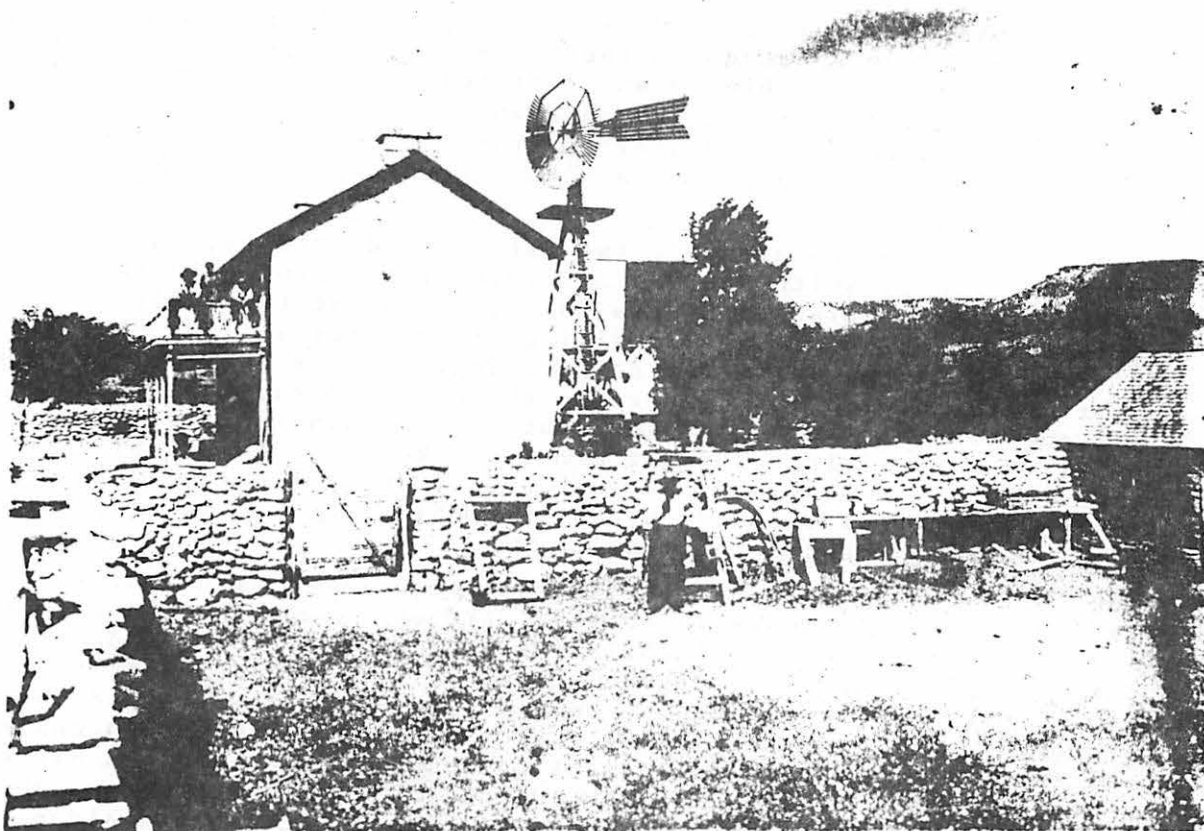
I know you are fond of hunting and fishing and you will receive a hearty welcome and can indulge in the sports to your heart's content, as game is abundant, and as to fish, we can show you more of them, larger ones, and varieties innumerable than can be found in any country on earth, so come bring your fishing and hunting outfit--we will furnish all other necessities including "red liquor"--enjoy a few weeks sport and relaxation from business (Curry, 161).

Now join this warm invitation with the following description of Aunt Hank's culinary offerings to get a sense of the hospitality for which the Smith's Rock House became famous:

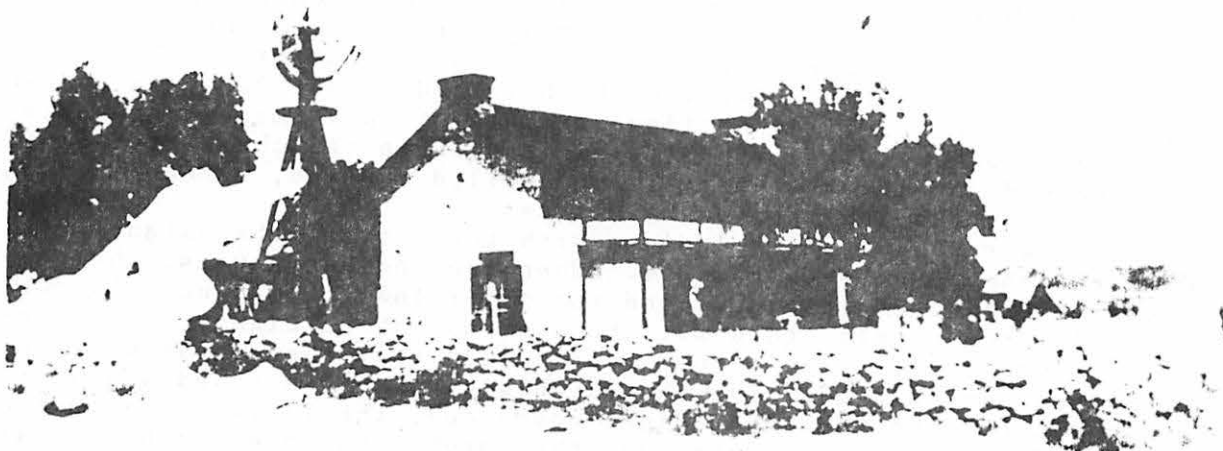
Surprisingly, Aunt Hank's table was always loaded with good things to eat. Her menus were made up mostly of things the new land provided--choice cuts of buffalo meat, tender young antelope, an occasional deer or turkey, plenty of quail and catfish, shoats from the shinnery country of the lower canyon, and sometimes a butchered beef from the Smith's small herd. From the valleys of Blanco Canyon came lambsquarter, wildplums, wild grapes, and currants. A garden plot down in the flat by the river furnished a variety of fresh vegetables and melons. And always the excess of whatever food was available was cured or canned for use during the winter months.

On the bottom land garden plot Hank always bragged about his garden during the summer of 1880. He raised thirty bushels of corn per acre, sixty-five bushels of oats, and twenty-five bushels of beans to the acre--besides lush, immense melons. On top of this there was always plenty of sourdough bread, cakes and pies baked ahead for the visitors who inevitably arrived (Curry 174-175).





Hank Smith's Rock House  
(1876-----1952)



It is not surprising to discover that most anyone headed generally in the direction of the Llano Estacado in those years would frequently follow the McKenzie Trail towards Mt. Blanco and that neighbors coming there for their mail managed to arrive at the Rock House about meal time. The hospitality of the Occidental Hotel was transferred from Ft. Griffin to Mt. Blanco and transformed in the Rock House from a vocation to a gracious and generous avocation.

Among the thousands of guests were two established artists, the western photographer Erwin E. Smith and the New York writer George Pattullo. According to the historian J. Evetts Haley, it was at the insistence of these two men that Hank began at age 73 writing his memoirs in 1909 on Big Chief tablets in his clear and graceful handwriting. He was only able to complete two tablets with information concerning the early years, 1851 to about 1862, before he suffered a stroke in 1910. But even though limited in quantity, the quality of the writing of these memoirs makes them a valuable contribution to the complex history of the west and in several cases Smith offers dates which differ from the text books, but which seem to offer plausible corrections to the accepted information.

According to family records Hank Smith was acquainted with four Indian dialects and had some fluency in Apache. Although Smith does not mention it himself in his memoirs, this ability to communicate to some degree with the Indians he had contact with gave him a definite advantage over most others in the west and explains why he was often selected to lead wagon trains through Indian territory. On one drive when Smith was in charge of 1200 head of cattle, he spotted Indians surrounding the herd and his eight Mexican helpers. He signaled for the 40 Indians to come into camp and he negotiated to give them a good, fat beef if they left the herd alone. Later when he was transferring the herd from Ft. Buchanan to Ft. Bliss he was able to continue such peaceful bargaining. Hank writes:

Being left to myself and Mexicans, I would do anything to get along without trouble. I found the Indians very peaceful, and I feared no trouble with them. Old Mangus Colorado slept with me that night, and I gave him a blanket for his squaw to help herd the cattle that night so my Mexicans would get a little more rest than they had had for several days past. Ten Indians helped to herd the cattle, and I paid one dollar apiece besides the blanket I gave to Mangus Colorado's squaw (Curry, 33).

This is the same chief who was bound and whipped by miners in Pinos Altos in 1891 while Smith was at that mining camp. After submitting to the indignity and agony, the miners allowed Mangus to stagger out of their camp. He recovered and joined forces with Cochise, another major Apache chief, in a retaliation against the white man which lasted almost 25 years and which claimed almost 5,000 victims. A final example of Hank Smith's prose is the following quote which tells of his participation in the chase of Indians who had attacked an emigrant wagon train, killed the men, burned the wagons and stolen the cattle and sheep. He writes:

There were about forty Indians with the cattle, the balance behind with the sheep and pack animals. When the Indians saw us, the lead ones fell back to the sheep, and the other Indians, thinking we would stop with the cattle, then all the Indians--about eighty in number--would wipe us out. But we never gave them that chance for we went right after them and did not give them a chance to make a stand against us. As we reached the sheep the fight commenced, the Indians only making one stand for about a minute when they broke and took the back trail for the Cook's Mountains.

As they ran over a very flat country, they had no chance to hide out on us, and as their horses would play out, we, of course, got them and several pack mules loaded with the plunder from the burned train. We killed eight Indians and got seven pack mules. We followed the Indians to the foothills of the Cook Mountains. The Indians tied out three pack mules they had saved, expecting us to go to the cedars.

They were tied so the Indians could get some of us, but we were just as good as the Indians, as far as Indian tactics were concerned, and we left the Indians and went back to our haul and gathered them up and rested for breakfast and rest for the horses. After dinner we started back on the trail the Indians came (Curry, 55).

Hank Smith's memoirs provide the reader with gripping reports of the history of the wild west. As J. Evetts Haley has said, these writings are "vivid and fresh and full of meat" (Curry 224). These are some of the stories which Hank must have told to many an enraptured guest at his Rock House as they sat by the great fireplaces or around Aunt Hank's groaning board. Today they offer us insight into history, but also give us a deeper sense of who the first settler of the Blanco Canyon was, why he was so deeply revered by those who knew him, and why he is still fondly remembered today.

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Hank Smith's Rock House, the most historic landmark of the South Plains, was destroyed by fire in 1952. The magnificent stone frame stood intact for 25 years, but it is now unfortunately disintegrating each year more rapidly.

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Heinrich Schmitt of Blanco Canyon  
ready for the hunt



Uncle Hank at the rim of  
Blanco Canyon



**PRESERVATION** (ISB:#17)

# Learning From the Past

BY ELIZABETH HARDING & MARSHA GUSTAFSON *"By the ruins of the old,  
Go the builders of the new..."*  
Photos by Bill Gustafson

**T**he Native Americans of the Southwest were respectful of the elements and the animals of their environment. Their reverence for the natural resources was evident in their whole culture but was most visible in their housing. Now, a trio of concerned individuals, who believe the old way may, indeed, be the best way, are doing something



*Niebuhr built each of the "dobes" by hand for McClain's solar adobe house in Blanco Canyon.* to preserve that part of our history by incorporating it into their daily lives.

The three have collaborated on a solar adobe house project. The first, Dr. Meredith McClain of the German department at Texas Tech, has long been interested in adobe dwellings, and in fact lives in one of Lubbock's oldest adobe homes built in 1937 by Dr. Wilbur I. Robinson of the original Tech faculty. About 10 years ago, she became acquainted with Georgia Mae Smith Ericson '36, granddaughter of the area's first white settler, Hank Smith, who established his home and trading post in Blanco Canyon (Crosbyton), where Ericson now resides.



*An appreciation for the canyon land and the lessons history can teach us led Erickson into the Blanco Canyon Project.*

McClain and Ericson, whose own home, "Casa del Sol," is solar-heated, share an interest in preserving history and protecting the land by building environmentally correct housing. Between them, they had two of the three elements needed to build a solar adobe home: land, and someone willing to put up the money. In time, they found the third ingredient — someone who had the know-how to build the house and who was familiar with the techniques of solar and adobe building — Marvin Niebuhr.

"In this trio, every voice is essential," McClain emphasized. "We could not embark on this project without all three of us. Marvin is spiritually in tune with preservation and energy-responsible architecture, which is what this house is."

The house is located in Blanco Canyon near Ericson's own farm house. The project was supported by the Ericson Foundation and built by Niebuhr in the authentic adobe style, which is mud and straw baked bricks. The house is designed as a weekend retreat, with two main rooms and a solar greenhouse area.

The house was oriented correctly on the site — a 40-year-old caliche pit on the rim of the canyon. The pit has not been disturbed for 35-40 years, so there is growth in it again. The structure was sited in the floor of the caliche pit, so from the first floor of the house, all one sees is the contained earth berm. From the second floor, one can see off into the canyon. From the roof, McClain will be at the highest point around.

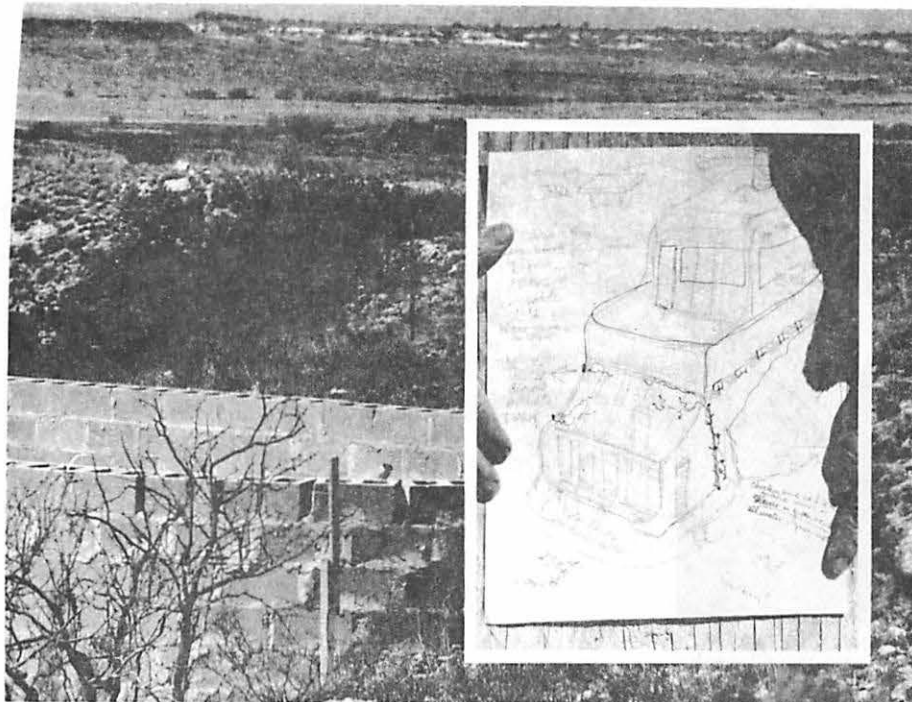
"The view is great," she said. "It looks out over Georgia Mae's canyon and the Hank Smith House ruins down at the end of the canyon. It's two different landscapes. By building down and in, I have northern protection and that's very energy-efficient to have one floor that is backed into the earth. It's a horse-shoe-shaped ground floor protected from the wind in several different ways. Then it's opened to the south, using sloped glass in a greenhouse effect on that south side. It'll be at an angle to catch the sun in the winter."

With a June 1 completion date, Niebuhr got to work last fall checking the soil and building the "dobes" (bricks). It was too time-consuming and costly to build the bottom floor out of adobe, except in the front where sun-absorption is most important, so cinder blocks covered with adobe mud were used at the base of the house.

"Marvin contacted a local gravedigger in Crosbyton, who had a backhoe, and between funerals he came out and dug out the caliche pit on the north side, where we wanted the dwelling to go."

McClain, who wanted to keep things as simple as possible, is hoping to locate someone willing to experiment with the old Indian technique of "bull's blood flooring."

"It's a wonderful thing," she said. "I've only seen it once before at a museum in Taos. The Millicent Rogers home has one room with it. I'd like to try to do this traditional floor and let people see what it's like to



live on such an ancient and basic solution."

The house is built one room over the other, in a solar experiment. The room upstairs is only half as long as the bottom floor, so there was room for a balcony on the south end. A bedroom/bathroom is upstairs, and the kitchen and living-room are downstairs. There was no real floor plan for the house — McClain and Niebuhr used the historical method of just drawing out the foundation in the dirt. Interior details are sketched on McClain's pad and are translated by Niebuhr, who often incorporates "found objects" into his building art.

Niebuhr is using a system for cooling adapted from the arid land of Iran. In many Iranian villages, as well as Egyptian settlements, the concept of a wind catcher is utilized. In the solar adobe, a wind channel is being located in the back of the dwelling to channel the prevailing southwest winds down the wall and over a water source or out through a type of swamp cooler at the bottom.

The solar adobe appeals to McClain because it is appropriate to the environment of the canyon and it is a self-sufficient dwelling. Using ancient and native techniques to erect the structure also appeals to the trio, because it incorporates methods used by those who came before us when the only things available were natural resources and intuitive powers.

"The Native Americans provided the most important influence," McClain said, "by knowing to orient their houses according to the sun with the changing seasons in mind." In addition, adobe bricks are thick, allowing the heat that hits them on the outside to transfer into the house slowly. When the night falls in the winter, the house is still warmed by the radiating bricks. In the summer, the thick bricks keep the heat from transferring immediately into the dwelling, thus keeping it cool in the daytime with the help of the slanted windows on the south side which do not absorb the sunlight.

A Delco system may be used for some electricity, and water will be obtained from an old-fashioned collection tank. The adobe will utilize a chemical commode.

The concepts of the solar adobe home are basically simple and practical. They introduce into the environment only those materials that are natural to the surroundings, and they are energy efficient, using the sun and wind for heating and cooling and earth for protection.

Like the Native Americans who once inhabited the land, and the early white settlers, resourcefulness and a respect for the land are concepts alive in the Blanco Canyon Project. In the words of Ericson, "This house appeals to people who appreciate the beauty of the land and the importance of history to our own future." T

San Antonio, Texas

EXPRESS-NEWS,

May 31, 1991

## Historic site new library for Boerne

Staff Special

**BOERNE** — The 106-year-old Dienger Building, which has been a grocery, a nightclub, a dance hall and an office building, begins its new life Sunday as the Boerne Public Library.

Official opening ceremonies are set for 3 p.m. to display the results of a two-year renovation project featuring historically accurate materials and a computerized reference center.

More than \$1.2 million in donations and grants were collected by the Friends of the Library to purchase and restore the building that was built as a grocery in 1885.

The Dienger Building is listed as a Texas Historical Landmark and in the National Register of Historical Places.

"To preserve the building's authenticity, we selected architectural and construction firms who specialize in restoration projects," Mary Brady, library director, said.

The architect for the restoration was the Fredericksburg firm of Wagner & Klein, and construction was by Davis Constructors of San Antonio.

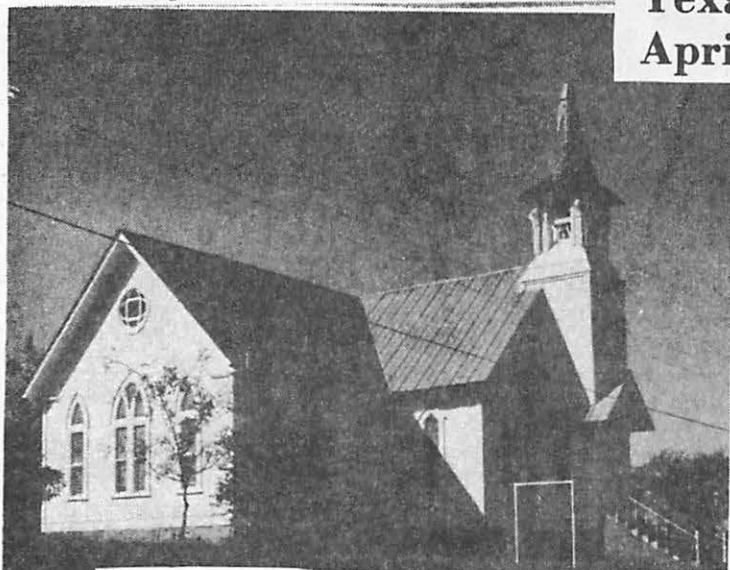
Native Texas materials were used in the renovation, including custom furniture by Fredericksburg craftsmen and counter tops covered with rose-colored Texas granite.

On display will be a 1614 edition of the Luneberg Bible — one of the few remaining copies of the book to be exhibited in the world.



## Texas Historical Marker Dedication April 28 At Spring Street Church

(ISB:#19)



The church was built in 1892 and dedicated in January 1893 and served as the Mason Spring Street Methodist Church until it merged to form the First Methodist Church.

The Byron Angevines gave the marker and Ruby Jordan and Sally Victor were responsible for the research and writing of the history.

The earliest known Protestant religious service in Mason County occurred in 1852 near Castell. This site was marked with a Texas Historical marker in 1985. Both Methodist and Lutheran ministers held services at this site. In 1855 at the Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Reverend C. A. Grote was appointed to serve the, then to be organized, Llano Circuit. This circuit was formally organized on March 8, 1856, at a Quarterly Conference. The circuit included residents of Beaver Creek, Castell, Lower Willow Creek, Upper Willow Creek, Canaan, Simonville, and Squaw Creek with 63 charter members.

The Rev. Grote lived at Castell and with one assistant, the Rev. Conrad Plueneke and others, alternated church services in the various communities. Over the next 37 years, the Methodists in Mason County as a cooperative unit built the following churches for various individual congregations:

1. Upper Willow Creek Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1858, later known as Plehweville, then Art; both the ME Church and the ME Church South utilized the same building until the 1890 rock church was built for the ME South and the 1893 frame church was built for the ME Church;

2. Beaver Creek ME Church South, 1862 (later known as Hilda);

3. Lower Willow Creek ME Church South 1868 (also known as the ME Church North, after division);

4. Castell ME Church South, 1871;

5. Hoersterville ME Church, 1885;

6. Mason Spring Street ME Church, 1892;

7. Plehweville ME Church, 1893 (later known as Art).

The mutual cooperation exhibited by the various Methodist congregations on the construction of these churches in the southern and eastern portions of the county illustrates the closely knit German community that had developed in the county during the second half of the Nineteenth Century.

In 1844, the Southern Methodist Church withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church to form the Methodist Episcopal Church South over the slavery question; however, this split was not instituted in the Mason County area until April of 1869. As a result of the ME Church South, with Rev. C. A. Grote, remained in the Llano Valley Circuit and the ME Church was known as the Llano Circuit in the Texas Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church, later called Beaver Creek Circuit.

