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Initials on news articles are for the contributors to this issue. In a few cases no name was with articles, so if you were left out, don't take it personally, please!!

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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING 1993

September 10, 11. & 12 in San Angelo, Texas

REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 15, 1993

\$35 registration fee, if pre-registered by Aug. 15, 1993

**\$50 if registration material is received after August 15
but before September 5, 1993;**

\$55 late registration at the door, day of convention

The Registration fee includes a Friday night snack of hors d'oeuvres, iced tea beer or wine, the Saturday night dinner and coffee during the two days of activities. Friday Night activities will take place at Fort Concho Museum of Fine Arts, one of the best preserved forts in the United States. There will also be time to spend sightseeing or shopping in some of the quaint shops on old Concho Street in the heart of San Angelo.

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	(by Sep. 5)	# of persons	__ @ \$50 \$ _____
Late Registration:	# of persons	__ @ \$55	\$ _____

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

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

PH: _____

Make checks payable to: **GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Mail to: Brett Becker, Office Manager
German-Texan Heritage Society
P. O. Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768

\$25.00 exhibitor's fee per table. Those exhibitors who want to participate in the convention proceedings must also pay a registration fee.

(In case of cancellation a \$15 service fee will be charged)

=====

HOTEL RESERVATION

A block of 75 rooms is being held at the special GTHS rate of \$48.00 per night plus 13% tax, single, double, triple and quadruple occupancy; one bedroom suite will be \$108 per night plus tax at the HOLIDAY INN in San Angelo. Please reserve early. Mention GTHS when reserving by telephone.

Name: _____	Mail HOTEL RESERVATION to:
Address: _____	HOLIDAY INN
City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____	441 Rio Concho Dr.
Arr. date: _____ Dep. date: _____	San Angelo, Tx. 76903
	915-658-2928
	1-800-HOLIDAY

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Teresa Gold:

Please accept my appreciation for your work as GTHS' genealogy editor. As manager of a library's genealogy department I can appreciate your knowledge, skill and dedication to the task. Not to be overlooked is the work you put in every time you submit the material to the Journal. Thank you.

W. M. Von-Maszewski
GTHS president and JOURNAL editor.

"My first issue of the Journal arrived Friday. What a bargain! I read and re-read. Jones & I have visited some of the places mentioned so the articles on museums, historical happenings, etc, are very interesting"

Anne S. Bumpers,
Columbia, Tenn.

I'm looking forward to the Journal which I like to read all the year around ...

Anni Balthaus
Bad Camberg, Germany

The Rathkamp Deutsche Volkstanzgruppe of Houston will host the 4th Annual "Lehrgang und Tanzfest" July 24-25, 1993. During this two-day workshop and festival, participants will learn Bavarian folkdances, Schuhplattlers, and culture as taught by the nationally-recognized Morry Gelman, his son and daughter-in-law who will be coming from Maryland especially for this event.

Invitations have been extended to German dance groups throughout Texas and neighboring states; eleven groups, from as far away as Denver, Colorado, have already expressed their interest and desire to attend.

The highlight of the weekend is the Festival Dance on Saturday evening, July 24, which will be open to the public. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Dance begins at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Music will be provided by Alpenfest of Houston. Each participating group will perform an Ehrentanz during the evening.

The "Lehrgang und Tanzfest" will be held at St. Mary's Hall in Frydek, Texas, two miles east of Sealy. For more information, or to make reservations, contact Monroe or Betty Rathkamp at (713) 468-7666, or Erich and Karen Wolz at (713) 668-8044.

Boerne, July 30 and August 3, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Boerne Abendkonzerte, Main Plaza, Boerne Boerne Village Band, oldest continuously active German Band in the U.S. Open to the public and free of charge. Information: (210) 249-8000.

San Antonio, Sept. 26 and Octo. 24. Sunday in the Park Concerts, German Heritage Park (So. Alamo Street Entrance, HemisFair Park), 12:30-3:30 p.m. (times are approximate). Open to public, free of charge. German food, drinks, beer will be sold, or you may bring your own picnic lunch, folding chairs and/or blankets.

Featured entertainers:

- Sept. 26: San Antonio Liederkrantz (12:30)
Beethoven German Band (1:00)
Band-Aids Jazz Band (2:30) (a group of S.A. physicians)
- Oct. 24: San Antonio Liederkrantz (12:30)
Swinging' Dutchmen Band (1:00)
Alamo Pops Concert Band (2:30)

San Antonio, fourth Sunday, September through May, 11:00 a.m. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 623 E. Commerce Street, San Antonio. Liederkrantz sings at 11:00 Mass.

San Antonio, Thursday, August 5, through Sunday, August 8. Texas Folklife Festival, University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, HemisFair Park. Advance discount tickets available. Information: (210) 226-7651.

San Antonio, Sunday, August 8, 9:00 a.m. Annual Multi-Ethnic Folklife Mass. Arneson River Theater, La Villita (on the San Antonio River). Open to public, free of charge. Information: (210) 340-6820 or 655-4830.

Addison, Texas (west of Dallas), Sept. 16-19. OKTOBERFEST, an authentic recreation of the Munich celebration featuring German food, beer and entertainment. Information: 1-800-ADDISON.

San Antonio, October 5. Concert by Markt Erkheim Band from Bavaria. Location: Beethoven Halle, 7:30 p.m. German-American Day event co-sponsored by all German heritage organizations in San Antonio. Ticket: \$6.00 (tentative prize). Information: (210) 696-5372.

Everywhere, October 6, German-American Day. Please notify GTHS office of local commemorations and proclamations.

San Antonio, October 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m. German-American Day celebration, German Heritage Park. Music by Markt Erkheim Band from Bavaria and program by distinguished speakers. Open to public, free of charge. Information: (210) 696-5372.

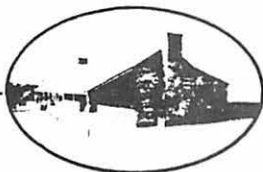
New Braunfels, October 29 through November 7. Wurstfest. Information: (210) 625-9167 or 1-800-221-4369.

San Antonio, Saturday and Sunday, November 27 and 28. O Tannenbaum!, an arts and crafts shopping spree with the flavor of a German Christmas Market. At the old German-English School buildings, now part of Hotel Plaza San Antonio. Sponsored by German Heritage Park. Information: (210) 696-5372.

San Antonio, November 27. King William Association home tour, 4:00-8:00 p.m. (hours tentative). Open house at some of this historic district's outstanding residences. For information call (210) 227-8786 (KWA office) or 534-7212 (chairperson).

Call for information:

Looking for information on Cowboy and Indian clubs in Germany, and for names and address for such clubs. Charles Maxwell, Renew America, Inc., 605 Belknap, San Antonio, TX 78212. (210)736-6933 or FAX (210) 723-1341.



Southwest Center for German Studies

MM

Comanches, Apaches, Germans?

presented by UC Programs and the Southwest Center for German Studies



March 23, 1993: Officials at the Exhibit opening: (left to right): Dr. Jane Winer, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Len Ainsworth, Vice Provost; Mr. Rod Paine, Deputy Director of Lubbock International Airport; Mr. David Langston, Mayor of Lubbock; Mr. Ray Thomas, Sergeant Major of the 4th Cavalry; Dr. Rolf Dencker, Director of the Goethe Institute - Houston; Mrs. Grace Dencker; Dr. Meredith McClain, Director of the Southwest Center for German studies.

Pictures that show the German fascination with the American Wild West captivated viewers of the German Pow-Wow Photo Exhibit. Germans became interested in the Wild West through German 19th century novelist Karl May, who set his writings on the Llano Estacado. Every summer an outdoor amphitheater dramatic festival in Bad Segeberg, Germany, produces western plays based on May's books. Out of the festivals have grown "Indian Clubs," which hold powwows attended by Germans in traditional costume.

About 20 large color photographs by German photographers Stephan Schmitz and Petra Hartmann were displayed. The photos, which depict the activities of an Indian Club in the Black Forest region, were originally shown at the Goethe Institute in San Francisco, and are in Lubbock courtesy of Houston's Goethe Institute.

from Texas Tech Today

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City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____	441 Rio Concho Dr.
Arr. date: _____ Dep. date: _____	San Angelo, Tx. 76903
	915-658-2828
	1-800-HOLIDAY

For your convenience a separate registration form has been placed behind the front cover.

San Angelo attorney Theodore A. ("Tip") Hargrove, and his wife, Debbie, have graciously invited GTHS Convention attendees to a "come and go" post-convention open house, from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, September 12, 1993, at "Silvercliff", the old historic John Loomis Ranch Headquarters near Paint Rock, Texas. The house is being lovingly restored to its past grandeur by Mr. and Mrs. Hargrove. The house, built in 1884 was awarded a historical marker by the State of Texas in 1966, and is under the current ownership of Mrs. Leah Campbell, who is Mr. Hargrove's aunt. Directions and other details will be available at the convention.

Other hotel/motels that will be available are:

1. Ole Coach Motor Inn
 4205 S. Bryant Blvd.
 Tel: 1-800-227-6456
 Single Room: \$29.00
 Double Room: \$34.00
2. Inn of the Conchos
 2021 N. Bryant
 Tel: 1-800-621-6041
 \$38.00 per room allowing up to four in a room.
3. La Quinta
 2307 Loop 306
 Tel: 1-800-531-5900
 \$45.00 for 1-2 persons
 \$53.00 for 3-4 persons

Upon request, we can also furnish other accommodations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Behrens, Anna.....
 DeVos, Mr. and Mrs. Julius.....915-347-5606
 Fohn, Gerald.....915-949-9188
 Fohn, Louis.....915-653-2361
 Gottschalk, Martin.....915-646-4414
 Gully, Dolores.....915-653-2702
 Hardie, Renate.....915-944-9411
 Kleypas, Barry.....915-947-1301
 Nolen, Mark.....915-653-6619
 Saalberg, Harvey.....915-944-3689
 Tetley, Geneva.....
 Tetzlaff, Otto W.....915-944-1927
 Zentner, Terri.....915-949-3442

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Friday, September 10, 1993

- 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Registration at HOLIDAY INN
 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Social Reception: Fort Concho Museum of Fine Arts with tour of Fort Concho (hors d'oeuvres/cocktails) Speaker: Ross McSwain

Saturday, September 11, 1993

- 8:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration (Exhibits and Sales)
 BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN.
 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Opening Addresses:
 Greetings from Convention Committee
 Welcome by: Mr. von Maszewski, President, GTHS;
 and Mayor Funk, San Angelo
 9:30 - 9:50 a.m. Rodney Koenig; "Leave Your German Mark"
 10:00- 10:20 a.m. Dr. Otto W. Tetzlaff: "Communicating with the Spirits: Seance in Comanche, Texas"
 10:30- 10:50 a.m. Cornelia Küffner: "Attitude of G-T Settlers vs. Slavery"
 11:00- 11:20 a.m. Gus Clemens: "Fisher-Miller Land Grant"
 11:30- 1:00 p.m. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.
 1:00- 1:20 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Julius DeVos: "Mrs. Anna Martin"
 1:30- 1:50 p.m. Dr. Robert Prestiano: "Oscar Ruffini, etc."
 2:00- 2:20 p.m. Bob Zentner: "German Artisans"
 2:30- 2:50 p.m. Dr. Christine Muelsch: "Hessian Emigration to Texas"
 3:00- 3:30 p.m. General Meeting and Election of Board Members
 Maike Hudson: "Linguistic Behavior of German-Speaking Groups in Texas"
 3:30- 3:50 p.m. John H. Kothmann: "The Art Methodist Church, Mason County"
 4:00- 6:00 p.m. Theresa Gold: Genealogical Workshop and Visit of downtown San Angelo or just relax at hotel.
 6:00- 7:00 p.m. Get together at Holiday Inn - cash bar
 7:00- 10:00 p.m. Banquet and presentation of new officers.

Sunday, September 12, 1993 HOLIDAY INN

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast Meeting for Board Members;
 Breakfast for Convention Visitors on your own.
 9:00- 12:00 Exhibits and Sales
 9:00- 9:30 a.m. Church Service
 9:30- 9:50 a.m. Judge Curt Steib: "Reflections of a Post-WW I German Immigrant"
 10:00- 10:20 a.m. Patsy Eckert: "Early Concho Valley Settlements"
 10:30- 10:50 a.m. Leroy Pelzel: "The Olfen Community"
 11:00- 11:20 a.m. Dr. Hugh Meredith: "Friedrich Ernst, Pioneer"
 11:30- 11:50 a.m. Harvey Saalberg: "Famous German Sayings"
 12:00 Convention adjourns

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig

Gifts through your Will is an excellent way to leave your German mark and to donate to the German-Texan Heritage Society. Gifts to the German-Texan Heritage Society qualify for an estate tax charitable deduction and gifts during lifetime qualify for an income tax deduction. Bequests in your Will may be structured in a number of ways.

1. A specific bequest;
2. A residual bequest;
3. A contingent bequest to take effect if no immediate family member survives the donor;
4. A charitable trust for the benefit of the German-Texan Heritage Society.

A bequest as shown above will serve to reduce your taxable estate and lower your estate tax liability. There is no limitation on the size of the gift or on the charitable deduction. Several very important items should be stressed.

1. Your bequest should be made to German-Texan Heritage Society;
2. If you are giving specific property, a very specific description should be given such as a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, all of your estate, a specific parcel of land, specific shares of stocks or bonds or specific personal property such as books, paintings, genealogical reference works or other similar items.
3. If you wish to direct your gift to a specific purpose, such as a scholarship, maintenance of the German Free School, to fund an academic chair or professorship or similar provision, you should specify that use.

An example of a typical bequest should read as follows: *"I give to the German-Texan Heritage Society the sum of \$25,000 for the use and benefit of the German-Texan Heritage Society."* Additional language could be added to express your specific desires, such as *"for use in expanding the publications of the society"*. Furthermore, after providing for all of your family members and other organizations as you wish, you may leave the residue of your estate to benefit the German-Texan Heritage Society. For example, Dr. Kelly Stevens not only left his home to the German-Texan Heritage Society but he left any residuary estate to the Society as well to help maintain the home that he so generously gave. Appropriate language in this regard would be *"I give the residue of my estate to the German-Texan Heritage Society."*

Furthermore, a contingent bequest to the German-Texan Heritage Society provides that the Society will benefit only if a named beneficiary does not survive you. For example, a gift could be made to a spouse but if that spouse fails to survive, then a gift could be made to the German-Texan Heritage Society. Ways in which you can further your German-Texan heritage are only limited by your imagination. Should you desire help in this regard please contact the Gifts and Memorial Chairperson of the Society, Rodney C. Koenig, at (713) 651-5333.

Handbook and Registry of *German-Texan Heritage, Volume II*

At the September 1991 German-Texan Heritage Society meeting in Corpus Christi, plans were announced to begin seeking materials to publish Volume II of the Registry. There is much more German-Texan heritage material out there waiting to be recorded.

The format for the next volume will follow that of Volume I. The categories remain the same, but the criteria are modified (see below). Material of the mid-1920s will be included as well as material with a history of less than one hundred years providing the subject had a proven impact on the community, on its culture or its heritage.

The example, the years of the 1920s denote a low point in the history of German-Texan culture and the German-American culture in general. This is the period of anti-German feelings which gained its momentum during World War I and carried over to the post-War years. During this time, many institutions disappeared, never to revive: German newspapers, social organizations, schools, even the use of the German language in public places. In many cases, the post-World War I years saw the topic of German culture forbidden for discussion at home and much German heritage expunged from memory.

As with our first volume, haste is the order of the day to capture the fading recollections. For further information, contact Patsy Hand, 417 Cottonwood St., Victoria, Texas 77904.

Please forward any and all information and materials to: German-Texan Heritage Society,
P O Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768

Categories:

- I. Old Businesses ----- Stores, banks, newspapers, mills, etc., founded before 1925 by German-Texans. Need not be under the original owner throughout its history.
- II. *Vereine* ----- Organizations founded before 1920, defunct or still active today, including agricultural, musical, literary, shooting clubs, etc., and/or their buildings.
- III. Churches & Synagogues ----- Congregations founded and/or buildings erected before 1925 by German-speaking people.
- IV. Cemeteries ----- Public, private and church cemeteries which primarily contain graves of German-Texans.
- V. Schools ----- Public, private and parochial schools founded before 1925 and/or their buildings.
- VI. Farms & Ranches ----- Homesteads of considerable size and/or significance developed before 1925 and still intact. Ownership need not be the original family.
- VII. *Fachwerk* Construction ----- Buildings using *fachwerk* (half-timbered) construction in all or part of the structure.
- VIII. Museums, Historical Societies,
Libraries ----- Institutions devoted to the preservation of German-Texan history, culture, or the work of a German-Texan, or housed in a historic building of German-Texan significance.
- IX. Historical Markers,
Monuments and Statues ----- State of Texas historical markers, local plaques, monuments, statues, and National Register of Historic places and plaques pertaining to German-Texan heritage or history.

Texas Music Museum Came to GTHS Headquarters

by Helga von Schweinitz

When the German-Texan Heritage Society hosted the Symposium of the Society for German American Studies in April, 1993, the "Texas Music Museum, Inc." was kind enough to set up their exhibit "German Music in Texas" in the GTHS Headquarters, our German Free School building. The largest room in the house, the former artist studio, served the purpose well.

The exhibit included old photos of many a German settler posing proudly with his instrument and with family and friends. When Dat Toepperwein Morrow walked around the exhibit table, she suddenly grabbed one of the pictures and said in joyful, proud amazement, "That's my grandfather!"

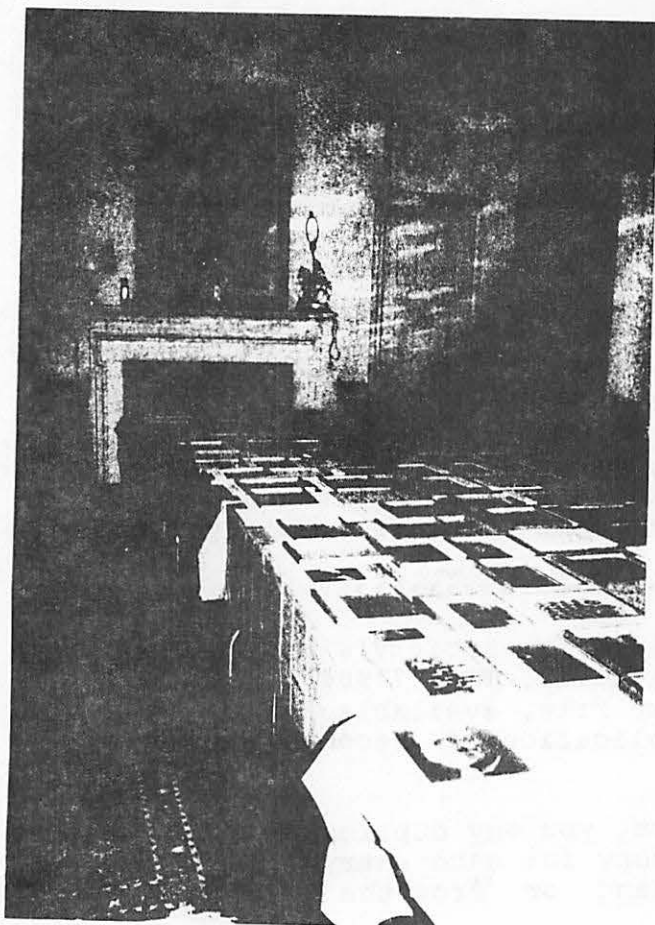


That's what heritage and museums are all about, to let the light from the past shine on the present and thus enrich our life.

The display was carefully and thoughtfully set up by Clay Shorkey and Chester Rosson, both members of the Texas Music Museum, Inc., who combine love of music with love of history. We are grateful for their efforts to give the symposium an extra touch of class and culture.

Above: Clay Shorkey and Chester Rosson from the Texas Music Museum, Inc.

Left: "German Music in Texas" exhibit in the German Free School building

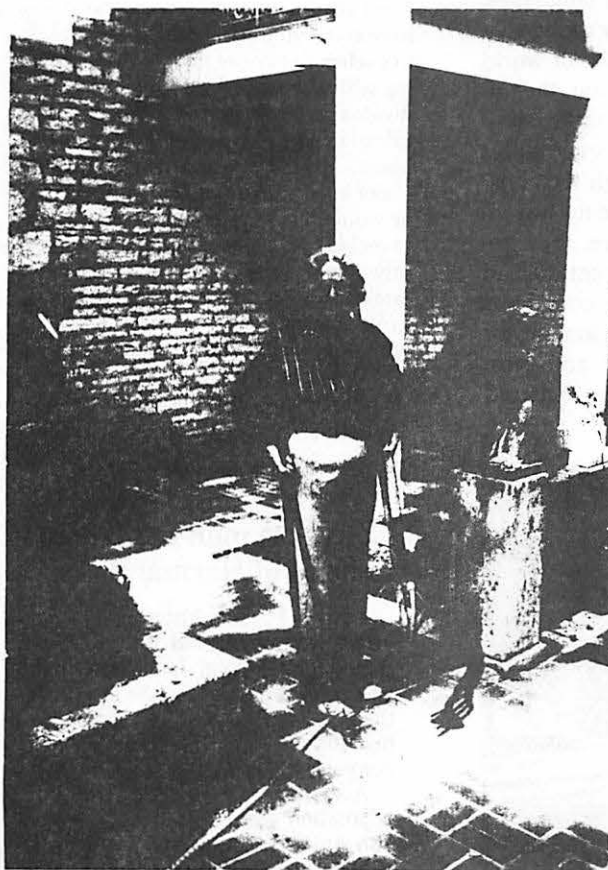
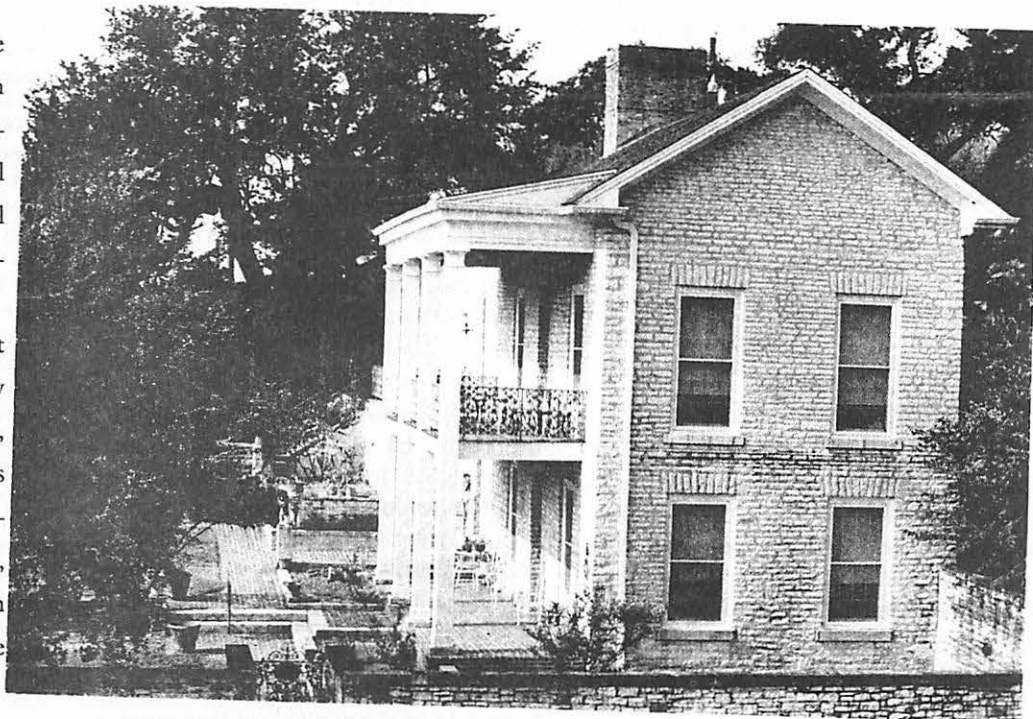


Grün, Green the Garden Grows

by Helga von Schweinitz

Visitors to the German Free School building always stop as soon as they enter the garden and explain, "Oh, what a beautiful garden! Oh, what a beautiful place!" The Germans say something like, "O, wie schön!"

Not only was the basic lay-out in terraces tastefully designed by the former owner of the house, artist Kelly Stevens, this year's planting according to our master-plan added a touch of living, loving care. Native shrubs with splashes of colorful annuals are obviously a good mix.



Another good mix is the donated money and the donated time. Whenever a check marked "Garden" comes in, Dat Morrow - at 84 not quite the youngest of our members - knows exactly what to spend it on. As chairperson of the GTHS garden committee she has a way of cheering other folks into helping with the work. Of course, as this snapshot shows, she herself grabs three tools at once so no time is wasted.

Germans are often called "Kraut." That's really not a bad name. It's when somebody calls you "Unkraut," a not so good Kraut, when you have to take note, Unkraut means weeds. The most stubborn Unkrauts keep showing up in our garden. No respect - kein Respekt. Clarence Guelker of Austin is the most dedicated Unkraut-fighter right now. He and Ludwig Groeschel also built a compost bin in tune with our efforts to be environmentally sensitive. As soon as more money comes in we'll add more mulch and more native shrubs.

If there is any volunteer worker who really needs to be appreciated and admired it is the one who toils in the garden under the Texas sun.

When you come to see the house and the garden, stop for awhile and say, "O, wie schön!"

Museum to Celebrate Mann Family, Especially Heinrich and Thomas

90

TL

In the past, readers who visited Lübeck (Schleswig-Holstein) eager to see the house in which Thomas Mann's family epic *Buddenbrooks* was set were disappointed. Behind the baroque facade of the building at 4 Haus Meng Straße, they found not Thomas Mann's desk, but a bank. But, as of May 6, the site will become the "Heinrich and Thomas Mann Memorial," and its first official visitor will be President Richard von Weizsäcker.

Hans Wißkirchen, a Germanist and Mannian by avocation, will run

the museum. He has set aside the entire ground floor, formerly the teller and customer service center for the bank, for a permanent exhibition on the life of the Mann brothers, including their childhood and youth, and the history of their exile in California during World War II. Additionally, visitors will be able to learn the history of *Buddenbrooks*, for which Thomas Mann won the 1929 Nobel Prize. Rooms on the upper floors will be used for lectures, films and temporary exhibitions. The basement

will be reserved for meetings of the "Heinrich Mann Circle," the Thomas Mann Society, and a "Society for the Advancement of the Buddenbrooks House."

The house, which was built in 1758, became the Mann family's home in 1841. By the time Heinrich, born 1871, and Thomas, born 1875, came along, the house that would become the setting of *Buddenbrooks* was occupied by their grandparents. The Mann family lived nearby, and their garden bordered on that of their grandparents. The house was bombed in 1942, destroying all but the facade; in the 1950s, a bank took over the property and rebuilt the building. In 1991, the city of Lübeck bought back the property with the help of the federal and state governments (cf. TWIG 3/15/91, p.6). In order to cover the two million marks (about U.S.\$1.27 million) in renovation costs, the city initiated an international fund drive, which garnered some DM 1.1 million (about U.S.\$.70 million). Calls for donations went out as far afield as Japan. The Lübeck cultural affairs officials have come up with several imaginative schemes to raise the rest, including selling sponsorships for individual exhibition windows and the sale of marzipan replicas of the house.

For his part, Wißkirchen said that he would like to extend the exhibits to include "documentation" on the other writer members of the Mann family, such as Thomas' daughter Erika and son Klaus, as well as exhibitions that show the Manns' connections to other writers of the time, such as Theodor Fontane and Kurt Tucholsky. ■

The Week in Germany—April 30, 1993

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebrated by the Society for German-American Studies

WVA

The SGAS at its annual symposium in Austin joined hands with the German-Texan Heritage Society for April 23-25 meetings with papers in the fields of history, teaching German, library science, folklore, philology, genealogy and the arts. Attendees came from many states and foreign countries especially Germany. Members also visited the former German Free School, now the administrative site for the German-Texan Heritage Society. In one session Helga von Schweinitz described the building, once the largest school in Austin, but closed after the city started its public school system in 1870. According to GTHS literature, German values are reflected outside and inside the German Free School building. The thick outer walls were constructed using rammed-earth techniques, while folding doors split the school into two rooms, one for the boys and another for the girls, each with separate entrances. Large windows on the east and west walls lit the room while two pot-bellied iron stoves at either end heated it. In the 1870s after being sold, the school became a residence. Thereafter many transformations followed, but in 1949 it was bought by Kelly H. Stevens who restored it to its original form. Convinced that it would receive tender loving care, he deeded it to the GTHS effective upon his death in 1991. The structure located at 507 East 10th Street in Austin now is the headquarters of GTHS.

tive of the American Indian." Brought to the center by the Goethe Institute in Houston, it included Karl May re-enactments done annually at Bad Segeberg in Schleswig-Holstein where thousands of Germans honor Karl May who continues his popular captivation for German youth and adventurers. According to Meredith McClain, in 1987 over 80 million copies of May's works had been sold in thirty different languages. These numbers confirm May's long stay on the all-time best seller list of world fiction. May's heroes: Winnetou, the noble Apache chief, and Old Shatterhand, Winnetou's friend, have become staples of German culture. Although Karl May never visited the Texas where the adventures he describes take place, they are based on German travel accounts he had read. The exhibit brochure comments that "his books are about the longing for peace, the dignity of man, and most especially the culture of the Indians."