As more settlers moved into the area and into Mason it was decided to build a church in Mason. It was built in the latter part of 1892 and dedicated in January 1893.

On October 3, 1939, the Spring Avenue and Central Methodist churches in Mason voted to merge and form the First Methodist Church with approximately 500 members.

The two branches of Methodism in Mason were united once again.

The land currently included as church property was sold to the German Methodist Episcopal Church of Mason, represented by Henry Hoerster, Fritz Leifeste, Christian Loeffler, Henry Leifeste, Conrad Plueneke, and Conrad Simon, trustees of the M. E. Church, and their successors by W. P. Lockhart for \$300.00 on June 9, 1892. Spring Avenue Methodist Church of Mason, Texas, sold the church and adjacent property to C. D. McMillan, et. al as trustees for the First Methodist Church of Mason, Texas, for \$10.00 on October 16th, 1940. McMillan et al sold the church and property to Woody Schuessler, Peano Schuessler, and Mrs. George Haler, trustees of the Church of the Nazarene, of Mason, Texas for \$2,000.00 on July 1, 1941. The Church of the Nazarene was dissolved and the property was sold to Clarence Metzger, Charles Bell, and Leonard Schuessler, trustees of the Spring Street Gospel Church, Mason, Texas, on June 1, 1972.

The church was constructed in 1892, utilizing local and volunteer labor at a cost of \$1,820.60 for materials and labor. The Mason County News on August 3, 1892, noted that "Messrs. John, Frank, and George Brandenberger brought in lumber last Saturday for the German Church." On January 6, 1983, the News stated "... the neat little German church on Ranck Street (later known as Spring Street) will be dedicated on Sunday, January 29, Rev. D. Mathaes, presiding elder, preaching the dedicatory sermon. Rev. Cunningham will preach in the afternoon."

The bell was donated by Fritz and Ernestine Brandenberger. Stained glass windows in the south wall were donated by Henry L. Weeber in memory of his wife Anna; Josephine and Conrad Simon; and Fritz and Johanna Hoerster, by their children. The church purchased land and added on and renovated the building in 1912. In 1928 the little Sunday School building was constructed at the rear of the church.

The church is currently utilized by the Spring Street Gospel Church, with Clifford Jordan, the pastor.

# German heritage district declared

By **STEPHANIE FERGUSON**  
News Editor

*Herald-Zeitung,*  
New Braunfels, Texas  
May 3, 1991  
( ISB : #24 )

State legislators recognized Thursday what New Braunfelsers have known for decades — New Braunfels undoubtedly represents German culture, food, heritage and spirit.

Members of the Texas House of Representatives passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, sponsored by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, naming New Braunfels "A German Heritage Center of Texas."

Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin, co-sponsored the resolution in the House.

The resolution now will be sent to Gov. Ann Richards to be signed.

Word of the resolution is being greeted in New Braunfels with open arms.

"That's just another indicator to the citizens of Texas and around the country that New Braunfels has a great German heritage and they have something to offer the visitor and the full-time resident," said Michael Meek, executive vice president for the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce.

The resolution, which states New Braunfels delights visitors who come from all over the world to view its splendor, recognizes the work that has been done to preserve the heritage.

"The citizens of New Braunfels who cherish their German heritage and traditions are devoted to preserving the historic buildings and artifacts depicting the life and time of the first German settler," the resolution states. "German influence and tradition, cul-

ture and language is still prominent in the town famous for its sausages, breads, and popular river resorts."

The resolution also notes the annual event of Wurstfest and the Sophienburg Museum and Archives, which houses "valuable, historical collections and perpetuates the spirit and memory of the early pioneers."

Meek said the resolution is timely in that it can be incorporated with the 150th birthday of New Braunfels in 1995.

"We can now incorporate this into our logo and stationery and the whole community, hopefully, all businesses, civic groups, city, chamber will be promoting New Braunfels as a German heritage center of Texas in everything they do in the next five years," he said.

## Historical Marker Dedication And ( ISB : #19 ) Open House At Hasse House



The Hasse family invites everyone to join them at the Hasse House Easter Sunday, at three o'clock in the afternoon for the official dedication of a National Register of Historic Places Marker. Following the program, there will be an open house.

This is one of the historical houses still standing in the Art, Texas community. It was built by Henry Hasse, Jr. and his wife, Fredericka (Bickenbach) who in 1860 purchased 320 acres of land from Dan Hoerster at what was then called the Upper Willow Creek settlement.

The Hasses lived in a log cabin until 1883 when they build the present two story rock house. The downstairs originally consisted of two bedrooms, a dining area and a kitchen.

The upstairs was one room, unfinished but used by the family for storage and living quarters. There was a long front porch with a rose garden in the front yard and a white picket yard fence which encircled chinaberry trees that grew at the edge of the yard.

Of the six children born to Henry and Fredericka, only four survived. These were Henry III, Dan, John, and a daughter, Lazette (Mrs. Alvin Donop). Several of their grandchildren are still living in the Mason, Llano and Castell areas.

The Hasse House was renovated in 1980 by present owner Laverne Lee and for the past six years has been a bed and breakfast facility.

The Hasse House will be officially dedicated with a National Register of Historic Places Marker

**Located**

in Art the house was renovated by present owner Laverne Lee in 1980 and has been used a a bed and breakfast facility for the past six years.

# RESTORATION

Austin, Texas

(ISB:#23)

*The American-Statesman* Sunday, August 21, 1960  
GERMAN FREE SCHOOL

## Restoration Captures History; Becomes Elegant Home-Studio

By LOIS HALE GALVIN

The year was 1857! A memorable year in Texas — especially in Austin.

On a hill overlooking Red River — at that time only a winding gravel road that followed the cliffs on the west bank of Waller Creek — a brand new building was erected: The German Free School.

A century later — 1957 — an elegant Italian villa occupied the same site. It was the "new" home-and-studio of Artist Kelly H. Stevens. Actually, the "two" buildings are one and the same, yet not quite. And, Mr. Stevens' home-studio isn't really new in one sense of the word, but is a magnificent restoration of a "shell of the past."

The ten decades left a richly historic imprint on the old school, yet at the same time took a devastating toll of the once fine old structure, hand-built with volunteer labor by the German settlers to assure their children's education.

Mr. Stevens' Old-Austria style villa, now further enhanced with a multi-terraced, formal Italian garden created during the past three years, bears little resemblance to the dilapidated structure, which he purchased back in 1948.

It really took more courage than money to buy the tumbling-down old building, that had degenerated into a tenement; then had been racked by a fire in 1920, which destroyed the major part of the roof and interior. Then, too, by the 20th Century, Austin had "grown the other way."

At the time the German immigrants chose the picturesque site for their community, possibly during the last days of the Republic of Texas or its early statehood, when most of the early German settlers came, great pecan and oak trees grew there in abundance. The newcomers built their homes along the creek, where springs and a deep flowing well furnished plenty of water. Some of them lived in log cabins, but most of them built two-room houses of brick or stone with a lean-to on the back. (Several are still existent).

But, the neighborhood had kept the old German Free School "close company" in its gradual degeneration. True, the gravel road had become a modern paved street, teeming with noisy traffic — a sign of the times and progress. However, lining Red River Street, in this area at least, are mostly old junk or second-hand stores, antique shops, (not the plushy kind), and a Mexican restaurant or two: one, El Charro, nestles directly beneath the hill on which the building stands.

Tenth Street, along the north border of the property, must have been much lovelier back in 1857 when it was known as Mulberry Street; but it has fared even worse than the adjacent street.

So, in addition to courage, it also took vision and a deep love of things historic, plus a willingness to spend years of research and hard work in an effort to restore the crumbling structure, as nearly as possible, to its authentic and original state — and to preserve it for the future. No small requisite, but Kelly Stevens is endowed with these, and other characteristics that enabled him to bring about the restoration, that's as much a work of art as any masterpiece.

However, to him this is not just an old building. It is a symbol of the courageous people who helped to carve a foundation for the Lone Star State, and of their faith in its future, even in the face of danger and great hardships; for as we've said before, 1857 was a memorable year:

Then, even as now, misfortunes never seemed to come singly. The year began with one of the severest winters ever known in Texas. Cattle and stock horses perished in the cold that continued from December through January, and the peach orchards all over the country were damaged. The preceding fall, grasshoppers came from the Northwest in myriads, devouring every green thing in sight. In April, the eggs they'd left, hatched. What little vegetation these new hoppers left was destroyed by a late May frost.

Before the end of a three-year drought that began in 1855, and almost became a famine, the people's distress was further increased by the 1857 money panic that occurred throughout the country, but was especially severe in the South. Money became very scarce in Texas, and was hoarded by people who had it. Many persons were reduced from affluence to poverty. Through all of these hardships, there was the ever present threat of hostile Indians.

The courage, faith and perseverance of those early Texans must truly have been superhuman, for in spite of these overwhelming odds they never stopped forging ahead — And, continuing to build:

On Sept. 12, 1857, the German citizens of Austin held a public meeting. Its purpose was to take steps to establish a German free school in the capital city, for Austin then, as now, was the seat of the Texas government.

The German Free School Association (the inscription carved on the school's cornerstone) was comprised of eight men. The first man was a baron Wilhelm Von Rosenberg, who made the school possible. He bought the lot and gave it to the German settlers, along with \$1,000 cash to build it. But, the men of the colony pitched in and constructed the building with volunteer labor. They came after work and on Saturdays, and by January of 1858, the building was completed and the first term of school began, with a 19-year-old young German, Julius Schutze, as schoolmaster.

Sept. 25, 1857 saw the organizing of the Austin Hook and Ladder Fire Company No. 1. This same year the new Land Office Building was erected, and the Texas School for the Deaf was established on Congress south of the Colorado River, with three pupils under the superintendency of Professor J. Van Nostrand. Mr. Stevens was to attend this school himself from 1907 to 1915, and to also teach art there later.

The German school was not a slipshod construction, but was built to endure, and with nominal care and repairs it would have been a credit to its builders for

perhaps another century. The main school building had two large rooms with two outside entrances, to accommodate separate classrooms for the boys and girls.

Inside, the rooms were divided with folding doors, that could be opened to make one huge meeting or banquet hall for all of the families, for the school building also became a place of community gatherings, especially on Christmas and other holidays. There was room for a banquet table long enough to seat 150 persons.

It seems strange, with firewood as plentiful as it must have been, that the building was not heated by fireplaces, so prevalent in most buildings of that era, but at each end were flues for the two huge potbellied iron stoves that were used instead.

The building's deep foundation of rock and the lower cellar walls of rammed earth are two-feet thick, while the upper walls, also of rammed earth, are a foot-and-a-half thick. The men constructed the walls in "layers," a few feet at a time. They built a wooden frame several feet high to extend around the entire building. Using small lime stone, dissolved limestone and earth, they filled the frame with the mixture and rammed it down solid. They let it set until it was dry and hard, then the frame was removed and placed on top of the layer, and the process repeated until the walls were completed.

The original roof was of cypress shingles and the outside walls were painted yellow, with red and black decorations under the window sills. Only a trace of these were visible when Mr. Stevens began reconstruction of the building. And he found a portion of the shingled roof under the corrugated tin that had been put on the building after the fire.

The interior plastered walls and the board and batten ceilings were blue-green. The floors were wide pine planks. And, the cellar below was certainly a forerunner of our current day survival shelters. It was stocked with barrels of water, sauerkraut and dried meat. They prepared the school to withstand seige.

The plan was for the women and children to take shelter in the cellar, while the men occupied the upstairs, where they could shoot from behind the shutters. Al-



The  
American  
Statesman

Continued

though there were a number of times when they did run to the schoolhouse, for there were numerous Indian forays nearby, and the Indians actually did raid along the river, but they never got this far.

In 1872, a two-story stone addition was built onto the building, making it 100-feet long. It was 20-feet wide. This new addition was to provide living quarters for Julius Schutze and his family. They continued to live there after the German Free School closed, when the city schools opened. The Germania Verein, a social and singing club, took over the school portion of the building for some years, then eventually, Mr. Schutze bought and occupied the entire building. A son and his family lived in the downstairs rooms.

When Mr. Schutze died about 1912, his widow sold the property.

By the time Mr. Stevens acquired it in 1948, when he had just returned from a year in South America, the old building had changed hands several times, and been through various states of repair and "disrepair," but mostly the latter.

Before beginning the laborious task of restoration, Mr. Stevens visited Fredericksburg and Seguin, and studied the old German buildings there. He gathered all the information and background he could on the old German Free School, and the people who built

and operated it. During these years, he didn't begin work on it until 1954, he watched old homes and buildings being razed. Little by little, he collected interesting and decorative parts of these places, and stored them in the basement of "his school," until the time he could use them.

He used quoins from the old Main Building at the University of Texas to strengthen his building where the walls had begun to bulge. The numerous stone steps in his terraced Italian garden, and the huge ones leading from the main entrance of the house to the garden walk are from the old St. Mary's Academy. Another set, from UT's old "B" hall, leads up to a high carport, where you can cross to a charming patio that's enclosed with an extremely high, open-work stone fence. This is adjacent to the guest bedroom.

Terrace walls, flower beds and tall pedestals for the some eight charming garden statues, carved of Italian sandstone in Vicenza, Italy, are fashioned of Austin shell stone. Much tedious and beautiful stonework has gone into the restoring of the building and the grounds, Mr. Stevens designed it, but the work was done under his supervision by a wonderful old stonecutter, the late David Ruiz, who learned his trade, and learned it well, in Mexico. He spent most of the four years it took to restore the building, working

closely with Mr. Stevens, who generously gives him credit for much of the beauty that evolved from the badly damaged, original stonework. The entire north wall of the stone building had to be replaced.

As nearly as possible, the exterior of the building was restored to its original construction, excepting the outer walls, which are a natural cement color with no decorative trim. There's only the cool accent of green shuttered-screen doors and white two-storied pillars around the porch of the stone house.

★

The interior is a different story. It is now a very comfortable two-bedroom home, with a kitchen that's as modern as tomorrow; a high-ceilinged living room with a colonial air; and a 17x28 foot studio, which occupies the whole upper floor of the two-story section. The first floor is a very modern, small apartment.

It would literally take a book to do justice to the Mr. Stevens' comprehensive restoration of this old building, and the manner in which he has utilized a bit of the "historic" garnered from far and wide, to enhance, rather than to change the structure.

Among those of which he is most proud, are handsome, hand made panel doors from the Palm House, built in 1842. Three of these huge doors, which he likes to call his "Robert E. Lee" doors, were placed at the three outside en-

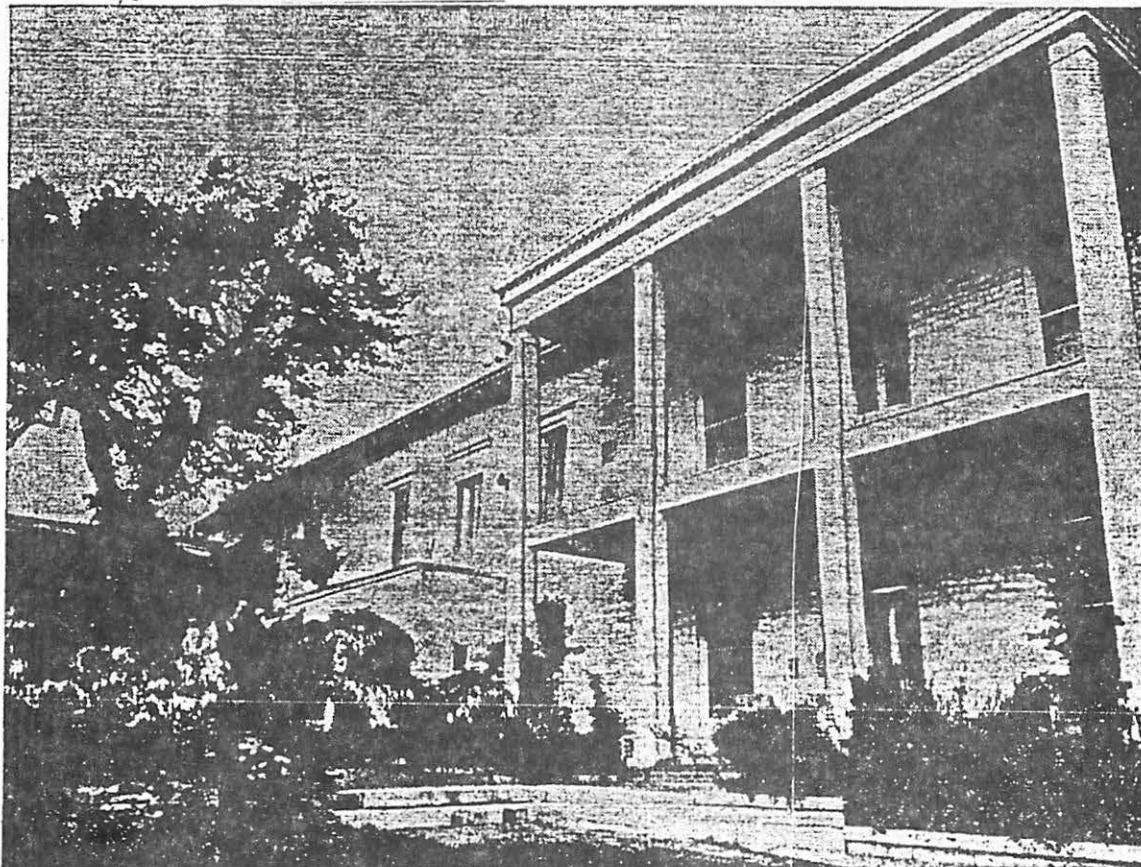
trances. During the years when Albert Sidney Johnston rented the Palm house, Lee stayed there when he visited Austin, for the two men were friends. Another unique set, now used on his bedroom closet, is a door-and-a-half-door. He hasn't learned exactly why they were made in this unusual manner.

Only one of the original doors escaped the 1920 fire, and this one, an eight-foot four-inch door, leads from his studio to the second-floor porch.

The fireplace mantelpiece in his living room dates back to 1790, and was in his great-grandfather's Georgian brick home in Wartrace, Tenn.; a house built by Andrew Jackson. Stevens has faced it with Italian rose marble. An 18th century copy frames his studio fireplace.

Mr. Stevens' villa home is filled with rare and beautiful possessions that range from 15th and 16th century collectors art objects, to paintings that are museum pieces, to a prized Texana collection, that includes a self-portrait of Wm. Henry Huddle, and many of the noted Texas artist's paintings that have never been shown publicly.

He has spent many years abroad, studying and painting; in Paris, Spain, South America and Mexico, as well as in the States; and has taught art in a number of schools for the deaf, including here in Austin. During all of these years, he has been painstakingly collecting the richly beautiful and historically valuable objects of art that find a perfect setting in the elegantly restored, early Austin structure.

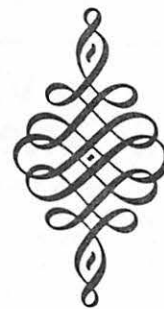


Formal Italian garden is series of terraces, enhanced with Italian statuary and walled with stonework of ancient appearing Austin shell stone. Artist Kelly Stevens' studio, occupies second floor of the two-story stone building at right, that was added in 1872, to

Austin American/Willie Allen

the original structure, erected in 1857, as the German Free School. The high concrete porch to the center building is reached by 12, extra wide concrete steps that came from the old St. Mary's Academy.

Photos by American Statesman/Willie Allen



# Boerne band in 131-year tradition

By **RALPH WININGHAM**  
Express-News Staff Writer

**BOERNE** — Playing a trumpet as an 11-year-old member of his grade-school band in 1949 was the first step into a 131-year tradition for Boerne veterinarian Kenneth C. Herbst.

That tradition achieves another milestone next week as the first of five free Abendkonzerte (evening concerts) by the Boerne Village Band is performed at Main Plaza.

The concerts by America's oldest continuously active German music band are scheduled from 7:30 to 9 p.m. June 4, June 18, July 16, July 30 and Aug. 20.

Herbst, who has played in the band since 1949 when his great-uncle recruited him, has been band director for almost 20 years. He said the concerts feature a variety of German marches, waltzes and polkas.

"There are 15 members of the band, and everyone in the group is proud of keeping up the tradition of our area through our German music," he said.

"The members are teachers, a bank president, a dentist, a



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

The 131-year-old Boerne Village Band will offer a series of evening concerts beginning early next month in the Main Plaza of the Hill Country city.

rancher and other people who just have a common interest and enjoy playing this kind of music," he added.

The band members wear traditional German costumes in-

cluding Tirolean ties and suspenders. Many of them are continuing a family history of playing with the band.

"A few of the members have roots all the way back to the

very beginning of the band," said Herbst, who took over the post from his great-uncle in 1972.

"The age of our members ranges from 77 to 17," he said. New members are added as necessary to continue the tradition.

## Boerne Village Band To Be Honored By The Texas Legislature

by Colonel Bettie Edmonds

On 27 March 1991, the Texas Legislature will honor the Boerne Village Band for providing the people of Texas with the finest of German Band music for more than 130 years and for keeping the old German music alive in Texas as part of our heritage.

Resolutions will be read in the Capitol in Austin by Edmund Kuempel in the House of Representatives and by Bill Sims in the Senate. These ceremonies are to be followed by a reception in the Capitol Building. The Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society is sponsoring this recognition for the band.

The Boerne Village Band has made our lives so much richer with their music since 1860.

Texas joined the United States in 1845 and its first 15 years of Statehood witnessed the greatest immigration of Germans into the Texas Hill Country area that it has ever had. The Germans migrated here to stay and brought with them their unique culture which had a tremendous influence on settling this portion of Texas. A big part of the German culture is their music and though the trip was long, hard and debilitating, they carried their instruments with them and they never stopped playing and singing.

Karl Dienger is credited with being the organizer of both the Boerne Gesungen Verein (the Singing Club) and the Boerne Village Band by combining

band, making the Behr family and its descendants, four generations with the band, with three generations performing as Director.

Another family with deep roots in the band is the Henry F. Schrader Family, whose parents migrated from Germany in 1869. Henry F. played "pick horn" from the time he was 15 years old and played in the band for over 50 years. His son, Henry, learned to play from his father and he has also played in the band for over 50 years.

Another original member, Alexander Kaiser, went into the Civil War as a 10 or 12 year old "drummer boy" after his parents were murdered on the Little Joshua Creek in the early

1860's. Later in 1879, he built the center of his house as a place for the band to practice and he still played drums for many years.

singing at festivals with the much needed band music. From 1860 to 1885, he was in charge of both groups.

The Behr Family has had another long term influence on the band. Ottmar von Behr came to Sisterdale in the 1840's and was a singer in the Sisterdale Vocal Quartet. Two of his children, Jennie and Ottmar, are entwined in the history of the band. Jennie's husband, Fritz Fisher, taught her brother, Ottmar, Junior's sons, Arthur, Oscar and Ottmar E. to play musical instruments. Oscar and

## The Comfort News

Comfort, Texas

March 21, 1991

( ISB : #12 )

## Boerne Village Band Honored Cont'd.

Ottmar E. Behr both went on to become Director of the band at different times. Oscar's daughter, Roma, married Alvin Herbst and their son, Kenneth Herbst, began playing with the band when he was 11 years old. Kenneth is now the Director, following his grandfather, Oscar, and his great uncle, Ottmar E. Behr. Kenneth's sons, Kenneth and Clinton, also play in the

Around the turn of the century, we see, through photos, such names as Vanderstatten, Kuhfuss, Zoeller, Minnich, Beseler, Clemens, Phillip, Bergmann, Schrader, Stendebach, Behr and Kaiser still playing. Quite a list of old pioneer families from this area!

The band became inactive during WWII, but did not disband. After the war, a new group was assembled by the Grosser brothers, Erhard Ebner, Henry Schrader and others.

Now, the Boerne Village Band is no longer just a back-up for the old time Sangerfest, they are prominently known in their own right and play for the finest celebrations, such as San Antonio's Folk Life Festival, New Braunfels' Wurstfest, Boerne's Bergesfest and the Kendall County Fair. They play in Fredericksburg, Helotes and for many private affairs.

During the past few years, the band has received donations of old German music from the Republic of Germany itself

through the German Consul in Houston, Texas, as well as from Hans Freivogel, a noted German composer and musical director. Their musical compositions now number over 250 German songs.

In 1986, the Boerne Village Band first wore their new, authentic German uniforms for the Texas Sesquicentennial.

The band has been recognized for its value as the "Oldest German Band in Texas and Outside of Germany." In 1983, Kenneth Herbst was presented an historical award from the Boerne Area Historical Preservation Society, "for keeping alive the old German music, as part of our heritage, through the Boerne Village Band." In 1988, Kenneth was honored by the

President of the Federal Republic of Germany with the "Friendship Award" for the preservation and continuation of German music in the State of Texas. He was also presented a Tenor Horn from the Government of Germany. In 1990, Kenneth visited Runkle, Germany, at the invitation of their band director, and Kenneth, himself, directed their band.

And the band plays on...From its beginnings 130 years ago, the Boerne Village Band has been an important part of this community and has given more pleasure than can be measured. While other dance bands, concert bands and groups by other names have come and gone, the Boerne Village Band has endured..improved..grown and developed a very strong following today.

We are REALLY proud of you ...VERY PROUD.

### HI-STANDARD

La Grange Independent School District, La Grange, Tx.

February 26, 1991

(ISB:#12)

# Germans compete

By Gina Patton

German competitors are searching for their third consecutive sweepstakes trophy by competing in the Houstonfest at the University of Houston campus this Saturday.

Two contests are held in spring: Sprachfest and Houstonfest. The contestants have usually participated in the Sprachfest contest, but because of a region band conflict on the same day as Sprachfest, the German members decided to compete in Houstonfest.

According to German teacher Lee Ann Hartmann, the Houstonfest competition will probably be more difficult because other schools that also have band conflicts will be attending.

An average of 30-34 students compete at the contests and are usually in more than one event. These students learn the basics in class, but it also takes hard

work and practice on their own time to be successful Mrs. Hartmann said.

"I'm in folkdancing and I enjoy it because it is good exercise because you have to move so quickly with a lot of coordination," senior Aaron Kuntschik said.

The folkdancing and polka band have been especially successful winning second at state in 1989 and third last year. The dancers have been practicing since Thanksgiving.

"The past few years have been successful because the people had been in the program for four years," Mrs. Hartmann said, "and as an experienced group, they have worked very well together."

Folkdancing and polka band are not the only events to be competed in, however. There are spelling tests, culture tests, puppet shows, scavenger hunts, poster, t-shirt, and gingerbread house decorating.



**EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC.** Seniors Gilbert Drab and Bradley Von Minden get some extra practice for polka band during physics. Doing an experiment on sound, other musically inclined students were also allowed to play their instruments.



# TRAVEL

( ISB : # 21 )

## Visitors to Remote Mountain Village Discover Taste of German Culture

COLONIA TOVAR, Venezuela—Caracas lures tourists interested in sophisticated shopping, sunshine and beaches. For that reason, tourism officials say it is ironic that one of the most popular spots outside the Venezuela capital is a mountain village located in a forested highland area and populated by German immigrants.

Shut off from the rest of the country for decades, Colonia Tovar—90 minutes from Caracas—now survives by tourism. Visitors to this town find themselves in a burg where some residents still speak the Black Forest dialect of their German ancestors, who settled the community in 1843.

Originally a farming community, Colonia Tovar still grows coffee, strawberries, garlic, rhubarb and flowers for the city of Caracas. However, the town now boasts fine craftspeople, especially those who work with ceramics and pottery.

### German Delicacies

And for fans of German food, Colonia Tovar has a bounty of authentic dishes and plenty of cold German beer with which to

wash them down.

An interesting sight is the local cemetery, where graves are marked by checkerboard arrangements of brightly-colored tiles and adornments.

### Getting There

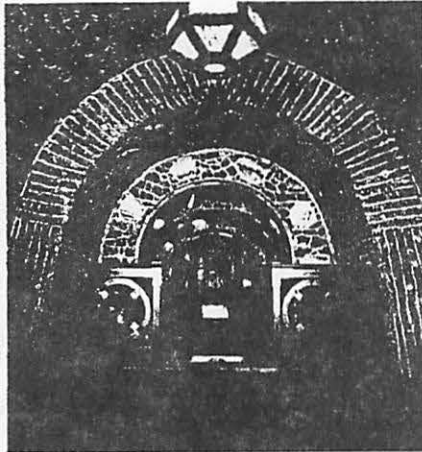
Colonia Tovar can be reached by taxi or bus from Caracas. Organized tours also depart from Caracas daily. There are three three-star hotels in the town and an equal number of more modest accommodations for visitors who want to experience the fresh mountain air and German atmosphere of the town for more than a day. The better quality hotels are: Selva Negra, Alta Bavaria and Kaiserstuhl.

Colonia Tovar recently made its appearance in the U.S. thanks to the novel *Eva Luna* by Isabel Allende, a Chilean who spent many years in Venezuela before resettling in the U.S. In her novel about an unnamed oil-rich country on the Caribbean coast of South America, a German village known as "the Colonia" plays a prominent role in the plot.

— Mary A. Dempsey



Salzbergwerk Berchtesgaden ( ISB : # 13 )



## ENJOY A TOUR THROUGH THE BERCHTESGADEN SALT MINES WITH ITS MORE THAN 450 YEARS OLD HISTORY!

At the time, when prince-abbots ruled over the Berchtesgaden area, only distinguished visitors were authorized to visit the Salt Mines. Today this attraction is open to everyone and will remain an ever memorable experience. Every year almost 500 000 guests visit the Salt Mines, dressed in the same miner's clothes, already worn by kings and princes during their visit. A guide will conduct you through a fascinating underground world. This all cannot be the 20<sup>th</sup> century! Like horse-back riding on original mining wagons you drive through a 700 yards long tunnel and get off the "train" at the Emperor Franz pit, a huge "cave" with a ceiling area of 3000 square metres. There are two possibilities to get down to a beautiful salt grotto located at a lower level. Either a walk down-stairs, or, which is much more fun, you slide down a 100 feet long slide polished by countless miner's pants. You will be surprised at the variety of salt rocks glowing in bright colours. In an underground theatre an informative motion picture will depict the origin of the salt deposits, the processing from the first step to packaging. The underground activities are demonstrated by many machines and other equipment. At the salt museum you will find a chronicle of the salt mines, historical tools and lamps, furthermore rocks, minerals, and other interesting items.

Glück auf!  
...und ab geht's ins Salzbergwerk, ein unvergeßliches Erlebnis!

...and let's go to the Salt Mines, an unforgettable experience!



After passing by some kind of a cap-stan you will slide down a second slide and then arrive at the illuminated underground salt lake, which is 300 feet long and 90 feet wide. Our guests cross this lake on rafts. The journey then leads through a grotto with sparkling salt covered walls, an ancient and famous brine pump, built by Reichenbach in 1817. An inclined elevator takes you up to a higher level and after walking through a tunnel, decorated with beautiful old pit boards, you reach the miniature train again, which, after a fast ride, will bring you back to daylight.

Relax at the Salt Mines restaurant, which offers excellent meals and beverages!



## OPENING HOURS

1 May – 15 October  
(also during the Easter Holidays):  
daily from 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

16 October – 30 April:  
work days from 12.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Duration of the visit:  
About one and a half hours until two hours including the time for picking up and returning the miners clothes (protective clothing).

TravelAge MidAmerica

# Texas history brewed at site near La Grange

Houston Chronicle

Feb. 24, 1991  
(ISB: #12)

By **JEAN SIMMONS**  
Dallas Morning News

**LA GRANGE** — Sometime when you are meandering around Central Texas — perhaps at bluebonnet time, if not before — relax your stiff muscles with a palatable double dose of Texas history.

Follow U.S. Highway 77 south of La Grange for a winding, uphill mile and a half, then turn right on Spur 92 to the entrance of Monument Hill and Kreishe Brewery State Historic Site. Take time, as we finally did, to find out what lies therein.

As the name implies, this is a two-part site. It represents a big slash of mid-1800s history and a pleasant means to learn about it.

By following an easy interpretive trail through the park, you'll learn the stories behind the tall, slender monument dedicated to Texans who died in battles with Mexico and how an ingenious German immigrant utilized the topography to carve out a successful brewery.

You'll soon find yourself high on a bluff looking down on the Colorado River and across to La Grange itself, the seat of Fayette County. The pretty site was the *raison d'être* for what came to happen here.

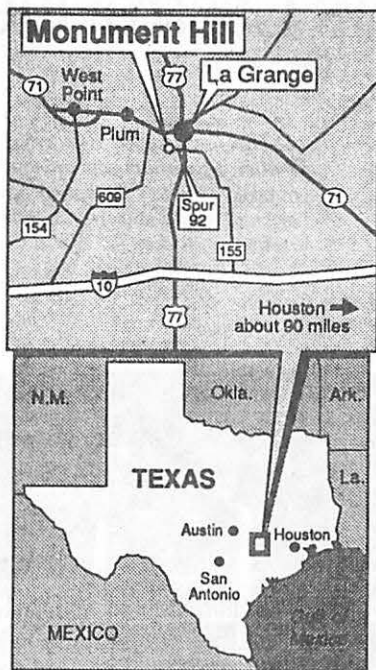
Arrive on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and you can add a less

**The well-maintained, self-guided interpretive trail goes past the tomb and monument, along the river bluff, loops around the Kreishe house and includes an overlook of the brewery ruins.**

easily maneuvered guided tour down to the adjacent ruins of the brewery, otherwise off-limits to visitors.

The pretty grounds of the historic site were chosen in 1848 as the burial place for the remains of Texans who died in the battle of Salado Creek near San Antonio in 1842 or on the ill-fated Mier Expedition the following year, as Texas continued its war with Mexico even after winning independence.

A leaflet relates the grim textbook history of the Somervell Expedition,



Chronicle

the Mier Expedition and the infamous Black Bean Episode in which Santa Anna ordered 17 recaptured Texans — those who drew the black beans — to be shot.

Sam Houston and other dignitaries attended the memorial interment ceremony in 1848 at the Monument Hill site. A few months later, in January 1849, a German immigrant named Heinrich L. Kreishe acquired 172 acres of land that included the bluff and the grave site of the early Texas heroes.

Kreishe, a stonemason by trade, established his homestead and built a substantial house, barn, smokehouse and eventually a complex, innovative three-story building for commercial brewing. By the 1870 census, he had changed his major occupation to that of brewing, and his brewery soon became the state's third-largest producer.

Kreishe died in 1882, but the large stone house in which he and wife Josepha reared six children remained a family residence until 1952 when Julia Kreishe, the last survivor, died.

The tomb of the battle victims and a small parcel of land had been acquired by the state in 1907, and the tall, slender monument was erected in 1936. The site was later transferred to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and named Monument Hill State Historic Site.

In 1977, the state acquired 36 additional acres on which the Kreishe

house, brewery and other outbuildings are located and designated this as the Kreishe Brewery State Historic Site. They are administered as a single operational unit.

Park headquarters and a small visitor center are located on Spur 92. There are picnic areas both alongside the parking area and farther into the park.

The well-maintained, self-guided interpretive trail goes past the tomb and monument, along the river bluff, loops around the Kreishe house and includes an overlook of the brewery ruins. There also is a marked nature trail for those wishing to study the flora and fauna.

The guided trail down to the brewery is a bit more difficult, involving considerable steps and ramps and taking about an hour in all. Visitors are required to keep on the paths because of the crumbling state of the sandstone ruins.

Most of the brewery tours are conducted by volunteer tour guides, who provide the commentary in their own words rather than by rote. They explain how Kreishe built his structure within a spring-fed drainage, capitalizing on the topography and hydrology of the area.

Participants view the remains from three levels, winding up in a barrel-arched vault cooled by an ingenious ventilation system on the lowest level.

Tours are limited to 12 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Upon arrival at the park, sign up in the office and get a voucher. Should the weather be doubtful, you might want to call ahead on Saturday morning to check the prospects.

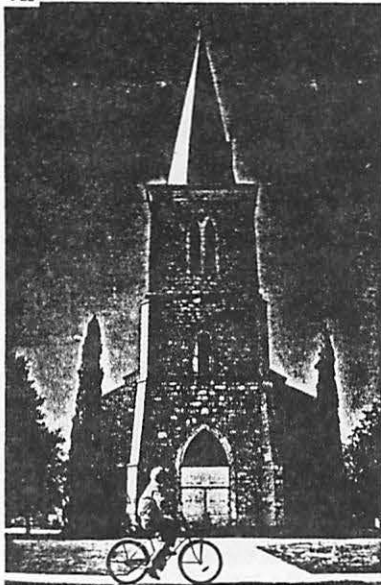
## When you go

■ **Monument Hill and Kreishe Brewery State Historic site:** Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission charge is 50 cents for adults (no charge for seniors) and 25 cents for children ages 6 to 12; contributions also welcomed.

Guided brewery tours at 2 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; groups by appointment on weekdays.

■ **For more information:** Route 1, Box 699, La Grange, Texas, 78945; (409) 968-5658.



# PLACES

## The Alsace Flavors Castroville

( ISB:#10 )

*At Haby's Alsatian Bakery, Walter Tschirhart sets out his bread to cool. Many of the baked goods are still made with traditional recipes from the Old World.*



*The spire of St. Louis Catholic Church, built in 1870, towers over the town's main square.*

PHOTOGRAPHS: COLLEEN DUFFLEY

Visitors can enjoy the food at local restaurants, and the fresh-baked bread and pastries at Haby's Alsatian Bakery anytime, but Alsatian fare expands to a feast at the annual St. Louis Day held in August. The event, celebrated for more than a century, draws crowds for food, games, crafts, and entertainment at Koenig Park.

Castroville residents have tried hard to maintain their heritage. They have preserved nearly 100 homes and buildings from the early days of settlement in the town about 25 miles west of San Antonio. And they cling to old-world traditions, such as the cuisine served in local restaurants and the Alsatian dance performances.

The dancing and costumes, along with landmarks and cuisine, represent ways the Alsatian culture thrives. Perhaps those long-ago immigrants from the borderlands between France and Germany would still feel at home.



*Members of the Alsatian Dancers of Texas appear dressed in colorful costumes during special events in Castroville.*

## Been told where to go? Here's the route ( ISB:#14 )

Wednesday, October 31, 1984 THE STARS AND STRIPES

By **TONY NAUROTH**  
Nuernberg bureau

**HOELLE, Germany** — If anyone ever tells you to go to Hell, here are the directions:

First, find the city of Hof near where West Germany, East Germany and Czechoslovakia come together. Travel 12 miles due west to the town of Naila. Follow the signs three miles to Marxgruen, then north toward the border.

Hoelle, literally translated, means Hell.

Less than two miles from the East German border, the quiet little village can be walked from south to north, then west to east, in less than 20 minutes.

There are only about a dozen homes here — not the thriving metropolis one would expect, given the number of evil characters in this world.

Hoelle rests in a steep, heavily wooded valley. At the town limits, a rustic stained wooden sign welcomes visitors to "the climatic health resort of Hell."

The unusual greeting isn't all irony. Hoelle is a little-

known health area where Germans can take "the cure." It has more than its share of guest houses and pensions.

Wandering paths take hikers "through the valley of Hell," to "the devil's bridge" that spans a rugged, rocky creek. Gnarled tree roots clench mossy lumps of earth along the creek.

Hell's only industry is not the buying and selling of souls, but the selling of mineral water, appropriately called "The Waters of Hell." It comes in seven flavors — including a diet line — for those who would give their very souls to lose those pounds.

Deep springs offer the visitor a sparkling taste along the route. The water is unusually effervescent — almost sizzling.

Hell may not be a high priority on the tourist's must-see list. However, it may be worth a side trip to flabbergast dinner guests who boast about the faraway places they've visited.



S&S photos by Tony Nauroth

# 1847 POWHATAN HOUSE

Home of the Galveston Garden Club



OPEN FOR TOURS - 1 to 5 o'clock (ISB: #18)  
SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS

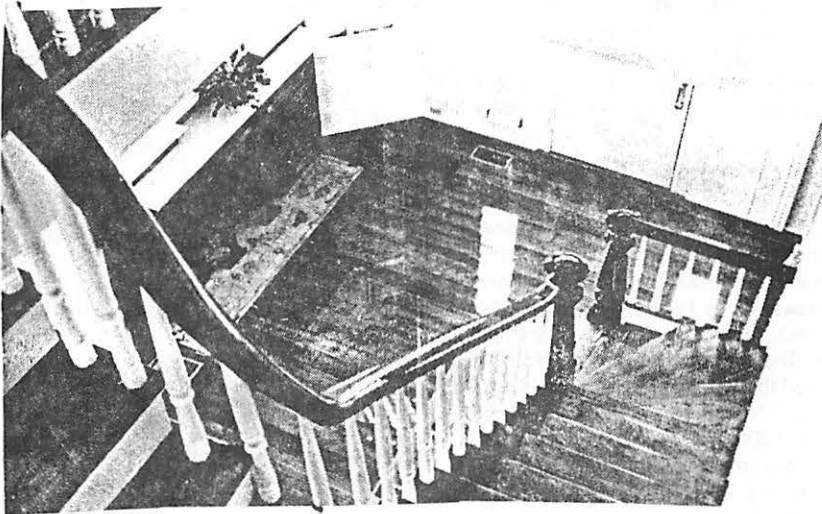
(By Appointment for Groups at Other Times)

\$2.00 Adults \$1.00 Students

Closed Christmas Week/New Year's, Easter, July 4

3427 Avenue O, Galveston, TX 77550, or call (409) 763-0077

From 1903-1935, it was home for the Charles A. Vedder family, for J. W. Oschmann in 1935, and finally for the Forest E. Dyer family until its purchase in October, 1965, by the Galveston Garden Club.



The 1847 house is the latest landmark to be shared with the public following an intensive interior rehabilitation in 1985-86.



German settlers in Round Top, Texas, built Bethlehem Lutheran Church in 1866.

Southern Living (ISB: #25)

## A Church Built To Last

Round Top, Texas, has become well known for its classical music concerts at Festival Hill in recent years, but music has been around for a long time in Round Top. Some Sunday mornings the resonant sounds of a vintage wooden organ echo from the stout stone walls of Bethlehem Lutheran Church just as they did when Traugott Wandke built the organ for the new church in 1867.

While other pioneers used posts from cedar trees to build cabins and fences, Wandke, a cabinetmaker and German immigrant, used them to make the pipes of a fine organ.

Vera Mohr, organist for the church, believes it is the oldest Lutheran church in Texas in which services are held regularly. She still plays the old organ several Sundays each year. The pipes are enclosed in a wooden case about 7 feet wide and 8 feet tall, located in the choir loft.

Recently retired, Rev. Milroy Gregor served as pastor of the church for 14 years. Gregor prefers the old organ to a new electronic instrument the church bought a few years ago. "The old organ is still a beautiful sounding instrument," he says.

Along with the organ, flooring and support timbers for the church are also made from the evergreen trees Texans call cedar, which are actually a juniper. Thick walls of the church are made of sandstone quarried nearby.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located a block west of Farm Road 237, southwest of the Round Top Square, is open daily. For additional information, write the church at Box 38, Round Top, Texas 78954; or telephone (409) 249-3686.



The  
Only Authentic  
German  
Restaurant  
and  
Bier Garten  
in  
East Texas

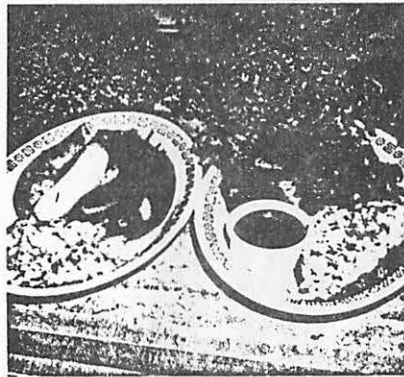
The Only Restaurant in the Area listed in  
The 3-A Tour Guide Book This Year.



Owner, Operator  
Felton Lemke

Route 5, Box 1020  
Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Phone: 409-875-2205

(ISB:#2)



**Authentic German Food!**

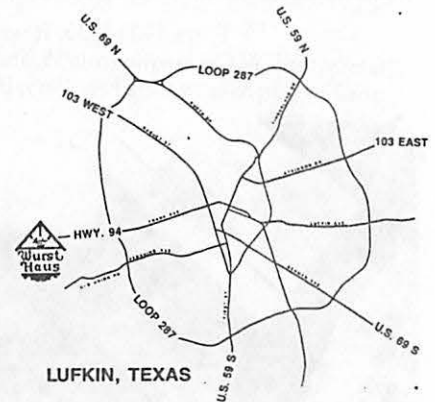
The Wurst Haus offers a variety of authentic German dishes such as Snitzel, Sauerbraten, Rouladen, Cordon Bleu and many kinds of sausage. The dinner for Two (Essen fur Zwei) will be a treat you'll never forget. For the "not so hungry" you can choose an appetizer such as Herring in wine sauce or enjoy the popular Reubin Sandwich. Some home cooked specialties include red cabbage, hot potato salad, and sauerkraut. For the seafood lover; choose oysters on a half shell, boiled shrimp, boiled and fried crawfish when in season and, of course, steak and lobster. And to top it all off enjoy some homemade apple strudel or cheesecake for dessert.