La Vern J. Rippley, editor/producer of the SGAS Newsletter, poses in front of the former 1857-1870 German Free School, now home of the German-Texan Heritage Society in Austin.

Converse man re-elected to Sons of Hermann post

Leroy P. Muehlstein of Converse was re-elected by acclamation to his second four-year term as grand president of the Order of the Sons of Hermann in Texas during the order's 41st grand lodge convention.

Also returned to office without opposition were Oscar Kuehner of San Antonio, first grand vice president; Vernon Schultz of San Antonio, second grand vice president; Lela Mae Fields of Seguin, grand secretary-treasurer; Leslie Kallies of Seguin and Stephen R. Prewitt and A. Herbert Schramm, both of San Antonio, grand trustees.

San Antonio Express
May 8, 1993

TL

One special event at the 1993 symposium was an exhibit "German perspec-

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 WINDLE, MRS LORENE FROEHNER HOUSTON TX
 WINEDALE HISTORICAL CENTER ROUND TOP TX
 WITTNER, BILL R RUSSELLVILLE AR
 WOLF, CARL & LEONORA NEW BRAUNFELS TX
 WOODRING, MRS KENNETH F EDNA TX
 ZEISS, DR/MRS GEORGE H STATE COLLEGE PA
 ZIEGENBEIN, MRS WILMA KANTER NEW ULM TX
 ZIMMERMAN, DIANNA BUDA TX

New GTHS patron member the Rev. Msgr. Alois Goertz is currently pastor of St. Ann's parish in La Vernia. He is the author of Rockne: Sacred Heart Parish, Bastrop County, Texas, 1876-1976. Since the 1976 publication, many contacts have been made between Rockne and Camberg-Würges, the German area of the Rockne settlers' origin (see GTHS Journal, Vol. XV, No. 1, Spring 1993, p. 74; also Vol. XIV, No. 1, Spring 1992, p. 53). Although Msgr. Goertz was not a part of the group that visited Würges and Bad Camberg in 1992 as reported in the Spring 1993 issue of GTHS Journal, he did visit there earlier to research his book. He now reports that a book was published recently telling how and when those first Rockne settlers left for

Texas. The book is Flucht aus der Not in die Neue Welt, Bad Camberger Auswanderung im 19. Jahrhundert, by Manfred Kunz. Thanks to Anni Balthaus of Bad Camberg for bringing us together.

GTHS member Frances Condra of San Antonio has been elected to a two-year term as Registrar General of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. In this position, she judges the validity of documentation submitted for all applications for DRT membership, about 600 per year. Frances edits Stirpes, the quarterly of the Texas State Genealogical Society, as well as Our Heritage, quarterly of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society.



MR., MRS. EDWARD ALBACH

Albach-50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Albach observed their 50th wedding anniversary May 23 with a renewal of their vows during a Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Monsignor L. Leroy Manning, Mrs. Albach's brother, officiated. He had also officiated at the couple's wedding.

At a dinner and dance held June 11 in St. Luke's Parish Hall, the couple was honored by their eight children, their children's spouses and their 15 grandchildren.

Mary Myrtis Manning and Edward Albach were married May 23, 1943, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Dr. Erwin Paneth: What one man can do

by Maura Ciarrocchi
Staff writer



Dr. Erwin Paneth

Thomas Paneth, now lives in Buenos Aires where he is a member of the Jesuit Order at the Pontific College in that city.

Beginning again

Dr. Paneth married Dr. Amalia Gruen in Vienna in 1938. Life was difficult for them in Argentina where the couple found work, he as a bookkeeper and she as a nurse.

"Our greatest accomplishment was being able to save the lives of our parents, brothers

and children from the Holocaust," Dr. Paneth recalls.

Despite the hardship of living, he earned a degree as a translator in German and Spanish at the University of Buenos Aires and after World War II used his professional experience to obtain the return of confiscated property for victims of the Nazi regime.

A life-long student of the Bible, Dr. Paneth fulfilled his dream in compiling the laws in the Pentateuch. Until now, those laws were interspersed throughout the Old Testament. The compilation, "God's Law Codified," is published by The Millennium Publications, San Antonio. The book will simplify the work of Biblical scholars and is registered in the Library of Congress. The writer completed his work despite being declared legally blind.

Dr. Paneth's life is a reminder of "what one man can do" by sharing his personal talents.

GTHS board member and genealogy editor Theresa Gold has completed a Master of Arts in history at University of Texas at San Antonio. Her previous M. A. was in education, also from UTSA (in 1976). She holds a B. A. from Our Lady of the Lake University in sociology, philosophy and journalism.



City of Austin

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NEWS RELEASE

March 12, 1993

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBIT

Nineteenth century Austinites will serve as "guest curators" for the Austin History Center's new exhibit, "In Their Own Words," which opens April 30. Photographs of the city, as well as its events, landmarks, and people, will be accompanied by descriptions drawn directly from the many original diaries, letters, oral histories and reminiscences which are a part of the Center's holdings.

Among the featured vignettes are Max Bickler's childhood recollections of family picnics at "Tante" Ney's in Hyde Park; Governor Elisha M. Pease's observations on hosting the first official "event" in the newly completed Governor's Mansion; and civic leader E. C. Bartholomew's reaction to viewing the first waters to flow over the 1893 Austin dam.

A companion exhibition in the Austin History Center's O. Henry Room will highlight native Austinite Allen Searight's photographic essay of contemporary Austinites. Searight, an Austin History Center volunteer, has interviewed and photographed over thirty local business and community leaders since the summer of 1991.

Both exhibits will run through August 30. The Austin History Center, a part of the Austin Public Library, is located at 9th and Guadalupe (810 Guadalupe). The Austin History Center's hours are:

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Friday and Saturday
noon - 6:00 p.m.	Sunday

For more information, contact: Donna Colvin, Exhibit Specialist, 499-7397.



Greetings From Oldenburg

Recipients of the gifts from visitors from Oldenburg, Germany were store owners of Keilers Store and representatives of those who had descendants that settled Oldenburg, Texas. Seated, left to right, were Anna Mae Keilers, store proprietor; Lucille Voelkel, Lillian Zingelmann, Irene Zingelmann, Leola Tiedt, Iris Jaster, back, Lloydell Keilers, store proprietor; Jorg (George) Eisermann, newspaper reporter from Oldenburg, Germany; Gilbert Eilers, Oliver Hengst, Henry Wied, Jorg Grueneberg, factory worker; and Manfred Finger, sports reporter, both from Oldenburg, Germany.

RECORD STAFF PHOTO

Visitors To Oldenburg From Oldenburg Bring Gestures Of Good Will, Friendship

A gesture of good will and friendship from Oldenburg, Germany came to Oldenburg on Wednesday, May 11 at the Keilers Store owned by Anna Mae and Lloydell Keilers.

The greeting was received by a group of representatives of those whose forefathers came from the motherland of Oldenburg, Germany to settle in Fayette County in the Oldenburg Community.

Jorg (George) Eisermann, a newspaper reporter in Germany, brought greetings from the mayor of Oldenburg. He presented Lloydell and Anna Mae Keilers with a plate to hang on their store wall. The plate pictured the drawing of city hall in Oldenburg, Germany.

The Lord Mayor Holzapfel of Oldenburg, Germany also sent a greeting to the little Texas community and it reads in part:

"Dear Citizens of Oldenburg, Texas:

"I'm glad to send you best greetings from Oldenburg in this way. As a gift to remember us by, I am giving you a wall plate of the Oldenburg City Hall where I have my office.

"The city hall was built in the years of 1886-1888 and is a brick building with influences of the Dutch Renaissance. The city hall is built on a triangle ground plan.

"I am sure that the plate will look good in the Keilers Country Store.

"As I was told, there are many different things that remain in history in Oldenburg, Germany, the home of our forefathers.

"You will be able to read specific information about the city of Oldenburg, Germany in the brochures and see the city by watching the video that I have sent for you.

"My wish for the community of Oldenburg, Texas is for additional positive development and that all of its citizens have a peaceful and prosperous community supplied with growth and good luck in the future.

"The Friendliest of Greetings,
"Lord Mayor Holzapfel"

This greeting will be framed and hung on the wall of the Oldenburg store.

Eisermann presented the video which is to be shared by those wanting to see how Oldenburg, Germany

looks. The video is documented in English for all to understand.

He also presented the store with books that contained many, many pictures of the beautiful mother city in Germany.

Books from their Chamber of Commerce in Germany were also given to be viewed by those interested.

Eisermann said that he really enjoyed his travels to Texas and especially the visit to Oldenburg. He was very impressed with the way the farmland was laid out (not too close together as is in Germany) and the friendliness of the people in the community.

After the presentation, plenty of conversation and visiting, the group enjoyed a bountiful supply of refreshments provided by Anna Mae and Lloydell. Refreshments consisted of sandwiches, chips, dips, cold cuts, crackers, dewberry cobbler and coffee.

Eisermann brought with him two friends, Jorg Grueneberg, a factory worker, and Manfred Finger, who is a sports reporter.

Those who attended the presentation beside the Keilers were Lillian Zingelmann, Irene Zingelmann, Leola Tiedt, Henry Wied, Gilbert Eilers, Lucille Voelkel, Iris Jaster, Oliver Hengst and Aileen Loehr.

Hengst told Eisermann and his friends that he would like to say a few words in behalf of all those who were in attendance. He said that Jorg and his friends were also extended a warm welcome and that a sincere appreciation and thanks should be given to the mayor of Oldenburg, Germany and to them for their gifts and visit. He said the items will be put to good use when the Oldenburg School reunion takes places where the opportunity will be given to those attending to view all the items that the group had brought with them.

Eisermann returned to The Fayette County Record office on Thursday morning and took with him a book written by Tiedt entitled, "Juchne Ich Lerne Das ABC" and another she had written entitled, "Oldenburg, Wo Bist Du?" Baseball caps with "LG" on them and the latest pictorial history book published by The Fayette County Record were given to them asking that the book be placed in the city hall in Oldenburg, Germany.

*The following narrative tells of the travels of CM Sgt. David Noak, Mary (his wife, and (son) David Noak II into the eastern part of Germany to find records of our ancestors, Peter August Noack of Groeditz and his wife, Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling of Liebstadt, Peter's brother, Johann Noack and his wife, Anna. The decedents of Peter and Johanna (Wilhelmenia) Noack are most grateful to David and his family for their efforts. Without the physical search in Germany, we may never have had the opportunity to know the exact places our ancestors once lived.

David Noak is presently stationed at Ramstein Air Force Base. He and his family reside in Kaiserslautern, Germany, until his tour of duty is completed.

-Dorothy Noak Rothermel-

Our travels started when we crossed the old border between what used to be a divided East from West Germany. This trip is recorded as remembered by Mary D. Noak, David R. Noak, and David R. Noak II. Our journey began Tuesday the sixth day of August 1991.

Armed with all the information available on the Noak family, we traveled to the part of Germany that we had always heard that the Noaks had come from. We arrived in Goeppersdorf, Germany, early that afternoon and began our search. We drove into Goeppersdorf and found it to be a small farming village with no main street. We found the village Rathaus (Court House) to be located in a small two room building. Since we had the birth dates of Peter and Christiane we thought we might get some information here. We went inside the building and came upon a woman working there. We gave her the birth and death records starting in the 1870's. Since they were both born prior to this, there were no records. David then asked her if there was a church in Goeppersdorf, since he knew the churches kept good records. She informed us that the people living in Goeppersdorf attended the Lutheran Church in the neighboring town of Liebstadt. David asked the lady if she would call the church and see if they had such records. She did, and they said "Yes!" We got our hopes up, got directions, and went on our way to find Liebstadt and the church.

We found the main street of Liebstadt and saw the old church (built in the 15th century) poised on a hill overlooking the town square. It was a beautiful church. After a long walk up of about 30 steps we were able to locate a nice man to help us. This man never gave us his name but said that he was a teacher at the church for the young people. David told him about our journey and why we were at his doorstep. He then took us to a room that was being remodeled and brought out some very old church records. David gave him the birth dates of his great-great grandparents and he searched for the recorded births of Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling and Peter Noack. We did not find the birth of Peter Noack recorded here but we did find the birth of Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling and her sister! We hoped by finding this information, that it would shed more light on our family such as more names in the family tree, where they came from, and perhaps more.

The records stated that Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling was born July 9, 1839 to Carl Gottlob Mitzscherling and Johanna Christiane Peschke Mitzscherling. Also, we found a sister whose name was Johanna Christiane Friedericke Mitzscherling; she died at birth. They both were born in Goeppersdorf. We also found the marriage record of Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling to Peter Noack, January 10, 1864 in Liebstadt, Germany. We have always suspected that our name used to be spelled Noack, now we finally have proof positive. While searching through the record books of the Liebstadt Lutheran Church we found no other information but we were steered into another direction - to Struppen, Germany. Struppen is a village about 15 miles from Liebstadt. The man that helped us at Liebstadt also did tell us one more thing, and that was that the Mitzscherling's were not originally from Goeppersdorf. This was proven by the fact that there was no further information on the family. At this point we were all pretty tired and so was the man helping us at Liebstadt. We did not have enough time to pour over the books any further and besides it was fairly obvious that we had found all the information that we were going to find. Even though the records

were very old and discolored, the man zeroxed copies of the records for us before we left. They were written in the old style German script and were next to impossible for us to read. They do however prove the correct spelling of Mitzscherling and Noack.

The next day we headed Struppen. Remember earlier I said while at Liebstadt we were steered to Struppen. Now I'll explain how. The marriage record stated that Peter Noack was a resident of Struppen. So we reasoned that after the marriage at Johanna's church in Liebstadt they probably went back to Struppen. Well y'all guessed it! It was. We found that Johann Gustav Noack was born at Struppen on 28 September 1866.

After finding this information in Struppen we decided to go to Pirna where we had always thought the Noack's had originally come from. We just wanted to check out the churches there and make sure that we had found all that we could from this area of Germany. Well, here we received the biggest tip of all. The church in Pirna was quite large, as Pirna is a fairly large city of about 50,000 people near Dresden. At the old church in Pirna we also found a friendly man in the information office and asked if he could read the writing on the record copies we had received from Liebstadt. He translated the following information from the marriage record of Johanna and Peter:

"Peter Noack, Tagearbeiter u. Einwohner in Struppen, weiland Peter Noacks, Haueslers u. Tagearbeiter in Groeditz bei Weissenberg hinterlassener selig juengster Sohn."

(translated) Peter Noack, day to day worker and a resident of Struppen. His father, Peter Noack, was a home owner and also a day to day worker in Groeditz near Weissenberg. Peter Noack was his last and blessed youngest son.

"Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling, weiland Meister Carl Gottlob Mitzscherlings, Schneider und Gartennahrungsausazueglers in Goeppersdorf hinterlassen ehelich dritte Tochter."

(translated) Johanna Christiane Mitzscherling, third daughter of Mister Carl Gottlob Mitzscherling, he worked as a tailor and ran a garden food market in Goeppersdorf.

As y'all can see, we were now directed to yet another part of Eastern Germany the town of Groeditz, located approximately 50 miles east of Dresden and about 10 miles to the west of Weissenberg (the largest town nearby is Bautzen).

On August 8, 1991, we started toward Groeditz. We traveled on Highway 6 to Bautzen and then on small farming roads until we found our way to Groeditz, a sleepy little farming community. We drove directly up to the little village's Lutheran church. We had seen the church steeple long before we entered the village. It sat on the highest spot of land. We went to the church with hopes of finding the Pastor or someone else as before to help us. Davy and I were searching through the church cemetery for the name Noack and we found it on several tombstones. In the meantime, David was looking for someone to help us. Like always, he did. David found Pastor Jan Mahling, pastor of the Groeditz Lutheran Church. David told Pastor Mahling what we were looking for and asked if he could possibly help us. Please remember, all of our conversations were in German. Very few people in this part of Germany have ever seen an American, and they do not speak English! I believe David truly amazed them with his German. Pastor Mahling said that the Noack name was very common in this area and that he thought we would have no problem finding what we wanted. I will now try to explain what we read and what Pastor Mahling translated to us. He had a very strong grasp of the old German writings. The church records from before the 1800's were not in any certain order and the writing was extremely hard to decipher. I will now list what we found in Groeditz.

Peter Noack (David's great-great-great grandfather) was born November 7, 1788 in the town of Groeditz. He died December 28, 1842 and was buried in the Lutheran Church Cemetery there.

Agnetha (Agnes) Polter (David's great-great-great grandmother) was born Jan. 3, 1797 in the neighboring town of Cortnitz, Germany. She died February 9, 1844 and was buried in the same cemetery as her husband Peter.

Peter Noack was the only son born to Johann Noack and Magaretha Schoenberg Noack. They were married January 26, 1819. Peter was 30 and Agnetha was 22

years old at the time of their marriage. During their life together they had nine children:

1. Anna, born November 2, 1819. She died before September 25, 1833.
2. Michael, born September 27, 1820. There is no record of his death in the Groeditz church records. This means he left the area.
3. Johann, born March 21, 1823. He left Germany for Texas in 1854, with the original group of Wends that immigrate to Texas. He settled in the Serbin, Texas area with his wife Magdalena. We will have to find out more about him at Serbin.
4. Andreas, born June 14, 1825. He died June 26, 1825 age 12 days.
5. Maria, born March 25, 1827. She died July 2, 1896. She was 68 years, 4 months, and 7 days old at her death. On September 9, 1849 she married a man named Schneider. They had five children, three sons and two daughters.
6. Andreas, born May 21, 1829. He died September 6, 1837. He was 8 years, 3 months, and 15 days of age.
7. Georg, born January 31, 1831. There is also no record of his death. He also may have immigrated.
8. Anna, born September 25, 1833. She died October 5, 1833, age 10 days.
9. Peter (August), born January 26, 1836. He died September 1, 1874 in Serbin, Texas. As we know David's great-great grandfather immigrated to Texas (Serbin). His brother Johann had come over 17 years earlier.

Pastor Mahling showed us the church records that said that Peter Noack and Agnetha Polter (David's great-great-great grandparents) were married in the Groeditz Lutheran Church and had their wedding reception at Agnes' parents' house in Cortnitz. Other information that we were able to obtain is as follows:

Johann (Jan) Noack, born March 25, 1750 in Groeditz. This was Peter August Noack's grandfather (David's great-great-great-great grandfather). He died October 5, 1813 at Groeditz. An interesting note here is that Pastor Mahling showed us in the records where many of the village people had died in the year of 1813. He told us that Napoleon marched through this part of Germany returning from Russia at this time and that Johann may have died at their hands.

Magaretha Schoenberg. There were no records on her except for her death March 6, 1806. Pastor Mahling explained that since her birth was not recorded in the Groeditz Church records that she came from somewhere else out of the area. He told us the Groeditz Church services a 10 village area. He also told us that the Noack name is a strong Wendish name. (The Wends were an ancient Slavic tribe of Middle Europe.) He said the name Noack is as common in this area as Smith or Jones is in America. On last tidbit -- Johann (Jan) Noack's father's name was also Peter, and that was as far back as we could go.

We truly enjoyed our trip and hope y'all have enjoyed reading about it. We still hope to find out more information on other branches of the tree, but it might be a while. We think we've found out all there is possible on the family that used to be called Noack that we now know as Noak. Hope you all enjoyed our trip!

Story written by Mary Noak, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Story submitted by Dorothy Noak Rothermel, P.O. Box 87, Carmine, Texas 78932-0087
with the permission of CM Sgt. and Mrs. David Noak.

FOR SALE

AMERIKA FOR SALE

What's in a name? A little German town hopes big bucks

ATENTION ALL MILLIONAIRES: FRUSTRATED with recession-wracked investments? Looking for a property with a bit of history? Then why not buy America?

Well, make that Amerika. That's the way they spell it in Germany, where the town of Amerika is up for sale. The entire 27-acre property, located in a peaceful valley 36 miles from Leipzig, is being sold by the German government, with an asking

price of just \$7 million. The lucky purchaser gets 40 public buildings (including the train station and electricity generating plant), 1.2 miles of lush property along the river Mulde, an abandoned textile plant and even a view of fields of amber waving grain. Amerika has fallen on hard times since the ancient money-losing mill was shuttered last December,

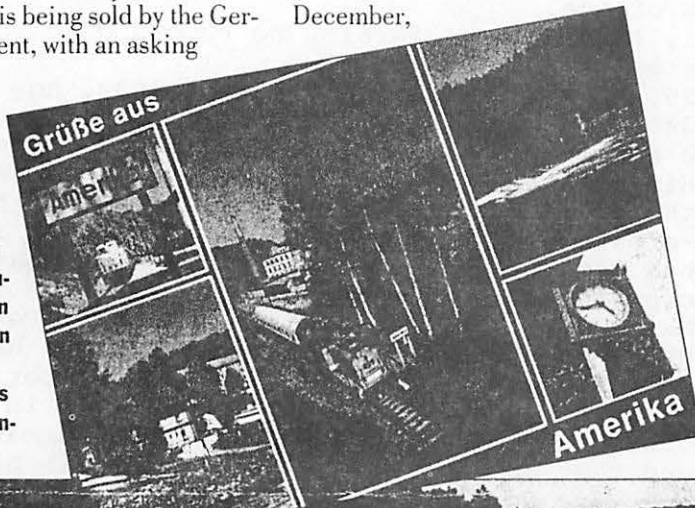
throwing most of the village's 112 residents out of work. Ex-plant worker Ruth Zieschong pleads, "Someone, please, save Amerika."

According to Hans Friedrich, 61, a local student of Amerikan history, the town got its unusual name in 1858. "The early inhabitants were clearing out the thick forests and remarked about the hard work by saying, 'What are we doing, discovering America?'" The name became so entrenched that when Amerika became part of East Germany in 1949, the Communist government didn't change it, even though the surrounding area became Karl Marx County.

Officials plan to woo investors at a Discover Amerika festival on, appropriately, Columbus Day. Over burgers and Cokes, they will be asked to bring a business, any business, to Amerika. "This is a real land of opportunity for someone who wants a foothold in Europe," proclaims consultant B. Scott Bolls, a true-blue American employed by the government agency selling off East German properties.

If a rich Yank isn't found to purchase the town, Amerika just might be offered to the Japanese. ■

"Just think, this land could be your land. Long live Amerika," says enthusiastic salesman B. Scott Bolls (in front of the depressed village's closed wool-spinning plants).



Photograph by Ian Cook

Arlie V. Goyne submitted this account of the trip he and his late wife Minetta Aligelt Goyne made to Germany in September 1992. A past book reviewer of this journal Mrs. Aligelt died suddenly on October 21, 1992.

Of all our trips, this one to what had been East Germany was by far the most difficult to plan. That area has not yet developed as a tourist mecca. It is terribly difficult to find hotel accommodations, even through excellent travel agencies. Hotels are few and far-between, often badly run-down, and apparently skittish about the travel-agent connection. And the entrepreneurs from all over the globe. Thus, the hotels that operate in the Western manner are often booked up months in advance. The result was that our Berlin hotel was a small, out-of-the-way (but very pleasant) one, and that the only other hotels we were able to book in advance (for a total of ten cities) were for Leipzig (by far the most expensive hotel we ever stayed in--\$250 per night, without breakfast!) and Prague--which, of course, is the capital of Czechoslovakia and very much a special case. The preparations filled me with such anxiety that my doctor prescribed Xanax--which I took occasionally, with calming effect.

We were away for 27 days--a good deal longer than we could comfortably handle. Besides, it was by no means easy to navigate what had been East Germany--with its broad variety of problems--social, economic, psychological, philosophical (all highly interesting, as Minetta kept explaining to me after hearing the nightly news and reading the newspapers). The expenses, too, were startling. But we managed somehow. I carried the luggage; she made the trip work.

In addition to a week in Berlin, we visited the once-great, now depressing cathedral city of Magdeburg; the surprisingly beautiful city of Erfurt; the historical wonder Weimar, where a few major buildings have been restored but much work remains to be done; also Eisenach, famous especially for its castle, the Wartburg, but also targeted as the home of a huge new Western automobile factory; then briefly into West Germany for two cities--Kassel, a thoroughly reconstructed war-torn commercial city but not very interesting except for its castle/art museum on a mountain overlooking the city, and its world-famous art exhibit, the Documenta; and Marburg, an interesting old University town; then back into East Germany to Jena, a small but crowded city with a famous university--also famous as the site of one of Napoleon's greatest victories; next to Leipzig, the commercial center of East Germany, with a few great buildings constructed or reconstructed, but otherwise not much of interest; afterwards to Prague, by far the most magnificent of the cities we visited, with overwhelmingly beautiful buildings from many eras, and with no wartime destruction except for part of a single official building; and, finally, to Dresden, about which more later.

5

If you had asked me some time in the past, I'd have said, "Of course I rely on Minetta--for endless things." But I didn't know just how much till she was no longer here to do for me--to inform me--to fill in the blanks whenever they turned up. For instance, when we traveled and one or the other, or both, became interested in something, I'd usually jot down the topic with perhaps a few key words, then later, after our return home, would get these notes out and head straight to her for explication and clarification. I have quite a few little notes jotted down from this trip, some of the topics still quite clear in my mind, others vague or downright non-existent. I cannot, for example, even imagine why I jotted down "Berlin waterworks," though I'm sure it must have been interesting.

Alas, the attacks on foreigners were well underway by the time we got to Berlin, though we saw none, nor did we see any actual evidences of them. We did, however, see frequent graffiti, some urging that foreigners be thrown out of Germany (or worse), others that foreigners be protected and the Nazis thrown out of Germany.

In Berlin I saw this unidiomatic English statement on the side of a building: "I never saw so many stupids! I hate f--in' Berlin!" Succinct if nothing else.

Minetta was always interested in and often moved by the apparently wonderful use of the German language in memorable quotable material. In the famous Thomas Kirche, the Leipzig church from which the East German protests aginst the Communists began, there was this statement: "Alle Menschen sind Ausländer--fast überall" (All people are foreigners/allens--nearly everywhere). And in the same church there was this one: "Wer hundert uns eigentlich daran, das zu tun, was wir von anderen erwarten?" (Who then really keeps us from doing what we expect others to do?).

Occasionally something very earthbound attracted our attention. In historic Weimar, of all places, we passed what would here be called, perhaps, a Stylish Stout Shop. Its name was, improbably, "DICK IST CHIC" (Plump is chic). Minetta's comment was something like, "the hell they say!"

I was never the world's greatest at standing up for my rights, and I was even worse at it in a foreign country in which I could barely use the language. Minetta, on the other hand, was not timid about speaking up. When we got on a train in Dresden--with reserved tickets for a Nicht Raucher--we discovered, to our annoyance, a man smoking right in the center of the car, next to our seats. Another couple--German--was getting on with us. Minetta and these two proceeded to tell the smoker in no uncertain terms that he was in a no-smoking car. He insisted that this was his seat and that it was a smoking car. Asked Minetta

spoiling because the government had made no plans for importing the rubber holders essential for the lids of preserved fruit!

She--not I--first noticed a significant vignette in the small breakfast room of our Berlin hotel. Next to us were two young businessmen, sitting very erect, taking tiny bites of food and conversing slowly. One was Japanese, one German. At first they attempted German, then a tiny bit of Japanese; then they lapsed into formal, rather labored English. Certainly a sign of our international, English-dominated times!

As we drove from Tegel Airport in Berlin toward the city the day we arrived, Minetta immediately noticed a trailer-bed in a ditch. It made no impression on me, but she quickly asked the driver whether this semi-vehicle was simply abandoned (the thought--or question--would not have occurred to me). The answer, in a word, was yes. We later heard from "our" young people in Dresden that this was indeed the case in much of East Germany--that when a motor or whatever was no longer usable (which had to mean it was pretty bad!), the owner would strip it of all identification and merely dump it somewhere, often somewhere conspicuous. But woe to him if he had overlooked any identifying aspects! She always wondered about things--and asked.

Early in our trip I happened to ask her who the faces are on the various denominations of German paper money. She speculated about some of the identities but could not be sure, nor could we find their names on the money. So she asked at a bank where we cashed travelers' checks. The clerk looked puzzled (were we trying to trap him in something?), then asked his superior, who probably thought we were cranks--but could not give us any answers. After that we asked in a variety of cities at numerous banks but never got one single answer! To us, this was one of the most amazing pieces of information--or lack of same--we ever encountered in our foreign travels.