**What is Gemuetlichkeit?**

Says one travel writer: Gemuetlichkeit means casual cheerfulness, joy in living, a sharing of happiness with others, a certain warm, tidy, snug, comfortable and friendly feeling. Another says: It is untranslatable but all agreed that no matter what Gemuetlichkeit really means, the place to find it is in Germany and here at Lemke's Wurst Haus.

**The Creator of it All**

Felton Lemke, whose Grandparents came to south Texas from Germany in 1886 with two sons and later had five more, was born in Yorktown, Texas. Felton came to East Texas in 1960. The Wurst Haus was started in 1980. The love of people and good food has enabled the Wurst Haus to become a great success. They have a complete bar selection and over 200 beers from all over the world, in addition to ten beers on tap. So come to the Wurst Haus and enjoy a little Gemuetlichkeit.



LUFKIN, TEXAS

1 1/2 miles west on Highway 94 from Loop 287



## PEOPLE



Lisa Kahn und Dr. Peter Meyer-Oswald, Generalkonsul der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Houston, Texas am 3. Oktober, 1990, bei der Ehrung

*literatur-express* 2 (1989) nr. 1/2

### *Ehrung für Lisa Kahn*

wir gratulieren!

HONORING LISA KAHN

We Congratulate!

( ISB: #15 )

Am 3. Oktober 1990, am Tag der deutschen Wiedervereinigung, hat Lisa Kahn das Bundesverdienstkreuz erhalten. Die Ehrung erfolgte für ihre Bemühungen als Professorin der deutschen Sprache und Literatur an einer vorwiegend von Minoritäten besuchten Universität, für ihre Tätigkeit in der German-Texas Heritage Society, deren Gründungsmitglied sie ist. Gewürdigt wurden vor allem auch ihre vielseitigen literarischen Bemühungen und ihre Verdienste um die deutsche Literatur in den USA, die sie unermüdlich in Vorträgen, bei Lesungen vorstellt und fördert, zu der sie selber maßgeblich und kreativ beigetragen hat und die sie auch anthologisch erfaßt hat. Lisa Kahn ist auch Gründungsmitglied der Gruppe Taos und *literatur-express*.

On October 3, 1990, the day of the German reunification, Lisa Kahn received the merit cross of the German Federal Republic. She was honored for her efforts as professor of the German language and literature at a university primarily attended by minority students, and also for activities in the German-Texan Heritage Society of which she is one of the founding members. Especially recognized were also her manifold literature activities, her deserving services devoted to German literature in the USA, where she untiringly presented lectures and readings to which she herself has added decisively and creatively. Lisa Kahn is a founding member of the literary group TAOS and the German magazine literatur-express.



**TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTEST WINNERS GO TO GERMANY (ISB:#6)**

Scholarship winners from the Texas State German Competitions spent four weeks studying and traveling in the Federal Republic of Germany in the state of Lower Saxony from June 4 until July 4, 1991. The eight scholarship winners: Kim Kacal-El Campo High, Brenda Lauterbach-Bastrop High, Rachel Petron-Judson High [Converse], Melanie Kinder-Whitney High (all achievement winners) and Christopher Klein-Fredericksburg High, Christopher Wilkes-MacArthur High [San Antonio], Charisa Schaefer-Judson High [Converse], and Shannon Siebert-MacArthur High [San Antonio] (all merit winners) traveled with Judson High German teacher-sponsor Jeanette Selman.

These winners of the State German Contest were chosen from a field of some 90 competing Texas High Schools. All had been selected as regional contest winners at Plano, Houston or San Marcos. The State selection board consisted of Anna Thompson and Helga von Schwienitz (GTHS members) and Carl Johnson of the Texas Education Agency.

Dr. Dona Reeves-Marquardt, Southwest Texas State University San Marcos, and Peter Hoffmann, Niedersaechsishe Landeszentrale fuer politische Bildung in Hannover made these all-expense scholarships possible. Students lived with host families and attended school in Osnabrueck near the Dutch border.

\*\*\*\*\*

Patrick McGuire has retired as research associate at Institute of Texan Cultures. Patrick is not only a charter member and one of the six original organizers of GTHS, he is a charter staff member at the Institute and one of the best-known promoters of German-Texan heritage. The author of three books on German-Texan artists (Iwonski, Stockfleth and Lungkwitz), he also authored a forthcoming book on the Hungarian-Texans and was a well-received speaker at GTHS's 1989 annual meeting in San Antonio.



Ingrid Kokinda addressed the San Antonio Historical Association on 17 May, "The German Texan's Potpourri." Theresa Gold spoke to the Alamo Camp #1325, Sons of Confederate Veterans on 15 May, "Germans in the Confederacy," and at the awards dinner of the Comfort Heritage Foundation on 10 June, "Our Heritage--from the Pathways of the Past to the Freeways of the Future" (ISB:#9).

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**Seidel valuable part of Fiesta celebration**

This year the Beethoven Maennerchor will stage its 40th annual Fiesta celebration. For the past 35 years, Edmund Seidel has served as a member and singer of this venerable German singing society.

In 1951 the Beethoven Maennerchor was one of the first groups authorized by the Fiesta Commission to hold a concurrent celebration away from the central Fiesta activities. From a modest beginning with a one-night performance, the production has grown to three nights and draws standing-room-only crowds. There are 150 vol-



SEIDEL

unteers who perform and work to present the various sections of the Maennerchor performance. Seidel is an outstanding example of the time, talent and energy that go into each year's production.

Seidel began his work with the Maennerchor as a singer in 1956, and for the last 18 years has added the role of master of ceremonies for the Beethoven Band Concert to his list of activities. He served as president of the Maennerchor for 10 years and is currently an engineering consultant for the planned expansion of the grounds and facilities for the Beethoven Home, where the performances are staged. For Fiesta 1991, there will be a grand opening of the Beethoven Maennerchor with enlarged seating capacity.

**Fiesta German**  
San Antonio Light  
April 27, 1991



RODOLFO GONZALEZ/SAN ANTONIO LIGHT

EXPRESS-NEWS  
San Antonio  
February 3, 1991

Fiesta San Antonio represents the diverse cultural influences of South Texas and San Antonio. The German heritage that has been an important part of our city's makeup is kept alive through groups like the Beethoven Maennerchor.

**CELEBRATION:** George Kampmann, president of the San Antonio German Club, and Jean Murphy smile in the San Jose Mission courtyard while celebrating Fiesta German.

(ISB:#12)



MAKING A DIFFERENCE in lives of students," is what Carolyn Kemplin likes best about teaching. The Boerne High School German teacher was named the Texas

BOERNE STAR  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1991  
( ISB : #20 )

# Carolyn Kemplin Is TFLA German Teacher Of Year

Foreign Language Association German Teacher of the Year at the spring convention in Corpus Christi on March 2.

Carolyn Kemplin, BHS German Teacher, was named the Texas Foreign Language Association German teacher of the Year Saturday, March 2, at the TFLA spring convention in Corpus Christi. Beth Stewart-Smith of Plano Senior High School, Plano, Texas, presented Ms. Kemplin with the award.

According to TFLA President Phyllis B. Nimmons, Kemplin was singled out from a field of nominees for her "outstanding teaching in the classroom and her involvement with the students." Kemplin received letters of support from BISD Superintendent Dr. Joseph H. Doenges, Curriculum Director, Julia Camarigg, and BHS Principal, Sam Champion.

Camarigg stated that Ms. Kemplin has gained statewide and national recognition for her district and school; she is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the South Texas American Association of Teachers of German. Last school year Kemplin was nominated to serve on the national AATG board.

"Carolyn has an almost wordless devotion to her students. She takes her students beyond their preconceived and self-imposed limits to help them achieve what is possible — their potential. She is an EXCELLENT teacher!" stated Camarigg.

Ms. Kemplin grew up on a dairy farm in Sanger, Texas and is a fourth generation school teacher. Her mother taught elementary school for 21 years. She is the daughter of Carl and Ann Kemplin. Her younger brother Kevin, a Texas A&M graduate, manages the family dairy.

The Boerne teacher attended Oklahoma Christian College, on a National Merit Commended scholar-

ship and graduated summa cum laude with a major in speech education and a in minor English. Her MA is from North Texas State University.

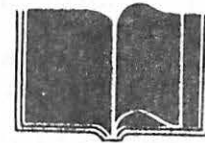
"I've always taught...this could be the 'older sister syndrome!' While in college I worked as speech tutor and K-12 substitute. You might say, my course in life was set from that point on. My first job was at Wylie High School, near Dallas. After teaching for about four years, I became intrigued by the idea of teaching foreign language, and I honed my German skills at Middlebury College, Vermont.

"What do I like best about teaching? The feeling that I've made a difference in the lives of some of my students. By teaching I can do a little bit of everything I really like to do. We act, play games, sing, dance, cook, conduct research, and create in order to make language come alive. I also really enjoy the people I work with. I've found foreign language teachers as a whole to be very open and willing to share ideas and materials.

"I love the trees and architecture in Boerne and I've also found many supportive parents and really great kids here. I truly enjoy the BHS staff — they're a great bunch to work with.

Random thoughts from the Foreign Language teacher are: A great vacation would be...traveling around Europe — especially eastern Europe with a good friend and with unlimited time and money.

"The best advice given to me came from my parents, "If you start something you finish it, and you do the best you're capable of doing." "The best advice I have for others is "The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it."



SAN ANTONIO LIGHT 4/27/91

# German evangelist to host program here

( ISB : #12 )

By GILBERTO REYES JR.  
Staff reporter

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke does not claim to have spiritual healing powers. But he firmly believes he brings a message people want to hear.

"I'm not a healer. I couldn't heal someone from the flu, but Jesus can," Bonnke said before leaving Frankfurt, Germany, for San Antonio to host a live evangelistic program on KHCE-TV, Channel 23, May 6-7.



REINHARD BONNKE

"I have the message from the Bible," he said. "It has something to do with God, and God has everything to do with eternity."

While Bonnke does not believe he can heal, he said leading people in prayer has led to miraculous recoveries among the Africans who have become the focus of his ministry.

"I believe that the power of prayer can heal, and that's what we try to get the people to focus on," Bonnke said. "I preach for the acceptance of Jesus Christ."

Bonnke began his 17-year evangelistic career in Lesotho. He estimates he has preached to 5 million Africans during his missionary

career.

While his ministry is based in Germany, Bonnke has opened satellite offices in Lagos, Nigeria, and Nairobi, Kenya.

Although he has preached in predominantly Muslim areas, Bonnke said the reception to his message has been encouraging.

"The power of the gospel is unequalled. Nothing that can match the power and glory of the gospel," Bonnke said.

Bonnke said he became an evangelist because he wanted to minister to the poor. But he also sees himself as helping fulfill a fundamental need of all people.

"God can offer eternal life, whether in Germany or the U.S.A.," the 51-year-old Bonnke said. "The basic human need is to be saved, and this can be done by accepting this powerful and thrilling message."

Bonnke said his evangelistic crusades in Africa have been attended heavily because people are starting to allow religion a more prominent role in their lives.

"If a generation isolates itself from its creator and redeemer, a mighty vacuum begins to build up," Bonnke explained. "And all of a sudden an explosion happens and people begin to embrace God again."

"It's part of the human nature. God created us and there are residues of him in us, even if it is unconscious."

# INFORMATION

The People of Germany  
By Conrad Goettig (ISBN:#8)

Ueber dem Hofe Str., DW-3352 Einbeck, Germany

The Germans are one of the most mixed populations of Europe. The unity of the German people is one of culture and language, not of race.

Germanic and Celtic tribes in pre-Roman and Roman times mingled in various parts of present Germany and were further mixed in later migrations. Slavic tribes occupied much of eastern Germany during the Middle Ages. The civilization and culture in these regions became German, but the innumerable Slavic family names and the Slavic faces in the modern population testify to the amalgamation of peoples that took place. During the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) armies of French, Walloon, Spanish, Italian, Croatian, Danish and Swedish soldiers lived in and off the land. They mingled with the German population and left numerous descendants. Since that time there has been some migration of French into western Germany and of Poles from the east. Prior to the Third Reich, Jews constituted an important segment of the population of Germany, but so thoroughly had they been assimilated into the German population that it is difficult to decide whether they should be considered a separate ethnic group or simply a separate religious group.

At the time the German Empire was founded (1871) Germany had 41 million inhabitants; in 1914 it had 67.8 million. Because of losses of life and territory during World War I, the population declined substantially for a time, but by 1939 Germany proper contained 69.6 million persons, more than 350 persons per square mile.

Despite the fact that after World War II Germany lost a fourth of its 1936 territory, its population in 1956 was estimated at more than 67 million--492 persons per square mile. Today (1991) the population of reunited Germany is at about 79 million.

Although an estimated 7 million Germans lost their lives in World War II, these losses and almost all the population losses sustained in connection with the cession of territory to neighboring countries were made up by migration of Germans into West Germany from the east. Most of the immigrants were one of three types of refugees: Germans evicted from former German territories ceded to other countries, particularly areas in Poland and former East Prussia; Germans expelled or returning voluntarily from bordering or nearby countries, especially Czechoslovakia and other eastern European countries; political refugees, German and others, many from East Germany and some from areas farther east and northeast.

Germany's population is unevenly distributed. Some regions are highly industrialized and urbanized and have dense populations. Other sections--the forests in the south and the moors, heaths, and glacial sand dunes in the north--have only a scanty population. The main concentrations of population are found in two areas. By far the greatest is the zone lying just north of the central highlands stretching from beyond the Ruhr River district in the west through the Börde region into Saxony in the southeast. Other concentrations are found in Berlin; in the two great seaport cities, Bremen and Hamburg; and along the main western river valleys--the Rhine, the Main and the Neckar.

Southern Germany has a considerable preponderance of Catholics, whereas northern and eastern Germany have a majority of Protestants. With the transfer of the territories behind the Oder-Neiße line to Polish administration after World War II, the proportion of Catholics in Germany increased slightly. In 1955 there were about 42.5 million Protestants and 24 million Catholics in the combined territories of eastern and western Germany. Prior to the rise of the Nazi party, the Jews of Germany constituted a large and influential minority. In 1933 the Nazis began a persecution of the Jews in Germany that almost eliminated them. In the predominantly Protestant states of Germany there existed from the time of the Reformation a close union between church and state, the head of the state giving protection and support of the state church. There was no united Protestant church organization, each state having its own

## The People of Germany, continued

"Landeskirche," until 1922 when the Evangelical (Lutheran) churches federated. In the Catholic areas, until Bismarck confiscated all church property, the Roman Catholic church was supported largely by income from property and grants (especially through wills) from the wealthy. Since the time of Bismarck, the German government, under a system followed by the Weimar Republic, the Nazi regime, and the West German Federal Republic, has granted to recognized churches the right to impose church taxes.

In the Federal Republic, the church tax is 8 to 10 percent of the amount of the income tax. Each individual who pays the church tax designates whether it is for the support of the Evangelical, Catholic or other recognized church.

Both religious and nonreligious schools in Germany are state supported. The state universities frequently have regular departments of Protestant and Catholic theology. The East German churches were united, however, and were not supported by any form of taxation.

---Note: Herr Goetting's previous articles on the geography and history of Germany appeared in our Journal, Vol. XII, No. 1 (Spring, 1990) and Vol. XIII, No. 1 (Spring 1991)

EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, Texas, Monday, May 27, 1991 (ISB:#9)

# World War II 'hidden children' finally willing to reveal secrets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — About 1,500 Jews who were hidden as children from the Nazis gathered Sunday to share their memories, their suffering and their courage.

"Luckily, we survived, but we were not untouched," said Nicole David, a conference organizer who was taken in by a Roman Catholic family in Belgium after her mother was sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

"We lived in fear of being found out. We were reunited with parents we did not know. And we were forced into hiding — emotionally — again and again. But we have been silent too long."

### Double meaning

Many of those who attended agreed that the term "hidden child" has a double meaning because they so rarely spoke about their traumas.

"For years I wouldn't talk about it," said Lila Kampf, a grandmother of four who lives in a suburb of New York City. "I was wearing dark glasses. I was afraid somebody would not like the idea of what I did."

Like many hidden children, Mrs. Kampf survived by pretending to be Catholic. As a 12-year-old at the start of the Nazi occupation in Poland, she was taught Catholic prayers by a family friend and

given false papers and a cross. For the next five years, until the war ended, she maintained the false identity, working first in a labor camp for Polish non-Jews and later on a farm in Czechoslovakia.

### Told her story

Once, when the strain became too much, she told the village priest her story. The priest, confident that liberation was near, persuaded her to keep up the ruse. He began paying weekly visits to the farm to keep her spirits high.

"This man gave me life," she said. "In such a horrible time, he just felt like he was saving a life. I'm grateful."

She still has the cross that enabled her to hide.

Some hidden children remained silent about their ordeals because they felt no right to complain about living out the war in basements, convents and Christian homes. After all, many of their adults relatives perished and suffered under far worse conditions in concentration camps.

But camp survivors are now dying of old age, while those who were hidden children are only in their 50s. Many at the conference said they now feel an obligation to bear witness to the Holocaust.

"I'm going to a few schools to speak about my experiences," said Renee Fritz of Bloomfield, Conn., who was hidden in Belgium in a

convent, then on a farm and in an orphanage. "I've got to do this: to create an awareness of what happened."

She attended the conference, because "there are other people here who have the same feelings. You fit in somewhere. It's nice to feel for the first time that you're not alone."

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS 12/90

■ Gus Baumgarten of Schulenburg revolutionized baking in the United States. A cottonseed oil miller, Baumgarten developed a cottonseed flour that showed promise as a new food source. In 1917, U.S. Food Administrator (and future U.S. president) Herbert Hoover sent government scientists to study Baumgarten's flour, but the scientists were even more intrigued by the thermometer he used in his home oven. Baumgarten's invention regulated oven heat and took much of the guesswork out of baking. Soon thermostats were placed on almost all ovens produced in the United States. — *Cindi Myers, Wimberley*

(ISB:#27)

# Alexander had a dream in English (ISB:#22)

Alexander, a 16-year-old German schoolboy, remembers waking up feeling confused at having dreamt his first dream in a language other than his native German.

When his father phoned from Germany a few days later he had difficulty in remembering the right German word. "After three months I was thinking almost entirely in English," he says.

He spent a year as an exchange student at a high school in the United States, and what he has to say has much in common with what other German youngsters who crossed the Atlantic experienced.

He was fascinated by the free and easy way in which Americans dealt with foreigners yet discovered that life in the "land of unlimited opportunities" is more regimented than in Germany, especially in rural areas.

At his high school short trousers were only worn between June and September and had to be the regulation height above the knee. He also had to accustom himself to the pledge of allegiance.

At a ceremony held every morning at US schools students pledge loyalty to the flag with their right hand on their heart and their eyes fixed on the star-spangled banner that hangs in every American classroom.

The so-called culture shock, the clash between ways of life, is a feature of the first few weeks spent in America by all 30,000 German schoolchildren a year who take part in exchange schemes with the United States.

Experience shows that problems do not arise for a couple of months or so. "It's all so different and exciting to begin with that difficulties and homesickness are delayed for six to eight weeks," says Christine Moore.

She has organised exchange programmes for International Student Exchange for 10 years and says this is the time when field officers have to pay most on-the-spot attention to exchange students.

They help them to overcome a phase of frustration. It is usually not too difficult, although it tends to recur for a while around Christmas.

Problems that arise with host families are at times hard to solve. All organisations try to find families with similar interests, but differences are inevitable.

When it looks as though the gap between a student and his host family can no longer be bridged the only solution is often a change of family.

Questionnaires are filled in and interviews held in a bid to identify suitable exchange student material. Students must be adaptable, tolerant, flexible and at least fairly good at school.

Their English grades don't much matter. Other subjects are more important. Having spent three years learning English is usually enough to break the language barrier.

"I spent a lot of time watching TV, which is definitely the best way to learn English to begin with," says Alexander. "I soon overcame my reluctance to speak the language and, after a brief acclimatisation phase, no longer had any problems with it."

Yet he was sent to the United States with almost the lowest English grade handed out at German schools.

Host families in the United States provide free board and lodging but the organisers, both commercial and non-profit, charge between DM5,000 and DM8,000.

That includes air fare and insurance, so German parents need pay no more, except for pocket money (\$150 a month is recommended). Comparison shopping is always advisable, especially as some organisers award scholarships.

Regardless of the choice of organiser, a year in the United States is almost always felt to have been of benefit, and spoken English plays no more than a minor role in this assessment.

Norbert Gefäller

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 15 September 1990)

## Even names scrutinized in Germany

Washington Post Service

BONN, Germany — In a society where laws forbid showering after 10 p.m., using a phone extension in your home or mowing the lawn between noon Saturday and Monday, it should come as no great shock that in Germany, the government must approve your name.

A couple in Frankfurt recently discovered that while Schroder is a perfectly common last name, and an OK first name for the Beethoven-obsessed young pianist of the Peanuts comic strip, it is verboten as a boy's name in Germany.

City officials nixed the couple's plan to name their child after their beloved comic character.

Reason: The name is not sex-specific.

Same for Woodstock, Pushkin, Hemingway, Martinluthering and Moewe, the German word for seagull — Germany's name arbiters rejected them all.

Austin author Ken Ragsdale says, "It happens to all writers." Sooner or later, after a book is published, "a thoughtful reader comes forward with some bit of important data that your research failed to reveal."

In 1984, the University of Texas Press published Ragsdale's *Wings Over the Mexican Border*, a study of military aviation along the Rio Grande up through World War II.

Chapter 16 of Ragsdale's book mentioned a character named Gerhardt Heimple, a suspected Nazi who lived in Chihuahua, Mexico, and made clandestine flights into Texas. Supposedly, he was flying in money to finance subversive activities in the United States.

But despite having perused government records, Ragsdale was never able to substantiate the story.

Recently, however, Ragsdale got a letter, part of which he passed on in a letter to me, from someone who offered pretty good verification of the story: He owns the plane Heimple used.

The man who wrote Ragsdale bought the plane from Heimple's estate about 12 years ago, he said. The old plane, an Austrian-made Junkers JU-88 medium bomber, was "hand-carried out of the mountains, where it had lain for 40 years. It had been grounded in 1942 when Heimple was locked up for the duration. He was indeed a Nazi agent."

Heimple's family, still living in Mexico, "have displayed in their home pictures of Heimple being personally congratulated by Hitler for some service performed in the mid-'30s. I know all this because I have the airplane."

John Underwood, the owner of the aircraft, is now trying to find a museum interested in displaying the old spy plane used to cross the Rio Grande into Texas.

Free-lance writer Mike Cox is the author of five Texas-related books and a collector of Texana. Address questions or comments to him at P.O. Box 4615, Austin 78765.

Austin American-Statesman

Sunday, May 19, 1991

"It is up to the individual city clerk to decide whether a name is acceptable," said Beate Hogenschurz, the clerk in Bonn who approves children's names.