This curiosity of Minetta's was partly innate (she was simply interested in the world), partly the result of years of research. Her intellectual curiosity darted in all directions. Sometimes there was a practical purpose--to be used in a scholarly article, perhaps--often just the fascination of seeing how things "work" in other lands--partly just the joy of there-by interacting with a wide variety of people.

In Jena, to her delight, she found some "negative" information about Ferdinand Lindheimer, the famous Texas botanist about whom she had published a book in 1991. She proved that he had, despite earlier biographies to the contrary, never attended the Schiller University there. We stayed, by the way, directly across from the University in the oldest hotel in the

(the whole thing in highly animated German), "How can this be a smoking car when it says on the window, Nicht Raucher?" He shrugged and said the conductor had told him he could smoke here. Minetta and the other couple kept berating him, but he would not budge. Since there were fewer people than expected on the train (often the case in East Germany), we four just decided to go on to the next car. As we departed, Minetta looked back at him and said, "I used to smoke, too, but I learned to stop being so stupid!" The couple with us gave her a lusty cheer. The conductor, by the way, actually told us he had told the man he could smoke, since (somehow) the train had left ashtrays in the arms of the seats--and besides, he said, they have to smoke somewhere. This conductor got a little Germanic talk on logic and legality from my wife.

In Kassel we stayed in perhaps the potentially nicest hotel of our entire trip, but our wing was being renovated, as they had told us (with assurances that there would be no great inconvenience). We assumed it would mean noisy work during the day while we were out sightseeing. On the second day when we returned to the hotel at about four, we were not surprised to hear the workers still hammering. At five, though, with no cessation in the noise, we began to become annoyed. At six the hammering was getting worse, along with drilling just behind our wall. By seven we were both ready to climb those walls. I said I was going down to complain lustily at the office, but the women there had not been able to handle English, so Minetta insisted that she must go. She evidently gave them a coldly polite tongue-lashing to the effect that, in all our travels, we had never come across anything remotely like this--that they had lured us into this part of the hotel without sufficient warning--that we should actually be demanding our money back, and so on. They groveled, but, alas, the noise went on for another half-hour. At breakfast the following morning the two female managers were charm itself. (By the way, she did not like to do this kind of thing. In this case, for instance, she suffered one of her only nights of bad sleep on the trip.)

The preceding are simply snippets--tiny memories. Most of my memories, though, center around her use of her mind and her ability to make contacts with a broad variety of people.

On all our trips Minetta was constantly exercising her mind, from the most practical matters to the most theoretical. From a train window near Eisenach we saw the most beautiful fruit trees imaginable with gorgeous fruit hanging heavily from each branch; yet the ground was covered with rotting fruit and nobody seemed to be doing anything about harvesting. When she inquired of a fellow passenger about it, she was told that this represented one of the horrors or stupidities of East German, Communist-influenced life, not yet improved by the West--of over-all inefficiency. This, the best fruit crop in years, was

city, the Schwarzer Bär--so old that Martin Luther and some of his followers had regularly eaten there in the early 1500s. Though in the process of being remodeled, the hotel was so old and high-ceilinged that, even in September, it was frigid. During our one night there I first put my sweater on over my pajamas, then got up during the night, teeth chattering, to put my combination raincoat-overcoat over all that! It wasn't comfortable, but it stopped the chill.

She knew that the famous architect Martin Gropius of Berlin had been married to a relative of her family in the mid-1800s. But at the Martin-Gropius Bau, the huge museum that bears his name, she discovered, through the curator and his two top assistants, all of whom seemed fascinated by this German-speaking, Gropius-related Texan, that he had also married yet another of her relatives after the death of his wife! She was delighted to find this information (a friend of ours long ago referred to her as "a kin specialist") and hoped to do something with it in the future.

Perhaps most startlingly, she tried to find information about a group of eleven young Germans, mostly teen-agers, who traveled in the U. S. and Mexico during the mid-1930s presenting German plays in German-speaking areas. The play they presented in New Braunfels was called Blut und Liebe (Blood and Love) by M. Luserke. The group was called Die Neurother Studentenspielergruppe des Bühnenvolksbundes-Berlin. Minetta even had the names of the eleven participants. She tried to track the group down in city archives, but without success--not surprisingly, considering the horrors that occurred in Germany soon after their visit. She, who was at that time a young girl of perhaps eleven or twelve, remembered them vividly. Several members stayed at her large home next to the Catholic Church downtown. She had talked with them some but had mostly listened as her parents and the boys talked. Throughout her life her mind was like a sponge. The Altgelt family was soon saddened to learn that the youngest boy in the group, at their stop in New York enroute home, had suddenly died, presumably of some ailment he had picked up in Mexico. This group--undoubtedly sent by the Nazi government but young, charming, and intelligent--and their visit were to constitute one of the chapters of New Braunfels reminiscences she had for several years been planning to write.

I think it's pretty clear from the above examples that she had an intellectually questing nature. She was also very good at making brief but significant contacts with people we happened to meet along the way, sometimes with those she had some sort of purpose in meeting, often with people we just happened upon.

One of her joys on foreign trips, especially in German-speaking lands, was the contacts she could make with the very young. She adored talking with them and then trying to reveal

to me the wonders of baby-talk in languages other than English. (The very young probably constituted her deepest enthusiasm in life.) Her charm did not, however, always work. A three-year-old boy in a museum in Weimar was obviously about to fall asleep as he sat near where his parents were cooing and ah-ing over a variety of Goethe artifacts. She muttered something sympathetic like, "Ach, bist du schlüfferich, Kind?" (Oh, are you sleepy, child?), to which he only half-opened one weary eye and pouted, "Geh weg!" (Go away!).

On a Berlin bus she and a Polish woman from West Germany, there on vacation, struck up a conversation. The woman was terribly upset because she had come to Berlin to visit with her son and then to go with him to see her native town in eastern Poland. When she and her son went to get plane tickets, they discovered that the price (brief flights within Europe are often incredibly expensive) was simply prohibitive. Then they tried to rent a car to drive there (much less expensive, even with the high cost of gasoline), but learned, to their amazement, that the rental companies were not renting cars bound for Poland, the reason being that so many had been stolen while in that country during the past year or two. The woman was understandably quite upset, but Minetta was fascinated by these unexpected aspects of travel thereabouts.

A young conductor in his 20s on the train from Magdeburg to Erfurt discovered that, despite her excellent German, she was not only an American but a Texan (a fact that usually bowled the Germans over). He returned to our car every chance he got, sat down and talked with her at length, telling her of his adoration of things American (he had been to our country once) and giving her one of her first real insights into various aspects of earlier life in East Germany. He gave her his address and she gave him ours. They were to have corresponded in the future. I must, alas, drop the young man a note.

It wasn't only Germans she made contact with, however. An older American woman, Mrs. Hudson, at our lovely little hotel in Prague, became quite a buddy of ours. She ate with us a couple of times and became highly interested in the historical writing Minetta had done (I told her about it; Minetta did not). She wanted to purchase the books for her son-in-law, an amateur historian now living in San Antonio. She promised to write us this Christmas. This lady was on a long trip on which she got together at various key points with others in elder hostels. After having been long widowed, she had, she said, found the joys of this kind of travel.

On the train from Kassel to Marburg we were alone in a compartment with a young German woman with whom Minetta struck up a conversation. The young woman revealed that she was traveling from the Cologne area to Marburg in order to see her daughter,

who was blind. She then explained that Marburg is the only city in Germany that has a full-fledged state school for the blind. (During our day there we saw a number of young people on the streets walking around by means of their canes.) Late that afternoon as we entered the train station to return to Kassel, we heard someone call. It was the young woman, accompanied by her daughter, going home for the week-end. The daughter--named Tanja--was fifteen years old and quite attractive. Her long, thick hair was done in an extremely intricate braid down her back. I, of course, could not really converse with her (and would have known little to say). Minetta, however, as always, chatted in a perfectly normal and interested way with the young girl, commenting on the beauty of her hair, asking how she did it (with the help of a roommate), and so on. For about five minutes these two chatted, the girl obviously as at home with Minetta as Minetta was with her. Later, Minetta and I talked of how the girl reminded us somewhat in appearance of our darling granddaughter Kathryn, who is one year younger--and we quickly counted our blessings.

The following day, in Kassel, we were reminded of our darling grandson Matthew. In the center of the city, near the world-famous Documenta art exhibit, we were waiting for a streetcar. On the opposite side of the large street many were also waiting for such transportation. Among them Minetta spotted a darling-looking boy of approximately Matthew's age--nine or ten--who was silently weeping. His whole body would be wracked by these seemingly silent sobs, his eyes closed, his face contorted; then he would try to control himself, but would soon begin weeping again--and so on. We were both fascinated and also filled with pity. He was among the from-school rush which, in Germany, is often made up of young people on public transportation. Minetta kept trying to fill in the scenario. Had he lost money his parents had given him and must now face them? Had he made bad grades and must now face handing the reports over to his parents (still an infinitely more serious matter in Germany than in the U. S.)? His weeping did not seem to be the result of, say, something permanent--like a death in the family--but of something quite recent and highly specific. He was surrounded by others who ignored--or truly did not see--him. And then he disappeared on the streetcar, still weeping. We thought of our Matthew in such a situation--the long ride to get himself home, the having to fend for himself, the fears and heartaches--and again counted our blessings. But we were both haunted by this little vignette. "Das arme Kind!" (the poor child), Minetta kept muttering.

She had her doubts about the incredible amounts of time and money being spent on the famous old section of Dresden in the attempt to rebuild it exactly as it was. Nearly fifty years after the war (Dresden's horrible destruction having been in the final days), and they are nowhere near finished. Though

she had great admiration for their aesthetic sense and for their love of tradition, she felt that this approach was excessive, especially with the endless other problems they were not confronting. It was on this topic (which, I gather, quickly led to others) that she and an intellectual cab driver in Berlin began to disagree. He--seemingly an older University student--suddenly slapped his knee, noisily turned off the meter, and said, "I got so interested in what we were discussing that I missed my exit for your airport hotel. I won't charge you for the additional distance"--well over three miles! Then he was verbally off and running again. She told me later he was the most interesting cab driver we had ever had--and we had had some mighty unusual ones!

At least twice on this trip (if we'd been on our toes, we'd probably have recognized far more than two such possibilities), we had fears about our safety. Just outside Eisenach is Germany's most historic castle, the Wartburg--associated through the centuries with the medieval minstrels, with Martin Luther, with Cranach, Bach, Goethe, Richard Wagner. It is on a small mountain, and the path to it is steeply sloping, made of ancient rocks that are worn down on the edges. On this particular day there was a gentle, chilly rain. The taxi could take us only so far; then we struggled slowly toward the castle, she clinging to me. Afterwards Minetta said, "I was really frightened walking up there. I could just see myself falling and being brought home an invalid."

In Prague the fear--the more usual one in our world--was of an auto collision. We were going out for an evening's celebration for dinner and a performance of the world-famous Laterna Musica. The performance was to begin at 8. It was after 7:30, and after a leisurely meal, that we discovered the troupe was not performing in their standard downtown theater but at an arts complex many miles outside the city. A taxi started hell-for-leather down the crowded streets of Prague. The driver never seemed to slow down, no matter what appeared in the street before him. Once he nearly slammed into a car parked partly in the street--the car being that of a policeman! Amazingly, though, the taxi we took back to the hotel after the performance was at least as dangerous. We later told one another we had had visions of our being killed together here on the streets of this magnificent city in a taxi crash. One rather comic note--much needed at this point--: our taxis for the night cost over \$50. We discovered later that the excellent subway just two blocks from our hotel could have taken us there and back for just under two dollars for the two of us.

I experienced one other moment of fairly extreme anxiety when we got on the train from Prague to Dresden. A fairly large number of people were getting on, and I was struggling with our large suitcases and the awkward carrier that was supposed to be

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later said, it was a labor of love--but definitely a labor. We bought the meals for this group, but that was small repayment for this incredible hospitality--our personal tour guides, and in a comfortable car! Minetta and I had been debating, after our return home, what to send them for Christmas. We had pretty much agreed on plain old money, not as payment but simply as gratitude, and because we had no idea of what they'd want or need or like (not to mention the problem of getting it to them).

The inn at which he registered was a very nice place, all alone out in the country (Jim Grinen, as it advertised itself). It was old but clean and pleasant. We had a bedroom, a living room with couch, a bath, and even an additional lavatory. It was a marvelous place to relax at the end of a tiring day (which, on this trip, virtually every day was).

When Jörg and Ilona put us on the train for our return trip to Berlin, we embraced them both, assured them of our undying gratitude and affection, and urged them to consider--at any time in the future--coming to visit us. They replied that, as young, struggling graduate students (he in chemistry, she in business), they would not be able for many a moon to do so.

With our departure from Dresden our trip was all but over, lacking only a night in Berlin and the tiring flight back home with a lay-over in Chicago. As we wearily waited for our plane in Berlin (and as I fretted about such monumental matters as whether the woman who checked our luggage had wrecked my slides by grabbing them out of my hand and quickly processing them through the X-ray machine against my wishes), Minetta sighed, "To be like Dorothy and just have to click your heels three times and say, 'Oh, Auntie Em, there's no place like home!'--and be there!" (To her niece and nephew I had often referred to her as Auntie E.)

During the next three weeks she was filled with plans. She talked often of the two books she had so long constructed in her mind--one of them centering around the Civil War letters (she considered them love letters) written by her great-grandmother Emma Murck, to her husband, Ernst Hermann Altgelt (he the founder of Comfort, Texas, she the school teacher there; she then in Comfort, he in Duesseidorf); the other, her highly specific reminiscences of growing up in New Braumfels in a time when the German aspects were still--well, pure. And she was gathering notes from a host of sources for a very special invited speech to be given to the Southern Garden History Society during the spring at Winedale, the speech to be concerned with German ideas of gardening in the New World. Too, upon our return home she signed a contract to do a brief life of Ferdinand Lindheimer for the Amer-

a help. As she got on ahead of me, I had told Minetta where our seats were. When I finally got into the train car and found our compartment, there was no Minetta. The train was to leave in a minute or so. I rushed, wild-eyed, down the crowded train corridors, imploring, "Wo ist meine Frau! Ich habe sie verloren!" (Where is my wife? I've lost her!--at least I hope that's what it meant). I don't know what I had visions of, but they weren't good. People looked at me in wonderment. A kind-looking older woman came to my rescue by telling me she had seen a woman in the next car looking for her husband. We were quickly reunited. She said (and probably correctly) that I had given her the wrong car number.

One has so many fears--and then----

It's probably at this point that I should bring up the general topic of Dresden, which I've mentioned several times in passing. It was the final city on our trip and had proved to be the most difficult to make arrangements for. This city is now so busy and so short on hotels that all travel guides warn not to go there without a room firmly nailed down. We had tried for three months before our departure to get a room there for three nights and were willing to rearrange our itinerary around whenever those three nights might be. Even a large travel agency in Dallas, however, could not help appreciably; they could get us a single night only, and for 356 American dollars! Then, mercifully, an old friend (who had actually known both Minetta and me even before we had known each other!) contacted a young friend of his, a native of Dresden, and that young man proceeded to make some arrangements. One night Minetta phoned him from Arlington and discovered, to her delight, that he had found us an affordable room; then her face fell as he told her it was about ten miles from the city, and without public transportation. He quickly reassured her, however, that he--a university student at the moment between semesters--would, with his car, be at our disposal. We were overcome with embarrassment at such generosity. He was as good as his word. He met our train from Prague, holding up a large cardboard sign, "MR. AND MRS. GOYNE." Jörg Trepte, perhaps 25 years old and a graduate student in chemistry, immediately took us under his wing.

For those three days he took us all over the Dresden area and also to Meissen, the two loveliest parts of Saxony. Sometimes we were accompanied by a delightful friend of his, a graduate architecture student named Marco, sometimes by Jörg's charming young wife Ilona, once by their darling two-year-old Christian (addressed, of course, by Minetta). In general their English was about as minimal as my German. Thus, poor Minetta had to work doubly hard--and with the remnants of a cold she had picked up in Prague. I would become interested in something and ask her to ask them about it. She would then have to translate for me--and my response to their response--and so on. As she

The Times of Our Century, Or: Germans Become Synchronized

As recently as one hundred years ago, each area of Germany told its own time. In fact, practically every larger town or city had its own time, mostly oriented on the church clock tower. Sometimes the differences were small, such as the ten minutes between Württemberg and Bavaria, sometimes larger. The times in Cologne and Königsberg (then in Brandenburg, now Poland) varied by more than an hour, for example. The times remained uncoordinated even after Otto von Bismarck united the small states of Germany in 1871 into the German empire, but with the onset of industrialization, synchronization became an urgent necessity.

1883. That same year, the Orient Express made its maiden voyage from Paris to the Balkans, following a transcontinental schedule calculated in local times.

In 1884, representatives of 27 countries met in Washington and agreed on a worldwide system of 24 time zones; twenty-four was chosen because the day has been measured in units of 24 hours since antiquity. Using Greenwich, England as the prime meridian, the world was divided into 180 degrees in an easterly and 180 in a westerly direction. Each of the 24 time zones represents a 15 degree segment, with each degree equivalent to four minutes. Within each time zone, the solar mean time of an agreed-upon degree of longitude is valid: In Germany, it is the 15th meridian. The 180th meridian is the international date line; crossing it, as Phileas Fogg discovered, means losing or gaining a day.

Railroads ushered in uniform timekeeping

This was particularly true as railroads were built across Germany. While an elaborate timetable was unnecessary for the first stretch of track, laid in 1835 between the Bavarian towns of Nuremberg and Fürth, things became muddled once the railway network spread, linking separate small states that all told time differently. Private railroad companies based their schedules on the clock at the main station on their route. Clocks on the railway station facades became the standard for each town, superseding church tower clocks. But there was still no unified time. It wasn't until April 1, 1893, in fact, that the country went on Central European Time (*Mitteleuropäische Zeit* or MEZ). Faced with the same problem in Canada and the United States, Sanford Fleming, a Canadian railway engineer, came up with the time zone solution, and this system was introduced in the U.S. and Canada in

ican National Biography, to be published by Oxford University Press.

Also during those three weeks we drove to New Braunfels so that she could deliver a eulogy on Lindheimer at his gravesite for the Ferdinand Lindheimer Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Her eulogy--highly condensed and beautifully expressed--was sufficiently successful so that she was asked to repeat it about an hour later for those who had not arrived in time to hear it. At the meeting she was made an honorary member of the organization. (The reason she could not be a regular member was that her family arrived in Texas in 1846, shortly after the Republic had ceased to exist.) She had not known the location of Lindheimer's grave but discovered it was fairly near those of her grandparents Altgelt in the Cosal Cemetery.

Barely two weeks later I returned from hospital volunteer work to find her sitting in an easy chair, her eyes and mouth slightly open. She had died suddenly and, the doctors say, gently from deeply embedded embolisms in the lower leg. She was buried, according to her wishes, in the Max A. Altgelt family plot in the Cosal Cemetery in New Braunfels.

But even today, in again-united Germany, time-telling is not always so simple. Western Berliners discovered this after the divided city united electrically, with western Berlin hooking up to the same power grid as eastern Berlin and the five eastern states. The electric clocks in the western part of the city began to behave erratically and it was discovered that eastern electricity, which is drawn from Russian and Ukrainian plants, is subject to fluctuation. While its western counterpart pulses with a steady 50 Hertz, the Eastern alternating current sometimes increases to 51 Hertz. The situation should be alleviated in 1994, when Berlin and the eastern states join the western German grid.

The West in Germany May 7, 1993

NORTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Fine Arts

Kirksville, MO 63501

(816) 785-4417

Dear Friends,

Our beautiful television drama, The Dream Spinner, which has so much to do with German immigration into the Midwest in the 19th century, is now available on VHS. We would greatly appreciate it if you could mention this film in your next newsletter or program. While you are welcome to use any additional information from the flyer you wish, the following notice would inform your membership or listeners about our offering.

FILM CONCERNING GERMAN IMMIGRANTS AVAILABLE

Northeast Missouri State University proudly announces a major television drama dealing with German immigrants who came to Missouri and other states in the 19th century. This film, entitled The Dream Spinner, relates the story of Gottfried Duden, who was influential in encouraging Germans to come to the Midwest.

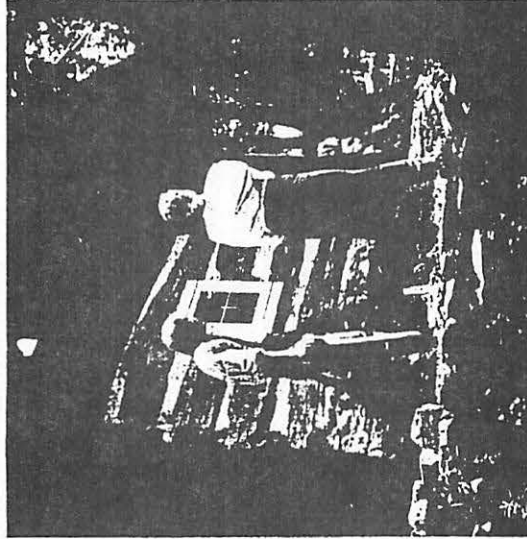
If you have German ancestors who came to this country in the last century, The Dream Spinner will be of interest to you. It is also useful for society programs, and classes in history, sociology, political science, and humanities.

Additional information about The Dream Spinner can be obtained by writing to: James Paulding; Fine Arts; NMSU; Kirksville, Missouri; 63501. The VHS cassette is being offered for sale to individuals and societies for \$40. Those wishing to order the film outright should make their check payable to James Paulding - Fine Arts and return it to Dr. Paulding at this same address.

Thanks so much for your help!

Sincerely,
James E. Paulding
James E. Paulding
Division of Fine Arts
Northeast Missouri State University
Kirksville, Missouri 63501

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A major film dealing with European Emigration to America.

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Gottfried Duden was The Dream Spinner, and he had more to do with German Emigration than any other man in history. His book, Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America, was published in Germany in 1829. In it, Duden gave glowing accounts of the advantages of the soil and climate of Missouri, inducing thousands of Germans from Europe and the eastern United States to settle there. In this drama Duden returns in a dream sequence and observes what happens to "his people." The film features spectacular scenery (including aerial footage), an original music score, and a totally unique view of our immigrant ancestors.

Recommended for classes in history, sociology, political science, fine arts, and humanities.

50 years later, German POWs recall U.S. camps

KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Nebraska City, Neb. — Two months after being captured in Africa in 1943, William Oberdieck found himself on a train with hundreds of other German prisoners, chugging across the United States to Kansas.

He was just 21, a German sergeant, and scared. At every stop, curious Americans gathered "to see if we had horns or something," he says.

When the soldiers reached their destination, they were taken to a dining hall.

"Are they going to shoot us?" he remembers thinking. "Is it our last meal?"

Actually, it was the beginning of captivity, U.S.-style.

For two years, Mr. Oberdieck and 371,600 other German soldiers were held prisoner in Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana and other rural American states. They worked on farms, plucking chickens and picking apples. They formed orchestras and soccer clubs. They were, basically, stand-ins for American farm laborers who had become GIs.

In the case of Mr. Oberdieck and a handful of others, life was so good that they returned to the United States after being shipped home after the war. Now a U.S. citizen, Mr. Oberdieck lives 26 miles from where he was

371,600 German soldiers were held prisoner in Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana and other rural states, working on farms as stand-ins for U.S. farm laborers who had become GIs.

held as a prisoner. He owns an orchard in which he once was ordered to work.

It's easy to forget that the United States had prisoner-of-war camps. They weren't publicized, and for the most part they were in rural areas, where German soldiers were deemed less of a threat. They were dismantled when the war ended.

Now that 50 years have passed, some former POWs and Americans are reviving interest in the camps.

Just as U.S. veterans are trekking back to Europe for 50th anniversaries of battles, historians in Nebraska are planning exhibits, marking foundations that now lie in cornfields, even planning reunions of the prisoners.

The Phelps County Historical Society in Holdrege, Neb. — the site of Camp Atlanta, where Mr. Oberdieck was sent after being processed through a center in Kansas — claims that roughly 300,000 Germans passed through the camp.

To find the former POWs for a reunion next year, the group is

sending brochures to Germany, says Glenn Thompson, the event's director. Sixty-seven Germans have written to say they will come, he said.

But not everyone wants to dredge up the memories. One man, who settled in Nebraska, says he doesn't want anyone to know he once fought for the Nazis.

"There might be some retaliation" from Jews, says the former POW, who asked not to be named. Mr. Oberdieck, now 70, was among the youngest of Atlanta's prisoners when he was taken there in January 1944.

He was not a Nazi, he says, and was drafted into a conflict he wishes had never happened.

The prison camps seemed forbidding, with barbed wire, barracks, canteens and mess halls, but they were run mostly by the Germans themselves. There were German cooks, German doctors, even German newspapers and singing societies.

"It was a comfortable life," says Mr. Oberdieck. "We got 10 cents a day, and if you worked, you got another 30 cents a day for

working. . . . We had PXs where you could buy candy and beer. Beer was 10 cents."

Richard Kimmel, 95, was one of the farmers who needed help in 1944, and he signed up a crew of four to work in his 90-acre orchard in Nebraska City.

"We didn't know [if they were Nazi supporters], we just took 'em in," says Mr. Kimmel. "We needed the help so desperately, we didn't care anyhow."

Occasionally, romance bloomed. Mr. Oberdieck remembers hiding a young German under some trash one night in order to drive him into town to meet an American girl. Neither spoke the other's language, but that didn't prevent her from proposing that they run away together to Mexico.

The soldier declined. He had just seen a violent romance movie and concluded, "American girls, if you even smile at another woman, will shoot you."

One summer day a soldier tried to escape, only to give up, frustrated, in a hot Nebraska cornfield.

"He went . . . over the prairie and all that stuff, and by afternoon he thought, 'Heck, I haven't been in any town yet.' . . . He was hot, and he decided he would call it quits," Mr. Oberdieck says.

The German wound up hitchhiking back to the camp and talking his way back in.

German 'freethinkers' shaped Comfort's early town history

By Paris Permenter and John Bigley
Special to the American-Statesman

COMFORT — The streets here are as busy today as they were a century ago, when customers would come in to the local establishments for kerosene, oil and washboards.

The only difference is that many of these historic structures today house antique shops, restaurants and bed-and-breakfast inns instead of feed, dry goods and grocery stores of a century past. The downtown historic district boasts 120 buildings, and one of Texas' oldest general stores, the Ingenhuett Store, is still open for business, featuring a collection of historic photos of Comfort's early days.

Just down the street from the general store, the Ingenhuett family once owned the Ingenhuett-Faust Hotel. Today that historic building is the Comfort Common, a combination bed-and-breakfast inn and antique cooperative. Travelers watch small-town life from rocking chairs on the wide porches of the two-story inn. Day visitors can shop for antiques in the hotel and in several outbuildings located in the shady back yard.

One of Comfort's most unusual structures is one mile out of town on FM 473. A bat roost, built in 1918, was constructed here in an attempt to control malaria. The roosts were intended to encourage the area's large bat population to remain in the region and feed on disease-spreading mosquitoes. Sixteen such roosts were built in the country, and this is the oldest of the three still known to exist. The bat

roost is located on private land, but visitors can pull off the road and read the historic marker located behind private gates.

Northwest of San Antonio on Interstate 10, Comfort is a community with strong German roots and ties to earlier generations. Settlers were first planning to name the town "Gemuetchykeit," meaning peace, serenity, comfort and happiness. Fortunately, they settled on the easier-to-pronounce name of Comfort.

Although the name perfectly describes the atmosphere of this Hill Country community today, things were far from comfortable in the past. This town suffered a massacre of many of its citizens, an event called "the blackest day in the history of

the Civil War."

Comfort was settled in 1854 by German immigrants who were followers of the "freethinker" philosophy. These settlers felt an intense loyalty to their new country and its commitment to democracy and freedom of religion.

Things went well in the new land until the Civil War broke out and Texas began to talk of seceding from the Union. The German immigrants strongly opposed secession, both because they were against the institution of slavery and because of their feeling of allegiance to their adopted country.

Some of the German farmers openly backed the Union government, a stand that the Confederates considered treasonous. To make matters worse, local residents formed the Union Loyal League to protect themselves from outlaw attacks. A nervous Confederacy felt that the group might be a serious threat to its government.

Finally, martial law was declared, and the Texas Rangers were sent to Comfort to order all males over age 16 to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. When many refused, farms and homes were burned, and some dissidents were lynched. Some accounts say as many as 150 citizens were killed.

With these mounting troubles and threats to their families, a group of Comfort men decided to leave Texas and head to Mexico to wait out the war. A band of 60 left on Aug. 1, 1862. They did not know that the Confederates had been told of their move by an informant.

The Unionists were followed to the banks of the Nueces River before the attack began. When it was over, 19 Comfort citizens had been killed in battle. Nine others were captured and later executed by the leader of the Confederates.

On Oct. 18, eight more Unionists were killed while crossing the Rio Grande near the Devil's River. The bodies of these farmers and those killed on the Nueces River were left unburied.