"Our only real rule is that a name must indicate the gender of a child."

Names also may not be "odd," as one clerk described his own standard.

Example: Pumuckl, the name of a German cartoon character, was rejected because other children might find the name unfamiliar.

If Germans choose foreign names for their offspring, clerks ring up the embassy of the country of origin.

If the embassy does not know the name, it's out — a practice that has led many enraged Germans of mixed heritage to appeal decisions to court.

Sometimes they win, sometimes they don't.

Clerks say this is a considerably more liberal procedure than the old German way; under Nazi rule, foreign names were prohibited.

Germany is a nation ruled by laws, and there are laws to govern nearly every human activity.

(ISB:#5)

San Antonio  
Express-News

March 31, 1991

# Versatile German-Recipe Uses Seasonal Fruits

## Kuchen

Kuchen is the German word for cake. In the United States a kuchen traditionally refers to a buttery cake baked with fresh fruits. The Martha White Kitchen has streamlined this German favorite by developing a kuchen recipe that uses just a few everyday, on-hand ingredients and self-rising flour. Fresh seasonal fruits are arranged over the easy batter before baking.

Summer Kuchen is topped with fragrant fresh peach, nectarine or plum slices. And the fruits don't have to be peeled.

Autumn Kuchen celebrates the cool weather harvest of pears or apples.

Winter Kuchen shimmers with tart ruby-red cranberries.

And Spring Kuchen, simply sprinkled with cinnamon-sugar and drizzled with melted butter, is the perfect companion to May's fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

Serve the moist, buttery cake as a sweet snack, as a coffee cake or with afternoon tea, as a breakfast treat, or as an elegant dessert after dinner. The colorful fresh fruits glistening with cinnamon-sugar make the cake look fancy and festive. No one will guess how easy it was to prepare.

### SUMMER KUCHEN

#### CAKE:

- 1-1/2 cups Martha White Self-Rising flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or mar-



- garine, softened
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- TOPPING:
- 3 cups (about 1-1/2 pounds) sliced fresh plums, peaches or nectarines
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 3 tbs. melted butter or margarine.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan; set aside. Prepare cake batter by combining flour and sugar in large mixing bowl. Cut in butter with a pastry blender or fork until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in egg and milk just until blended. Spread batter evenly in prepared pan.

For topping, arrange sliced fruit in rows over batter. Combine sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle evenly

over fruit. Drizzle with melted butter. Bake 28 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 18 servings.

Note: If using a glass baking dish, reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees. If using Martha White All-Purpose Flour, sift 2 tsp. baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt with 1-1/2 cups flour.

### AUTUMN KUCHEN -- APPLE OR PEAR

Apple -- Prepare Summer Kuchen as directed except omit fruit. Instead toss 3 cups peeled and thinly sliced Granny Smith apples (about 2 large apples) with the juice of half a lemon. Arrange apple slices in rows over batter. Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar and drizzle with melted butter.

Pear -- Substitute 3 cups peeled and thinly sliced pears (about 2 large pears) for apples. Omit cinnamon in topping.

### WINTER KUCHEN -- CRANBERRY

Prepare Summer Kuchen as directed except omit fruit and cinnamon in topping. Instead toss 1-1/2 cups (half a 12 ounce bag) halved fresh or frozen cranberries with 1/4 cup of the sugar. Spoon cranberries over batter. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup sugar and drizzle with melted butter.

SPRING KUCHEN -- Prepare Summer Kuchen as directed except omit fruit. Sprinkle cake batter with cinnamon-sugar and drizzle with melted butter. Reduce baking time to 10 to 25 minutes.

March 28, 1991--The Schulenburg Sticker

(ISB:#12)

## Onion may help take the bite out of insect stings

The Houston Post/Tuesday, July 24, 1990,



At our family reunion last week my little niece was stung by a yellow jacket. My dad said his father always swore by tobacco juice, but no one at the gathering was chewing tobacco. Isn't there some other home remedy that would work to take away the pain of a sting?

A) In our part of the country tobacco juice is an old home remedy for bee stings too, but we've never seen any scientific data to show if this works. But one of our readers came up with a home remedy for stings that really took our breath

### Pharmacy

away. He credits his German neighbor lady with suggesting a cut onion be applied to the sting for at least 10 minutes. He reports this works surprisingly well.

By JOE GRAEDON AND DR. TERESA GRAEDON KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

When we checked in with the world-renowned onion researcher, Dr. Eric Block of the State University of New York at Albany, he confirmed that a fresh-cut onion may minimize the pain of an insect sting. Onions contain an ingredient that can break down the chemicals responsible for inflammation and discomfort.

# GENEALOGY

## GERMAN TEXANS' GENEALOGY SECTION

Compiled by Theresa Gold Genealogy Editor, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213

### BITS AND PIECES AND NEWS

Family Tree Climbing Can Be Fun workshops sponsored by Everton Publishers will come to Texas this fall. The first is Tuesday, 24 September 1991, at Scurry County Museum, Snyder TX. Contact Fredda Cook, P. O. Box 686, Snyder TX 79549 or call (915) 573-6107. The other will be on Saturday, 5 October 1991, in Universal City TX (near San Antonio and New Braunfels). Contact Gary Prescott, 422 Balboa Dr., Universal City TX 78148 or call (512) 658-5435.

#### Other Genealogical Seminars and Conferences include:

Genealogy and Family History Seminar at Brigham Young University, 6-9 August. For information: BYU Conferences and Workshops, 136 Harman Bldg., Provo UT 84601, (801) 378-3559.

National Federation of Genealogical Societies' "All American Conference," 15-17 August. For information: FGS Conference, Attn: Curt Wicher, 900 Webster St., P. O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne IN 46801-2270.

There may still be time to decide and register for these; other conferences, workshops and seminars mentioned in our most recent Newsletter will be history by the time you receive this.

LDS (Mormon) Family History Center has opened an additional location in Texas: 218 Serenada Dr., Georgetown TX 78628. Although we do not have the telephone number, we suggest you try to call before visiting to ascertain the hours of operation. (from The Chisholm Trail, Williamson County Genealogical Society, Spring 1991)

Williamson County Genealogical Society celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and has published a special edition of its quarterly, The Chisholm Trail, which summarized the highlights and accomplishments of those ten years. Their records secretary has computerized over 10,000 surnames submitted by members. These are on file at Round Rock Public Library along with ancestor charts and family group sheets. Also, by interagency agreement, over 400 books acquired by WCGS are shelved as a separate entity in four units at the Round Rock Public Library. The Society has had a strong program of speakers and workshops, many drawing on the resources in nearby Austin (but very little on Germany and the German-Texans!). Members also support a weekly column in a Georgetown newspaper, offer Williamson County Pioneer Certificates and published five works: a county history, two volumes of marriage records, a surname index, and the 1870 Census for Williamson County. For information, write the Society at P. O. Box 585, Round Rock TX 78680-0585,

Castro Colonies Heritage Association announces that a second printing of History of Medina County, Texas is scheduled for release this summer in a limited edition. First published in 1983, the 600-page illustrated volume is filled with family histories plus histories of the county, towns, businesses, organizations, and everything else, and will sell for \$70.00. For information on ordering, write to CCHA History Book, P. O. Box 636, Castroville TX 78009.

Westphalian descendants sought by a West German archivist include families of the 187 original immigrants from the villages of Osterwick, Höven, Schöpping, Coesfeld, Lette, Billerbeck, Holtwick, Wettringen, Darup, Selm, Haverbeck, Vreden and Brock,



Genealogy, continued

all between Münster and the Dutch border, who came to the U.S. between 1836 and 1872. Contact Martin Holz, Elsen 18, DW-4428 Rosendahl (Osterwick), Germany. (From Society for German-American Studies Newsletter, September, 1990, as reported in publication of German Interest Group, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, October 1990)

Westphalian descendants will like to know that the latest issue of Immigrant Genealogical Society's periodical, German-American Genealogy, Spring 1991, includes a five-page article on Westfalen (Westphalia) which describes the various political subdivisions (important to knowing where records are to be found), a section on the area's history, and a section on the archives and libraries. Your Genealogy Editor found this information on Westphalian archives to be woefully inadequate, as it covers mainly areas and items within the author's personal experience, which happen to be different from those within our own experience and that of other GTHS members. Nonetheless, since many of our members have Westphalian ancestors, we recommend this article. Other articles in this 24-page publication include German immigration and settlement in the Province Banat in Austria-Hungary, surnames in the Jan-June 1988 issues of FANA (see also article on German Genealogical Society of America's Bulletin elsewhere in this issue) a description of immigrants' voyage in steerage, a list of surnames in the ancestor chart of a Bavarian resident, names of Northern Europeans from the 1850 Census of California, and an article on Hessian soldiers. Membership in Immigrant Genealogy Society is \$15.00 per year, and single issues of German-American Genealogy are available for \$5.00 each. The address is P. O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369. This publication is in addition to the group's regular Newsletter, from which we quote frequently.

Hessian emigrants are of interest to Dr. Wolfgang Siem, Walderhauser Strasse 2, DW-6313 Maulbach, Germany, as he intends to publish information about the emigration from Maulbach, Appenrod, and Dannenrod, the villages that comprise the parish of Maulbach near Homberg a.d. Ohm in Hessen. He has much local information, but seeks details about those persons who came to America, including where they lived and how they earned their living. He would like to have a chart of descendants with information on where they live now and how the original name has been preserved. He would also appreciate copies of documents, newspaper clippings, letters and photographs. In return, he offers information on the pre-emigration life in these villages. (From Ernest Thode in The German Connection as reported in Federation of Genealogical Societies' Forum, Spring 1991)

Pomeranian descendants will like to know that the Immigrant Genealogical Society has a complete collection, with indexes, of the periodical, Die Pommerschen Leute, which includes information submitted on Pomeranian families. At the end of World War II, the Germans in the eastern section of Pomerania were driven out and the land turned over to Poland. Many fleeing Germans carried their churchbooks with them to West Germany, where those that survived have been collected. Other German records in Poland were destroyed. The address of Immigrant Genealogical Society is P. O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369. (From IGS Newsletter, June/July 1991)

Schleswig-Holstein descendants may be interested in a tour to their homeland, 8-22 August, and a genealogy research trip 19 September-3 October. The person to contact for information is Scharlott Blevins, P. O. Box 21, LeClair IA 52753, telephone (319) 324-7326. (From IGS Newsletter, June/July 1991)

Bohemian descendants may want to join the German-Bohemian Heritage Society, recently organized by the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Members are planning a tour to

Genealogy, continued

Bohemia 1-14 August. Contact this new organization by writing to MN G-B Heritage Society, P. O. Box 822, New Ulm MN 56073. (From IGS Newsletter, June/July 1991)

Minnesota Genealogical Society also has a German Interest Group, and we are beginning to receive that group's newsletters. From time to time, we will share with you items of interest. For information, write German Interest Group, M.G.S., P. O. Box 16312, St. Paul MN 55116.

Schaumburg-Lippe descendants are using the 400+ microfiche of parish records that the Immigrant Genealogical Society has acquired. Although they are in California, you may contact the IGS at P. O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369 to see if members can assist you. (From IGS Newsletter, June/July 1991)

Netherlands descendants could begin their research (or deposit their materials) in the central depository located in the Netherlands. They will answer requests for information but encourage correspondents to enclose 2-3 International Reply Coupons to cover the cost of answering. The address is; Direktor, Central Bureau voor Genealogie, Prins Wilhelm-Alexanderhof 22, P. O. Box 11755, N-2502 AT's Gravenhage, Netherlands. (From IGS Newsletter, May 1991)

Ostfriesland descendants can contact a new member of Immigrant Genealogical Society, Mr. Eddie A. Dirks, R.R. 1, Box 44, Athens IL 62613-9706, who has a collection of Ortssippenbuchs for the Ostfriesland area. He is willing to share information, but please send an SASE and reimburse him for copying and traveling costs.

Czech descendants may need computer help in translating from Czech to English. Such a program is available for downloading from the Compuserve Information System. The file name is CZECHT.EXE; it works on IBM compatibles and does Czech-to-English but not English-to-Czech. If you do not have access to Compuserve, a copy of the program is available from Charles J. Sommerhauser, 9116 Southview Lane, St. Louis MO 63123-6440. Send a diskette (either 4 1/4" or 3 1/2"), 720K, and 52 cents for postage. The program is "shareware," meaning that if you like it and use it you are supposed to pay for it. The fee for continued use is a \$15.00 donation to the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society. The address is in the documentation file on the disk. (From St. Louis Genealogical Society, News 'n' Notes, April 1991) Reminder that our GTHS Journal Vol. XII, No. 2, Summer, 1990, page 166, had a "bit" on a computer program to "Learn German."

"German history, more or less as Germans see it" is the title of an article in the March 1991 issue of Smithsonian that covers the history of the land we now call Germany from the time of the "barbarians" (that is, anyone not Greek) up until the 1871 unification of the German states. It does not continue into World War I or II. The narrative is written in an easy-to-follow, popular style and is accompanied by photographs and a map. If you are not a member of the Smithsonian, look for this article at your local library.

Bibliography on the German-speaking countries is available in a second edition, revised and enlarged, and published in 1989 by the Library of Congress. The 318-page volume emphasizes sources from the 1980s, relying on 1970s publications only when more recent titles were unavailable and lists works in English, French, German, and Italian on the intellectual and cultural life of Austria, both Germanys, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. To order, send \$11.00 to U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC 20402. Cite stock number 030-000-00212-1 when ordering.

Genealogy, continued

(From publication of German Interest Group, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, August 1990)

German Genealogical Society of America's May/August 1990 Bulletin arrived in early May 1991, although it was well worth the wait as the issue was full of vital information. In particular, we recommend to you Michael Palmer's lengthy and detailed review of published passenger lists, dealing specifically with two recent series: the three volumes of German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York compiled by Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert, and the first nine volumes of Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at United States Ports, 1850-1855, edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. (Note that an additional nine volumes have been released.) This review concentrates on Germans to America and points out several shortcomings, such as the fact that only 86.70 percent of the German arrivals, 1850-1855, were included. Palmer arrived at this conclusion through a complex process, but one of the critical factors is the non-inclusion of arrivals at Galveston. Did you know that the number of German immigrants arriving through Galveston, 1850-1855, was greater than the number arriving at Boston and Philadelphia combined? This, in spite of missing records for five quarters in the five years covered. Another criticism concerns the editors' inclusion of only lists with a minimum of 80 percent German surnames as well as the criteria used to determine that rate. A third criticism involves the lack of records between 19 July and 20 September of 1851 and a discrepancy between National Archives microfilmed records and the "original" passenger manifests held by the Balch Institute Center for Immigrant Research at Temple University. The continuation of this review in a future issue of GGSA's Bulletin will probably focus in depth on the Zimmerman and Wolfert volumes.

This particular issue of GGSA's Bulletin also has new information for placing requests for research and for translations with GGSA members (pages 95, 96, 120). It also contains a list of surnames in the March-April 1990 issue of FANA (Familienkundliche Nachrichten, see our GTHS Newsletter, issue no. 1 for 1990) and book reviews, including one on Daniel Schlyter's revised Czechoslovakia: A Handbook of Czechoslovak Genealogical Research, (see our GTHS Newsletter, Summer 1985, pp, 181-182; Spring 1988, page 180; Spring 1990, p. 59; and Fall 1990, p. 244), three articles on Germans in other parts of the U.S., a Kalendar (including our GTHS meeting next September, thank you), lists of periodical articles (copies available), and a list of books and periodicals acquired by GGSA.

Membership in GGSA is available by sending \$18.00 per year to GGSA, P. O. Box 291818, Los Angeles CA 90029. For more information and a sample copy of the Bulletin, send \$2.00 to that same address.

German Genealogical Digest for the first quarter of 1991 features an article on Mecklenburg, the land and its history, by Daniel Schlyter and an article on German regional costume by Dr. Mignon Perry. The article on Mecklenburg includes maps and traces the shifting borders, changes in rulers, and the relationship between the duchies Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz. On the Baltic Sea, Mecklenburg was formerly in the German Democratic Republic and is now included in the state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in the Federal Republic of Germany. A future article will discuss sources for genealogical research in Mecklenburg. This issue of GGD also continues Bavarian Records in Print, names in Pommern records (surnames beginning with T), and Baden-Baden emigrants, (surnames E to H). It also picks up the listing of surnames in the Hamburg Emigration Index (surnames N). Alphabetical listings began in the first issue of 1986, but have not been continued since the third issue of 1989. German Genealogical Digest is published four times a year at \$22.00 for four issues. Back issues are available for \$6.50 per issue, or \$5.50 if

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~~four or more are ordered~~ at the same time. Include \$.50 per issue for postage on back issues. The address is P. O. Box 700, Pleasant Grove UT 84062-0700.

Ancestry Newsletter, March-April 1991 issue, has a number of interesting articles, some of them merely interesting, others helpful. "Your Mother's Sister Isn't Always Your Aunt" discusses family relationship configurations, with charts from several different societies of the world, and also the cultural significance of the naming and relationships. Did you know that "our" system used in modern Western society is the "Eskimo System"? And, that there are others? Other articles in this issue give tips on improving your genealogical correspondence, a list of activities you can do in a spare five minutes, and an article on Scandinavian-American repositories. Membership with a subscription to the bimonthly 16-page newsletter is \$12.00 per year. Write to Ancestry, Inc., P. O. Box 476, Salt Lake City UT 84110.

Ancestors, a family history documentary is planned by KBYU-TV and Alex Haley, author of Roots, as a prime-time series for PBS. KBYU-TV is conducting a nationwide search for "stories and unique storytellers with the ability to capture imagination and bring family history to life." Those with interesting stories are encouraged to send them to: KBYU-TV, BaBette Davidson, Project Director, Ancestors, C-302 HFAC, Brigham Young University, Provo UT 84602, or telephone BaBette Davidson or Marci Brown at (801) 378-0050. (From a letter from the director of the LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City UT, dated 14 March 1991)

Writing Contest for family histories is sponsored by California State Genealogical Alliance. The news item reported that "participation is open to anyone," so apparently it is not limited to families with a California connection. For further information, send an SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to Miss Nancy Heuebotter, 2634 Associated Rd., #A-110, Fullerton CA 92635. (From IGS Newsletter, June/July 1991)

"Tapping Your Texas Roots" is the title of an article in the June 1991 issue of Texas Highways. Directed toward beginning family researchers, the article includes stories of what some genealogists have found and information on major libraries and other sources throughout Texas, but has no mention of any specific ethnic group.

Texas State Genealogical Society has a computerized Speakers' Bureau that includes a biographical sketch of the speaker, topics offered, fee (if any), and special arrangements (if any). TSGS does not plan to distribute a detailed catalogue, but a summarized list of topics can be found in the quarterly, Stirpes, March 1991 issue. See that issue for procedures that local organizations are to use in requesting information on speakers and topics. The address of the TSGS is Rt. 4, Box 56, Sulphur Springs TX 75482. (From TSGS, Stirpes, March 1991)

Some valuable Texas historical records are now available on microfilm from the Texas State Library. These 141 Executive Department ledgers, ranging from 1835 to 1972, include many important documents, but of interest to us may be the Secretary of State Record Books which contain many of the colonization and ship lists for persons arriving to settle in the Castro Colony, the Fisher-Miller Colony, and the German Immigration Company. The originals are housed in the Archives Division of the Texas State Library and may be used only at that location, but microfilming permits greater access through interlibrary loan or purchase of microfilm copies. A complete microfilm set contains 57 reels. Any of these may be obtained at a local library through interlibrary loan, and information about purchasing a copy can be obtained from the Texas State Library's Records Division, P. O. Box 12927, Austin TX

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78711. The telephone number is (512) 454-2705. (From Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XCIV, No. 4, April 1991)

Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives is a new microfiche publication. The first volume, now available, is on the Confederate states and border states and includes a Texas subset; four additional volumes focusing on Union military units will be released between now and 1995. This type of information on Confederate regimental histories has been difficult to locate, for many were published long ago and are scattered about. For a detailed description, or to order, write to University Publications of America, 4520 East-West Highway, Bethesda MD 20814-3389, or call 1-800-692-6300. (From Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. XCIV, No. 4, April 1991)

Texas Seaport Museum is scheduled to open at the "Elissa" dock in Galveston on 26 October. Of possible interest to us is the proposed computer database of immigrants' names from logs of ships docking at Galveston from 1840 to 1910. This database is a project of the Galveston Historical Foundation and the U.S. Immigration Service. Because the database is being constructed from ships' logs in the National Archives, your Genealogy Editor suspects that this will be a computerized version of the book Ships Passenger Lists, Port of Galveston, Texas, 1846-1871, which is a hardcopy transcription of the National Archives' microfilmed records covering those dates. In April, your Genealogy Editor wrote to the Galveston Historical Foundation asking about this, but we have not had a reply as of Journal deadline date. (From "Seaport Museum, Project allows visitors to trace family's journey," Houston Chronicle, 29 March 1991, sent by Harold Mueller, Marietta OH, who received it from his sister-in-law, Gayle B. Cahal, Jasper TX)

More on the Geue books Our description on page 244 of our Journal, Vol XII, No. 3 for 1990 may be misleading as we reversed the order in which the two books were published. A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847 was first copyright in 1966 and a "new and enlarged edition," dated 1972, was printed by Texian Press of Waco. Apparently the current edition available is a reprint of the 1972 edition. New Homes in a New Land: German Immigration to Texas, 1847-1861 was copyright in 1970 with the first printing that same year. It was reprinted in 1982 by Genealogical Publishing Co. of Baltimore. Your Genealogy Editor has the 1972 edition of A New Land and the 1982 edition of New Homes. Thanks to Harold Mueller of Marietta OH for pointing out this discrepancy. Our members continue to show interest in his article on passenger lists that appeared in our Journal, Vol. XI, No. 3, Fall 1989.

Higginson Book Co. sent us samples of their catalogues. One catalogue covers reference books and research aids as well as local history and source materials in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain. The larger catalogue on family history publications includes mostly reprints, but they will search for other genealogies not in the catalogue and will also reprint older genealogies as well as new works. For a catalogue, write to Higginson Book Co., 14 Derby Square, Salem MA 01970.

The W D N R Family Newsletter is now published by Lee Widner. It covers 35 and more names such as Weidner, Weydener, Widner, Witener, Whittner, Weidtner, etc.--any name using the consonants W, D, N, R. (Sounds kinda like Soundex, doesn't it?) These names may or may not have a connection with each other or may be variant spellings of one or more family names. Anyone may send a story, query, or ancestor chart at no charge, and the 20-page newsletter is sent to contributors. GTHS member Mark Krause of San Antonio sent an item on his Friedrich Leberecht Weidner family,

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which has been documented to 1604. If you contribute to the W D N R family newsletter, please mention that you learned of it through GTHS. Write to 1906 Ashland Way, San Jose CA 95130.

An Ancestral Town Exchange has been suggested by Marion Freeman of Houston. We can see great potential in collecting information from members about their ancestors' German hometowns and then making this information available to others who have ancestors from the same towns. And, this is a way to place descendants of families from the same community in touch with each other. What do you think of such an idea? Anyone willing to take this on as a project? Write to your Genealogy Editor, to our GTHS President, to our Executive Director, or to Mrs. Freeman (her address is 2163 Swift, Houston TX 77030). Note also that in the future we will try to include "origin in Germany" as part of our "Genealogical Exchange" column.

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## FROM OUR MEMBERS

The following section was compiled by your Genealogy Editor from the information received from our members. If you have an interest in any of the families mentioned, write directly to the member. To have your story appear in a future issue, write to your Genealogy Editor **Theresa Gold**, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213. Items are published free of charge for members. For non-members, there is a \$5.00 query fee. Please submit a concise paragraph or two, or simply list the surnames you are researching along with the Texas counties the families settled and the religion they practiced. See note in the "Genealogical Exchange" column regarding the addition of "origin in Germany."

If you wish to submit a longer article for publication, please be sure it is camera-ready. The manuscript specifications are published inside the back cover of each issue, but here they are again: We will consider only materials typed, single spaced, on 8 1/2" by 11" white paper, with only 1/4 inch margin on all sides. Remember, your typing must be almost edge-to-edge.

NOTE: Because of concerns as to the length of the Journal, future articles will be limited to two pages only.

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Have you noticed that in the last four issues your Genealogy Editor has tried to be consistent in giving dates in the day-month-year format? Although we Americans are accustomed to the month-day-year format, the use of day-month-year is standard among U.S. genealogists--and is the standard throughout Germany and all of Europe. We should develop the habit of writing day-month-year in our notetaking and in our correspondence, because we must use that format in reading genealogy and European dates. Thus, we hope that you, our members and readers, will catch on and use that format when submitting information.

In German records and correspondence, the date is often written as 4.7.92, which is 4 July 1992, not April 7, 1992. Or, it could be 1892--or 1492! Which is why we must be careful to write out the complete year. Also note, dates can be written with a Roman numeral for the month (as, 4.VI.92 or 4.VI.1992) which is easier to recognize (unless the month is "I").

For readability we will continue to write out the name of the month when giving dates, but sometime in the future we may consider using an all-numerical date.

However, beginning with this issue, we will introduce another standard genealogical format, used both in the U.S. and in Germany. Instead of "born" or

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"birth," we will place an "\*" before the date. Instead of "died" or "death" we will place a "+" before the date. The standard abbreviation for marriage is "oo", usually with the oo's overlapping by shifting the typewriter carriage. This is, of course, impossible to do on a computer printer, but we will give "oo" a try and see if it is intelligible to you, our members and readers. Let us know what you think.

Just for your information, here are those, and other, symbols that are used extensively in German recordkeeping--and also in typed lists of dates extracted from records as running accounts. This is from the "German Word List," copyright 1983 by Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We do not plan to use these other symbols extensively in the near future, but we furnish them here for your assistance in your own family research.

•	= geboren (born)	☐	= begraben (buried)
(•)	= unehelich geboren (born illegitimate)	X	= gefallen (killed in action)
†	= gestorben (died)	†X	= an im Kampfe erlittenen Wunden gestorben (died of wounds in battle)
†	= getauft (baptized, christened)	†•	= totgeboren (stillborn)
∞	= verheiratet (married)	Xus or Xg	= Christus (Christ)
o	= verlobt (engaged)	Xian or Xiang	= Christian or Christianus
oo	= geschieden (divorced)	†us or †g	= mortuus (died)
oo	= freie Verbindung (common law marriage; illegitimate)		

Remember: \* = birth    + = death    oo = marriage    ca. = about or around

Louise Beinhorn 6410 Magnolia, Katy TX 77493 is researching the Haggenjos, Irons, Weidenhamer, Glenn, and Stites families, all Illinois, rather than Texas, settlers. However, her great uncle, Wesley Stites came to Shamrock TX and was active in the Order of Odd Fellows, but died in Galesburg IL. She does not believe that he ever married or had children. Louise is looking for information concerning his father, Hannibal Stites.

Carol Friesenhahn 202 Millridge Rd., Universal City TX 78148 is interested in finding more information on the German origins of her great great grandfather, Anton Ott/Oth. His wife was Sophie Meuth, daughter of Johann Peter Meuth. She is trying to link Sophia Meuth to Johann Peter Meuth and Elizabeth (Defeld/Derfeld) Meuth Hartman. She can find no record of her birth, although the Census shows she was born in Texas. Her mother's tombstone reflects Elizabeth Defeld Hartman \*14 March 1819 and +2 April 1901. Anton Ott also married Mary Frerich. Carol has also submitted a list of names for the Genealogical Exchange section.

Rose Lee Neumann 7722 Janak Dr., Houston TX 77055 reports that after years of genealogical research, she finally is in contact with Neumann family descendants. The sequence began with a suggestion by Mildred Schultz of New Ulm that she contact Bernice Schrader, who in turn gave her the address of Louise Rummler Krueger of Fredericksburg. In June 1990, she drove there for a visit and for the first time learned of siblings of her husband's great grandfather. Then, she remembered an item in the second issue of our Journal in 1989 and contacted Mrs. David Bozeman of Stafford who is looking for Neumanns along with other families. Because Rose Lee now had names for family siblings, she could identify the family as the same one. Although Rose Lee's Neumann was not the exact family sought by Mrs. Bozeman, she referred her to Elnora Neumann Knesse of Cypress Hills, who is in the Neumann line of Rose Lee's research. They are now corresponding, thanks to the contact made through our GTHS Journal and planned to visit with numerous Neumann descendants in June.

Erwin W. Reininger 166 Willow Ave., New Braunfels TX 78130 is still looking for a source for the list of his ancestors' ship, the "Mercur." We note that this ship is listed in Geue and Geue's A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas,

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1844-1847 with information that it sailed from Bremen on 27 August 1846 and arrived at Galveston 26 October 1846 with 66 immigrants.

Margaret Snavely Jones Rt 2, Box 10-L-7, Medical Lake WA 99022 wants to know more about William Harde/Hardy, \*1845, Germany. She thinks his mother's first name might be Theresa, \*1817-18, Germany, but who was his father? She found a Theresa, age 52, living with William when the 1870 Census was taken. She also would like to know when they landed in Texas and where they lived. The first record she has of them is the 1870 Census of Bellville, Austin Co. Margaret is also interested in Henrietta Bokar, \*27 August 1852, Leipzig, Germany. She came to Texas with her parents, but her father died aboard the ship and was buried at sea. Did they have sponsors in Texas? If so, who were they? Where did they land? Who were Henrietta's parents and did her mother remarry? Where did they live and who did they live with? Henrietta oo 2 March 1871 to William Harde, Bellville, Austin County. They were enumerated in the 1880 Census of Austin County, and he +1883 in Austin County. Where did she live between 1883 and 1888 when she gave birth to Henry Phlume in Navasota, Grimes County. When did she marry C. Phlume? Who was he and what happened to him? When did Henrietta marry Frederick North? Was it before or after her marriage to C. Phlume? It is known that she oo 1894, Rockport, Aransas County, to Fred Gerth. They lived in Goliad, Goliad County, in 1927, where Henrietta is buried, but when did they leave Rockport? Where was Fred Gerth born and when did his family come to Texas? Margaret is working from information furnished by a Mrs. Edge of Colorado City TX and by Fred Gerth, her great uncle. Since she has joined the staff at the LDS Family History Center in Spokane, she hopes to be able to find more records, but if any GTHS member has heard of these families, please let her know. It is difficult to do research at such a distance.

Minnie Schlorn Box 56, Knippa TX was interested in the item in our last issue about obtaining original marriage certificates from Milam and Falls counties. She reports she \*1920, Sharp, Milam County. Her grandparents Fuchs and Backhaus lived there from 1887 until they passed away. Her own family moved to Wilson County in 1925, but she keeps in touch with relatives who still live "back home."

Benedikt Wyszeccki Weimarer Str. 44, DW-5000 Köln 91, Germany, is trying to complete his family's genealogy and needs information about Ralf Oskar v. Wyszeccki. The name could be Wyschetzki, Wischeteki or a similar spelling. Supposedly, he \*7 November 1861 in Ottmuck and helped to build the railroad in Texas. He evidently returned to Europe, as he +6 September 1924 in Eichgraben. Is any of our members an authority on the construction of railroads in Texas? Any suggestions for Herr Wyszeccki?

Alberta Utz 1001 Carpenter's Way #A418, Lakeland FL 33809 is searching for the names and birthplace for her husband's great grandfather, Joseph Utz. He was recorded in the 1860 Census as living at Parker's Mill, near Grapeland in Houston County. His wife was Malinda C. Dickey. She is also looking for information on Julia Thornton, wife of James Thomas Utz. A Delaney Thornton was connected with her or with her parents. The dates should be between 1860 and 1900. Her third research question concerns the parents of Lola Pike, wife of John Thomas Utz. Lola's mother was Claudia Woodward but who was Claudia's mother? Lola and John Thomas Utz were married in 1906 in Uvalde County.

Mildred May Wenzel 9718 Bevlyn Dr., Houston TX 77025 is looking for records on her great grandfather, Bernard Tom Seimer (\*1841 and +4 March 1900), his wife, Metta Fredrich (\* 8 June 1842 and +28 July 1897), and Metta's mother, Sophia Fredrich (+ before 1900), all from Oldenburg. They arrived at Galveston in 1867, but Mildred



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does not know the name of the ship. Bernard and Metta had two children, John and Emma Amanda. Members of the family are buried somewhere in Industry, Welcome, or perhaps in Waller County; Emma Amanda is buried at County Line in DeWitt County. Mildred reports she learned that the Austin County Courthouse in Bellville burned, so she is unable to locate records. However, your Genealogy Editor looked in the Kennedys' Genealogical Records in Texas and found a description of various Austin County records dating fairly consistently from 1837 or so, with no mention of gaps in the records. Austin County is not among the counties on the Kennedys' list of counties in which records have been destroyed. Can one of our members in Austin County resolve this discrepancy for us?

Mrs. A. G. Ranft, Jr. Rt 1, Box 18A, Grapeland TX 75844 is researching for a book on the Brune family. George Christoph Brune (\*3 October 1807 Herford, Westphalia; +9 November 1869, Austin County TX) and wife, Henrietta von Zabaienski (\*16 January 1820, Prussia; +22 March 1903, Colorado County TX), had eight children: Louise, George, Caroline, Adolph, Elise, Adelheide, Thusnelda and Edward. She has many data and photographs on most of the daughters but needs help with the sons. Several family members say Henrietta's father was once Burgomeister, or mayor, of Berlin. She will appreciate help and is willing to exchange data.

She is also researching for a book on the Kretzschmar family. Karl Kretzschmer (\* ca. 1829, Glasten, Saxony; buried at Cat Spring) and his wife, Aamelia Augermann (\* ca. 1831), had ten children: Pauline, Robert, Richardt, Gustav, Charles, Adolph, William August, Emil, Paul and Antonio. Again, she would appreciate help and would exchange data.

Kay Lee Wrage Gunn 4327 Westside Dr., Dallas TX 75209 sent us a large packet of information on several families which may be of interest to members in the Seguin-New Braunfels area: Wrage, Meier, Starcke, Carolus, and Posner, with information also on Franks, Vaught, and Carlock families. In 1982, she did genealogical work for a friend, but later, in 1984, she received a response to a letter written in 1980 containing a full genealogical report from an evangelical church in Kellinghausen. This shows that we must never give up. Her own ancestor, Max Starcke, was from Berlin, but she has not attempted to trace his lineage. In the early 1950s, her aunt visited in Berlin and was discouraged from attempting to find records, having been told that most of the city's records were destroyed in World War II. Perhaps some of our members can point her in the direction of existing records in Berlin. If you are interested in any of the families mentioned, please contact Kay Lee for copies of the work she has done.

Henry J. Hauschild of Victoria had his article on Col. Augustus Buchel published in the November-December 1990 issue of the nationally-distributed Confederate Veteran magazine. The article previously appeared in the Runge Chronicle, A German Saga of Success. The German-born Buchel had a colorful military career in Europe prior to his 1835 arrival in Texas. Within his first year in Texas, he had raised a company for service in the 1846 war against Mexico and gave outstanding military service--as he also did in the Confederacy, until he took a fatal bullet near Pleasant Hill LA on 9 April 1864. Back issues of the magazine are available for \$3.00 each (plus \$1.00 shipping for one issue, or \$2.50 shipping for three or more) from Confederate Veteran, P. O. Box 710287, Houston TX 77271-0287.

Frances R. Condra 204 Glentower, San Antonio TX 78213 wrote an article with bibliography, history and photographs, "A. J. Rife, Early Lytton Springs Settler," which appeared in the Spring 1991 issue of Plum Creek Almanac, the publication of the Genealogical and Historical Society of Caldwell County. Although A. J. Rife is

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not her German-connected ancestor, Frances presented an interesting story on this Tennessee native and Confederate veteran who came to Texas before Christmas of 1869 and was a farmer and merchant in and around Lytton. Frances is president of Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy (with 17 or more "supplementals") and is incoming registrar of Alamo Mission Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She also has an appointment as an associate member of the Bexar County Historical Commission.

Ruby Tyson 144 Garrapata, San Antonio TX 78232 sent queries on two families. She has some information on Ernest Wilhelm Neumann (\*1842, Germany). He married ca. 1868 to Alvina Bieberstein. They were Lutheran, settled at Breslau, Lavaca County and had seven children. But Ruby says she has no idea when Ernest arrived in America. Her second question involves Gerhard Buesing (\* August 1846) who came to America in 1884 with his wife, Eliza Gerdes. When they arrived, they had three children: Annie, Gerhard and Anton Theodore (her father). Apparently, Theodore was a popular name in that family. They settled first at High Hill, Fayette County, and later moved to the Witting area of Lavaca County. This family also was Lutheran. If anyone knows of these families, please write to Ruby.

Willie Ann McColloch 608 Union St., Richmond TX 77469 is still working on the Frels family of Frelsburg, a Lutheran family with some Catholic marriages. She learned that the Lutheran church records at Frelsburg were destroyed by the 1900 storm that hit Galveston, but she is hoping that some such records can be found somewhere. In another case, her mother sought the records of the Shaws Bend Lutheran Church and was told the church burned, destroying all the records. Someone suggested to Willie Ann that she inquire at Ellinger, which she did, only to be referred to Rutersville, which is where she found the Shaws Bend records. Not only are the records there, but the old church is, too. It did not burn, but was moved to Rutersville and is used as an educational building. The moral here is obvious: don't give up; don't take the first answer you receive!

Elizabeth W. Banks 1106 Harville Rd., Duncan OK 73533 tells us about the family of her grandmother, Amelia Mary Louise Schulze (\*16 June 1859, perhaps in Fayette County, +17 September 1938, oo 1881 Jacob Thomas). Amelia's mother was Sophie Honigman, who had come from Spandau in 1852, and her father was (first name unknown) Schulze, also German born. She has not been able to find this family in the 1860 Census. After she came to Texas, Sophie married first a man named Vollmer and had a daughter, Augusta (\*10 May 1855 +25 June 1880). Upon Vollmer's death she married Schulze and bore him two children: John and Amelia (Elizabeth's grandmother). Family legend holds that this second husband was killed in the Civil War, although it may not have been in Confederate service. She realizes that not knowing his first name is a handicap in doing further research. At any rate, Schulze died between 1859 and 1866, for Elizabeth has found a May 1866 marriage license for Sophie Schulze and her third husband, Carl Schmidt in Fayette County. Sophie married a fourth time, about 1869, to a man named Wittmann. Sophie's son, John Schulze (\* ca. 1857), lived in Houston and was killed around 1900 in a trolley accident. Elizabeth feels that if she could find any descendants of John Schulze they might have information to fill in the gaps. Would anyone be willing to search Houston newspapers for an obituary or a news story on John's fatal trolley accident?

Edith Braune Beaird Rt 4, Box T-98, Abilene TX 79601 contributed information on her longtime friend, Hilda Galle Levrets, for an article written by Jean Mansell in the Abilene Reporter-News, 28 April 1991. Hilda was the daughter of Frederick and Fredericka Galle. When the family moved from Guadalupe to Taylor County about 1900,

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they left behind some married children and some grandchildren in the Galle community they had helped establish. In Taylor County, the Galles settled in the Hillside community, near View, as did the families of Charlie and Christian Braune who had moved from Geronimo in Guadalupe County. In 1906, Hilda's father donated land for the school, known as Hillside District No. 44 (now part of the Wylie Independent School District). As a seventh grader Hilda wrote the history of the school for "The Buffalo Trail," a book of short histories of the rural schools which was published in 1922 by the teachers of Taylor County. Edith has furnished us with a packet containing a copy of Hilda's story, the 1910 Census, the November 1990 obituary of Hilda Galle Levrets and the complete article by Jean Mansell giving historical details of the Hillside school. If you are interested in seeing any of these, please let us know.

## OLD SAN ANTONIO NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AVAILABLE

From time to time, John Ogden Leal, Bexar County Archivist in the County Clerk's office, San Antonio, reads old microfilmed newspapers and looks for articles significant to local history. Due to an association with your Genealogy Editor, both associate members of Bexar County Historical Commission, he and other commission members have become more aware of the importance of the German heritage of San Antonio--so that whenever he spots a newspaper item on the old German families, or Vereine, or whatever, he shares it with us. In early 1991, he read 1930s editions of the San Antonio Express and furnished us with copies of several items. If you have an interest in any of the persons or families listed below, send an SASE (stamped, self-addressed envelope) to your Genealogy Editor and we will pass the article on to you. Please note that dates given below are dates of the newspaper account, not necessarily the exact date of the event.

- Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Riff of Hondo, married 50 years, grandchildren named Wisakowsky, 1 Nov 1930.
- Mr. & Mrs. Hugh J. McDermott, married 50 years, grandchildren named Perkins, 30 Nov 1930.
- Mr. & Mrs. A. Becker, married 50 years, lived in San Diego TX before moving to San Antonio, daughter married a Keller, 25 Nov 1930.
- Theodore and Maria (Mueller) Meckel of New Braunfels, married 60 years, 16 Nov 1930. Family names include Voight, Koepf, Buske, Soechting, Dietert, Dolle, Hogue. Maria was the daughter of John Mueller, a founder of New Braunfels.
- Mrs. Marie Mittendorf of New Braunfels, 95 years old, daughter married a Dittmar, 16 Nov 1930.
- Mr. & Mrs. G. F. Korges of Hallettsville, married 50 years, family names include Oster, Schroeder, Nolkemper, 25 Jan 1931.
- Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Laubscher of Switzerland sent their photo for his 80th birthday to son, E.T. Laubscher of San Antonio, 25 Jan 1931.
- Frederick G. Bierine, obituary, died 12 Dec 1930. He had owned the O. Henry house, now located at Lone Star Brewery.
- Cast of "Mein Leopold" as presented by German by Beethoven Maennerchor, photo and story, 14 Dec 1930.
- Three Yorktown men, all past 90 years old, all three German-born: Gus Zedler, Jr., Ed Fechner, and Henry Menn, 12 July 1931.
- Mr. & Mrs. Joe Richter, of near Stockdale, married 50 years. Photo of four generations includes son, Felix, granddaughter, Mrs. Ben Bowden, and great grandson Louis Felix Bowden, all of George West. (Our sources tell us this was a Polish family.) 11 Dec 1932.

Genealogy, continued

- Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Mueller of Moulton, married 50 years, among ten living children were daughters who married Ohlenbusch, Heinrichs, and Rannefeld, 15 Jan 1933.
- Mr. & Mrs. Moritz Hartmann of Gillespie County, married 50 years, daughters married Meurer, Mechler, Christelles, and Noble, 30 Aug 1931.
- Mrs. Mary Zinsmeyer 89th birthday, mentioned is granddaughter, Mrs. W. J. Volz, of Alamo Heights (San Antonio), 16 Aug 1931.
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Soechting of Hunter in Comal County, married 50 years, five sons and two daughters; not named, 16 Aug 1931.
- Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Mimke married 50 years ago in Fayette County, daughters married Richter, Heiler, and Kuhn, 9 Aug 1931.
- Robert Schaefer of Cibolo, age 100, 30 Aug 1931.
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Klappenbach, Sr., of Johnson City, married 50 years, 6 Nov 1932. Photo of brothers William Zipp, Sr., age 89, and Gottlieb Zipp, age 87, of Schumansville and New Braunfels, both Confederate veterans, 16 Oct 1932.
- Mrs. William Luckenbach, 93rd birthday at home of daughter, Mrs. August Blanke, San Antonio, 6 Nov 1932.
- Mrs. T. Weiss, 92nd birthday in New Braunfels, includes a five generation photo with persons named Krueger, Smith, and Elbel, 28 Oct 1934.
- Completion of Joseph Kopecky home in Alamo Heights (San Antonio) kept the German custom of nailing an evergreen bough to the highest point of the roof. Photo includes family and workmen, 28 Oct 1934.
- Mrs. Julia Herberger Loessburg, Hondo, age 91, photo and story, "Tragedy and Hardship Her Lot in Building a New World Home," 11 Nov 1934.
- Francis Matthew Halbedl, age 85, obituary 11 May 1932, San Antonio. A native of Austria, he was a noted teacher, musician, and principal of San Antonio's first public high school. Daughters married Lachapelle, Price, and Kirkwood.
- Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Hueschen of Hondo, married 50 years, 1 May 1932. Her maiden name was Heyen; other family names: Neuman, Schweers, Oefinger.
- Archie "Fritzie" Heimer, New Braunfels, 18 months old, photo, 1 May 1932.
- Joe E. Yeary, Jr., Karnes City, one year old photo, mother was a Dietze, 3 Jan 1932.
- Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Hoegemyer, Weimar, married 50 years. Daughter married Beken. 3 Jan 1932.
- Mary Grace Arhart, one year old photo, mother was a Lindsay, 3 Jan 1932.
- Mr. & Mrs. Julius Bulgrin, Sr., married 50 years, 18 Sept 1932.
- Lucille Zuelecke, 12 years old, photo, 7 Aug 1932.
- Four generations of a Bee County family, Stienmeyer, Etter, Ross, 7 Aug 1932.
- Mary Louise Heger, Seguin, one year old, photo, 7 Aug 1932.
- Oberkampf family reunion, New Braunfels, 16 people in photo, other names Matthews, Feigerle, and Daum, 7 Aug 1932.
- Rev. & Mrs. W. Buehrer, Seguin, married 50 years, photo of 16 in immediate family, other names Winkler, and Brandenberger, 28 Aug 1932.