Permenter & Bigley photo
Treue der Union Monument honors the scores of Comfort's Union loyalist citizens slain by Confederate forces during the Civil War.

Three years later, after the war ended, the remains were returned and buried in a mass grave in Comfort. The next year, on Aug. 10, 1866, a monument was erected at the gravesite to remember this grim battle. The Treue der Union (True to the Union) Monument was a simple obelisk, inscribed with the names of the men who were killed. Outside of national cemeteries, this remains the only monument to the Union erected in a state south of the Mason-Dixon line.

This monument, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, also is noteworthy for another unusual feature. In 1991, the Treue der Union Monument became one of only five sites in the nation where the flag is allowed to be flown at half staff at all times. The flag flown here is the 36-star American flag, the one flown at the dedication of the monument more than 125 years ago.

*Submitted to GTHS Journal
by Helga von Schweinitz*

For information on Comfort's many historic attractions, write the Comfort Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 777, Comfort, 78013. Or call (210) 995-3131.

Classes Available:

110 All About Germany and History of San Antonio *TC*

For members in the San Antonio area, two classes to be offered on the OASIS fall schedule will be of interest.

Theresa Gold will teach a course "All About Germany" on Wednesdays, Sept. 29 through Nov. 3. The six sessions will include German history, society, customs, food and drink, fine arts, and traveling as well as two sessions devoted to German immigrants to the U.S., to Texas, and to San Antonio.

Following "All About Germany" will be a three-week course on the history of San Antonio, on Tuesdays, Nov 9 through Nov. 23, also taught by Theresa Gold. This series will deal with San Antonio as an Indian village, Spanish colonial outpost, Mexican town, battle site, cowtown, Confederate center, railroad terminal, military town, and modern city--ever the goal of immigrants of many lands.

OASIS (Older Adult Service and Information System) is sponsored in part by Foley's department stores and has no registration fee and low-to-no-cost classes available to anyone over age 55.

In San Antonio, call (210) 647-2546 or drop in the OASIS offices located on the lower level of Foley's at Ingram Park Mall, to register, to pick up a schedule, or to get more information.

Time for some spring shelf cleaning.

Here is an assortment of Texas-related books on a variety of subjects, many of them worthy of full columns. But it seems there's never enough time, never enough space.

■ The German-Texan Heritage Society has produced another book that will become a primary source for anyone interested in Texas' rich German heritage — *A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47*.

The book is a collection of letters and reports written from Texas by Alwin Sorgel, edited and translated into English by W.M. Von-Maszewski. The documents also are reproduced in German.

The letters demonstrate that Texas of the mid-1840s was no promised land for German emigrants. Conditions at first were miserable. Hundreds died.

A Sojourn in Texas is a signifi-



Texana

Mike Cox *TC*

cant contribution to the body of work dealing with German settlement in Texas. The book is available by mail for \$21.50 (postage and handling included) from the German-Texan Heritage Society, P.O. Box 684171, Austin 78768.

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

Austin American-Statesman
March 21, 1993

Von Weizsäcker: Holocaust Museum Remembers the Past, Warns About the Future *TC*

The Week in Germany—April 23, 1993

In a letter to the chairperson of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, Harvey M. Meyerhoff, on the occasion of the dedication of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Thursday (April 22), at which Germany was represented by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker wrote that he was "deeply moved by this event." The Holocaust Museum, von Weizsäcker wrote, "attests to the atrocities to which hatred, intolerance and blindness can lead. At the same time, against the appalling background of the Holocaust, it gives examples of the courage, inner strength and compassion of people who resisted the oppression and persecution of their fellow human beings and helped them at the risk of their own lives." "The Holocaust Museum is not only of signal importance as a place of remembrance elucidating the past; it is at the same time a warning for the future," the president continued.

Von Weizsäcker stressed that Germans did not wish to dismiss the past

from their minds. "When the Federal Republic of Germany was founded, its paramount objective was to accept the necessary and irreversible consequences of the inconceivable, unprecedented crimes committed by National Socialism. This continues to be the precept and the mission of democratic Germany." He emphasized as well Germany's good relationship with Israel and said that postwar Germans "have wholeheartedly applied ourselves to this task." He also underscored the "close and trusting partnership with the United States of America," which he described as "one of the cornerstones of German foreign policy." Dialogue with American Jews and their organizations is a part of this. "Our aim is to continue to deepen and intensify this dialogue and thus contribute to a better understanding between Jews and Germans," von Weizsäcker concluded. ■

Teddy Turns 90 *TC*

A bronze statue of a teddy bear was unveiled in front of the Margarete Steiff toy factory on Friday (June 18) in Giengen/Brenz (Baden-Württemberg), the factory where the teddy bear was created in 1902 by Richard Steiff. The statue, sculpted by Karl-Ulrich Nuss, was created in honor of the teddy bear's 90th birthday. Among the guests at the ceremony was Tweed Roosevelt, great-grandson of U.S. American president Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. According to the firm's legend, it was Roosevelt who gave the bear its name.

The teddy bear's first public appearance was at the spring fair in Leipzig (Saxony) in 1903. According to Steiff company history, its debut "gave no cause for great hopes"; with no real fans, the bear sat in the fair booth looking "more sad than happy" until the last day of the fair, when a U.S. American visitor discovered the toy and ordered 3,000 of them. Very quickly, the bear's popularity spread and by 1907, Steiff sold 947,000 "PB 55s," as the bears were designated at the factory: "P" for plush, "B" for moveable (*beweglich*) and 55 for its height in centimeters (about 21 inches). ■

Children are not the only ones who loved the stuffed animals; adult collectors, particularly in the U.S., have formed clubs and have even held conferences of teddy bear fans. One U.S. collector has a brove of more than 5,000 teddies, the largest in the world. The mania for collecting the animals didn't reach Germany until the 1980s. A Steiff Collectors' Club was founded in 1992 and its membership is currently at 13,000; information on the number of bears was not available.

The Week in Germany—June 25, 1993

Schulenburg's painted churches

By Karen Malkowski
Express-News Staff Writer

SCHULENBURG — In Victorian times, it was a sign of prestige for well-to-do homeowners to have the ceilings of their homes painted with intricate designs. Public buildings such as courthouses and churches often had such decorations.

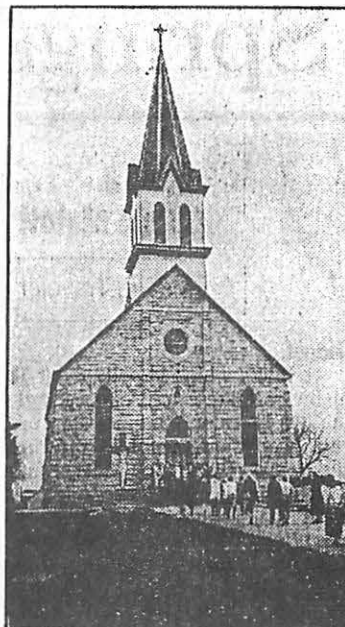
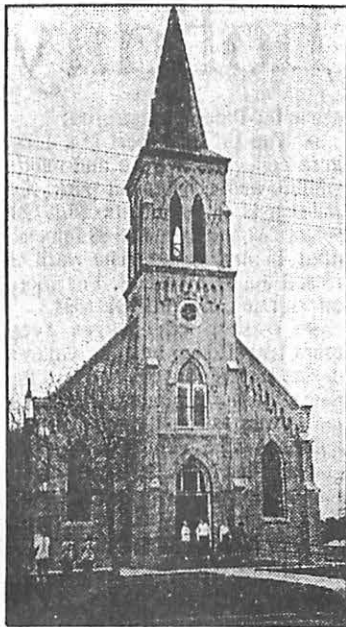
Over the years, most of those homes and buildings were demolished or their decorations painted over. But within a short, pleasant drive from San Antonio are four Catholic churches whose intricately painted ceilings have been kept intact or restored.

All four churches are located within a few miles of Schulenburg, about 125 miles east of San Antonio on Interstate 10. The churches still stand where German and Czech settlers constructed them in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They're open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday for self-guided tours, or groups can make arrangements at least three weeks in advance for a guide by calling the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce — (409) 743-4514 — on weekdays. A \$40 charge is levied for a Chamber guide.

If you go on your own, you may be lucky enough to find a member of the church — all are active congregations — on hand to tell you about the church's history. Even if you don't, the beauty of the churches is self-explanatory. Flash photography is allowed. Admission is \$1 per person, which is used for maintenance and restoration of the churches.

Each church was painted by a different artist or artists, and each is distinctive. Here are profiles of the four churches, in the order I visited them on a recent tour:

St. Mary's Catholic Church is in the old settlement of High Hill, a few miles north of Schulenburg. The first Catholic church in High Hill was built in 1870 by the German families who settled the area in the 1860s. A second, larger church replaced it in 1875. In 1906, the current brick church was constructed. The ceiling and walls were painted with lacy, intricate designs in green and gold on a sky-blue background by two artists from San Antonio, Ferdinand Stockert and Hermann Kern. They created the designs freehand, with-



PHOTOS BY KAREN MALKOWSKI

St. Mary's Catholic Church (left) in the old settlement of High Hill near Schulenburg was built in 1906. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church (right) is located in the Czech settlement of Praha.

out using stencils or patterns. The ceiling was painted on canvas and installed. It has never been restored, but the designs still are clear. The wall designs were painted directly on the plaster and have been restored twice. The church also has an intricate altar and stained-glass windows. The supporting columns are wood but were painted to resemble marble, a fashion in Victorian times.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church is located in the Czech settlement of Praha, a few miles west of Schulenburg. This church's arched wood ceiling is painted with colorful angels and scrollwork designs as well as plants — oleander, palmetto and wild grapevine — that are native to South Texas. The current church was dedicated in 1896. A Swiss artist, Gottfried Flury, painted the designs on a light-blue background. Our guide, Myra Parsons, said Lady Bird Johnson saved the church from being demolished in 1965 when she visited and said it was "too historic to tear down." The main steeple on the front of the church leans a bit, and an unusual feature — a second, smaller steeple built directly over

the altar — rises from the back of the church. It's called a fleche, meaning "finger of God." Parsons said it's similar to ones on the cathedrals of Notre Dame and Cologne in France. "We don't know of any others except this one and the two in France," she said.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is in Ammannsville, northeast of Schulenburg, and is the largest of the four painted churches. The original church was built in the 1890s, but a storm destroyed it in 1909. A new church was built, but burned to the foundation eight years later. Czech villagers saved some of the statues, which are in the current church, completed in 1919. Decorations on the light pink background were painted freehand and with stencils by an itinerant European artist whose name wasn't recorded. Wood trim also was painted to resemble marble. Most of the painting on the walls and ceiling is original; only a small section in back was restored following water damage. An unusual feature is the stained glass windows. Those on the right side of the church feature male saints, while those on the left depict female saints. Parsons said that was

done because male parishioners at the time sat on the right side of the church while women sat on the left, following the tradition of European churches.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church is located in Dubina, a Czech settlement a few miles northeast of Schulenburg and just south of Ammannsville. The first church was built in 1877 and destroyed in 1909 by the same storm that demolished St. John the Baptist Church. The present church was constructed in 1912 and the interior designs were painted by an itinerant artist whose name wasn't recorded. Unfortunately, those designs were painted over in the 1950s during an attempt at modernization. Later, though, parishioners of all ages pitched in to repaint the designs, using the faint outlines they had uncovered of the original work. This church is smaller than the other three, but the decorations are the most cheerful — bright blue, green, yellow and orange designs of flowers, vines and angels.

Indian captive

Born of German immigrant parents in 1859, Herman Lehmann was captured by a band of Apaches near Fredericksburg at age 11. During his nine years with them and later, with the Comanches, he grew to love the Indians and their way of life.

His memoir, *9 Years Among the Indians, 1870-1879* (235 pp., \$15.95 pb.), edited by J. Marvin Hunter and first published in 1927, has been reprinted by the University of New Mexico Press.

Counter to the prevailing myth of Indian capture, this one shows a sympathetic view of Native Americans through the eyes of a man who experienced both cultures. After a difficult readjustment to Anglo life, Lehmann ultimately settled with his Indian brethren in Indian Territory.

New in this edition is a foreword by University of New Mexico history professor Dale F. Geise.

The Times-
Thursday, June 24, 1993—

Marian L. Martinello. Cedar Fever. San Antonio: Corona Publishing Company, 1992.

#15.95 Hard cover

A novel for young reader, available in paperback and hard cover with illustrations by Paul Hudgins.

What was life like in Texas for German immigrants?

How did it change during World War I? Marian Martinello addresses these questions in her book Cedar Fever, written for young readers in their early teens.

Ms. Martinello came to Texas herself in the 1970s from New York bringing with her an interest in cultural diversity on which she founded several books. Cedar Fever, her latest book, explores the differences between German and Anglo cultures and the related problems which had to be faced by German-Texans in dealing with their neighbors whose roots were Anglo.



The book uses as a backdrop the description of daily chores a farm family had to perform, their social life, the hardships and amenities at the time period around the First World War.

The main theme of the book explores friendship, love, and loyalty and these topics in the book have a timeless and universal appeal. Young readers will learn how the German immigrants adapted to life in America while holding on to their old customs, their language and their heritage. At the outbreak of World War One, their tranquil life changed, their loyalties were not only questioned by the town bullies but also by themselves. Were they Germans or Americans in their political loyalty? Were they prepared and willing to send their sons into the war to fight Germans? These conflicting interests are nicely woven into the fabric of the story.

Good literature for young people is very important, because, once hooked on reading, they might develop a lifelong habit that will give many hours of pleasure. Here the young reader is guided through issues of cultural diversity, women's history, tolerance versus bigotry, and love. Cedar Fever is not a book that pushes you to the edge of your chair in anticipation, but is a nicely developed story with fine points. The illustrations by Paul Hudgins will make it more appealing for young readers. The book is well researched and provides a solid historic foundation for the evolving story.

Book Review by Ingeborg Volpi
Texas Tech University

For young Katie Koenig, growing up German-American in the Texas Hill Country during World War I means fighting battles of her own. While suspicious outsiders challenge the patriotism of her tradition-bound German neighbors, Katie's own family and friends question her loyalty to Franz, her fiance, sent to fight as an American doughboy in Germany.

The author skillfully weaves details of life in this community — the odors of Mama's baking, the feel of the earth in Katie's beloved flower garden, the excitement of dressing for a dance — into a moving story of a girl's coming of age in difficult times.



Clara Rummel of Round Top, Texas

by Lisa Kahn, Houston

Many of you who live in or between Houston, Austin, and San Antonio are familiar with Festival Hill in Round Top founded by James Dick, the pianist, with the support of Miss Irma Hogg. I have attended many of the concerts there, and one day, in the Clayton House, one of several buildings used for concerts before the Concert Hall was built, I noticed a frame on the wall with a poem in it. The poet's name was Clara Rummel. I inquired about her, and Mr. Dick said: yes, she was the poetess of Texas in Round Top and you should find out about her, Lisa. However, neither he nor any of the other persons at Festival Hill knew much about Clara, and since I was very busy, still teaching and doing research on emigrant literature, Clara Rummel slipped out of my mind. Only recently when I had done some reading in Texas German Life, did Clara Rummel come to my mind again. I asked if anybody had in the past few years researched Clara Rummel's life and poetry and received a negative answer from James Dick. So, I thought, my time had come to write about this poet from my beloved Round Top. There were many moments when I regretted this decision.

I cannot remember any paper that I have ever presented when I had such difficulty finding any material. In my naïveté I had believed that all the old folks in Round Top would have been able to tell me about Clara's life, her family, her work, her writing. But most people knew her only by name, if at all! Those few older folks who knew her name or seemed to remember vaguely who she was said, like in unison, "Die Jungen wissen nichs. Und es sind nicht mehr viele Alte da." Regrettably, they were right. It was like running through a maze and always coming to a dead end, sometimes after only one inquiry, sometimes after having been led on from one person to another, and another, etc. Let me give you only one of the multitude of examples of my research: Ms. Lydia Nagel, the widow of the former mayor of Round Top, told me to call Dr. Rau, the dentist, who would quite possibly know about Clara Rummel. After a number of phone calls I reached him. He knew nothing but thought his sister, Frau Maas, might and gave me her phone number. Mrs. Maas didn't remember Clara Rummel, but she is busy working on updating the church register of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top. After about a week, she called me to inform me that she found nothing but the birth and death dates. When I came by the church the following weekend to pick up xerox copies of the church register, Pastor Craig Stoerth was there. We were introduced, but he is one of the "Jungen, die nichs wissen." This pattern of getting the run-around was repeated again and again. Two of the many clues finally shed some light. Gib Bauer, an attorney in Houston, who heard my poetry reading at the Goethe Institute in Houston told me that his ancestors came from Sachsen to Galveston, and he gave me the copy of the Bauer-Family history called "A Goodly Heritage." In it I found the description of one Edgar Rummel and the difficult passage of the families Carl Sigismund Bauer and Edgar Rummel on the boat Neptune. Rummel writes: "They embarked on the ill-mannered and unseaworthy sloop Neptune. Their voyage proved to be highly dangerous. A severe hurricane blew them miles off their course. This was followed by a calm that left them drifting for days later. They were plagued by scurvy-like disease that caused the death and burial-at-sea of a number of passengers and crew. The Neptune finally arrived at Galveston, Texas."¹ In this same family history, the building of the Round Top church in 1866, now Bethlehem Lutheran Church, is described in detail, and I mention it in connection with Clara because she was a

¹ From *A Goodly Heritage. Carl Sigismund Bauer and His Descendants (1792-1975)* by Genrud Furke, Canyon Lake, 1975, p. 2.

deeply religious person, sang in the church choir, played the organ for a number of years and, of course, attended services religiously.² In a report by Louis C. Rummel, the son of Carl William and Christina Carolina Rummel, the uncle of Clara, we read about the Round Top school where Clara was later a teacher. He writes: "My mother was very ambitious for her youngest child (that was Louis). She decided to send me to Round Top to a boarding school - Louis' parents had moved to Spring, now a suburb of Houston - directed by the Reverend Adam Neuhard and his wife, who was my sister Emma. Round Top was a thriving community...³ Many of the children lived too far away from Round Top to make the trip back and forth to school every day, so they were boarded by the Neuhards for the princely sum of \$4.00 a month. Pastor Neuhard, in addition to his day-pupils had twenty pupils boarding with the family. During the years Louis attended Round Top school, Mr. Traugott Wandke made the organ which is still used in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. "For making this organ - it had four octaves, two sets of pipes, one bellow - Mr. Wandke charged the insignificant sum of 40.00 dollars."⁴ As a matter of fact, I had a friend of mine from the Rice Music Department play on it one time, and he assured us that it was an absolutely acceptable organ.

At around 1850, Round Top had a population of 150 inhabitants, two stores, two blacksmith shops, two taverns, a post office, and a line of tri-weekly stages.⁵ Just for those who have been recent visitors to Round Top, the population stands now at 81 (practically half of what it was in 1850), it has one grocery and three antique shops, no blacksmith shops, but one filling station with mechanic, not two taverns but one cafe, one post office, and two real-estate offices!

As I mentioned before, there were many leads I followed to find out more about Clara, but almost all of them lead to nothing. Finally, I found one person, Dr. Wiederanders, who had known Clara Rummel personally, remembered her vividly and with great fondness. He is 90 years old, a professor emeritus of History at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin and retired pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. He was overjoyed when I told him I was interested in Clara Rummel and wanted to present a paper on her. He made his autobiography "A Life to Live and to Give" available to me, which he wrote in 1982. But in 1992 he felt "the urge to write a special addition under the title 'Hands of Destiny' to thank God for six particularly influential people in his life."⁶ The title "Hands of Destiny" was "inspired by a Mother's Day sermon, based on Exodus 2:1-10. The 'hands' in that text were those of Moses' mother, of his sister Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter,⁷ of Jethro, Zipporah, Aaron and Joshua. Now, Dr. Wiederanders, who is a modest man, does not compare himself to Moses, but he feels driven, he says, to praise the providential help he has received from "hands" of destiny, first and foremost the hands of his mother, but in second place he lists a grade school teacher. She is Clara Rummel.

Miss Clara, as he calls her throughout his memoirs, was a relative. She and Dr. Wiederanders' mother were granddaughters of Carl Sigismund Bauer whose memoirs "A Goodly Heritage" were mentioned before. But she never gave him any preferential treatment because of their relationship. He states: "To receive any favors from Miss Clara, you had to earn them: you had to produce, as directed! She had a most effective way to

² *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 38.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 40.

⁵ From *An Early History of Fayette County* by Leon Rummel and Houston Wade, no page given.

⁶ Foreword of *A Life to Live and to Give*.

⁷ *Ibid.*

make me study and to find real joy in the process. She made learning a pleasure. Miss Clara was a remarkably competent teacher. She had a master's degree in English from The University of Texas. This was very unusual for that time, especially on the part of teachers in the rural schools of Texas. She taught in our small two-room school in order to be with her mother during the mother's declining years. When her mother died in 1918, Miss Clara returned to Austin and became the secretary of the Texas Superintendent of Public Schools. Her former pupils in Round Top knew that she deserved that high position.⁸

"Not only did Miss Clara excel in the knowledge of the subject matter which she taught; her methods of teaching were equally exemplary. Almost every Friday afternoon from three to four, she conducted a Spelling or Geography "Bee." All of us in her room stood in line, the way we had stood at the close of the previous Friday. If you gave the correct answer to a challenge which the student ahead had missed, you got to take the pupil's place. Whoever managed to remain at the head of the line for a month, received a special prize from Miss Clara. To the extent that I acquired a special competence in the areas of spelling and geography, I owe this to Miss Clara."⁹

Dr. Wiederanders continues: "Literary events, such a spelling and declaiming, were Miss Clara's favorites. During one of my last years in Round Top High School, which offered courses only through the ninth grade, Miss Clara had me ready enough in spelling that I won second place among county-wide students who were in the tenth and eleventh grades, the highest high school grades in Texas at that time. I recall how proud she was of me. It was my happiness to please that dear lady!"

"At the close of my seventh grade education, Miss Clara and Miss 'Elkie' encouraged me to take the county examination which, if passed, would qualify me to be a freshman in any high school in Texas. The three of us, also my parents, were delighted when I passed that battery of tests 'with flying colors'. However, high school in La Grange had to wait two years. I continued my studies under Miss Clara through Grades Eight and Nine."⁹

Clara Rummel instilled in him his love for English Literature. He says: "Today I realize that it was her knowledge of and fondness for English Literature which caused her to say to me, 'Read Homer and the English Bible 'from cover to cover'. You will never regret it.' I haven't!"

"This lady was contagious, and not just in the classroom. She was a lively and inspiring leader of youth in general. Time and again, to our delight, she planned interesting and innovative programs for us. With no radio and television to distract us, someone in our midst had to be resourceful to occupy our time in an acceptable and constructive way. Our head teacher was remarkably resourceful, full of entertaining ideas and clean fun. The youth of Round Top loved her, and followed her! I have often wondered how many of us became teachers, doctors, engineers, attorneys, and other professional folk in order to follow, in some way, the example placed before us by this remarkable lady."¹⁰

Apparently Clara Rummel was also a deeply religious person. She taught Sunday School in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top, and she was also the sponsor of the Luther League, a youth group in which Clara was the "life of the party" and displayed a real sense of humor. He closes his remarks about Clara Rummel by stating "Ability, versatility, quality, approachability, and personality plus were among Miss Clara's assets with which she served the youth of Round Top, Texas, while a teacher in our community."¹¹

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 6.

⁹ *Ibid*, p. 6.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 7.

¹¹ *Ibid*, p. 7.

It is amazing that Clara Rummel never married. She died in the hospital in Austin on August 21st, 1926, 50 years old. In the La Grange Journal eulogy she is described as "one whose character was so ennobling, and whose unselfish work for others was so inspiring."¹² The burial was on August 23 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Round Top. "Attesting the esteem and love encouraged for her, was the immense gathering at the Round Top church Monday."¹³ Clara Rummel had become ill when visiting her sister Mrs. Franz in Round Top. "The illness was apparently serious so that she was hospitalized in La Grange. She seemed to recover, and after being discharged from the hospital in La Grange returned to her sister's home in Round Top from where she later left for Austin where she became critically ill and finally succumbed." The eulogy mentions her teaching career which began in Fayette County in Hills Community and Bell Settlement. Later she taught in Woodboro and in Round Top. When her parents had died (Wilhelm in 1915, Clara Maria née Hillebrand in 1918), she went to Austin and lived with her sister Lina, a Mrs. Dornberger. In Austin she attended the University of Texas from which she graduated in 1920. For a number of years, she served as editor of the *Luther Link*. After her graduation she was employed by the State Department of Education in Austin until five days before her death, though she had been struggling for many months against failing health. While in Austin, she had been actively engaged in all phases of church activities in St. Martin's Church there. It is, perhaps, noteworthy that her brother Hermann Rummel (who was three years older than she) did not attend the funeral. He had left two years ago for California "on account of ill health."¹⁴ Nobody seems to know anything about him. Somehow he must have returned to Round Top, for he is buried next to her, as are both her parents. The eulogy closes as follows: "She was a talented musician and will live in the hearts of her friends through the poems that expressed so well her philosophy of life, as well as the heavy cross she bore through the years of suffering."¹⁵ I have not been able to find out what malady she suffered. Perhaps, since it was long, painful, and could not be healed, it was cancer. This is sheer speculation on my part. In the eulogy her poems are mentioned. I have come across only two of them, one which I mentioned at the very beginning, which was shown to me by Mr. James Dick, the famous pianist and Director of Festival Hill at Round Top, the other re-printed in the *La Grange Journal*.

A Tribute

You cast your bread upon the waters
On tides of time, year after year,
Each crumb returning, floating to you
Bears message of some deed of cheer.

For all your words in kindness spoken
The many tears that you have dried,
Have borne their fruits of blessings for you,
Have gained for you friends, staunch and tried.

¹² *La Grange Journal* of August 26, 1926, p. 3.

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ *Ibid*

I look to you in admiration,
I pray that I may be like you,
To learn to bear my Cross in silence,
To be, like you, a Christian true.

This second poem is dedicated to a friend (a Mrs. Harwell) who was also a patient at the La Grange hospital. It was sent to her after Clara Rummel had been released from the hospital and had returned to Austin to make her last brave fight. The title indicates that Clara Rummel wanted to express her admiration for the steadfast spirit of Judith Harwell. The bread as a symbol of nourishment is cast on the tides of time, but the crumbs return to the messenger, bringing her joy and satisfaction, like the old German proverb reveals: "Das Gute, das du rust, kehrt in dein eignes Herz zurück." In the second stanza the kind words, the comfort given, which have dried the tears of others are lauded, and in the last stanza Clara's admiration for her friend is expressed. She not only wishes, she prays that she would be like her. The last lines express her deeply felt Christian desires to be able to bear her cross in silence, to be like the person whom she addresses, her friend. Certainly, these are not lines by an Emily Dickinson! To us moderns the expressions Clara uses seem old-fashioned, the peity exaggerated, yet these lines penned in the twenties are similar (perhaps typical) to a lot of poetry by persons who were devoted to their religion and raised in rural areas.

Her conventional rhymes should not distract from the fact that we have in Clara a many-talented woman, an inspiring teacher, a musically interested, perhaps even gifted, person, a kind, altruistic spirit who always did for others; someone dedicated to the goals of education. I believe she should not be forgotten, so that in the future the old and young people in Round Top will also know who Clara Rummel was.

After I had finished my paper on Clara Rummel, I received a letter from Mrs. Georgia Tubbs in which she sent me an excerpt from a letter by Professor Pochmann, a native of Round Top, who had been a student of Miss Rummel's and later became a professor at the University of Wisconsin. In this letter, he stated that some of Clara's poems would be in a collection by Selma Marie Metzenthin Kunitz.¹⁶ When I found this volume it turned out to contain only two of Clara's poems.

Gott schütze dich!

(Einer Konfirmandin zu ihrem Konfirmationstage, mit einem
Kreuz der obigen Inschrift, gewidmet)

Gott schütze Dich! An seiner Hand
Tritt an die neue Bahn
Und gib Dich selber Ihm zum Pfand,
So eilst Du himmelan.

Gott schütze Dich! Dies Kreuzlein schlicht
Als Talisman für Dich!
Und was auch kommt, verzage nicht!
Denk stets: "Er führet nicht!"

Gott schütze Dich! Ist mein Gebet
Das heut zieht mit Dir aus --
Gott schütze Dich bis heim es geht
Ins ew'ge Vaterhaus.

Lebensakkorde

Das Leben gleicht 'ner Harfe
Auf der das Schicksal spielt.
Am lautsten auf die Saiten
Wo man's am tiefsten fühlt.

Der Kindheit frohe Weise
Ist Gegenwart allein,
So froh, so ganz ohn' Sorge --
Kein fäkcher Ton dringt ein.