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REVIEW OF BOOKS DONATED TO GTHS

GTHS members and others have donated books to the Society relevant to genealogy and/or family history.

But, first a correction from last issue. The correct address for Wanda Bassett Carter, author of Elmendorf and Related Families, is P. O. Box 672 (not 262), Luling TX 78648.

From the Probstei in Germany to the Prairies of America by Mary Lou (Stoltenberg) Orr, 5524 80th St., Lubbock TX 79424 (new address), is 311 pages, 8 1/2" by 11",

Genealogy, Book Reviews, continued

hardcover, with three indexes in all, separate indexes for the two sections and another for the photographs and documents in Part II. Part I gives a good background on the Probstei, a section (county or Kreis?) of Holstein in the German state (Land) of Schleswig-Holstein in far northern Germany on the Baltic Sea (Ostsee). The author traces the origins of the family Stoltenberg from the village of Bendfeld through contacts she made there. She obtained names and dates back to 1678, four generations prior to the immigration of Hans Hinrich Stoltenberg and his wife Antje Paustian (thus called "Generation V") and their five children (called "Generation VI"). She used several sources on background history, all interesting and valuable but somewhat repetitious, as she quotes from different versions of the same history. The narrative reveals good insight into the economic and social structures that pushed the family to emigrate. These Stoltenbergs came to Iowa in early 1874 and then to Dodge County, Nebraska, where they constructed soddie houses. George William "Bill" Stoltenberg (\*1890 +1973) son of the youngest immigrant son (and father of the author) moved his family to Tulia, Swisher County, Texas, in 1927. Of course, there are much more detailed reminiscences from this part of the family. Background is also given on the Paustian family. The addition of the descendants, plus the immigrants, and their documented ancestors, gives 11 and 12 generations in all. Within the book are reproductions of three obituaries of Antje Pausian Stoltenberg (+1902) showing her place of birth as Probstei, Germany; Lobeo, Germany; and Holstein, Germany. These point out the confusion we can experience in locating a family's origin, as all are correct: Lobeo is the village, Probstei is the county; and Holstein is the state. Also included are many photographs of family members (up to 1989) and of family heirlooms, plus newspaper clippings, family stories, and reminiscences. One interesting story concerns the child Nathan Jerry Novak (\*29 Nov 1979, Nebraska) who was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as having the most living ancestors: his parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, and two great great grandparents. The author presents a great deal of information, written in a smooth style, but very personally presented, perhaps too personal for those not already well acquainted with her. Altogether this is an excellent family history, deserving of Texas State Genealogical Society's second place award for 1990. The book sells for \$60.00, plus \$3.50 postage, plus \$4.92 tax for Texas residents, and may be ordered from the author at the above address.

The Struve Family in Europe and in Texas by Arno Struve 701 2nd St., Abernathy TX 79311 is 216 pages, 6" by 9 1/2", hardcover, unindexed. This is not a family history or genealogy at all, but is a rendition of the reminiscences of Heinrich (von) Struve who wrote his life history in segments for a German periodical. These articles were collected and published by some of his children as Ein Lebensbild, and later translated for this book, published by Arno Struve in 1979. The first part of the book gives the lineage of the Struve family back to a Johannes Struve of 16th century Switzerland. Lineal descendants include professors, physicians, an astronomer, a physicist, governmental ministers, writers, and ambassadors in Germany, Russia, Austria, and Switzerland. As the autobiography of Heinrich Struve, son of a diplomat, it related his clear memories of many incidents, some detailed, some just a mention. Some are amusing, some are poignant. From the book, we follow his travels all over the world, as he visited family members in farflung places, and thus we can gain insights into various lifestyles. He recalled his early days in the Russian army, the revolution, and his escape, which brought him to Texas in 1848. Although there is very little detail on the ship voyage, he recounts the family's landing at Galveston, the purchase of a farm near Rutersville, his efforts at cigar manufacturing and supply transportation, and his attempt to organize a socialistic farming commune. In some incidents he gives specific names: Baylor, Lehmann, Gregory, Grasmeier, Vogel, von Merscheid, von Jaenschke, von Rosenberg, Studer, von Lassaux, Fuchs, Schilling, and Riebe. Others he identifies only as Dr. H., Friend Z., Old Bob, Professor M., or Friend B. His days in Texas involved such localities as La Grange, Columbus, Rutersville, the Latin settlement, Ross Prairie,

Genealogy, Book Reviews, continued

and Austin. His description of life in Fayette County of the 1840s and 1850s includes Indians, snakes, drought, illness: good times and hard times. In March 1860, after three years of drought and hard times, he sent his wife and younger children back to Germany. The older sons, Amand and Louis, remained in Texas and are the ancestors of current-day Texas Struves. Heinrich himself returned to Germany a little later, after visiting his brother, Gustav, who had settled in New York. The story is not in strict chronological order, probably due to its original publication as magazine articles. Heinrich does give the background of the Adelsverein's 1845 settlement of Texas, but inserts this after he has already departed Texas. In connection with this movement, he relates that some of the orphans at Indianola were taken in by plantation owners who raised them with their Negro slaves, so that they were later called "Dutch niggers." Heinrich wrote a story about his meeting such a woman which was published in a New York newspaper in order to convince the Germans to vote for Lincoln. After his return to Germany, Heinrich operated a hotel and spa, but did return to Texas to visit his sons and noted the changes that had taken place during his 16-year absence. At that time, his son Louis lived near La Grange, but he apparently spent more time at the home of his son Amand who lived 40 miles from Austin. From Texas, he went to Brazil to visit a daughter and from there returned to Texas. After this third stay in Texas, he went to Scotland and then back to Germany. The title of the book infers that it is a family history, which it is not. It might have been better titled The Life of Heinrich Struve in Texas and Elsewhere in the World, or something like that.

German-Texans, especially those with ancestors in the Fayette County settlements, will enjoy the section covering that part of his life. Those interested in events, lifestyles, and relationships in Europe will find specific information throughout the book. In print for over ten years, the book is still available from Arno Struve for \$15.00 plus \$1.00 postage. GTHS member Mr. Struve tells us that he has the diary kept by his grandfather, Amand, son of Heinrich Struve, which should add more to the documentation of the life of our early German-Texan settlers. But he would like assistance with its translation and suggests that someone might be interested in reading it orally onto a tape recorder so that he could then transcribe it into written and thus translatable German. He would provide a recorder for anyone willing to take on this project, which might prove instructive and interesting as well as personally rewarding. We have recommended to Mr. Struve that he select a few significant passages from this book, retype them according to our specifications, and submit them to our Journal for publication in a future issue. We look forward to such a presentation in the near future.

The Friedrich Neumann Family, 104+ pages

The Casper Ringelstein Family, 84+ pages

The Johann Ernst Schulze Family, 100+ pages

The Casper Sobeczek Family, 119+ pages

all by the Rev. Charles W. Neumann, S.M., St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio TX 78228-5800, each is 8 1/2" by 11", softcover, spiral bound, unindexed. This set of four matching books covers the families of the author's four grandparents: William Charles Neumann who married Elizabeth Ringelstein and Carl Albert Schulze who married Agathe Sobeczek. Their children, Charles William Neumann and Margaret Schulze, were the parents of the author, who is professor of theology at (and former president of) St. Mary's University and was a participant in the ecumenical prayer service at GTHS's 1989 annual meeting in San Antonio. Each book is done in the same style and format drawing from various sources including research in Germany (Ringelstein), letters (Neumann), published biographies (Schulze), reminiscences (Sobeczek), as well as newspapers, directories, census reports, church and local records, especially land transfer records. The four families all have a strong San Antonio connection, some with a New Braunfels background, and the Sobeczeks with Atascosa County background. Most of the families are German Lutheran, except for the Polish Catholic Sobeczeks. In San Antonio, the families

Genealogy, Book Reviews, continued

were merchants, small businessmen, craftsmen, and in Atascosa County, the Sobeczeks farmed near Las Gallinas. Throughout the four books, the reader can learn not only the history of these families but also the history of the early-day German and Polish settlers. The author connects larger events to their effect on the lives of his ancestors. None of the lines had exceptionally large families, so nearly all of the descendants of the immigrants are covered, both in outline-style charts and in narratives. Many other names are found in the four family lines. Some of the names in the Neumann family are: Lentz, Kleid, Wieder, Brewster, Kasch, Kerchens, Epp, Person, and Wright; in the Ringelstein family are: Bremer (of New Braunfels, possibly related to the Bremers researched by Robinson-Zwahr as they were from the same vicinity in Germany), Rinkel, Schimmelpfenning, Lange, Stilles, Doebbler, Rilling, Lloyd, Ault, Torian, and Graham; in the Schulze family: Winkelmann, Nichtewitz, Jenner, Schoenemann, Elliott, Wilke, Menger, Schick, Schuettel, Weilbacher, Jones, Steffler, Schneider, Maier, and Kauffmann; in the Sobczek family: Strelczyk, Chapaty, Kindla, Kolonoko, Hardy, Divin, Taubert, Cotter, Withoff, Rutta, Lutz, Pettis, Gittinger, Campbell, Janak, Frankoviac, Skrzycki, Wanat, Watts, Huizar, Skrobarczyk, Waffler, Lubianski, Kusmierz, Doege, Friesenhahn, and Kosielski. The narratives are in a smoothly written style that clearly points out discrepancies and labels inferences, interpretations, speculations, and conclusions as such. The author includes not only the delights and successes, but also the tragedies and disappointments, objectively chronicling the mixed (both ethnic and religious) marriages, hard feelings, disputes, divorces, alcoholism, bankruptcies, and foreclosures, as well as the loose ends and mysteries. Photographs are reproduced in remarkable clarity and include family residences (some are landmarks) and business structures in addition to portraits of ancestors and family members. Included with the photographs are sectional maps of San Antonio showing where the various families lived in relation to each other. These unnumbered pages are inserted in sections within the text, making each book slightly larger than numbered pages would indicate. The exceptional quality of the works is not diminished by a few minor criticisms. Some may find fault with the lack of indexes, but the families are small enough that persons can be found easily enough through the chapter headings in the tables of contents and the charts. Some readers may be confused by the author's sometimes misuse of the term "surname" in reference to a given name. Some may be disappointed by the lack of footnotes. Although the author does not document his sources thoroughly, he described them sufficiently when they are mentioned in the narrative that any person interested in further research can easily follow up on the sources. These four books should be of interest to many because of their background in San Antonio history. However, there are not copies for sale, as the author produced them for family members and not for a general audience. We appreciate his sharing them with the GTHS.

The German Allied Troops in the North American War of Independence, 1771-1783 by Max Von Eelking, 5 1/2" by 8 1/4", softcover, indexed. Reprint of the 1893 publication, which was a translation and abridgement of the 1863 original, two-volume history published in Hanover. Based on some 30 German manuscript sources, including journals, diaries, letters, reports from Hesse, Brunswid, Waldeck, Asnback-Bayreuth and Anhalt-Zerbst, the book is a narrative of the German troops' participation in the American Revolutionary War. The 1893 abridgement deleted the general history of the war, thought to be familiar to American readers, so that this book concentrates on the German participation, of great interest to historians and genealogists. Especially valuable to genealogists and family historians is the 70-page appendix which lists officers of the Hessian corps serving under generals Howe, Clinton, and Carleton, 1776-1783. A new index includes people and places as recorded in the original indexes plus all the names of officers and soldiers in the appendix listings. This valuable reprint is available from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie MD 20716. The price is \$21.50 plus \$3.00 for shipping.

Genealogy, Book Reviews, continued

The Graue Family by Norman Peters, P. O. Box 21117, Washington DC 20009, is 378 pages, 6" by 9", hardback, with a complete name index, 30 photographs, and three maps. With an emphasis on the early history and traditions, this book details the ancestors and descendants of five different Hanoverian families named Graue, including that of Dietrich and Sophia (Rethorn) Graue of Bahrenborstel who immigrated to Warren and Lincoln counties, Missouri, and of Dietrich's brother, Gerhard, who settled in Cass County, Iowa. Another family includes the descendants from the two marriages of John Henry Graue, of Legenhausen, near Syke, who came to Ripley County, Indiana. Later one branch of this family moved to Arkansas and southern Missouri and another to central Kansas. Also included is the history of Frederick and Lucie (Thurnay) Graue of Holzhausen and Landesbaergen who settled in DuPage County, Illinois. Their old Graue Mill near Hinsdale, outside Chicago, is now the site of a state park. The three-story mill, the only one of its kind still operating in Illinois, has a cellar once used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. A fourth family is that of Johann Cord Graue of Leese, born about 1737. Part of this family remained in Germany; part went to Cuba in the early 1900s and then to the U.S. Yet another Graue family is that of Heinrich and Friedrich, two brothers from Kirchdorf who went to South Australia. Compiled from the research and writings of several Graue descendants from these family branches, the book includes the results of ten years of extensive research in the church records in the Hanover area. It sells for \$25.00 (postpaid) and may be ordered from Mr. Peters at the address above. Questions may be directed to him at (202) 332-2433.

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## GTHS MEMBERS' GENEALOGICAL EXCHANGE

Members are encouraged to use this column format in sending information for the Journal. It gives readers the names, areas, and other facts "at a glance." Also, it is quicker for you to submit--and easier for your Genealogy Editor to compile! Let's have more for this section!

Member	Researching Surnames	Tex. County Settled	Religion
Mark Krause 15319 Pebble Path San Antonio TX 78232	Krause Rottenstein Seffel Weidner Langbein	Comal/Bexar Harris/Guadalupe Bexar Comal/Bexar Kendall/Comal	Lutheran Catholic Catholic Lutheran Lutheran
Carol J Friesenhahn 202 Millridge Rd Universal City TX 78148 512/659-4790	Real Pfeil Oth/Ott Frerich Meuth Stapper Lieck Brotze Friesenhahn	Kerr/Real/Bexar Comal/Bexar/Guadalupe Bastrop Bastrop Bastrop Comal/Bexar/Guadalupe Comal/Bexar/Guadalupe Comal/Bexar/Guadalupe Comal/Bexar/Guadalupe	Catholic Catholic Catholic Catholic Catholic
Valerie M Adams 1915 Acacia League City TX 77573 713/332-1985	Maurer Schubert Heider Weber Keil Dohman	Victoria Victoria Victoria Victoria Austin/Victoria Victoria	Lutheran Lutheran Lutheran Lutheran Lutheran Lutheran



## Genealogical Exchange, continued

Member	Researching Surnames	Tex. County Settled	Religion
Carla N Turner 4700 Polo Pkwy #282 Midland TX 79705 915/687-3012 (note, new address for Carla)	Neitzler	Fayette/Lavaca	Catholic
	Oehl	Fayette/Lavaca	Catholic
	Kuss	Lavaca/Fayette/Scurry	Catholic
	Riendle/Rieschl	Lavaca/Fayette/Scurry	Catholic
Leo & Alberta Utz 1001 Carpenter's Way #A418 Lakeland FL 33809 813/859-1842	Utz	Houston	?
	Dickey	Houston	?
	Thornton	Houston	?
	Pike	Uvalde	?
Mildred M W Luke 9718 Bevlyn Dr Houston TX 77025 713/664-0969	Siemer	Austin	Lutheran
	Fredricks	Austin	Lutheran
	Siemer	Austin	Lutheran
Maurine B Wehmeyer P O Box 447 Anderson TX 77830	Wehmeyer	Washington/Grimes	Lutheran
	Streibeck	Washington/Grimes	Lutheran
	Boehm	Grimes	Lutheran
	Abke	Grimes/Washn/Brazos	Lutehran
	Brockschmidt	Grimes/Washn/Brazos	Lutheran
Mrs W F McBrearty Jr 127 Highview San Antonio TX 78228 512/432-2628	Beckmann	Bexar	Catholic
	Bacon	Bexar	?
	Garner	Wilson	Baptist
	Crane	Bexar	?
	Bean		?
Barbara Suttle 4223 Dartmouth Houston TX 77005 713/665-2164 (after 7:00 p.m.)	Buscher/Buescher	Colorado/Austin/Lavaca	Luth
	Vogelsang	Colorado	Lutheran
	Frerichs	Colorado	?
	Fokken	Austin	Lutheran
	Kansteiner	Austin/Colorado	Lutheran
	Hildebrandt	Austin	?
	Severein	Austin	?
	Schott	Colorado/Lavaca	Lutheran
	Cornitius	Colorado	Lutheran
	Folkers	Colorado	?
	Teller	Lavaca?	?
	Sarrazin	Bastrop/Lavaca	?
	Mueller	Lavaca	?
	Poth	Bastrop/Lavaca	?
	Butts	Colorado/Harris	?
Haster	Comal/Hays	?	
Burtschell	Colorado/Fayette	?	
Schobel	Colorado/Fayette	?	

## NEW FORMAT FOR GTHS MEMBERS' GENEALOGICAL EXCHANGE

At the request of several members, we will attempt to add a column for "Origin in Germany" for the Genealogical Exchange in future issues. The "origin" may be given as broadly or as specifically as known. Note, this will be the new format, unless it proved to be unworkable.

Researching Surnames	Origin in Germany	Tex. County Settled	Religion
Member: Harrold K Henck, Jr., P O Box 284, Galveston TX 77553			
Anschuetz	Saarland	Galveston/Lavaca	Catholic
Apffel	Alsace, also Iowa	Galveston/Harris	Lutheran
Frommer	Württemberg	Galveston	Lutheran
Galny	Westphalia	Galveston/Lavaca	Catholic
Henck	Westphalia	Galveston/Austin	Lutheran
Hess	Saxony	Galveston	Lutheran?
Koch	?	Galveston	?
Mueller	Mecklenburg?	Galveston	Lutheran?
Petersen/Peterson	Schleswig	Galveston	Lutheran

## LOESCH / ROSENBAUM

**Wilhelm (1822-1902) Loesch and Charlotte Henke were married in or around Wehdem, Westphalen, in 1859. The Loeschs had relatives who had immigrated to New York and Pennsylvania as well as to Texas. Their original intent was to settle in New York, but they changed their plans and immigrated to Texas in 1874 with their whole family.**

**Wehdem is a small town in northwestern Germany, located between Osnabrück and Bremen, and about 60 miles east of the Netherlands border. (It would be interesting to know how many other families emigrated from the Wehdem area to Texas and to other parts of the U.S.--as well as some of the reasons for their emigration.)**

**Wilhelm and Charlotte's children were: Christoph (1861-1940), Caroline (1864-1928), Charlotte (1866-1944), Henriette (1873-1933), and John Ernst Wilhelm (1876-1938). Henrietta learned to walk on the deck of the ship taking the family to America, and John was the first Loesch born in America.**

**Back in Wehdem, Carl Rosenbaum and his wife (name unknown, although she was reportedly a prominent midwife of the area) had three sons and one daughter. The oldest son, Herman Frederick "Fritz" Rosenbaum (1855-1939) immigrated to Texas in 1872 at the age of 17. His two brothers joined him later; they were William (dates unknown) and Henry Ben (1862-1952). None of the brothers ever saw their parents or sister again. The sister remained in the Wehdem area and raised a family with whom we have lost touch.**

**Henry settled near his brothers in the Salem community of Austin County and there he met and married Henriette Loesch. Their families may have known each other in Wehdem, but we have no definite information on this. His brother, Fritz, also married a girl from Wehdem who had immigrated to Washington County with her family.**

**We have information on the descendants of all three Rosenbaum brothers who immigrated, but due to the wars and other considerations, the families lost contact. One family did keep in touch with the German relatives as recently as the post-World War II time, but now there is no one here who has the information we need.**

**We would like to hear from anyone who might have information about the Lobesch and/or Rosenbaum families before they came to the U.S. and especially about the Rosenbaum daughter who stayed in Germany.**

**Sent by: Shirley K. Pyburn, Rt. 4, Box 199, La Grange TX 78945**

# Gräber in fremder Erde

Erinnerung an heimische Auswanderer in Texas

Unter der großen Auswanderungswelle, die um die Mitte des vorigen Jahrhunderts die USA zum Ziel hatte, war eine bedeutende Gruppe nassauischer Bewohner, die durch den Texas-Verein in Siedlungsgebiete im Süden der Staaten geschleust wurden und dort in einem öden Landstrich bittere Not litten. Die Gräber auf den Friedhöfen der deutschen Siedlerstädte Neu Braunfels und Friedrichsburg sowie anderer Orte künden von den Opfern, die die erste Generation der Auswanderer den harten Bedingungen der neuen Heimat bringen mußte. Bis heute erzählen die Grabsteine die an Entbehrungen reiche Geschichte unserer Landsleute in dem noch fremden Land. Helmut Groos hat die Grabstätten besucht und den folgenden Bericht geschrieben.

Der seit 1836 selbständige Staat Texas hatte sich im Juni 1845 wegen drohender kriegerischer Auseinandersetzungen mit Mexiko den Vereinigten Staaten angeschlossen. Im Herbst 1845 trafen in Carlshafen im südlichen Texas nach wochenlanger Überfahrt und unfreiwilligem Aufenthalt in Galveston mehrere tausend Auswanderer ein, die mitten in den zwischen Mexiko und den Vereinigten Staaten ausgebrochenen Krieg gerieten.

## Seuchen brachen aus

Unter den Siedlern befanden sich auch viele aus unserer Gegend. Sie konnten erst nach langer Verzögerung zu den vom Texas-Verein erworbenen Siedlungsgebieten im Landesinnern weiterziehen, weil sämtliche Wagen und Zugtiere von den kriegführenden Parteien requiriert worden waren. Die Menschen waren auf engstem Raum zusammengepfercht und ungenügend versorgt. Kein Wunder, daß Seuchen ausbrachen, die beim Weiterziehen auch in die Städte Neu Braunfels und Friedrichsburg eingeschleppt wurden. Über tausend der so hoffnungsvoll aufgebrochenen Auswanderer erlagen an der Küste, auf dem langen Weg ins Siedlungsgebiet und in den neugegründeten Städten den Infektionskrankheiten. Erschütternde Schicksale spielten sich in diesen Monaten ab. Nicht selten starben die Eltern und liebten die Kinder unversorgt zurück. In der Mitte des alten Neu Braunfeler Friedhofs ist heute noch unter einer kleinen Baumgruppe die Stelle zu erkennen, wo die vielen Toten des Winters 1845/46 in eilig ausgehobenen Massengräbern beigesetzt wurden.