Der Jugend Lied heißt Zukunft
Dort baut ihr Glück sich auf.
Was ist --! Was war --! das gibt's nicht;
Was soll --! Das ist ihr Lauf.

Das Alter aber kennt nur
Die eine Melodie:
Vergangenheit! Die Schöne!
"Was mein einst war --" Vorbei!

Und ist es dir beschieden
Daß deiner Harfe Klang
Dir töne die drei Weisen,
So war dein Leben lang.

Das Schicksal aber gebe
Daß dann der letzte Ton
Im Himmel wiederhalle
Als deiner Seele Lohn.

¹⁶ Deutsche Schriften in Texas, Heft 1: Dichtung, San Antonio, 1935, p. 46.

Bracken and Wetmore Add Character To Suburbs

by Celia Jones Prehn

What place can claim ties to Martin Luther, 22 million bats, the Sons of Hermann and an early dialect of *Deutsch*? The answer is the hamlet of Bracken, Texas, which formed part of a chain of 19th century German farming communities north of San Antonio. Despite living in the shadow of a major city, Bracken retains links to its past through cultural ties, historic buildings and residents who descended from early settlers.

Located where the Old San Antonio Road (Nacogdoches Road) crosses Cibolo Creek in southeast Comal County (a stone's throw from the Retama Polo Fields), the community took shape when William Bracken purchased 2,800 acres of the Vicente Micheli survey in 1850. In 1872 Bracken sold this land to William Davenport, who laid out today's Bracken as the town of Davenport.

In researching a 1991 paper on Bracken, resident Colette Blakey discovered "that many settlers came from Nassau, Germany, with area cemeteries showing some arriving as early as 1847." Later settlers were children of immigrants from New Braunfels who intermarried as adults, and were lured away from prosperous New Braunfels by the rich black land spreading beneath the Balcones Escarpment along the Cibolo's banks. "To the Germans, land was money in the bank," Blakey says.

In the 1870s, Davenport was large enough to establish a church and school. The Bracken Methodist Episcopal Church (just north of FM 3009 on Nacogdoches Road) was built of hand-cut limestone in 1872, but covered in red brick in 1912. Descendants from that first congregation worship there today.

In the same year, the Schoenthal ("beautiful valley") School was built in the German Fachwerk style and was used until 1936. Classes were taught solely in German into the 1920s. The school is currently a private home on FM 3009.

Davenport boomed in 1880 when William Davenport sold his land as right of way to the International and Great Northern Railroad. The steam engine brought formative commerce to Davenport and nearby Wetmore when both became necessary water stops. In both towns general stores, saloons, cotton gins, and bowling alleys sprang up. In

1899, Davenport applied for a post office. Officials discovered there was already a Davenport, Texas; hence the name Bracken was adopted. By this time, Davenport boasted a doctor, a dentist, an undertaker, a blacksmith, a constable and a justice of the peace.

The rail line was not the first link between Wetmore and Bracken, however. Interaction between the two towns had gone on for decades, with families intermarrying and selling land back and forth. One such family was the Golls. Jacob Goll came to Texas from Germany by way of New York in 1846 to establish a support group for German immigrants in Texas which evolved into the Order of the Sons of Hermann. Goll homesteaded in Wetmore, farmed in Davenport, died and was buried in Bracken. His body made a final migration to Wetmore when he was reinterred in the Wetmore Cemetery. Golls are still living in Bracken and near old Wetmore.

Unfortunately, Bracken's boom was short-lived, ending in the 1920s. The cotton gin closed. Farming and railroad maintenance became the major sources of livelihood. And the Depression forced many families to move elsewhere.

However, one Bracken industry has survived from the 19th century. It is the peculiar, but lucrative industry of mining bat guano from the Bracken Cave. Bracken resident Paul Vordenbaum recalls that his great-grandfather Marbach mined the guano during the Civil War, and until a few years ago, a Marbach cousin continued harvesting the guano for organic fertilizer. Once referred to as "the smoke hole" because of the spectacle of the 20 million bats existing the hole every evening, Bracken Cave is owned today by Bat Conservation International, who considers the cave home to the largest population of Mexican free-tailed bats in North America.

Bracken remained isolated until the 1960s and '70s when San Antonio moved closer. Subdivisions sprouted up in the area with many of the new homeowners having roots or relatives in Bracken.

One strong German tradition which endured is the love of recreation — especially bowling clubs, shooting clubs and dance halls. The old *Luxellohalle* (dance hall) exists today as the



Built in the late 1890's in Bracken, Stroek's Grocery and Dry Goods Store burned in 1935, and was replaced with Heitkamp's General Store, now a popular bar and restaurant.

commercial and popular Cibolo Creek Country Club. The bowling and shooting clubs have stayed more or less intact.

But it's bowling which lies at the community's backbone. Comments Blakey, "Bowling has kept a lot of family relationships intact. That is where they keep all their roots and where you can hear the family histories. They have to bowl. They (elderly Germans) can't get out of their cars or up the steps, but they can still bowl!"

Bowling also ties German Americans to the Old Country. Nine-pin bowling, or *kegeln*, originated in medieval Germany when woodsmen would set up their short wooden clubs, called *knebels*, and knock them down by bowling stones. Monasteries adopted the game and it was there that a monk named Martin Luther invented the rules for present day nine-pin bowling.

In the 1850s the game went indoors, spread to the colonies and to England where a tenth pin was added to sidestep a law against nine-pin bowling. German immigrants carried nine-pin bowling to Texas as a club sport.

Bracken's first two bowling alleys were built in 1915 in a building that is today the "Hanging Tree Saloon." One of the alleys is the bartop. The Bracken Bowling Club was expanded to its present 8-alley location where fourth and fifth generation bowlers meet, drink beer, and bowl in team competitions.

The German shooting clubs were another bastion of beer drinking and friendly competition. The Lone Star Club still meets in the area. But a 1906

shooting club competition hosted in Bracken with the New Braunfels and San Antonio clubs reveals another aspect of these German communities — their community pride. In the 1906 meet, an argument over the best way to ice down the beer led to further conflict over the rules and shooting order, which resulted in a verbal feud between the club presidents indicating deeper differences than just how to cool beer. People today note a slight sense of isolation among the German communities of New Braunfels, San Antonio, and the outlying smaller towns.

Colette Blakey observed: "It's like a rivalry, although they always gather for special events."

Fourth-generation Bracken resident Bobbie Peace recalls that when voting on the formation of school districts in the 1960s, Bracken residents balked at consolidating with New Braunfels.

"The old German families said they didn't want New Braunfels running it (the school board). But I pointed out, who are those people in New Braunfels?! Our relatives!" Bobbie laughed. "In the end, two school districts were formed — Comal County and New Braunfels."

While some have observed that German accents are more noticeable in these outlying towns, an important bond between Bracken and New Braunfels remains the German language which is distinguished for its 19th century purity. Ann Rogers, archivist at the Sophienburg Museum in New Braunfels, said: "Some years back, German linguists came

over to study the language in the area, because the dialect is relatively unchanged from the mid-19th century. In Germany the language underwent structural changes in the 1870s."

Tradition, language and heritage run deeper than change; for in many ways, Bracken has survived despite the odds. Never incorporated, the town is now under the extraterritorial jurisdiction of San Antonio. This means to incorporate, the town would require San Antonio's permission. Although there are currently no plans for annexation, growth seems inevitable. A Class-A racetrack is going in next door at Selma.

"There's new industry all around here," says Bobbie Peace. "As the tax base goes up, it will be more affordable for the city to provide amenities. Then maybe we'll all be bought out!"

Meanwhile, old Bracken is new Bracken. There are few empty buildings. The old white frame shotgun-style post office is used as storage for the feed store. The Heitkamp's general store (rebuilt in 1935) is owned by Bobbie Heitkamp Peace. It is now a popular bar famous for its hamburgers. The cotton gin is a craft studio. Several 19th century farmhouses line Nacogdoches Road, including the impressive two story rock house off Marbach that was home to the prominent Wheeler family.

It is communities like Bracken and Wetmore that add genuine character to a vast area quickly becoming the San Antonio suburbs. Hopefully, they can be preserved in some form. Maybe cultural ties, a common language and familial bonds to land and history will outlive the appetite and seemingly inexorable expansion of the metropolis.

German Settlers in Comanchería

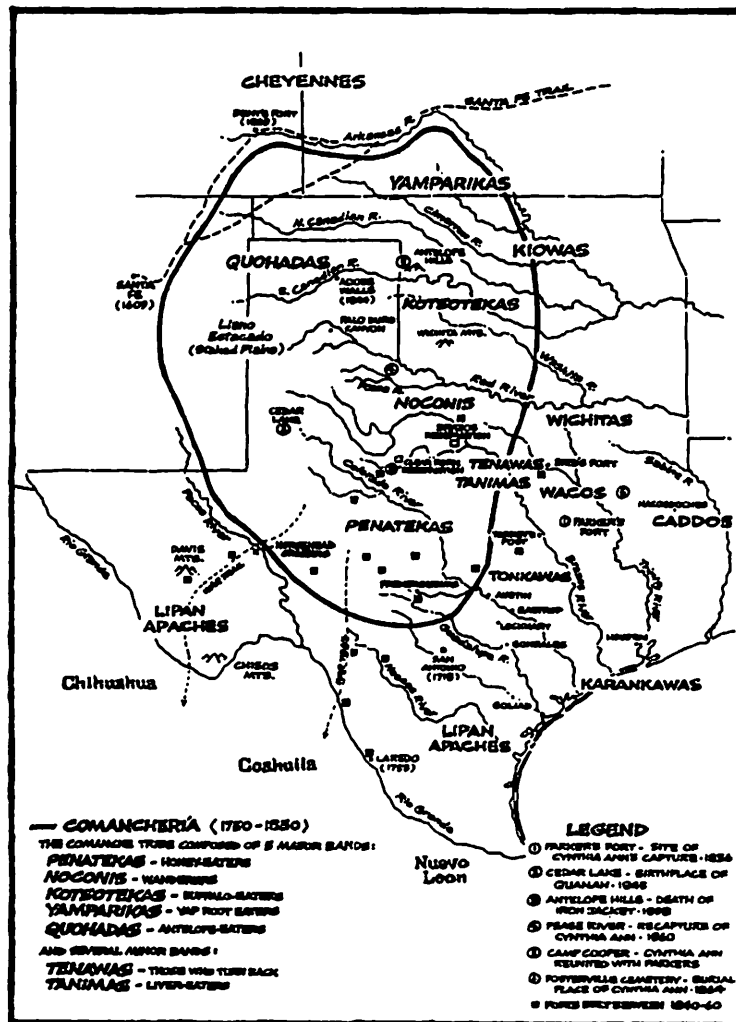
By Melissa Williams, Jersey Village High School, Houston

(The following article is an excerpt from an essay Melissa wrote as a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Younger Scholars Award. For nine weeks last summer Melissa researched the German Settlements in the Texas Hill Country under the supervision of a teacher. For more information about the Younger Scholars Award Program, contact the NEH at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20506.)

THE SPANISH GAVE the tribe the name Comanche, meaning enemy in the Ute language, and called their hunting grounds Comanchería.

They were well named since outsiders entered their lands at their peril. Renowned for superb horsemanship and military prowess, the Comanches kept out both red and white intruders for more than a century and a half. Guarding their lands fiercely, they drove out the savage Apache, stopped the expansion of the Spanish, blocked the trade plans of the French, and delayed Anglo-American settlement for fifty years. Those who lived near these nomads feared them for their wildness, fierceness, and savagery. Yet, incredibly, it was in Comanchería that European immigrants planted what was to be Germany's only successful colony overseas. After a treaty was signed, German farmers settled peacefully for a decade in the midst of the formidable Comanches's favorite hunting grounds. As a result, the German Hill Country communities produced major change by bringing the first civilized economy to the Great Plains.

The first Germans in Texas came as individuals and settled in the Mexican province in the 1820s and 1830s.



Source: Texas Historian, Publication of the Junior Historians of Texas, Vol. LIII, May 1993, No. 4.

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Turning leadership of the Society over to Baron Ottfried Hans Freiherr von Meusebach, a Prussian government official, was surely one of the best decisions the Prince ever made. A famous German intellectual who knew both Prince Carl and Meusebach summed up the situation:

At all events (Prince Carl) would not have been equal to the occasion of handling the difficulties and straitened circumstances, which became especially acute after his departure, nor would he have been as able as his resourceful successor to devise new ways and means to meet them. Von Meusebach began by introducing business standards and a more careful system of book-keeping, as well as by curtailing the services rendered the immigrants to the most essential.

Intelligent and practical, Meusebach proved to be an exceptional leader. Calling himself simply John Meusebach, the former Baron realized that the most pressing need was for land for the thousands of settlers already in Texas. After rescuing the stranded Germans on the beach at Indianola, Meusebach made an expedition to Comancheria in order to select a place for another settlement. The site selected was north of the Pedernales River about ninety miles from New Braunfels and near the Fisher-Miller grant. Meusebach bought 12,000 acres of land on credit from the Texas government.

Meusebach and 120 immigrants set out for the Pedernales lands immediately. Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, later called the "Father of Texas Geology," followed a few weeks later. After travelling over the bleak, winter landscape for three days, Roemer reached the new settlement, a village called Fredericksburg which was named in honor of the King of Prussia. Roemer's description of the river valley and town were quite promising:

The Pedernales itself is a small, rapidly flowing stream with considerably less volume of water than the Guadalupe, but of equal clearness. Tall pecan trees border its bank. Fredericksburg is situated on a



Von Meusebach was buried near Cherry Springs in 1897. Photograph courtesy of the author.

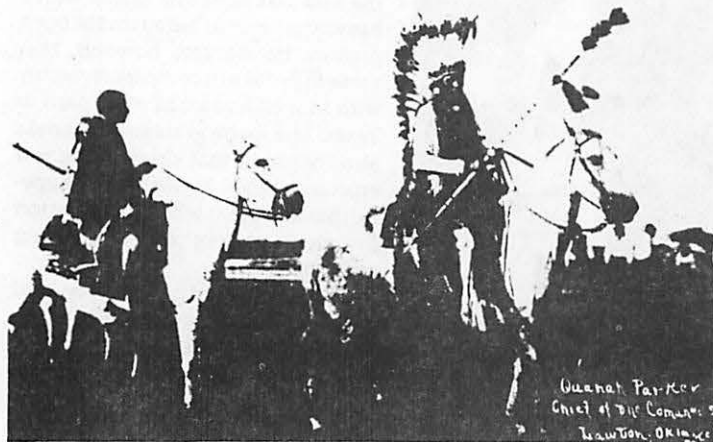
gently rising plain about six miles north of the Pedernales Creek, between two small creeks which form a junction immediately below the city. A dense, uniform oak forest covered the area on which the houses were now being erected. The main street consists of about fifty houses and huts, spaced long distances apart on both sides of the street.

With his courage and frankness, Meusebach won the Comanches's respect. A treaty was drawn up giving the Germans the land they wanted in exchange for \$3,000. The next day, March 2, 1847, the Comanches signed a treaty opening up 3,000,000 acres for German settlement.

Romer also reported that the soil in the area was light and sandy with a heavier soil rich in humus in the open prairies. He warned, however, that these soils did not compare favorably with soils he had seen in other parts of Texas. The sparse grass and post oaks also indicated that the soil was not especially fertile. Yet Romer was hopeful that in seasons when it was not too dry crops of corn and other grain could be grown.

To insure the safety of Fredericksburg and to secure more land for the settlers, Meusebach next sought out the Comanches. With a small party of Germans, Meusebach traveled to the Comanche camp at San Saba on the Llano River. Negotiations began at noon on March 1, 1847. In the talks that followed Meusebach assured the Indians that his people had come in peace and that they wanted only to farm along the Pedernales River. If the Indians would allow the settlement, he promised that the Comanches would always be welcome in Fredericksburg. He also assured them that in times of hunger the Germans would provide the Indians with grain. One argument Meusebach used successfully was to assure the Comanches that the Germans were neither Mexican nor Texan—two groups the Comanches hated. With his courage and frankness, Meusebach won the Comanches's respect. A treaty was drawn up giving the Germans the land they wanted in exchange for \$3,000. The next day, March 2, 1847, the Comanches signed a treaty opening up 3,000,000 acres for German settlement.

The Adelsverein hoped the Germans would live in small farm villages much like they did in Germany. In Fredericksburg, the settlers were given town lots of about one half acre in size with farms of ten acres in the outlying areas. It was thought that the settlers would build their homes and barns in the town and go out to their fields to work each day. This "farm village plan," however, never worked. One reason the plan failed was the absence of good grazing land near the village. Nor were the immigrants satisfied with a ten-acre-farm when land could be had for such low prices. Nor did the danger of Indian attack keep the settlers together for the treaty of peace with the Comanches made this unnecessary.



In June, 1875, Quannah Parker led the last of the Comanches to Fort Sill in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

Therefore the settlers bought large farms and pushed the perimeter of settlement farther from the town. The town lots in Fredericksburg, however, did serve a useful purpose. They became sites for the "Sunday Houses"—small frame houses for the farmers to use on weekends when shopping and attending church in town.

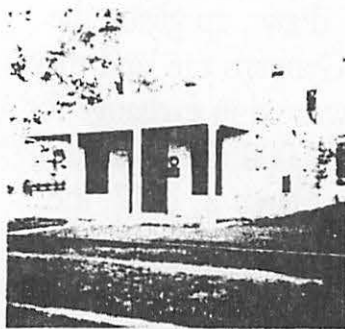
From 1844 to 1846 the Adelsverein brought 7,380 Germans into Texas and founded a series of communities reaching 150 miles from New Braunfels into the previously unsettled lands of Comancheria. Although New Braunfels and Fredericksburg remained the most important German towns, small farming communities grew up in Bexar, Guadalupe, Comal, Blanco, Gillespie, Mason, Kendall, and Kerr counties. The German colony was located in the semi-arid center of the new state of Texas, between the damp forests of East Texas and the desert to the west.

In 1847 the Society went bankrupt, and most of their promises to the settlers were never fulfilled. That, however, did not stop 20,000 additional Germans from immigrating. A large number of German intellectuals came after the Revolution of 1848. They founded three different communities.

The town of Sisterdale in the Guadalupe River Valley was founded by Germans who received their education in universities where the faculty and students conversed in Greek and Latin. At Sisterdale all town meetings were conducted in Latin which mystified many of their neighbors in surrounding communities. It is also

why the settlement was called the "Latin Colony." Not surprisingly books, musical instruments, and art crowded the crude cabins of Sisterdale. The town's learned men also advised other settlers in the area on various topics from literature to politics to agricultural procedures. The scholarly leader of the colony, Ottjmar von Behr, even wrote a book *Good Advice for Immigrants*, on farming and ranching, especially sheep raising. Behr's fachwerk or log and half-timber home was also the post office and his judicial office. Frederick Law Olmstead, who later designed New York's Central Park, visited Sisterdale. He described an evening spent with von Behr:

He had been a man of marked attainments at home, and kept up here a warm love for nature. His house was the very picture of good-nature, science, and



The Schandua House in Fredericksburg is typical of the houses built by German settlers in the Texas Hill Country.

backwoods. The dinner was Texan, of corn bread and frijoles, with coffee served in tin cups, and the talk was worthy of golden goblets.

Unlike von Behr, most of the German intellectuals at Sisterdale were unsuited to farm life. Many eventually made their way to San Antonio or to other large German settlements. Von Behr's great-great-grandson, also named Ottmar Behr, however, still lives on the family farm.

Another German intellectual settlement was founded in the Fisher-Miller grant on a site selected by Meusebach. This community was a communist utopian colony named Bettina in honor of the authoress Bettina von Armin, an important German intellectual of that day. The forty young professional men who founded Bettina had been students at the Universities of Giessen, Heidelberg, and Darmstadt. In spite of the excellent leadership from Gustav Schleicher, the colony failed. Composed mainly of physicians, engineers, architects, lawyers, and botanists, the young men did not have the practical skills needed to live in the wilderness in Comancheria. According to Louis Reinhardt, one of "the forty:"

Most of the professional men wanted to do only the directing and ordering while the mechanics and laborers were to carry out their plans. Of course, the latter failed to see the justice of their ruling, so no one did anything.

Schleicher later became a railroad builder and a U.S. Congressman. Another of the Bettina settlers, Jacob Kuenchler, became a Texas Land Commissioner. Perhaps the most famous member of this colony was Dr. Ferdinand Herff. While living in Bettina, Herff performed the first successful cataract surgery in Texas, operating on the eye of a Comanche brave. After moving to San Antonio he performed plastic surgery and was the first physician in the U.S. to do a hysterectomy.

Comfort located west of New Braunfels on the Guadalupe River was the third German intellectual community. Developed by Ernst Hermann Altgelt, the chief occupations in the town were lumbering, farming, and

ranching. The intellectuals and free-thinkers who founded the town left Germany, not only to escape political persecution, but also to escape religious oppression.

During the first decade the Germans lived in Comancheria, the encounters and exchanges with the Amerindians were mainly peaceful and beneficial to both groups. Peter Birk of Fredericksburg wrote to a friend that: "The Indians do us no harm; on the contrary, they bring us meat and horses to buy." As the Indians grew to trust the Germans, they often camped at Fredericksburg. They usually proved to be good neighbors, too. When cholera struck the immigrants, the Indians sent game and honey to the stricken community.

In spite of these peaceful encounters there were some incidents of conflict between the Germans and the Indians. According to Tom Reeh of Doss, Comanches would steal the bells that his pioneer ancestors put on their free-ranging cattle, making it difficult to locate the herd. At Sisterdale, Comanches shot and carried away a cow that Ottmar von Behr was milking. Most incidents of theft, however, involved horses. Taking to horseback as few people ever did, the Comanches came to live on horseback and became the greatest horse thieves of them all. The Indians obtained their supply of horses by gift, trade, capturing wild ones, and especially by raiding the German settlements. Mrs. Otilie Fuchs Goeth of Blanco County reported losing three horses in a raid. In Sisterdale, the Indians stole all the horses in the settlement, forcing the residents to walk to a music festival in a nearby town. Since oxen were undesirable to the roving bands of horse-stealing Comanches, the ox became the favorite draft animal. Most German settlers accepted occasional theft as the price for living in Comancheria.

Yet, the relatively peaceful decade of 1846-1856 ended when Anglo-Texans began to pour into the river valleys of Comancheria and settle near the Germans. Although the Comanches were willing to allow Germans into their hunting grounds, no Anglos or Texans were welcome. Since several Comanche chiefs had been killed during a prisoner exchange in 1840, there had been no peace between Comanches and Texans. In fact for years a brutal guerrilla war raged between the Comanches and Anglo



Admiral Chester Nimitz of Fredericksburg was the grandson of German immigrants who came to the Texas Hill Country in the mid years of the nineteenth century.

Texans. The Germans found themselves in the middle, often suffering attacks from both sides.

The United States government responded to these actions by establishing a string of forts to protect the settlers. The forts, however, were separated by hundreds of miles and were inadequate for the Comanche frontier. Since the army had no cavalry branch; infantry troops tried to march or ride mules after the mounted Indians. A Texan remarked, "The only way they could damage the hard-riding Comanches was possibly by causing the Indians to laugh themselves to death."

Jefferson Davis when he was Secretary of War in the 1850s began to change many of these practices. Davis was one of the first to realize that the

terrain of the Great Plains required a totally different strategy when dealing with the Indians. Between 1853 and 1857, Davis reorganized the U.S. Army, started a cavalry unit, and sent scores of officers to Texas. So outstanding was the 2nd Cavalry commanded by Albert Sidney Johnston that the Indians virtually disappeared from the Hill Country for a time.

When Davis left the War Office in 1857, the 2nd Cavalry was sent to Utah. Once that occurred the Comanche raids began again. The situation worsened when the Civil War broke out in 1861 when virtually all troops were withdrawn from the frontier leaving the white population defenseless.

Since few Germans owned slaves they tended to have little interest in the Southern cause during the Civil War. Most remained loyal to the Union. To avoid the Confederate draft, many young Germans hid themselves in the countryside, but their reluctance to serve in the military was motivated at least in part by their unwillingness to leave their homes and families unprotected from the Comanches. In Fredericksburg, a group of sixty-five men who abhorred slavery decided to flee to Mexico rather than serve in the Confederate Army. Believing that a safe-conduct had been issued to them, the Germans departed. As they camped by the Nueces River in South Texas, however, they were attacked at night by a company of Confederate soldiers. Most of the Germans died defending themselves in this so-called Battle of the Nueces.



Fredericksburg as it looked in 1896 on the 50th anniversary of the town's founding. Photograph courtesy of the Texas State Historical Association.

During the Civil War, sensing that the settlements were weak, the Indians became incredibly bold, and the Germans, like all frontier people, lived fortified up, in constant terror. Although the worst fighting with the Indians was in north central Texas, the Germans of the Hill Country experienced brutal fighting, too. In fact the country west of Fredericksburg was abandoned except for a few courageous people who were forced to move into stockades. Between 1865 and 1869, 163 white people were killed, forty-three kidnapped, and twenty-four wounded.

In war the Comanches appeared to be cruel and savage to the white man. Yet, in fairness to them, the Comanches knew nothing of the white man's code of war. They could not take prisoners because they had no prisons or even food to feed them. Therefore, the Indians usually killed the men, took the women when they could, and adopted children too young to run away.

Although the Comanches made peace with the Americans in 1867, they considered Texans a separate people. They had lived by raiding for generations, and they had never surrendered their claims to Comancheria. The effect of the peace treaty was to provide the Comanches a sanctuary from which to raid. According to Fehrenbach, "During these terrible years on the Comanche-Kiowa frontier, the two tribes killed more white people than any other Amerinds, a fact not generally known."

Since the army could or would not stop the Comanches and Kiowas, the Germans joined volunteer militia units. However, it was not the army, the Texas Rangers, or the Germans who drove the Comanches out. It was the buffalo hide hunters. By 1870 hunting of buffalo for hides had become a lucrative business. Although the buffalo was being exterminated, the Army and most whites approved, because without the buffalo, the Indians would be forced to go to a reservation. In June, 1875, Quanah Parker led the last of the Comanches to Fort Sill in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). The Comanches never returned to their hunting grounds in the Hill Country.

Long before the Comanches were ousted from the area the Germans had established themselves as the

dominant group in the Texas Hill Country. In fact for years all laws in the area were printed in both English and German. For years the Germans represented the area in the state Legislature and in the U.S. Congress. Germans also distinguished themselves in the military. Ironically, grandsons of German immigrants would help defeat the Fatherland in both World War I and II. Lt. Louis Jordan, an All-American football player at the University of Texas, was the first Texas officer killed in World War I. In World War II, General Walter Kruger of San Antonio and Admiral Chester Nimitz of Fredericksburg worked to defeat Germany and their Allies..

John Meusebach and the German settlers deserve recognition for their many achievements. Meusebach managed to find affordable land for the German settlers in the Hill Country. He made a remarkable treaty with the Comanches who occupied this land and kept the peace for ten years. The Germans put down deep roots in the Texas Hill Country and stayed on their lands in spite of Indian attacks, epidemics, and poor agricultural conditions. Their German heritage still flavors the food and speech of the region. The German influence is also seen in the area's German-style churches, Fachwerk buildings, and stone farmhouses. The settlers were bound together by their language, customs, and traditions which were taught in the schools and preached in their churches. Although the German Hill Country settlers resisted the melting pot, they contributed to the mosaic of America, retaining their language and customs, but melding into American life.

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Edna Cremwelge to Melissa Williams, April 20, 1992.

Charles Reinhardt to Melissa Williams, April 21, 1992.

David Kothe to Melissa Williams, August 18, 1992.

Tommy Reeh to Melissa Williams, August 19, 1992.

THE TREATY¹
 BETWEEN THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF THE
 GERMAN EMIGRATION-COMPANY

John O. Meusebach

For himself, his successors and constituents, for the benefit and in behalf of the German people living here and settling the country between the waters of the Llano and the San Saba of the one part and the Chiefs of the Comanche Nation

hereunto named and subscribed for themselves and their people of the other part, the following private treaty of peace and friendship has been entered into and agreed upon:

I, The German people and colonists for the Grant between the waters of the Llano and San Saba shall be allowed to visit any part of said country and be protected by the Comanche Nation and the Chiefs thereof, in consideration of which agreement the Comanches may likewise come to the German colonies, towns and settlements and shall have no cause to fear, but shall go wherever they please—if not counselled otherwise by the especial agent of our great father—and have protection, as long as they walk in the white path.

II, In regard to the settlement on the Llano the Comanches promise not to disturb or in any way molest the German colonists, on the contrary to assist them, also to give notice, if they see bad Indians about the settlement who come to steal horses from or in any way molest the Germans—the Germans likewise promising to aid the Comanches against their enemies, should they be in danger of having their horses stolen or in any way to be injured. And both parties agree, that if there be any difficulties or any wrong done by single bad men, to bring the same before the chiefs to be finally settled and decided by the agent of our great father.

III, The Comanches and their Chiefs grant to Mr. Meusebach, his successors and constituents the privilege of surveying the country as far as the Concho, and even higher up, if he thinks proper to the Colorado and agree not to disturb or molest any men, who may have already gone up or yet to be sent up for that purpose. In consideration of which agreement the Commissary General Mr Meusebach will give them presents to the amount of One Thousand Dollars, which with the necessary provisions to be given to the Comanches during their stay at Fredericksburgh will amount to about Two Thousand Dollars worth or more.

IV, And finally both parties agree mutually to use every exertion to keep up and even enforce peace and friendship between both the German and the Comanche people and all other colonists and to walk in the white path allways and for ever.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands, marks and seals.

Done at Fredericksburgh on the waters of the Rio Pierdenales this the ninth day of May AD 1847.

J. O. Meusebach	<u>War Chiefs of</u>	<u>War Chiefs of the Comanches</u>	
R. T. Neighbors,	<u>the Delaware's</u>	Santa Anna's	X mark
Spec. agt. U.S.	Jim Shaw's	Poch-An-Sanoch-Go's	X "
F. Shubbert	John Connor's	Moora-quitop	X "
v. Coll		Matasane	X "
John F. Torrey		To-shaw-wheneschke	X "
Felix A. von Blücher		Nokahwhek	X "

¹Text of English version. Original in Fürst zu Solms-Braunfels'sches Archiv in Braunfels, Lahn, Germany.

St. Joseph's Celebrates 125 Years in San Antonio

By Theresa Gold

In 1993 St. Joseph's Downtown Church celebrates its 125th anniversary in San Antonio. Much has been written about the founding of St. Joseph's and the appearance of the building itself, but this article will focus more on the people of St. Joseph's, the changes in the neighborhood, the various milestone celebrations, and perhaps some little-known events in the 125-year history of the church.

Founded in 1868, St. Joseph's was the center of worship for German immigrant Catholics of the entire city as the German "national" parish (until the founding of St. Henry's, also a German parish, in 1904). Located at 623 East Commerce Street, St. Joseph's was originally surrounded by German businesses and residences. But, the city grew and later generations moved into more modern homes in newer additions, causing a decline in the German population close to downtown San Antonio. Although some of the parishioners still traveled to the downtown church where traditions of their German heritage remained, anti-German hysteria of the World War I period brought a particularly "cruel kind of crisis to the German-Americans Catholics who had helped settle and build up...St. Joseph's and the city of San Antonio." Parishioners who feared for their safety shunned the traditional German church and began attending services at the newer churches in the outlying areas.

Although the parish's 25th anniversary in 1895 was celebrated amid "joy, jubilation and felicitation," the parish's 50th anniversary fell in 1918, not an auspicious time for public celebration of anything to do with German heritage. The then-pastor, the Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Schnetzer, planned only a high Mass, but no public ceremonies, so attention would not be drawn to the German church. As elsewhere, the years of the Great Depression were times of distress. One of the responses at St. Joseph's was the establishment of the St. Joseph's Credit Union, one of the first of its kind in Texas. By 1941, the parish had dwindled to only a small number of faithful members. Pastor Schnetzer attributed the loss of members to the creation of new parishes in newer areas of the city located conveniently to the newer residential areas. By then, the German language had given way to English.

St. Joseph's 75th anniversary fell in 1943, again a time of war, so again only a low-key

celebration was held, although it was reported that "there was no sentiment whatever against the few remaining parishioners who spoke German."

In the meantime, the two St. Joseph's schools, the College and the Academy, had been closed with the sale of the properties to Joske Bros., the department store that had been St. Joseph's neighbor for many years. In 1945, Joske's made a bid for the church and rectory property, but at a meeting of parishioners an unanimous resolution was adopted recognizing the historic value of the 80-year-old edifice and opposing the sale of the property. Eventually, Joske's was to encircle the church and rectory on three sides, the source of the nickname "St. Joske's." Ironically, St. Joseph's outlasted Joske's; the store was sold and now bears the name Dillard's.

In 1947, all "national parishes" in San Antonio were abolished; all these parishes, formerly without territorial boundaries, were given geographic territories rather than all-encompassing ethnic memberships. As a result, some 300 Mexican-American and another 300 African-American families became members of St. Joseph's for the first time as they were residents of the neighborhoods assigned to St. Joseph's territory. (Located nearby on South Street was St. Michael's, the Polish national parish, which also became a territorial parish with a makeup similar to St. Joseph's. St. Michael's was razed for HemisFair construction and rebuilt at another location.) Yet, by a special arrangement, long-time German members of the congregation could retain membership at St. Joseph's even if their actual residence was in another parish. Thus it is that descendants of the "old St. Joseph's families" continue to support the church in its efforts to preserve its German history and heritage. In particular, the San Antonio Liederkranz, founded as St. Joseph's men's choir in 1892, fosters a strong German heritage through music.

The celebration of St. Joseph's centennial in 1968 coincided with San Antonio's World's Fair, HemisFair '68. Removal of structures and relocation of families to construct the fair grounds meant a further erosion in the number of St. Joseph's parishioners. But, 1968 was a time of celebration--the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Joseph's as well as the 250th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio itself. HemisFair, located across Commerce Street, brought millions of

St. Joseph's 125th Anniversary, continued

visitors, and many of them also visited the quaint little German church--as have thousands of tourists each year since. Whereas the 50th and 75th anniversary celebrations had been subdued, the centennial was celebrated "with pomp, splendor and thanksgiving," including a solemn Pontifical High Mass with sermons in both German and English and a gala banquet at the nearby Menger Hotel, another San Antonio institution founded by German settlers in the nineteenth century. The festivities had been planned by a committee representing the Mexican-American, African-American, and German-American families of the parish. At that time, the 100-year history of the parish was written by Ray Neumann and published as a 92-page book, "A Centennial History of St. Joseph's Church and Parish, 1868 to 1958."

Now it is time to celebrate again. In recognition of the German founders and the continuing interest and support of San Antonio's German Catholics for St. Joseph's and of the parish's current ethnic makeup, a year-long celebration is planned in 1993 with four Eucharistic celebrations (Masses) and receptions. On March 21, the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Joseph (March 19), the entire parish hosted the first celebration with a social on the church parking lot. On May 2, the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Joseph the Worker (May 1), the German community of St. Joseph's organized the now-traditional Mass in German, with GTHS member the Rev. Charles Neumann, S.M., presiding. A dinner followed at St. Joseph's Society's hall. The San Antonio Liederkrantz provided the music for these first two celebrations. Later in 1993 will be the celebration sponsored by African-American community of St. Joseph's on Sept. 12 and then the celebration by the Spanish-speaking community of St. Joseph's on Dec. 5. These four celebrations are representative of not only St. Joseph's history but also the reality of the inner-city parish of today's San Antonio, for generations the destination of immigrants and their families and today the destination of tourists and conventioners.

Sources: Ray Neumann's "A Centennial History of St. Joseph's Church and Parish, 1868 to 1958" (particularly the quotations), Theresa Gold's paper, "Before HemisFair: A Study in Neighborhood Change," and information furnished for St. Joseph's 125th anniversary celebration.

Wittenberg, a Key City in the History of the Reformation, Celebrates Its 700th Birthday

Dresden Frauenkirche Cross Found

In the course of clearing the rubble of the Dresden (Saxony) Frauenkirche, which was destroyed in a carpet-bombing raid during the night of February 13-14, 1945, workers were surprised recently to find the gold-plated cross that once adorned the cathedral, according to a statement by the Frauenkirche Foundation. Work on the huge 20,500 cubic meter (about 723,951 cubic foot) mountain of rubble that remains of the Frauenkirche, which was built between 1726 and 1743, began in February of this year. Now, the companies involved in the clean-up are hoping to find the golden sphere, once beneath the cross; the sphere is presumed to contain old historic materials and documents.

The eastern German city of Wittenberg (Saxony-Anhalt) began a week of festivities on Monday (June 21) in honor of its 700th anniversary. The lead-in to the celebration was a two-day colloquium on the history of the city; researchers from all over Germany presented their findings in lectures and working groups. On Sunday, the Protestant Academy of Saxony-Anhalt held an international symposium on "One World, One Human Race, One Ethos."

Wittenberg, whose population today numbers 55,000, is considered the place of origin of the Reformation in Germany. The theologian and university teacher Martin Luther (1483-1546) is said to have composed his "Ninety-five Theses" in the town, in response to Johannes Tetzel (1465-1519), who allowed people to buy their freedom from sin. Luther, who taught at Lucoera University in the town, nailed his theses to the door of the castle church as an "Invitation to Dispute." Under the leadership of Martin Luther and his friend and adherent Philipp Melancthon, Lucoera University, founded in 1502, became well-known throughout Europe for its spirit of enlightenment.

The one-week program includes concerts, theatrical performances, exhibits and festivals; participating artists come from throughout Germany. In addition to the castle church, other Wittenberg attractions include the Cranach courts, despite their current state of disrepair. The Cranach courts are considered a historical symbol of the work of Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), who, through his close friendship with Luther and Melancthon, was one of the initiators of a Protestant-influenced art movement. Another of the city's attractions is Luther Hall, once the domicile of the Reformation leader, now the largest museum of the history of the Reformation in the world. ■

Source: The Week in Germany,
June 11, 1993

TG.

Ever wonder why Cunegund or Cunnegunda is such a popular name for German girls? or about the origin of the name? or who Cunegund was anyway? Here is the story of St. Cunegund, from East Texas Catholic, (Beaumont), 11 June 1993.

Cunegund: Empress, nun, saint

Story Hour

Janaan Manternach

Catholic News Service

Cunegund was the daughter of one of Luxembourg's leading couples. Her father, Count Siegfried, and her mother, Countess Hedwig, tried to live according to Jesus' example.

They shared their faith with their daughter. Because of their position, they were able to find for Cunegund a fine husband, Duke Henry of Bavaria. He was a man of deep faith and goodness, and was a born leader.

Henry and Cunegund loved each other. Their one sadness was that they were unable to have children.

When the emperor, Otto III, died, Henry was elected to succeed him. Henry was crowned king of the Romans in Mainz, and Cunegund was crowned queen two months later. Soon afterward Pope Benedict VIII crowned them emperor and empress in 1014 A.D.

Cunegund assisted her husband, now Emperor Henry II, in ruling the empire. He listened to her advice and trusted her good sense and wisdom. When Henry had to be away on official business, Empress Cunegund governed the empire.

She had a particular concern for the religious and spiritual life of the people. She encouraged her husband to build a cathedral and a monastery in the new diocese of Bamberg in Germany. She actually gave much of her own inheritance to set up the diocese and its ministries.

The pope himself came to consecrate the cathedral when it was com-

pleted. Empress Cunegund used her powers of persuasion with him to win many privileges for the people of Bamberg.

At one point the empress became very sick. She and everyone else feared she would die. Cunegund begged God to help her get well. She promised God she would have a convent built at Kaufungen, near Cassel, if she recovered.

She did recover and quickly set about keeping her promise. The convent was almost finished when her husband died suddenly in 1024.

On the first anniversary of his death Empress Cunegund arranged for the consecration of the convent church. During the ceremony she surprised everyone.

After the Gospel was sung, she walked up to the altar and placed on it

what she believed was a piece of the cross on which Jesus died. She then removed her crown and royal robe. Benedictine nuns clothed her in the habit of their community.

From then on she lived as a nun in the convent she had built as empress. She wanted no special treatment but spent her days praying, reading and working with the other nuns. She had a special care for the sick and a gift for comforting them. She devoted much of her time and energy to visiting the sick.

Cunegund died in 1033 and was buried beside her husband in the Bamberg cathedral which they built as emperor and empress. Cunegund was canonized in 1200, about 50 years after the canonization of her husband, St. Henry. She is a patron of Luxembourg and Lithuania.

Walpurgisnacht '93: High-Spirited Celebrations In the Harz Mountains

Decked out in witch and devil costumes, approximately 30,000 people converged on the legendary Harz mountain region, which straddles Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, for the celebration of *Walpurgisnacht* on Friday (April 30). Folk legend has it that on this night the evil spirits of winter must be driven out before the first cock crows; the area is then handed over to the Queen of May. According to a brochure issued by the Schierke (Saxony-Anhalt) spa administration, St. Walburga was a missionary who worked in Heidenheim (Baden-Württemberg) during the eighth century. Coincidentally, her feast day is May 1; since she shunned witchcraft and evil spirits, she became the patron saint of such dangers. Special trains brought some 6,000 visitors

who joined the 1,000 year-round residents of Schierke, the town closest to the Brocken peak, elevation 1,142 meters (about 3,746 feet), and wandering minstrel bands for the celebration; altogether, some 20 villages and towns took part.

Thale (Saxony-Anhalt), which is rumored to be the witches' dancing spot, had about 12,000 visitors. About the same number celebrated *Walpurgisnacht* on the Lower Saxony side, in the towns of Bad Grund and St. Andreasburg. Bad Grund produced its own play for the festivities, in which 70 actors told the 450-year history of the town. Around midnight, the devils and witches danced around a bonfire as they recited tales of the painful witch burnings of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. ■

The Week in Germany—May 7, 1993

German Chorus Tours Texas

In March 1993, a group of 56 persons representing the MGV (Männer Gesang Verein) Sangeslust from Datteln-Meckinghoven in North Rhine-Westphalia included several Texas stops on their four-week tour of the U.S. The tour group included 27 male singers, their wives and friends.

After arrival at Dallas, the group visited with Heinz and Ursula Bromme at Elkhart and also at Palestine, Athens, and Tyler. The Brommes are former residents of Meckinghoven who now live at Elkhart, Texas; Heinz is a former member of MGV Sangeslust and arranged the Texas portion of their trip.

By special request of the singers, they visited in Westphalia, Texas, where GTHS member Doris Voltin arranged housing in private homes and a performance in the parish hall. The visitors also enjoyed a tour of Fort Hood before traveling down I-35 towards San Antonio with a stop at the state capitol in Austin.

In San Antonio, arrangements for housing in private homes were made by GTHS member Theresa Gold (many of the hosts were GTHS members!), with members of the San Antonio Liederkrantz organizing arrangements for a concert and reception at St. Joseph's Church. Each chorus presented musical selections, and then the two groups sang together. Ingrid Kokinda, along with Ingaborg Buech, also GTHS members, guided the visitors on a tour of San Antonio to introduce them to such popular attractions as the Alamo, the Riverwalk, La Villita, San Jose Mission, Institute of Texan Cultures, the Mexican Market--plus the Stockyards.

After a day and night at a dude ranch in Bandera, the visitors arrived in Corpus Christi, where they presented a concert at Del Mar

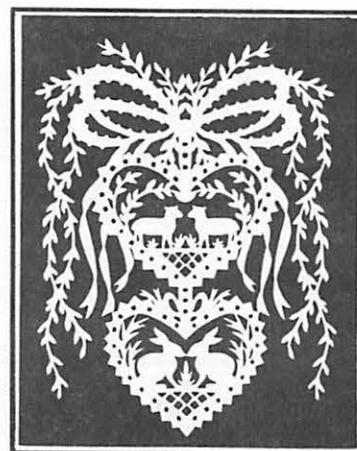
College and were the guests of the German Society of the Coastal Bend for a social evening. Then it was on to Houston for an tour and an overnight stay.

The remainder of their tour took them to Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Tallahassee, Orlando, Key West and Miami.

The MGV Sangeslust was founded in 1950. In four previous North American tours, the group performed in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Canada and Mexico. This was the group's first Texas tour, and it was proclaimed a success, due to the leadership and cooperation of GTHS members!

Also of interest is the location of the towns of Datteln and Meckinghoven, very near the town of Olfen, which was the ancestral hometown of the Hoelschers and Buxkemper. So, many descendants of the Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family participated in the arrangements. In fact, one of the singers lives in Olfen and he brought greetings and gifts from the mayor of Olfen--in addition to the greetings and gifts from the mayor of Datteln.

From: Theresa Gold, San Antonio



Scherenschnitte

The delightful art of papercutting! An affordable, fascinating hobby for everyone from 8 to 80. This firm specializes in an extensive line of papercutting patterns, books, hard-to-find paper, scissors and supplies, whatever you need to create "heirloom" gifts and decorations. "Double Heart" pattern shown. Catalog \$2.25. Papercuttings by Alison, 404 Partridge Circle, Dept. 7-GS, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Saving Brandenburg's Noble Residences from Destruction

The Week in Germany—May 21, 1993

Several groups, both public and private, plan to combine efforts to tackle a large problem in Brandenburg: the renovation of many castles and mansions there that have fallen into disrepair. According to Wolfgang Illert, of the German Foundation for Landmarks Preservation, conditions at the castles range from "bad to catastrophic"; he estimates that full restoration will run into "hundreds of millions of marks."

Restoration of the buildings will be a task "for generations to come," according to Andreas Apelt, a member of the German Society, a group of politicians, artists and scientists from eastern and western Germany. Headed by the eastern German Angela Merkel, who is the Federal Minister for Women and Youth and the deputy chairperson of the Christian Democratic Union, and her Social Democratic colleague, Deputy Chair-

person Wolfgang Thierse, the group has so far made cooperative arrangements with 17 castles and mansions. One of these is Badingen castle, which dates from the thirteenth century and is located in the town of the same name. At Badingen castle, the plaster is peeling, the roof is collapsing and the garden is a tangle of weeds. The German Society hopes to begin step-by-step renovations there within this year. They have scheduled a benefit concert at the castle on Sunday (May 23) to help raise the DM 200,000 (about U.S.\$125,000) to fix the roof. When renovations are complete, Badingen will serve as a hostel for travelers who want to experience the castle as it was several hundred years ago.

Gert Streidt from the Foundation for Castles and Gardens, said that the largest repairs would be made by the year 2000. His organization is

responsible for the maintenance of several mansions and erstwhile noble residences, including Sanssouci in Potsdam and the castle in Rheinsberg; Caputh, Paretz and Königs Wusterhausen will soon be under its auspices as well. Such state-owned buildings are in relatively good financial shape — the foundation has a building fund of some DM 26 million (about U.S.\$ 16 million) for repairs and renovations for this year alone. The state of Brandenburg recently established a non-profit company, of which Illert is managing director, to disburse the DM 10 million (about U.S.\$6.25 million) that have been earmarked for the purpose of renovating other noble residences. Two or three mansions will be worked on initially; Illert hopes to draw individual donations to supplement the state funding. Ideally, he says, the company would take over a building at no cost, renovate it and then lease it out on a long-term basis. The communities and districts under whose jurisdiction the castles currently fall are, according to Illert, "already overwhelmed" with maintenance alone; they cannot begin to afford renovation. He suggests that once restored, the buildings could serve as guest houses, training centers, research institutes, hotels or inns. Illert suggested that their future use was less important than the preservation of their integrity as monuments. Among the requirements lessees must fulfill is that the parks surrounding these residences be open and available to the public. ■

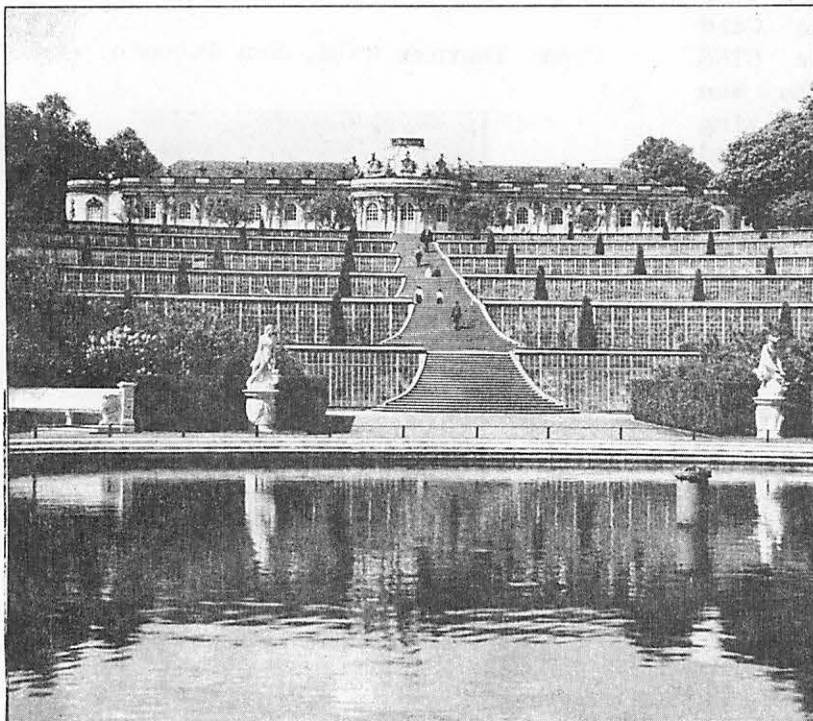
One Man's Wall Is Another Man's ...

If former President George Bush should decide to build a wall around his new domicile in Texas, he will be able to save on expensive building materials, courtesy of the city of Berlin. As a "token of the gratitude of the Berliners for decade-long support by the American people," the city has presented the former president with a segment of the former Berlin Wall. It was during Bush's presidency that "the dream of a united Berlin and a

united Germany was fulfilled," said a city official at the presentation ceremony on Wednesday (April 21) in Texas. Actually, Bush has already decided what to do with the segment: it will grace the campus of Texas A&M University, in front of the site of the future George Bush Presidential Library. ■

The Week in Germany—April 23, 1993

VG



The Week in Germany—May 28, 1993

During the summer and fall, Potsdam, the capital of the eastern state of Brandenburg, will be marking its 1,000th anniversary. The festivals and athletic and music events will culminate with a grand finale on October 3, the anniversary of German unification. Potsdam's most popular attraction is the Sanssouci summer palace, which was commissioned and built between 1745 and 1747 by Frederick the Great, who ruled from 1740-1786. The Rococo construction lies in a 725-acre park and houses a large sculpture and art collection. Sanssouci and its environs are included in UNESCO's World Heritage List of sites and monuments. Our photograph shows a front view of Sanssouci, surrounded by its vineyard terraces.

Looking for ancestors in North Rhine-Westphalia?

(GTHS member Wilhelm Niermann, Stemwede, Germany, shares the following information for the benefit of family researchers. A translation of his letter follows.)

.....Reading the Journal I notice that many times help is requested in locating ancestors who emigrated from the North Rhine-Westphalia region. So far I simply forwarded such request to our church office. However, with the assistance of a friend, who works for the local municipality, I established that starting in 1853 emigrant names were recorded. [See sample page.] Today this allows for a quick search. In 1873 such records became compulsory.

The municipality of Dielingen has two such volumes, the first one lists emigrants from the parish of Dielingen which includes the communities of Drohne, Dielingen, Haldem and Arrenkamp; the second volume covers the parish of Wehdem which includes the communities of Westrup, Wehdem, Oppendorf and Oppenwehe.

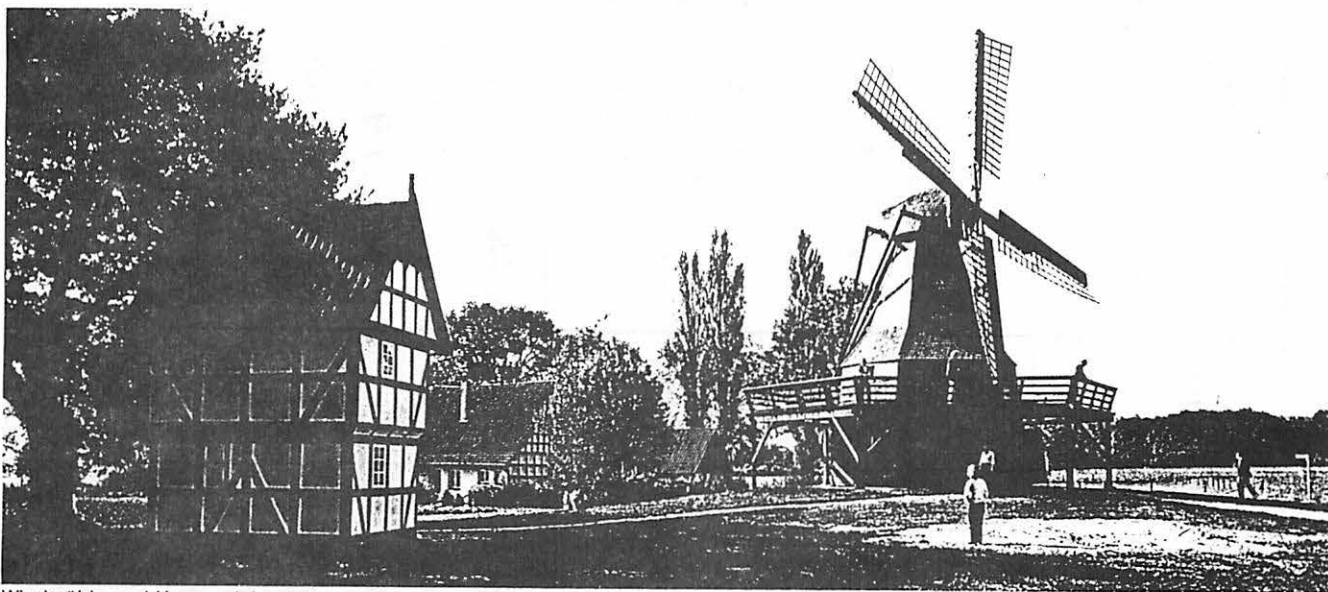
There are also emigrants records for the parish of Levern. They are part of the archives of the community of Stemwede and located in the municipality of Levern. These records pertain to the communities of Destel, Levern, Sudern, Twiehausen and Niedermehnen (formerly Mehnen).

The extent of emigration from this part of North Rhine-Westphalia was unknown to me but with each search for dates I learn more and locate more resources.

The municipality of Stemwede formerly comprised 13 villages. They were consolidated into a "super" municipality (district) in 1973. I include a map of the district. The broken black line indicates the Stemwede district boundaries. Stemwede is located in the northern most part of North Rhine-Westphalia but the communities of Lemförde and Brockum belong to the state of Lower Saxony.

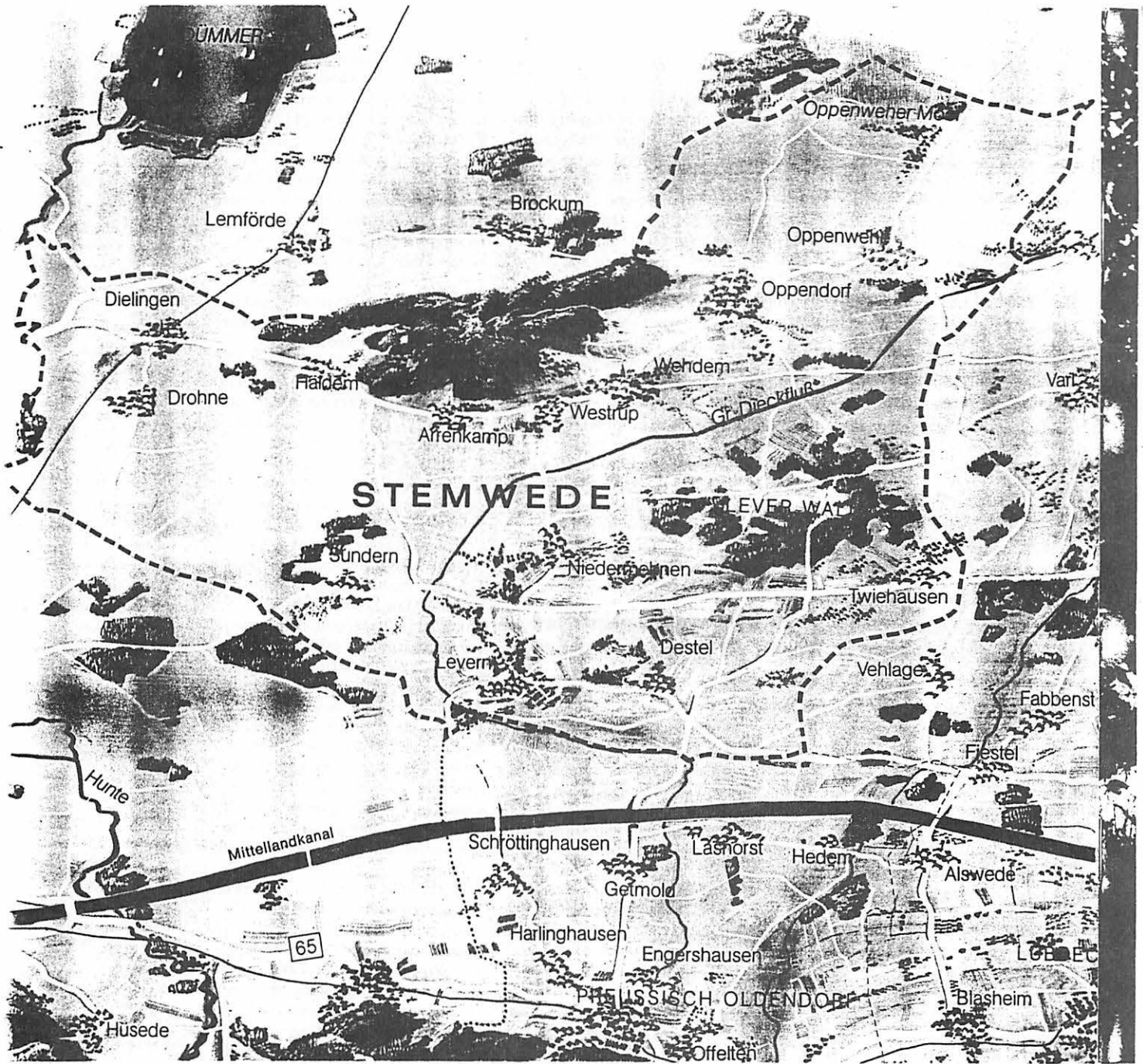
Wilhelm Niermann
Wehdem 113
4995 Stemwede 3

(NOTE: As of July 1, 1993, the four-digit zip code was replaced by a five-digit zip code. Translator and editor.)