## Fast nur deutsche Namen

In den schweren Anfangsjahren fehlte den Siedlern das Geld und wahrscheinlich auch die Zeit, ihre Angehörigen nach den Sitten der alten Heimat zu bestatten. Später kehrten sie jedoch zu den Bräuchen ihres Herkunftslandes zurück, so daß man sich inmitten amerikanischer Friedhöfe auf deutsche Begräbnisstätten versetzt fühlt. Auf dem unter Denkmalschutz stehenden historischen Friedhof von Neu Braunfels begegnen wir auf den Grabsteinen fast nur deutschen Namen. Auswanderer von Dillenburg, Herborn, Bicken, Offenbach, Übermthal und Altenkirchen haben hier ihre letzte Ruhestätte gefunden. Nach altem heimatlichen Brauch sind auf vielen Steinen Sprüche oder Bibelverse eingemeißelt. Auf dem Grabstein eines 20jährigen verstorbenen Mädchens steht

»Wenig waren meine Tage,  
kurz war meine Lebenszeit.  
Von der Wiege bis zum Grabe  
war nur eine Spanne Zeit.«

Die Form einer aufgerollten Urkunde hat das Grabmal eines Mannes aus Dillenburg. Die Grabinschrift lautet:

»Hier ruhet Philipp D. Bitter, geb. den 21. März 1830 in Dillenburg Nassau, gest. den 4. Februar 1868 in Neu Braunfels Texas. Friede seiner Asche!«

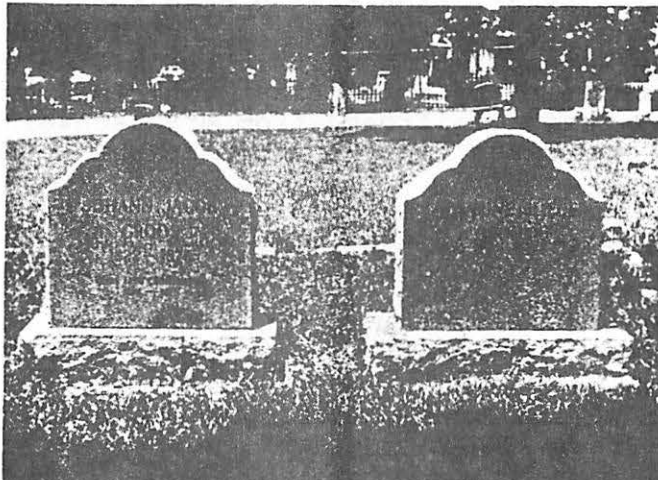
Philipp Bitter war von 1865 bis zu seinem frühen Tode 1868 County-Clerk des Comal-Bezirks. Er bekleidete also die Stelle eines Kreissekretärs in der Bezirkshauptstadt Neu Braunfels. Damit trat er die Nachfolge des aus Offenbach bei Herborn zugewanderten Johann Jacob Groos an, der nach dem von den Südstaaten verlorenen Bürgerkrieg aus dem Amt gejagt worden war. Er war nämlich Hauptmann der konföderierten Armee gewesen.



Grabstein von Philipp Jacob Theis auf dem Friedhof in Boerne (Texas) (Aufnahme: June McMichael geb. Theis)

## Aus Dillenburg und Offenbach

Mit seinen Eltern Heinrich und Charlotte Bitter verließ Philipp mit sechs jüngeren Geschwistern 1845 im Alter von 15 Jahren Dillenburg, um die Überfahrt nach Texas mit dem Segelschiff »Arminius« anzutreten. Die Mutter starb bereits eineinhalb Jahre nach der Ankunft in Neu Braunfels im Alter von 38 Jahren. Ihr Mann lebte nur zwei Jahre länger und überließ Philipp die Sorge für seine



Gräber von Johann Jacob Groos und Katharina Blieder-Groos in Austin (Texas) (Aufnahmen: Helmut Groos)



Johann Jacob Groos aus Offenbach, † 1878

sechs Geschwister. Möglicherweise hatte dies seine Kräfte vorzeitig aufgezehrt und zu seinem frühen Tod beigetragen.

Grabstätten einheimischer Auswanderer befinden sich nicht nur in Neu Braunfels.

Auf dem Zentralfriedhof der texanischen Hauptstadt Austin stoßen wir auf die Gräber des schon erwähnten Johann Jacob Groos und seiner Ehefrau Katharina geb. Blieder aus Eisemroth. Einige Jahre nach der zwangsweisen Entlassung aus den Diensten des Comal-Bezirks gelang Groos noch eine erstaunliche Karriere: Er wurde 1872 bis 1874 Bürgermeister von Neu Braunfels und 1874 sogar als Land Commissioner von Texas Regierungsmitglied. 1878 ist er im Amt gestorben und wurde in Austin beigesetzt.

In der Bezirkshauptstadt Boerne, nördlich von San Antonio, wird man ebenfalls an das Wirken deutscher Auswanderer erinnert. Das älteste Haus der Stadt erbaute 1858 der mit seiner achtköpfigen Familie aus Offenbach ausgewanderte Schmied Philipp August Theis.

Heute steht das Gebäude unter Denkmalschutz und dient als Museum. Auf dem historischen Teil des Boerner Friedhofs nehmen die Grabstätten der Theis-Sippe ein eigenes Gräberfeld ein. Die in der Umgebung von Boerne wohnenden Familienangehörigen lassen sich auch heute noch hier zur letzten Ruhe betten.

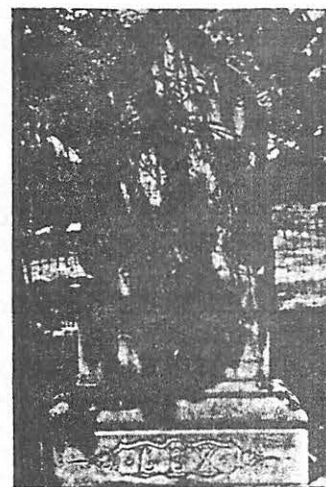
## Auf eigenem Grundstück

Kürzlich ging die Nachricht durch die Presse, daß ein Bauer bei Lüneburg seinen Vater auf dem eigenen Waldgrundstück beerdigen durfte. Er hatte bei den

## Siedlerstädte in Texas

1. 11. 1635: Joh. Bernh. Gottleben, Oberpfarrer in Dillenburg, an der Pest gestorben, nachdem er vorher acht Kinder und seine Frau durch die Pest verloren hatte.
6. 11. 1251: Herborn erhält von König Wilhelm im Lager zu Erbenheim Stadtrechte (älteste Stadtrechtsurkunde Nassaus).
8. 11. 1623: Durch spanische Soldaten verbrennen in Halger 70 Gebäude, darunter 40 Wohnhäuser.
9. 11. 1827: Zwei Postwagenräuber auf dem Galgenberg bei Dillenburg enthauptet.
24. 11. 1634: Brandschatzung und Plünderung der Stadt Herborn durch Mansfeldische Truppen.  
(Nach Dr. Löber †)

Behörden eine Ausnahmegenehmigung erwirkt. Friedhöfe auf eigenen Grundstücken sind in Texas nichts Außergewöhnliches. Dies ist auch verständlich angesichts der enormen Entfernungen zwischen den Städten und Dörfern oder den weit verstreut liegenden Farmen.



Grabstätte Lex bei Neu Braunfels

Auf halber Strecke zwischen den von deutschen Pionieren gegründeten Städten Neu Braunfels, Boerne und Friedrichsburg liegt einsam mitten im Busch die 1872 von dem Offenbacher Auswanderer Peter Lex errichtete Still-Wasser-Ranch. Unter schattigen Bäumen in Sichtweite des Hauptgebäudes der Ranch hat Peter Lex im Jahre 1885 einen kleinen Friedhof anlegen müssen, als vier seiner Kinder innerhalb weniger Wochen einer ansteckenden Krankheit erlagen. Der Farmgründer wurde an diesem Platz 1921 ebenfalls zu Grabe getragen, und auch der jetzige Eigentümer des großen Anwesens, Rechtsanwalt und emeritierter Professor, hat schon entsprechende Vorkehrungen für seine Beisetzung auf dem Lex-Friedhof getroffen.  
**Helmut Groos**

Anmerkung: 1) Aus Wolf Heino Struck: Die Auswanderung aus dem Herzogtum Nassau.

Sent by  
Agnes Lehmann  
New Braunfels

HEINRICH CONRAD KOTHMANN  
KOTHMANN FAMILY ANCESTOR

HEINRICH CONRAD KOTHMANN was born Jan. 31 1798. He was the youngest son of Hennig Heinrich Kothmann and Ilse Dorothee Merwede Kothmann. Hennig Heinrich was a Kleinbauer (small farmer) in the village of Wedelheine, Electorate of Braunschweig-Lüneburg. Heinrich Conrad was educated in the local school. Later he received training in cabinet making. He played a reed instrument in the Hannover Municipal Band and was also a violinist.

In 1814 the Electorate of Braunschweig-Lüneburg became the Kingdom of Hannover. Georg III, King of Great Britain 1760-1820, the last Elector of Braunschweig-Lüneburg, became the first King of Hannover.

Heinrich Wilhelm (Heinrich Conrad's eldest brother) was married to Sophie Wolters Kothmann. To this union were born Sophie Dorothee (1813?) and Heinrich Wilhelm born (1816?).

Another brother is said to have immigrated to New York.

Heinrich Wilhelm, Heinrich Conrad's eldest brother, died in 1822. On May 23, 1822 an inventory of the Kothmann property was made. In it were listed all nonmovable and movable property. This included a two story Niederdeutches Hallenhaus (low German hallway house) two Backhouses (bakehouses) and various other outbuildings. Some of the movable property was livestock. They were: two mares, one colt; three cows, one calf; two breeding sows, six pigs; six hens, one rooster. Farm land consisted of about 38 morgen in plots of 1 to 11½ morgen in size. One morgen was 0.63 acres. Heinrich Conrad was made trustee of this property.

On April 26, 1824 Heinrich Conrad received an honorable discharge from the Second Battalion Fourth Infantry Regiment. The same year he married Johanne Sophie Wolters Kothmann, the widow of his eldest brother Heinrich Wilhelm. To this union were born Henriette Sophie (1824?) and Johann Heinrich Wilhelm born March 1, 1825. Johanne Sophie Wolters Kothmann died on March 1, 1831.

On June 22, 1832, Heinrich Conrad married Ilse Katherine Pahlmann, the daughter of Hennig and Ilse Dorothee Thormann Pahlmann of Hillerse. She was born March 10, 1818. To this union were born Ilse Katherine Dec. 23 1832; Heinrich Friedrich Feb. 10, 1835; Karl Dietrich Feb. 14, 1837; Dorothee (1839?) died; and Marie Caroline Nov, 23 1840.

IN 1841 when Heinrich Wilhelm, born (1816?) was 25 years of age he received the major portion of the Wedelheine property. This property had been held in trust by Heinrich Conrad since 1822. The July 3 and 13, 1841 document was written at the castle of the Count of Bergheim in the city of Gifhorn, Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. Heinrich Wilhelm at this time married Catharin Dorothee Köhler born (1821?), the daughter of Hans Heinrich Köhler of Meine.

Maria Dorothee, the last child of Heinrich Conrad and Ilse Dorothee, born in Germany, was born Dec. 6 1842. Following the tradition of primogeniture she was probably named for her sister who had died before 1841.

Since Heinrich Conrad, according to the July 1841 document, inherited very little the future for him and his family, in Germany, was not bright. It is probable that he sold his inheritance, adding to that the money his children had inherited, used this to take his family to Texas and a new life.

To immigrate to Texas, under the auspices of "The Society for The of German Immigrants in Texas", each family head needed a capital of 600 florins. One florin was about 2 thalers or about 40.2 cents

Travel in Germany, at this time was both primitive and advanced. The Kothmanns would have traveled by horse drawn vehicle from Wedelheine to Braunschweig. Then by train (railroad) from Braunschweig to Hannover. A riverboat would have been taken from Hannover up the Leine River to the Weser river to Bremerhaven.

On Oct. 9 1845 the Kothmanns left for Galveston on the bark B. Bohlen, built 1841, a sailing ship of 310 tons, owned by Hegedorn. Ships captain was J. Mencke. There were 188 passengers below deck. After a voyage of about 2½ months they arrived in Galveston, Texas.

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1. Craig, William D., Coins of The World 1750-1850, Racine, Wis.; Whitman Publishing Co., 1966.
2. Geue, Chester W. and Ethel Handler, ed. A New Land Beckoned, Waco, Tex. Texan Press, 1966.

Kothmann, continued

3. Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, July 1846, to June 1847, London: J. H. Cox, Brothers, 1846.
4. Raunick, Selma Metzenthin and Shade, Margaret, The Kothmanns of Texas 1845-1931, Austin: Von Boeckmann-Jones Co., 1931.

This article is by John H. Kothmann a great--great grandson of Heinrich Conrad Kothmann and Ilse Katherine Pahlmann Kothmann.

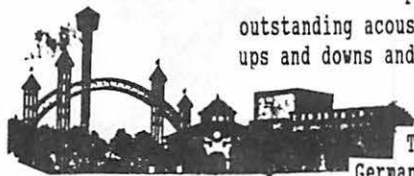
Any further history of the Heinrich Conrad Kothmann family may be found in "The Kothmanns of Texas" published by Von Boeckmann-Jones Austin, Texas 1845-1931, 1845-1951, 1845-1971.

**GERMAN HERITAGE PARK HemisFair Park, San Antonio, Texas**

German Heritage Park, Inc., aims to bring life to an old neighborhood in downtown San Antonio now located within a four-acre portion of HemisFair Park. Long before it was the site of the 1968 World's Fair, the area was a thriving German settlement,

For a long time after its 1895 solemn dedication, the Beethoven Halle, with its outstanding acoustics, was "the finest building dedicated to music in the South," but it has had its ups and downs and will now undergo a total refurbishing.

A German-Texan culture information center for all things German is planned



To learn more about German Heritage Park and how you can be a part of the excitement, write to German Heritage Park, Inc., 4040 Broadway, Suite 415, San Antonio TX 78209. If you like the idea, why not write a letter expressing your support!

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**Cuxhaven: Link in the History of Emigration**

The so-called "Amerikahafen" ("port of America") in the port of Cuxhaven, located on the North Sea at the mouth of the Elbe, is an unofficial sister port, together with Bremerhaven, to Ellis Island. It was here that many European emigrants began their journey to the United States. For decades, this part of the Cuxhaven port has also been the cause of friction between the state of Lower Saxony and the city-state of Hamburg; although geographically located in Lower Saxony, it has been under Hamburg's jurisdiction. Now, an agreement has been signed between the two states, under which Hamburg will turn over the Amerikahafen to Lower Saxony. That state, for its part, agreed to scrap plans for a large container terminal, which would have been an unwelcome competition for Hamburg.

The port served as embarkation point for two waves of emigrants;

Germans in the second half of the nineteenth century, and southern and eastern Europeans in the late nineteenth century. Between 1898 and 1906, the number of passengers on the Hamburg-America Line (Hapag) jumped from 20,000 to 128,000. In order to save his company the expense of ferrying passengers from nearby Stade to Hamburg, Hapag director Albert Ballin convinced the Hamburg senate to allow him to build an express liner port in Cuxhaven, to be connected with Hamburg by express train. Passengers exited the train station, walked through the waiting rooms and customs offices, and emerged on the other side virtually at the quay.

During the First World War, emigration diminished considerably. Cuxhaven continued to be used, however, for navy operations in both world wars. Until 1939, it served as a port for express liners, shifting to a modest port for launches of Hamburg's overseas liners; today, cruise ships occasionally dock here.

**FAMILY REUNION**

**ERBEN/BALMERT REUNION**

Sept 22, 1991 is the date for the first reunion of the families of the six children of Konrad Erben and Margaretha Clarinisa Balmert--Marie Erben/Louis Krause, Anna Erben/Hans (John) Wagner, Conrad Erben/Anna Christina Krause/Anna Minna Jauch, Franz(Frank) Erben/Anna Katie Icke, Carl (Charles) Erben/Anna Wehe, Emma Erben/George Leonard Fuchs. Also, Peter Seidmann/Genevieve Holzinger. Peter was Margaretha's child from her marriage to Nicholas Seidmann; he died shortly after arrival in Texas.

The reunion will be held at Germania Farmers Verein Hall at Anhalt, Comal County, from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 p.m. A Bar-B-Q lunch will be served at 1:00 P.M.

For more information, contact Walter C. Moser, 8803 Valley View Lane, Houston TX 77074, (713) 776-2348.

From: The Week in Germany, May 17, 1991

Have you considered Cuxhaven as a possible port of embarkation for your ancestors?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Paul J. Henicke would like to inform GTHS that the NESBITT MEMORIAL LIBRARY in Columbus, Texas, has extensive records of St. Paul Lutheran Church of that town. Archivist Bill Stein of the Nesbitt produces periodic publications from holdings in the library--an impressive Texana / Colorado County history collection and German Texana can be found there. (ISB:#11)

**ANNUAL GERMAN FEST OF HOUSTON - 1991**

Please mark October 5, 1991, on your calendar!

On that date, the FIFTH ANNUAL GERMAN FEST OF HOUSTON will be held at the Hyatt Regency - West Houston at Eldridge Road & Katy Freeway (I-10).


This event is celebrated in conjunction with National German-American Day (October 6).

Daytime activities, including the Jaegermeister Band, the Houston Saengerbund and the Houston Liederkrantz singers, exhibits, and much more, begin at 11:00 AM - admission free.

The Gala Dinner Dance begins at 8:00 PM (cash bar opens at 7:00 PM), and includes a Lufthansa Airlines round trip ticket to Germany Grand Door Prize and other door prizes, as well as a silent auction.

A non-profit organization, the German Gulf Coast Association will use proceeds from the dance to provide a number of small scholarships to deserving German students and for the 1992 annual fest.

For further information and reservations, call (713) 358-3371 (713) 651-5333  
(ISB:#12)



**T E X A S  
FOLKLIFE  
FESTIVAL**

August 1-4, 1991

Discounted tickets are available if ordered each year before July 22.

Write for a free brochure, or call for more details.

The Texas Folklife Festival  
The Institute of Texan Cultures  
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(Begins on Sunday, Ends on Friday)

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Survey of cabinetmakers and what they produced. See their work, learn how to identify old pieces. See treasures from the Bybee and Hogg collections.

**German Finer Arts: Texas-Style**

Learn the German Polka and its history and Texas evolution. Experience the good life, German-Texas style, including food and the decorative arts.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/  
AUSTIN**

Nov 3 - 8 # 43900—1103 - 1

Dec 1 - 6 # 43900—1201 - 1

(Begins on Sunday, Ends on Friday)

**German-Texan Heritage: Trials and  
Triumphs in the 1840s**

From ill-fated landings in Indianola to facing a forbidding environment, most German settlers triumphed over adversity. Enjoy a short history of German settlement, eye-witness accounts, and field trip to living history homestead.

For APPLICATION FORMS  
and CATALOG write to:

**ELDERHOSTEL**  
75 Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

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**MULTI-ETHNIC FOLKLIFE MASS**

Germans and 28 other ethnic groups will celebrate together the diversity of their heritage and the unity of their faith at the 15th annual Multi-Ethnic Folklife Mass, Sunday morning, 4 August 1991, at the Arneson River Theater. Yes, it's on The Riverwalk, in downtown San Antonio! You can attend this colorful multi-ethnic, multi-lingual celebration featuring flags, costumes, music, arts and crafts of many lands and then be at the Institute of Texan Cultures for the noontime opening of the Texas Folklife Festival, just a few blocks away. The Mass is sponsored by Texas Catholic Conference on Community Ethnic Affairs. For more information, contact TCC-CEA president, Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213. Ask to be placed on the mailing list for a special flyer announcement.



(ISB:#9)

## German-Texan Heritage Society

Founded in 1978, the German-Texan Heritage Society is a non-profit organization devoted to building pride in the heritage of the German-speaking settlers who brought an important cultural ingredient to Texas. The Society is united in its effort to disseminate information about archives, research projects, cultural events, folklore, publications, and meetings related to German-Texan topics.

The Society seeks members from the general public . . . descendants of all German-speaking peoples, researchers, genealogists, history enthusiasts, folklorists, preservationists, and those interested in the German-Texan experience.

A JOURNAL is published three times a year (50-75 pages). It is sent to all members. The JOURNAL features a genealogical section which includes hints about research in German-speaking countries, Texas, and the United States; brief family histories submitted by members, and a genealogy exchange column. Other sections of the JOURNAL include reprints of articles from other publications, announcements about activities and events, a book review column, an annual index, and original essays about various topics related to German-Texana.

An ANNUAL MEETING is held the second weekend in September in various German heritage areas of Texas. The program emphasizes the German-Texan heritage and includes talks, slide shows, show-and-tell sessions, and discussions by researchers, preservationists, folklorists, authors, members who have a story to tell and guest experts in specific fields; informal social events; plays and music; and tours of historical sites in the host city.

Membership categories are:	Student	\$ 5.00
	Regular	8.00
	Contributing	15.00
	Institutional	15.00
	Patron	30.00
	Add \$4.00 for postage to a foreign country.	

The German-Texan Heritage Society calendar year is from January 1 to December 31. Membership payments and renewals are due in January.

Completed projects of the Society:

1. The reprint of *ROEMER'S TEXAS*,
2. Sponsorship of the reprint of *THE CABIN BOOK (DAS KAJUTENBUCH)*, by Charles Sealsfield,
3. The reprint of Rudolph Biesele's *THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN TEXAS 1831-1861*.
4. *THE HANDBOOK AND REGISTRY OF GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE*.

All books are available through the Society. Please request price list.

For more information or price lists for books and back issues contact:

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

1011 Meredith Drive  
P. O. Box 262  
Manchaca, Texas 78652

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FOUNDED 1970

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- \$15 Institutions
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(Mr. & Mrs. address may have a joint membership if only one JOURNAL is desired.)

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Please check the following interest categories:

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  - Doing research in archives, libraries, etc.
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  - Other. Please list.

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## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

ISSUE	DEADLINE	ARRIVAL
SPRING	February 10	April 1
SUMMER	June 10	August 1
FALL	October 10	December 1

(This schedule allows one week to assemble, four weeks to print, one week to prepare for mailing, and time for the US Mail.)

Subscriptions should be sent to the Membership Editor. Announcements, articles, genealogical inquiries, conference, meeting and reunion dates, news of other German heritage events, etc., are always welcome from members. Correspondence, contributions and manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief or to the appropriate member of the Editorial Board. Deadlines are posted on this page.

All articles must be typed, SINGLE SPACED, on 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch white paper, with a 1/4-inch margin on all edges. The Editor-in-Chief has the right to refuse any materials that may not be in accordance with the by-laws of the German-Texan Heritage Society.



## ANNUAL MEETINGS

1991---September 6-8  
**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
 Ingrid Brock  
 4317 Patrick  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78413  
 (512) 852-8751

1992---September  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Helgard Suhr  
 8 Mission Dr.  
 New Braunfels, TX 78130  
 (512) 625-6330

1993---  
**SAN ANGELO**  
 Otto Tetzlaff  
 Angelo State U.  
 (915) 944-1927

1994---  
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**German Information Center**  
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**Goethe Institute Houston**  
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