Windmühle und Kornspeicher in Levern

Eintrags-Nr.	Zu- und Vornamen.	Stand.	Geburts-		Wohnort.	Datum der Entlassungs-Urkunde.		Datum der Ausbürgerung.		Die Ausbürgerung ist erfolgt nach:	Bemerkungen.
			Ort	Tag Monat Jahr		Tag Monat Jahr	Tag Monat Jahr				
1	1853 Haber, Gustav Heinrich Wilhelm			26 Juni 1836	Milchbrenn	18 August 1853	1854		Amerikaner		
2	1854 Wille, Ferdinand August			30 April 1839	Herrndorf	8 August 1854	1854	11 August 1854			
3	1855 Haber, August Wilhelm	Quereinling		14 Juli 1828	Herrndorf						
4	Haber, Jakob Friedrich Wilhelm	Offenburger		1 Juni 1829	Herrndorf			13 August 1855			
5	Haber, August Wilhelm	Herrndorf		8 Juli 1837	Herrndorf			6 August 1855			Einbürgerung 1857 aufgeführt
6	Haber, August Wilhelm			10 Februar 1836	Milchbrenn						
7	Haber, August Wilhelm			20 November 1838	Herrndorf			11 April 1856			
8	Haber, August Wilhelm			4 April 1841	Herrndorf						
9	Winkler, Jakob Wilhelm			24 April 1838	Herrndorf			8 Juli 1856			
10	Haber, August Wilhelm			24 April 1837	Herrndorf			24 Juli 1856			
11	Haber, August Wilhelm			19 Januar 1839	Herrndorf			18 August 1856			
12	Haber, August Wilhelm			29 Juni 1841	Herrndorf			17 April 1856			
13	Haber, August Wilhelm			13 November 1836	Herrndorf						
14	1857 Haber, August Wilhelm			10 April 1849	Herrndorf						



Spelling Rite Is the Best Revenge: Orthographers 'Adapt German to the Present'

The members of an international working group of orthographers, the *Internationaler Arbeitskreis für Orthographie*, last year developed suggestions for simplifying the rules of spelling of the German language and put them into a 218-page report. According to one of the members, Professor Dieter Nerius of the University of Rostock (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), the group was motivated by the desire to "adapt German orthography, which has existed since 1901 and has become ever more voluminous and complicated in the intervening years through the introduction of additional regulations, to the requirements of the present." Nerius maintained that "things are not as they should be" regarding Germans' command of their own language: adults as well as students frequently made errors. While some people were reluctant to write for fear of making mistakes, others no longer notice what they do wrong, according to Nerius.

The group's suggestions have been under consideration by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (*Kultusministerkonferenz*) since the beginning of 1993. In their search for a "clear, easily-understood and easily-used set of rules," the orthographers have made suggestions in six areas: a closer alignment of sounds and letters, as well as clearer spelling rules for foreign loan words; word division; simple and compound words; use of dashes; word division; and upper and lower case letters. The specific suggestions include the proposal to change the spelling of the conjunction *daß* to *das*, making it indistinguishable from the neuter definite article. The change is based upon the observation, say members of the *Arbeitskreis*, that more mistakes are made with this harmless-looking little word than with any other. The group would end the practice of capitalizing all nouns; only

proper names and words at the beginning of sentences should be capitalized, they say. Also, words with the same pronunciation would be orthographically identical; thus, *rauh* (raw, rough) would be spelled as *Frau* and *lau* (lukewarm or mild). Foreign words would receive a more "German" spelling; in future then, Germans would eat *Oberginen* instead of the French *Auberginen* (eggplant) at a *restaurant* instead of a *Restauran*t. Rules of division would change as well, allowing *o-der* (current rules call for avoiding any division in which a letter stands alone), *ei-nder*, and *vol-lenden* (the current divisions are *ein-ander* and *voll-enden*). Foreign words that have become part of the vernacular — skateboard, for example — would be divided according to the rules of the original language or according to the rules of German, as the user desires.

Not everybody is pleased. According to a joint statement by several German scientific academies late last week in Mainz (Rhineland-Palatinate), the recommendations of the international working group pose a "danger to the German language." The academies, which are located in Mainz, Munich, Heidelberg (Baden-Württemberg), Göttingen (Lower Saxony) and Düsseldorf (North Rhine-Westphalia), stressed that the new rules "hardly" made writing easier, made reading more difficult and "severely hampered" access to the written and published "cultural tradition."

At the same time, the members of the academies said that Duden, the eponymous and definitive dictionary and grammar and spelling handbook first written by Karl Duden in 1880, has become swollen with "more rules than are sensible or necessary." They also said that the working group's suggestions for punctuation, word division and words that should be written together or apart were "useful." However, the other changes "are not justified, neither by inconsistencies in the standing rules, nor by the supposed greater ease in learning" according to the academy statement. ■

Many Lands, One Tongue

English is the most widely-spoken language in the world today: about 350 million people are native speakers, while some 1.4 billion speak it as a second or third language. In western Europe, however, German has the upper hand. In addition to the 80 million Germans, German is spoken in Austria, and in parts of Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. People who speak or understand German also live in southern Denmark and the Alsace region of France, and there are enclaves of ethnic Germans in several countries of eastern Europe. In those countries in particular, interest in German has increased in recent years, according to the Deutsche Welle, whose broadcasts include language courses. The number of German students in the countries that make up the former Soviet Union has increased from nine million in 1983 to twelve million in 1990, according to the German Press Agency.

VG.

'Wi snackt platt': Low German Enjoys High Popularity

Most Germans speak both high German (*Hochdeutsch*) and the regional variety. In northern Germany, low or platt German, is apparently gaining in popularity. "We've been experiencing a renaissance of low German over the last 15 years," said Claus Schuppenhauer of the Institute for Low German in Bremen, speaking at a festival honoring writer Fritz Reuter (1810-1874) in Lübeck-Travemünde (Schleswig-Holstein) on Sunday (March 21). According to Schuppenhauer, some 20 million people speak and/or understand low "platt" German in the Federal Republic. At first, this trend was only noticeable in western Germany, but in the last years of the German Democratic Republic, low German also became more prevalent there. From the Baltic island of Usedom (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) to the North Sea coast, more and more people speak "platt."

When Lübeck became the headquarters of the Hanseatic League in the late thirteenth century, platt Ger-

man was used in the entire area of operations, from Novgorod (Russia) to London, England. Contracts within the Hanseatic system were often drawn up in "Lübsch," or Lübeckian German. Platt German, which did not undergo the consonant shift that high German did, was considered an "obstacle on the path to finer education" in the early part of this century, as were all dialects. Today, however, one can find radio and television broadcasters, songwriters and literary artists, publishers and culture agencies across Germany who incorporate their respective dialects into their work.

Platt-speakers have reached the highest ranks of German government. The chairperson of the Social Democrats and Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, Björn Engholm, who hails from Lübeck, is fond of saying that "*wat mutt, dat mutt*" (what must be, must be), a phrase that no longer needs explanation, no matter what part of Germany one is from. ■

1 in 7 use a foreign language at home

By Charles Green
Knight-Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Nearly 32 million Americans are using English as a second language or not at all, a jump of more than a third from 1980, a Census Bureau report said Tuesday.

The trend reflects the rise of immigration to the United States. Immigrants from Latin America, Asia and other regions are speak-

ing in their native tongues at home — most by choice, but some because they cannot speak English.

The Census Bureau report indicates that one in seven U.S. residents, 14 percent, spoke a language other than English at home in 1990, up from 11 percent in 1980.

The incidence of people speaking a language other than English at home varies nationwide. In 21 states, the proportion of people who didn't speak English at home was 6 percent or less.

But in New Mexico, 36 percent

of state residents spoke a language other than English at home, followed by California (32 percent), Texas and Hawaii (25 percent) and New York (23 percent).

In 39 states, including Texas, Spanish was the most prevalent language other than English.

Spanish was spoken by more than half of the 31.8 million U.S. residents who didn't routinely converse in English. The next most common languages were French, German, Italian, Chinese and Tagalog, a language of the Philippines.

4 million Texans speak foreign language

In Texas, nearly 4 million people speak a language other than English, a 39.7 percent increase since the 1980 census.

Whether the United States is experiencing anything different from previous waves of immigration in the 1800s and 1900s is unclear. Before 1980, the Census Bureau did not ask people what language they spoke at home, said bureau analyst Rosalind Bruno.

Demographer Jeffrey Passel of the Urban Institute, a research institute in Washington, said he sees no evidence that recent immigrants from Latin America and Asia are any less inclined to learn and use English than were earlier immigrants from Europe.

"The majority of immigrants entering the United States do seem to speak English, and with more time and education in the United States, the others eventually learn it," Passel said. "People who speak English earn more than people who don't. That information is fairly well-known among immigrants."

According to the census report, 79 percent of the people who spoke

a language other than English at home said they could speak English "very well" or "well."

"I don't think there's any community that thinks we don't need to learn English," said Sonia Perez, a policy analyst with the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic organization.

A 1992 poll, the Latino National Political Survey, found that more than 90 percent of Hispanics agreed that U.S. residents should learn English.

But Cessna Winslow, spokeswoman for the Washington-based advocacy group U.S. English, questioned whether the government's use of multilingual election ballots, welfare applications and other forms sends signals to immigrants that it is not necessary to learn English. The group wants the federal government to conduct its official business in English only.

"We can be from any country. We can be of any color, but if we can't speak the same language, we can't communicate," Winslow said. "We need a common language."

Unquestionably, the rise in immigration — immigrants account-

ed for 37 percent of the country's growth in the 1980s — has produced language-related strains, most notably in school districts struggling to teach children English.

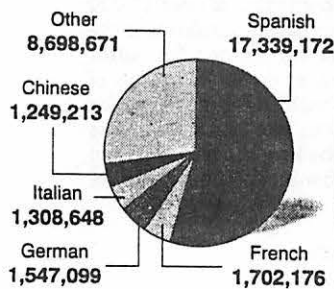
"It's just a tremendous impact on the educational system," said Jim Lyons, executive director of the National Association for Bilingual Education. "The gaps are probably greater than ever before."

In Austin, during the 1991-92 school year, about 6,500 of 68,000 students in public schools — nearly 10 percent — were classified as "limited English proficient," with most of them speaking Spanish. Figures for this year were not available.

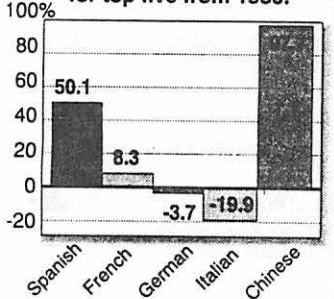
"There's no question that providing education to limited English proficient students strains our resources," said Jeff Prescott, spokesman for the Austin Independent School District. "But it's also very important to provide that education. It's something we think we have to provide if we are going to make all of our students successful, which is our mission."

Staff writer Tim Lott contributed to this report.

Non-English languages spoken in U.S.



Percentage change for top five from 1980:

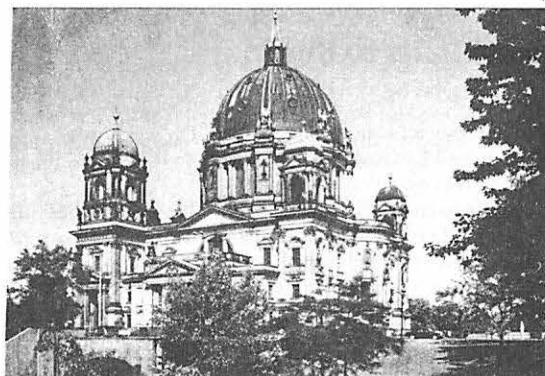


Source: 1990 census

AP

Berlin Cathedral Dedicated Anew

The Week in Germany—June 11, 1993



A festive service on Sunday (June 6) in the Berlin Cathedral in eastern Berlin (see photo below), attended by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, marked the conclusion of twenty years of reconstruction and the rededication of the church. The history of the Berlin Cathedral, once the court church of the Hohenzollern royal family, dates back to 1536. Friedrich the Great ordered the original building torn down and rebuilt in 1747 on a different site. This building was also torn down in 1893; the present structure arose in 1905.

In addition to the chancellor, prominent attendees at the ceremony

included Prince Louis Ferdinand and other members of the Hohenzollern nobility. Many members of the Hohenzollern dynasty lie in the tomb beneath the church. Among the other participants were Martin Kruse, the Protestant bishop of Berlin, and Cardinal Georg Sterzinsky, the Catholic bishop of that city, as well as Peter Beier, the head of the synod of the Protestant Church of the Union (EKU). The expenses of the reconstruction of the "Emperor Cathedral" (*Kaiserdom*), which is under the auspices of the EKU, were estimated at DM 100 million (about U.S.\$ 61 million).

Germany Program Schedule

ELDERHOSTEL

75 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110

†Gateway City: New York (NY)

This Catalog:
International Winter 1994

Bremen-Bremerhaven: Gateway of Emigration from Europe to America

If your roots can be traced back to Europe and your ancestors left the continent in the mid-1800s or later, it is more than likely that they set sail from Bremerhaven. Since 1827, almost seven million people, mainly from Eastern Europe, have left the continent from Bremerhaven to start a new life on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Originally, Bremerhaven was just the harbor of the Hanseatic town of Bremen. Over the years, however, it has grown into a city in its own right. It is still a major European port city. The program will trace the development of Bremen and Bremerhaven from historic, architectural, economic and cultural perspectives. The program will focus on the history of Bremerhaven and its central role in the emigration of Europeans to America from the mid-1800s; the Middle Ages and the formation of the Hanseatic League; and the architectural history of Bremen with its Market Square, Town Hall and Schutting (or Merchants' Hall). Bremen is first and foremost a trading city and the development of commerce—from shipping to space technology—will be discussed. For a change of pace, you will visit the "Devil's Moor" region on the outskirts of town and learn about the famous artists associated with the village of Worpswede. Field trips in Bremerhaven will include the shipping museum and Emigration House, the old city of Bremen, the Center for Space Technology, the Beck's brewery and the village of Worpswede with its numerous galleries.

Telephone Registration:

(617) 426-8056

9 am to 9 pm eastern time

Monday thru Friday (major holidays excluded)



- Deposits for phone registrations must be made by VISA or MasterCard.
- Only deposits may be charged to your credit card, not the full program cost. All subsequent payments must be made by check or money order.
- Use the registration form as a guide when you call in your registration. You will need to have all personal data (such as social security number) for all persons being registered. If you register by telephone, it is not necessary to mail in a registration form.
- We will mail a confirmation of your telephone registration soon after you call.

Riding the (Intercity Express) Rails to Berlin

For the first time in fifty years, Germany's capital city of Berlin is fully integrated, with modern trains, into the European railroad network. With the introduction of the new summer timetable on Sunday (May 23), 150 Intercity and Eurocity trains provide improved connections between Berlin and other major European cities, including the eastern European cities of Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw and Budapest. Also for the first time since the Second World War, trains travel directly from Berlin to Königsberg (today Kaliningrad in the

former Soviet Union); the first 'Bernstein Express' reached the once-East Prussian city on Saturday, after repairs to the tracks in the main train station. Travelers can now also reach Berlin with the high-speed Intercity Express (ICE), which, however, must reduce its speed on the older tracks in eastern Germany from 250 kilometers per hour (155 mph) to 160 kilometers per hour (100 mph) at most. ■

The Week in Germany—May 28, 1993

UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN

AT

Bremen, located near the northeast corner of the country, has a long history as a seaport town and a center of commerce. With a thousand-year history, Bremen has served as a link between Germany and the world. The nearby port of Bremerhaven, established in 1827, served as the demarkation point for hundreds of thousands of Europeans on their way to establish new lives in North America. The seaport is now the second largest in Germany. Bremen's marketplace and its world-famous wine cellar bring to life images of days gone by. In stark contrast, the city, with a population of 500,000, is a major center of space technology. The University of Bremen, founded in 1971, has a student population of over 11,000 and is housed on a modern campus on the outskirts of the city. The university is proud of its Center for Adult Education, which is one of the most developed in all of Europe. Adjoining the academic buildings is a Center for Space Technology, which you will visit as part of the program. Accommodations will be in a modest German hotel. All rooms have twin or double bed and private facilities.

No. Date Site Cost

All-Germany Programs

Refeatured Programs

80576-0911	Sep 11 thru Sep 26	Schiller International Paul Lobe Institute	\$3384
80577-1009	Oct 9 thru Oct 24	U. of Bremen Paul Lobe Institute	3297
80578-1023	Oct 23 thru Nov 14	U. of Bremen Schiller International Paul Lobe Institute	4506

New Programs

80661-0305	Mar 5 thru Mar 27	Schiller International U. of Bremen Paul Lobe Institute	\$4436
80662-0416	Apr 16 thru May 8	Schiller International U. of Bremen Paul Lobe Institute	4602

Shooters won 'booby prize'

Q. Where'd we get the expression "booby prize"?

A. From the German "Bubenpreis" meaning "boy's prize." Once given to young men allowed to compete with their elders in Bavarian shooting contests.

Bernard Scherrer History



Historical Marker Dedication

JC

The Fayette County Historical Commission dedicated the official Texas Historical Marker to the descendants of Bernard Scherrer at Henkel Square at Round Top Saturday. Marian Meinert Gindler, right, read the inscription after it was unveiled by Theresa Elaine Collins, front. Pictured on the porch were, left to right, Dorothy Albrecht, master of ceremonies Fayette County Historical Commission; Julia Meinert Collins, read the Bernard Scherrer history and Robert Collins, gave the invocation. The welcome was given by Round Top Mayor David Nagel and the benediction was given by Jack Gindler. The inscription reads, "Bernard Scherrer, 1807-1892, Bernard Scherrer left his native Switzerland at the age of 22 for extended travels before reaching Texas in 1833. After serving in Burleson's Regiment during the Texas Revolution, he received a land grant in Colorado County but settled in the Biegel Settlement (Fayette County) about 1838. Here he served as Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner and in 1845 he married Gesine Eliza Margarete Koch. He left his civic, farming and freighting duties to serve in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. This cabin, Scherrer's first residence in Texas was moved to this location in 1975." The Bernard Scherrer history is on page 14.

RECORD STAFF PHOTO

Bernard Scherrer, (1807-1892), an outstanding citizen of the Biegel Settlement, received his passport in St. Gallen, Switzerland. He was 22 years of age, brown hair, blue eyes, five feet eleven inches tall, and single. On the twenty-third day of November, 1829, he sailed from Harve, France, and landed in New York. From there he traveled to St. Louis and later down the Mississippi River to New Orleans where he met a German by the name of Detlef Dunt with whom he traveled by boat to Texas. They landed at Brazoria where Scherrer received a passport to travel to any point in the Republic without any annoyance or trouble. It was given to him by Henry Smith, Alcalde for the Mexican Government, on the twenty-ninth day of April in 1833. At this time he was 24 years old according to his passport.

Having received his passport, Scherrer separated from Dunt and headed toward San Felipe. Reaching San Felipe, after a long walk, he again met up with Dunt, his former companion. Together, they traveled to Industry, then called Mill Creek. Here they met Friedrich Ernst, the man who wrote a letter back to Germany enticing the people to leave their homeland for a new unsettled land. While staying with the Ernst family, Scherrer taught Ernst to capitalize on his tobacco crop by rolling cigars. Ernst then began the cigar business and at one time sold a bundle of one thousand cigars in San Felipe for twenty dollars.

Scherrer received a one-third league of land (Certificate No. 29) as a headrite in Colorado County at the headwaters of the San Bernard River about ten miles northeast of Colum-

bus. Joseph Biegel, an early German settler, had a land grant from the Mexican Government east of La Grange in Fayette County. He persuaded Scherrer to buy one-quarter of a league of land from him for five hundred dollars. Scherrer was a well-educated man and versatile as to trade and management. He was a farmer, and became a wagoner by trade. Biegel wanted him to settle in the Biegel Settlement so to haul products to and from Harrisburg and the port of Galveston with oxen and wagons. The land survey for the transaction was made on the fifth of December, 1838, but for some unknown reason the deed was not recorded until 1851.

A small log cabin, built by some early traveler, was on the property, so Scherrer lived in it until he built a larger home for his bride in the early forties. On February 6, 1845, Gesine

Eliza Margarete Koch and Bernard Scherrer were united in marriage by his friend, Friedrich Ernst, Justice of the Peace of Austin County, in Industry. Gesine was the daughter of H.G. and Margarete Koch (Cook), and was born in Oldenburg, Germany on the twenty-eighth of October in 1827. Scherrer took his bride on horseback from Industry to his home in the Biegel Settlement.

To this union was born seven children, two boys and five girls. One boy, Heinrich, died at an early age. The other children were: Caroline Scherrer Knolle, Mary Scherrer Knolle, Emelia Scherrer Gehrels, Julia Scherrer Meinert, Anna Scherrer, and August Scherrer. When the children reached school age, Scherrer had a schoolhouse built on his property for his and neighboring children.

Scherrer served in Captain York's volunteer unit in Ed Burleson's regiment during the Texas Revolution. After the revolution, the government of the Republic of Texas was formed. Sam Houston, then elected president, appointed Bernard Scherrer as one of the Justices of the Peace of Fayette County on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1838. Scherrer was also one of the Commissioners of Fayette County when the organization took place. Scherrer, by this time, had acquired land and had become a leading citizen of not only the Biegel Settlement but of Fayette County also. In 1840, he owned fifteen head of cattle and registered his cattle brand in the Courthouse of La Grange.

As Commissioner in the county, he had charge of the roads and bridges from Biegel to Rutersville. Also, while he was in this capacity, there was a problem that came up which was called the "Cow Order." It stated that unmarked and unbranded cattle be branded in the presence of two witnesses, and that half the proceeds be turned over to the county for destitute families of soldiers. But the Grand Jury did not hold this industry legal, therefore it was denounced. The bridge over the Colorado River was decided on, so the court appointed two men from each precinct for the purpose of investigating, ascertaining, and reporting to the court the practicability, necessity or impracticability of erecting a bridge. Scherrer was selected as one of the men from Precinct No. 1. The bridge was built.

The Scherrer homestead joined Joseph Biegel's land. It consisted of a two-story dog-run log cabin, a schoolhouse nearby for his children, large outbuildings for storage and for repair of the ox wagons used by Scherrer in his freighting business.

German immigrants were persuaded by Wertzner, Biegel, and Scherrer to remain at Biegel Settlement, rather than going farther west. It was Wertzner and Scherrer who made Biegel Settlement what it was and to them is due the credit, not to Joseph Biegel.

Scherrer served in the Confederate Army in the volunteer unit which called itself the "Dixie Grays" and was organized in La Grange on June 8, 1861. After the Civil War, some of the Blacks remained in the area and worked for very little wage. They bought their supplies at Kroll's store and bacon, ham and sausage from the Scherrers. When the men worked for Scherrer, they would come to work early and were given breakfast.

On November 15, 1892, at the age of 85, Bernard Scherrer died, leaving his widow and two unmarried children who lived at home.

The graves of Bernard Scherrer, Gesine, his wife; their son, Heinrich; and Gesine's mother, Margarete (Koch) Cook were moved from their homestead in the Biegel Settlement to the La Grange City Cemetery by the LCRA in the middle 1970's. Four of the remaining children were already buried there, being August, Anna, Emelia, and Julia.

On April 24, 1986, the Dilue Ross Harris Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas placed a "Citizen of the Republic of Texas" plaque on the grave of Bernard Scherrer, sponsored by his great-grandmother, Julia Meinert Collins.

Then as a result of this occasion the descendants contacted Mrs. Fait Byboe, who had moved a small log cabin, the one in which Scherrer lived when he first came to Texas, to Henkel Square in Round Top. It has been called the Weaver's Cabin. Permission was granted to furnish it with furniture and Scherrer memorabilia. On September 20, 1986, the birthday of the last surviving grandson, Lawrence Meinert, there was a gathering of descendants and dedication of the Scherrer Cabin with fifty descendants of Bernard and Gesine Scherrer.

Due to the fact that the entire area of the Biegel Settlement was covered by the lake of the Fayette Power Plant, this memorial is to the people who inhabited the community.

"Mr. Scherrer, when reminiscence would relate of his trip down the Mississippi River, how the colonial plantation homes with their picturesque settings could be seen from aboard the boat on which he was traveling...Of his life experience which he rarely recounted in his latter years, were his school and college years in beautiful St. Gallen, late Texas as a part of Mexico, then Texas as a Republic, and Texas as a State of the Union. Also, the War with Mexico, the Civil War, Indian Raids, and reconstruction days all woven in, to make a life with many lovely, romantic, as well as dangerous and sad incidents woven into his life experience."

Berlin's Stadtschloß Illusion

Although the ruins of the *Stadtschloß* (city palace) were torn down by the government of the German Democratic Republic in 1950, Berliners and tourists will be able to feast their eyes on its facade as of June 30 as part of the "Summer in the Palace Court" festival. The facade of the building, which dated from 1451 and was so badly damaged from World War II bombing that it was declared a "ruin no longer worthy of reconstruction" by the GDR government, has been optically reconstructed over a huge scaffolding at its original site, now the Marx-Engels Platz, in the center of the city.

Construction of the steel structure, which is to be festooned with painted canvas panels depicting the *Stadtschloß* in its actual former dimensions, is currently underway; the panels are being painted by French artist Catherine Feff in Paris. Inside the structure, an exhibition hall will contain information on the palace and a wooden model of the entire edifice as it once was; eventually, this will be moved to the Charlottenburg palace. Throughout the summer, discussions, musical events, films, theater, shows and children's events will take place as part of the *Stadtschloß* festival, one of whose aims is to stimulate discussion on the future shape of Berlin's inner city. ■

The Fayette County Record
 May 7, 1993
 (Submitted by Mrs. Julia Collins)

The Week in Germany—June 4, 1993

GERMAN TEXANS' GENEALOGY SECTION

Compiled by Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213-2305

BITS AND PIECES AND NEWS

New Postal Codes in Germany are now in effect. Since unification, we have used either "D-W" or "D-O" to distinguish postal codes duplicated in the former West and East Germanys. On 1 July 1993, an entirely new system went into effect to give each town and village its own unique five-digit postal code, and the 209 larger cities have been subdivided into several delivery zones, each with its own postal code, much like larger cities in the U.S. This makes the new postal code book about 8.5 x 11" and an inch thick, with a weight of three pounds--much larger than the previous book! (And, much more expensive!) Your Genealogy Editor has received a copy of this new postal code book (Postleitzahlenbuch-Alphabetisch geordnet). If you need a "new" postal code, send an SASE to your Genealogy Editor and we will see what we can do. Along with the name of the town, include the old postal code or a description as to the town's location since there are many towns with the same name. For larger cities, send the complete street address, since this is needed to determine the code, as in the U.S. However, this does not work for a post office box (Postfach) address. Incidentally, the best source we have found for ordering the new postal code book is Genealogy Unlimited, Inc. See separate item on GU's new catalog elsewhere in this section.

Handouts Still Available--In our last two issues, an item told of two research aids. Copies of these handouts are still available. One is a 10-page item prepared by your Genealogy Editor with a bibliography of the most helpful books and resources, maps, German script and print, and a German-English genealogical word list. For this one, send a \$1.00 and a #10 (business-sized) envelope addressed to yourself. No need for a stamp; the \$1.00 covers printing and postage. The other handout, three pages from the Immigrant Genealogical Society of Burbank CA, has information about IGS and their specialized German research services, including searches of German telephone books, U.S. immigration indexes, and surnames in Deutschen Familienarchiv. For this one, send an SASE (29-cent stamp). If you want BOTH handouts, send an SASE (29-cent stamp affixed) AND \$1.00. This offer is good as long as the supply lasts.

Methodist Archives are located at various places. In our previous issue, we noted the holdings of the Archives Depository of the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, housed at Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth; and another group of records housed at Travis Park United Methodist Church, San Antonio. Now, we have received information from Frances Long about the holdings of the Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, the depository for the archives of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. However, most of the records are from areas in Texas, including some local histories of small German churches in the 1800s. Ms. Long sent sample copies from the published 1897 general minutes of the German Mission Conference. She expressed her hope that someday a person with a specific interest in the history of the Methodist German Church in early Texas will visit to become familiar with the Bridwell's holdings as there are many records in German which still need to be interpreted. In addition, the Bridwell Library's Special Collections has works from the 15th through the 18th centuries, including the first Bible in the German language and Luther's translation of the Bible, many of Luther's pamphlets, many Reformation works (in German) and art books. Ms. Long welcomes German-Texan family history researchers and will assist them with German Methodist records. Contact: Frances Long, Methodist Historian and Researcher, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX 75075-0476.

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

Germanic Emigrants Register--in our Summer 1992 and Spring 1993 issues, we relayed information about this source to locate origins of Germanic emigrants. The Immigrant Genealogical Society has now acquired the microfiche index for the first 277,000 entries in this register. It includes deserters and conscripts who failed to report for military training plus missing heirs found in records between 1820 and 1918 from Prussia (East and West Prussia, Pomerania, Posen, Hanover, Westphalia and other Prussian provinces), Alsace-Lorraine, Bavaria, Saxony, Württemberg, Baden, Oldenburg, Hesse, and other minor German states. The fiche gives the person's full name, year mentioned, birthdate, time of emigration, destination, and last known residence after emigration. The person's place of origin is not listed. But if your ancestor's name is in this index, you can ask for a search in Germany of the original source to see whether a place of origin is mentioned. If it is, you will be quoted a price for a report, which you may accept or refuse. If your ancestor's name is not found in the present index, you may submit your query to the operators of the database to be checked against future entries (about 12,000 per month, expected to increase to about 800,000 persons). If a match is made in the future, you will be informed and quoted a price for the report, as above. Since many immigrants came to the U.S. specifically so the sons could avoid military training, this index should be a valuable resource. This item has been added to the research services available by mail from the IGS. Each search is \$5.00. The information is in German with many abbreviations, and IGS members will translate these and furnish a form for obtaining the information on the original documents. The address is: Immigrant Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369. (from: IGS Newsletter, July 1993)

L.D.S Family History Centers are located throughout the U.S. and in other countries. At each L.D.S. (Mormon) Family History Center, researchers may obtain copies of microfilmed records from the central Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. To obtain a list of Family History Centers in the Southwestern States, send your request and an SASE to: Family History Library, 35 North West Temple St., Salt Lake City UT 84150. From time to time, our German friends and relatives are amazed at the type of records we can obtain "through Salt Lake City" and that we can make copies from the microfilm. Sometimes these records are not available to persons living right there in Germany--and more often, copies of records cannot be made at their archives. So, the thought occurs--can German residents also utilize the resources of the L.D.S.? Our request for addresses of Family History Centers in Germany brought this response: although there are Family History Centers in countries other than the U.S., the central Family History Library no longer publishes the addresses for those locations (except for the ones in the British Isles and Australia/New Zealand). Instead, researchers outside the U.S. must contact a Family History Service Center to learn which local Centers are functioning in their area and how to get in touch with them (many do not have telephones). There are two such Family History Service Centers in Europe; one in Stockholm, Sweden, and one in Frankfurt, Germany. The manager of the Frankfurt Family History Service Center is Magnus Meiser, and the address is Max-Plank-Str. 23A, 60437 Frankfurt (note: "new" postal code). The telephone number is 6172-736411 and the FAX number is 6172-75350. German residents, therefore, must contact him to ascertain where the closest Center is. (from: information sent by L.D.S. Family History Library)

Using European microfilms in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City may become more difficult. Staff on the Library's International floor record the

frequency of use of each film. The ones not used regularly are removed and stored elsewhere to make room for new Latin American films being added, thus penalizing users of films from smaller European localities. The Library staff suggest that you submit a list of all the films you wish to use a month in advance of your visit so they can be brought in from storage. Obviously this makes it difficult to follow up on a newly-found piece of information when one thing leads to another. One researcher requested a particular film, but it had not arrived by the end of her eight-day stay. It has been suggested that expressions of opinion on this policy be addressed (marked "Confidential") to Elder Clark, Family History Library, 35 North West Temple St., Salt Lake City UT 84150. (from: Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter, June 1993, based on a letter from the president of San Mateo, Calif., Genealogical Society)

Help with research in Eastern Westphalia is available in Detmold, Minden, Paderborn, Höxter, etc., from Eva Christel Marze, Rathausplatz 13, 33098 Paderborn (note: "new" postal code). She is a professional researcher and is highly recommended by GTHS member Ulrich Hölscher of Rheine in Westphalia. Ulrich tells us that Frau Marze answers only in the German language. Since he did not tell about her rates, write to her and inquire if you need assistance in these areas. (from: letter from Ulrich Hölscher)

National Archives Don W. Wilson has resigned as Archivist of the United States effective 31 March (to become Research Professor of Presidential Studies and Executive Director of the George Bush Center at Texas A&M University). The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) notes that this vacancy "has resulted in great uncertainty within the genealogical community." According to FGS, genealogists and family and local historians are the largest constituent group served by the National Archives and its thirteen field branches, and Dr. Wilson actively supported the many constituency services which directly benefit genealogists and local historians. FGS takes the position that the trend toward offering adequate constituency services must continue and expresses concern that the candidates currently under consideration should exhibit a similar commitment to the genealogical and historical community. FGS offers a Position Statement regarding the pending appointment of an Archivist of the United States. For a copy of this Position Statement and information as to how you can become involved in the process, write to Federation of Genealogical Societies, P. O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City UT 84110-3385. (from: letter and Position Statement, FGS, 26 April 1993)

Keys to the Past, quarterly publication of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, April 1993 issue, had listings of the students at Kreuzberg School No. 1 for 1900-01 and 1901-02, as well as a Family Group Sheet and story on the (Johann) Peter Lindemann family by Carolyn Lindemann Overstreet. Another item of possible interest is the ancestor chart prepared by Roy Richard Schulmeier, which includes such surnames as Schulmeier, Ackermann, Krueger, Stahl, Menck, Froboese, Wolter, Wagenfuhr, Eisenhauer, Rittiman, Pauza, Neubauer, Schmitter, Gambler and Aenishaslin. (Many of these families have given their names to streets in San Antonio.) For information on the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, write to P. O. Box 623, Boerne TX 78006. (from: Keys to the Past, April 1993)

Fredericksburg Genealogical Society has produced the second issue of its publication, The Gillespian. Your Genealogy Editor has also received a note from Eunice Gary, the Society's librarian, telling us that the publication will be issued twice a year, in January and June. This second issue (Vol. I; No. 2) has many items of interest to GTHS members including a map of the town lots assigned by Meusebach in July 1846 and an index to the 1870 Census for

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

Gillespie County. Continued from the first issue are the holdings of their library, the survey of St. Mary's Cemetery, and Gillespie County marriage records, 1850-70. See our GTHS Journal, Vol. XIV, No. 3, Fall 1992, page 225, for additional information on the Society and its publication, or contact the Society at P. O. Box 164, Fredericksburg TX 78624. (from: the Gillespian, Vol. 1, No. 2, and letter from Eunice Gary)

German American Genealogy is a periodical published by the Immigrant Genealogical Society, in addition to the group's monthly Newsletter. The Spring 1993 issue of 24 pages had many interesting articles. Of these, the ones most likely to interest German-Texan family researchers are the three articles dealing with different aspects of research in Rheinland-Pfalz, information on using the L.D.S. International Genealogical Index (IGI) as a research tool, and a report of a Texas member on her visit to Bautzen in the former East Germany to conduct family research. In addition, there is a list of all the surnames appearing in the January through June 1991 issues of FANA (Familienkundliche Nachrichten), a query publication distributed widely throughout Germany. The IGS Library has indexes to all FANA issues since 1964, and will copy a query based on a requested surname for a \$5.00 fee. Single copies of German American Genealogy are \$5.00 each. Immigrant Genealogical Society's address is P. O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91520-7369.

Association of Professional Genealogists quarterly (APG Quarterly) had articles in two recent issues of general interest, including "Tips for Preparing Professional Lineage Society Applications" in the March 1993 issue and "Preparing Manuscripts for Offset Printing" in the June 1993 issue. (from APQ Quarterly)

BITS & PIECES & NEWS about GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

"Climbing Your Family Tree Can Be Fun" workshops sponsored by Everton's, publishers of Genealogical Helper, travel around the country. Your Genealogy Editor attended one of these several years and found it very rewarding. Two are scheduled in Texas for 1993. The New Boston Genealogical Society will sponsor a workshop on 2 October 1993. The contact is Edith Peril, P. O. Box 104, New Boston TX 75570, telephone (903) 628-3467. The Amarillo Genealogical Society will sponsor a workshop on 9 October. The contact is Walter E. Richey, 1917 Martin Road., Amarillo TX 79107-6626, telephone (806) 381-1494. Three are already scheduled for 1994 in Texas: Kingsland Genealogical Society, on 8 March 1994; contact is Tom Kenyon, 1303 Bel Air Dr., Kingsland TX 78639, telephone (210) 598-6759; Hopkins County Genealogical Society, on 12 March 1994; contact is Dana Elliott, P. O. Box 624, Sulphur Springs TX 75438, telephone (903) 945-2897; and, Stephens County Genealogical Society, on 10 September 1994; contact is Tom B. Ward, 200 Ridge Road, Breckenridge TX 76424. For information on sponsoring a "Climbing Your Family Tree Can Be Fun" workshop in your area, contact Lee Everton at P. O. Box 368, Logan UT 84323-0368 or call 1 (800) 443-6325. (from: Genealogical Helper, May-June. 1993)

German Genealogy Day, the annual fall seminar of the Immigrant Genealogy Society, will be 23 October 1993 in North Hollywood, Calif. Featured speaker will be Larry Jensen, one of the nation's outstanding authors and speakers on German research. For information, contact IGS at P. O. Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510-7369. (from: IGS Newsletters June and July 1993 and flyer)

BITS & PIECES & NEWS about BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & SUCH

Index to The Runge Chronicles: A German Saga of Success is now available through the Sophienburg Archives. Our GTHS office has purchased a copy of the index to accompany the copy of the Runge Chronicles already in our library. Ethel Canion, a member of the Comal County Genealogy Society and of GTHS did the index, making the original work much more valuable. To order a copy of the index, send \$3.00 to Sophienburg Archives, 200 N. Seguin St., New Braunfels TX 78130. (from: letter from Sophienburg Archives, 11 June 1993)

Caldwell County Census for 1860 and 1870 are now available in published format as transcribed by Donald Brice, with full name indexes. No price was given, so contact the Genealogical and Historical Society of Caldwell County at P. O. Box 141, Luling TX 78648. (from flyer, G&HS of Caldwell County)

Genealogy Unlimited, Inc., issued a new catalog this summer. This is an outstanding source for ordering many of the standard (and also the unique) books for research in Germany and other European countries. Also offered are atlases, maps (especially historic ones), charts, binders and storage materials--and they offer the new German postal code book! Owner Carol Schiffman reported to your Genealogy Editor that these books are sold out as soon as a shipment arrives, but she is reordering regularly. Request a free catalog from Genealogy Unlimited, Inc., P. O. Box 537, Dept. GT, Orem UT 84059-0537 or call 1-800-666-4363. (from: Genealogy Unlimited catalog and telephone conversation with Mrs. Schiffman)

Euro-Atlas of Germany is highly recommended by GTHS member Evelyn Wolf of McDade. It is on a 1:300,000 scale, detailed enough to show every tiny village. Since it is in softcover, it also makes a great traveling companion. Evelyn reports it is available from Map Link, 25 E. Mason St., Santa Barbara CA 93101, telephone (805) 965-4402. The price is \$12.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. (from: letter from Evelyn Wolf)

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 or query 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.

If you wish to submit a longer article for publication, please be sure it is camera-ready. The manuscript specifications are: materials must be typed, single spaced, on 8.5" by 11" white paper, with only .25" margin on all sides. Remember, your typing must be almost edge-to-edge. Because of concerns as to the length of the Journal, we suggest that such articles be limited to two pages.

Although every effort is made to publish reliable and historical resource material, the GTHS Genealogy Editor does not accept responsibility for errors in fact or judgement in the materials submitted by members for publication. This holds also for spelling of names of persons and of places in Germany; unless a family or place name falls within the previous personal research experience of the Genealogy Editor, the spelling is used as submitted by the member.

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

Patricia (Angerstein) Patterson-Williams P. O. Box 1714, Corpus Christi TX 78403 is missing a relative or two and would like to hear from anyone who might be able to assist her in locating these two families. John Henry Angerstein was the son of Henry Angerstein, Jr., and Catherine Winifred O'Bryan. John Henry married Mabel Ida Rohre; they had one child, John Rohre Angerstein, who married Margaret Zuniga. John and Margaret had one child, Adrienne Jonquyll Angerstein, born in Laredo. She married William Schuler or Schuber or Shuler. John Henry and Mabel spent much of their lives at Tivoli and are buried at Cuero. Patricia would like to locate either Adrienne Jonquyll Angerstein or some of her children in order to obtain missing birth and death dates and places relating to this family. Her other concern involves Gustave Rudolph Angerstein, born 8 Dec. 1869 at Goliad to Henry Angerstein and Rosina Becker. He died 6 Feb. 1941 at Marble Falls and is buried at Beeville. His wife's name might have been Cora Williams Huff. It is thought they had three children: a son Gustave Rudolph, Jr., and two daughters. Patricia would like to locate anyone in this family to obtain current information and complete this branch of her family.

Larry James Hemme 3006 Montford Court, Sugar Land TX 77478 is trying to locate or confirm the places of origin in Germany for his father's ancestors and obtain additional information about family members who stayed in Germany. He is looking for more information on Diedrich H. Hemme, his wife, Amelia Betsch Hemme, and their 4-year-old son who left Bissendorf in 1845. They sailed on the ship "George Delius," but both parents died on the journey, leaving little Dietrich L. Hemme an orphan. He was cared for by Heinrich Wallhafer, who settled in Comal County. Dietrich later married Louise Loep, daughter of Edward Loep (possibly born 4 Aug. 1820 at Duisburg an Rhein) and Elise Dittman(n) (possibly born c. 1820 in Darmstadt). Larry thinks Edward's father might have been named Johann. Dietrich's son, Henry E. Hemme, married Emma Timmermann, whose parents were Christian (possibly born c. 1814, Braunschweig) and Wilhemine "Minna" Brandt. According to census records, this couple left Germany about 1854. Henry E. Hemme's son, Hugo, married Lydia Barsch, in 1917. Her parents were Otto Barsch (born Feb. 1862, place in Germany unknown) and "Gussie" (Augusta?) Herlett, daughter of Adolph Herlett (born c. 1850) and "Gretchen" (Margaret?). Larry thinks that the Barsches and/or the Herletts came from Magdeburg, but there is nothing in writing to confirm this possibility. According to the 1900 census of Caldwell County, the Herletts came to the U.S. in 1883, and the Barsches in 1892. Larry would appreciate any assistance from our members and readers.

Danny Bode P. O. Box 1602, Dayton TX 77535 has been trying for the past four years to find the younger half-brother of his great grandfather Bode. His name was Hermann Johannes "John" Bode, born 26 Aug. 1875 at Berlin in Washington County. He left Brenham when he was in his early 20s, and none of the relatives ever heard from him again. If anyone ever finds a mention of this Bode, please let Danny know. He has also submitted a list of names for the "Genealogical Exchange."

B. Don Zesch 352 Carrollton Ave., Shreveport LA 71105-3206 wants to know more about his great grandparents, Robert Zesch (born 24 Dec. 1823 at Halle a.d. Saale, Saxony) and Lina Dangers (born 15 Jan. 1836, Mandelsloh, Hanover). They met on the ship that brought them to Indianola in the fall of 1854 after a nine-week voyage. Lina's parents also came on the same ship. They were Wilhelm Dangers (born 1808; died 1877, Stockton, Calif.) and Rebecca Enghausen (born 17 Mar. 1808; died 1905, Stockton, Calif. The Wilhelm Dangers family went to Fredericksburg in January 1855 and built a home on Palo Alto Creek,

which some say is still standing. Later they moved to Mason County and built a rock house there. About 1877 they moved to Stockton, Calif., where their son, August, had a farm. Wilhelm Dangers had two brothers: Gottlieb Buchard Dangers (born 11 Oct. 1811) and Louis Dangers. Buchard Dangers was the second minister of the Vereinskirche in Fredericksburg, while Louis moved to Wisconsin. Robert and Lina (Dangers) Zesch had ten children in Mason County. Don would like to know more about the Zesch, Dangers and Enghausen families in Germany.

Found at a Garage Sale: citizenship papers for Christian Walker; and baptismal records for children of Christian Walker, from Kirchentennensfurt, Württemberg, and for Catharine, geb. Henke, from Bergheim bei Esslingen, Württemberg, from the Lutheran church in Galveston, approximately 1867-80. All are in excellent condition. The owner would like them to go to descendants of the family, but is interested in selling them for a fair, but negotiable, price. If interested, contact: David V. Cooksey, 3224 Bullock Dr., Plano TX 75023, telephone (214) 596-9448. This information was sent by GTHS member Joyce M. Theis of Plano.

Dede D. Mercer 5429 Navarro, Houston TX 77056 has been trying to locate emigration and naturalization records for Edward Graf (also found as Graff and other variant spellings). He was born about 1845 in Germany. His wife was Mary Selman Huff, born in 1848 also in Germany. They were married about 1866-67, place unknown. Apparently they went first to Michigan, as their first child, Anna, was born there in 1867. She married a Dillard, first name unknown. Their younger three children were born in Texas: Charles William (born 1872, Franklin County, Texas), Bengaman (born 1874, Texas) and Edith Maud (born 14 May 1878; married Dewitt C. Oliver). The 1880 census caught the family still in Franklin County, but they later moved to Titus County. Dede sent detailed information on the descendants of Charles William and his wife Sallie Thomas.

Anne Shirley Bumpus 2717 Gray Circle, Columbia TN 38401 wants to learn more about her ancestral family in Germany. She is descended from Karl (or Carle) Charle, also found as Scharle, Schalle, Shally, Shawley, and other variant spellings. Although the family name is now spelled Shirley, family members learned recently that they are not English-descended Shirleys but are instead German-descended Scharles. Karl arrived in Philadelphia 3 Sept 1739 aboard the "Robert and Alice" which departed from Rotterdam. His wife was named Anna Esther. Anne has located records for their children's baptisms in Würzweiler: Anna Maria Elizabeth, 1730; Johannes Michael, 1732; Lucas (also found in American records as Lukeabe), 1736; and Johann Adam, 1739. Anne also aims to follow the migration trail of Lucas, her 4th great grandfather, from North Annville-Lebanon, Penn., to Cearfoss-Fort Frederick, Md., to the "Territory South of the River Ohio," now Greene County, Tenn., where he died in 1792. Anne's own great grandfather, Newton Jasper Shirley, left Cannon County, Tenn., in the 1880s and settled in Hill County, Texas. Of his ten or eleven children, all but one, Anne's grandfather, remained in Texas, so there are many Shirley descendants in Texas. In 1986, Anne published Canon County Cousins: Shirleys and Meltons, tracing two family lines from about 1792.

Doris Fischer Obsta 4306 Guy Grant Road., Victoria TX 77904-2223 sent a query on the Schrank and Thomas families. Otilie Schrank married George Thomas on 31 Oct. 1870, Galveston, but Doris has not found them listed on the 1870 census. They had two children, Frederick and Charles, but because of death, divorce, or other unknown reasons, the two children were given to Otilie's

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

sister, Amelia Schrank. Amelia had married Frederick Fischer on 15 March 1873, also in Galveston. The Fischers lived at Reisel, Falls County, as the 1880 census for Falls County shows Frederick and Charlie as "adopted" and living with the Fischers. Adoption proceedings were not completed until December 1890 when the boys were 16 and 19 years old. In the meantime, George Thomas is listed in the Galveston city directory in 1875 and 1876, with a separate listing for Otilie Thomas in 1876. On 28 Jan. 1879, Otilie Schrank married Herman Grunnan, in Travis County. The 1880 census for Travis County shows Otilie, Herman and an unnamed son, five months old. According to this census report, Otilie was born in Oldenburg. The Austin city directories of that time period indicate that Herman Grunnan was the proprietor of the Sweitzer Boarding House and Saloon located on San Jacinto Street between Pecan and Pine streets. The name Grunnan is also listed for several years in the Austin city directories as Gruneu, Grannor, Grunau, Grunen, and Grunan. Doris is very interested in these people and their story as she is the granddaughter of Frederick Fischer, one of the adopted boys. Charlie's descendants recall visits from Otilie while they were living with the Fischers. Doris is also interested in learning more about the son of Otilie and Herman Grunnan, reported without a name in the 1880 census. Perhaps this son went on to marry and have children. Doris also entertains the possibility that George Thomas of Galveston could have remarried and had other children. She would like to correspond with anyone who shares any of these family names and could possibly be descended from these same ancestors.

Margaret Snavelly Jones Rt. 2, Box 10-L-7, Medical Lake WA 99022-9608 would like to contact anyone who might know about the Weckener family of Austin and Washington counties. She thinks the family arrived in Texas about 1866. Family members probably originated in either Leipzig or Düsseldorf.

Sr. Peggy Stovall, O.S.U. 1407 El Paso, San Antonio TX 78207 is looking for more information on John Frederick Sharkey. Although the name sounds Irish, she believes that he was from around Berlin and that the name might have been originally spelled Scharke or Schurke. The 1880 marriage records of Milam County show that John Frederick Schurke married Margaret Elizabeth Jones. In the few records found thus far, the first names were reversed: the 1910 census of Love County, Okla., shows F. J. Sharkey, while a 1915 insurance policy, the 1915 death certificate, and his gravestone all show F. J. Sharkey. Now that she has found a possible original German spelling for the name, Sister Peggy would like to investigate further this ancestor's German origins. She has not been able to find either Schurke or Scharke on any list of German surnames. Can any of our members help?

Evelyn Wolf Rt. 1, Box 194, McDade TX 78650 is searching for any possible descendants of Friedrich Wilhelm Wolf, born 26 June 1821, Worlitz, Germany. He bought a Bounty Land Certificate for 11,280 acres from William Thompson on 19 April 1858 at Galveston for \$576. According to land records in Bastrop County, Friedrich had died by 30 March 1868, as that date the land was deeded to his seven brothers and sisters: G. August, Johann, Wilhelm, Leopold Franz, Ludwig, Henriette Schuler, Wilhelmine Kruemcke, and Louise Eschberger. It is thought that Friedrich Wolf was a brick mason; he died while helping to dig a well at McDade for his brother, Leopold Franz. He was about 47 years old at the time of his death, and perhaps he left a wife and children, possibly in the coastal area of Galveston or Houston where he might have found work as a brick mason. (On the other hand, if Friedrich had left a wife and/or children, the ownership of the land would have likely passed to them rather than to the siblings.) In the 1860 census of Bastrop County is found a Nancy

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

Wolf, age 24, and her daughter, Amanda, age one, living in the household of Charles and Amanda Riep. Is it possible the two women were sisters? Are there any descendants of Charles Riep who have information as to the possibility of cousins from the Wolf family?

FAMILY REUNIONS

Engbrock Reunion

The descendants of William John and Barbara (Braden) Engbrock will have a reunion at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church's Diamond Hall, Frelsburg, Texas, on Saturday, 9 October 1993. Submitted by Gladys Engbrock Clark, 6240 Indian Path, San Angelo TX 76904

Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family Reunion

The 21st biennial reunion of the Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family will be held 25 and 26 June 1994, at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, on IH-35, just south of Temple. Chairperson of the 1994 reunion is Alice Hoelscher, Rt. 1, Box 204, Rogers TX 76569. Submitted by Theresa Gold, 106 Ranchland, San Antonio TX 78213

Regensburg Emigrants, 1846

FROM AMBERG ARCHIVES IN BAVARIA, 1846-47 IMMIGRANTS TO GALVESTON
Submitted by Roy Pfeiffer, 2106 Weberwood Drive, South Charleston WV 25303

Following are data extracted from a list of individuals applying to leave a region of Germany near Regensburg in the Fall of 1846. These may not be listed elsewhere; my ancestors, found there were found elsewhere. Each person listed left Bremen for Galveston, probably in the Spring of 1847.

Name	Age	Occupation	Residence	Property Value
PFEIFER, Anton	29	Butcher	Frickenhofen	1700F
HAERRING, Johann	58	Farmer's son	Frickenhofen	
SIPPL, Michael	31	Servant	Mittanstade	200F
PFEIFER, Maria Anna	28	Servant	Pelzenhofen	250F
, Johann	3	(son of Maria Anna Pfeifer)		
MANTHUM, Konrad	33		Langenhofen	850F
PRUI, Kunigunde	34	(wife, Konrad Manthum and daughters ages 8, 4 & 1)		
HAERRING, Johann Leonhard	40	Servant	Roggenthal	300F
, Johann Michael	38	Servant	Roggenthal	300F
, Johann Leonhard	34	Servant	Roggenthal	300F
, Joseph	31	Servant	Roggenthal	300F
MAIER, Katherina	40	Servant	Güglhof?	200F
, Kunegunde	9	Servant (daughter of Katherina Maier)		
SEGER, Johann Georg	32	Servant	Pelzenhofen	400F
DEINHARDT, Maria Anna	22	Innkeeper's daughter	Laaber	300F

The original records were made in Velburg and Neumarkt; they are now held at STAATSARCHIV AMBERG, ARCHIVSTRASSE 3, 8450 AMBERG, GERMANY.

Genealogy Editor's Note: the new postal code for Amberg is 92224.

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued**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." Note: Please send all three types of information: origin in Germany, Texas County settled, and religion; if any item is unknown, enter a "?". The "origin in Germany" may be given as broadly or as specifically as known. Place and family names are published as furnished by the contributors.

Researching Surnames	Origin in Germany	Tex. County Settled	Religion
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MEMBER: Mickey Williams, 1122 Old Mill Lane, Houston TX 77073

Schneider & Schaum	Offenbach am Glan, Rheinpfalz	Austin	Lutheran
Finn & Heinze	Oelze & vicinity Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, Thuringia	Austin/Harris	Lutheran

MEMBER: Danny Bode, P. O. Box 1602, Dayton TX 77535 (409) 258-3990

Bode	Rosenthal, Hanover	Washington/McLennan/?	Lutheran
Haferkamp	Westfalen	Washington/McLennan	Lutheran
Spreen	Westfalen	Washington	Lutheran
Blankenstein	Barby	McLennan/Bell	Lutheran

MEMBER: Alton J. Rahe, 940 Oak Lane, New Braunfels TX 78130 (210) 625-4529

Rahe	Vorstmarkt	Gillespie	Protestant
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MEMBER: B. Don Zesch, 352 Carrollton Ave., Shreveport LA 71105-3206 (318) 868-8831

Zesch	Halle a.d. Saale Hanover	Mason	Lutheran
Dangers	Mandelsloh, Hanover	Mason	Lutheran

MEMBER: Herbert A. Holzmann, 15315 Pebble Sound, San Antonio TX 78232-4135 (210) 496-1238

Holzmann	Orb, Hanover Hamburg	Comal/Austin	Catholic/Lutheran
Raba	Friedland/Frýdlant Bohemia	Bexar	Catholic
Fuhrwerk	Mönchengladbach	Bexar	Catholic

MEMBER: Sr. Peggy Stovall, O.S.U., 1407 El Paso, San Antonio TX 78207 (210) 226-5195

Schurke/Scharke	Berlin (?)	Milam/Falls	?
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OUR MEMBERS WRITE ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES

The Henry and Hanne Pape Family Story compiled, written and edited by Paul Pape, Rt. 1, Box 179R, Bastrop TX 78602. 235 pages, 8.5" x 11", hardcover; photographs, documents, charts, map, full name index. \$20.00, includes tax, plus \$3.00 for shipping from author.

This book is the story of Heinrich Simon (Henry) Pape and his wife, Johanne Georgine Louise (Hanne) Sievers, and their descendants. Although some pronounce the family surname as sounding similar to "poppy" and others use a long "a" and silent "e," some of the written records of Henry's family spell the name as "Papa" and "Paupa," indicating how Henry and his family pronounced it. Henry was born in 1837 in Schoenhagen, Hanover, the youngest of three children. Hanne Sievers was born in 1840 in Rhine. Charts of both the Pape and Sievers families trace ancestors to the fifth generation in the mid-1700s on most of the ancestral lines. Henry and Hanne were married in 1862 in Germany and their first four children were born there between 1862 and 1867. In 1867, the parents, four children, and Henry's mother sailed aboard the "Bremen," arriving at New York on 5 November. From there, they went to Missouri, as other relatives had settled there previously. In Missouri, they farmed and became members of the Methodist Church. Here, five additional children were born. In 1877, at age 40, Henry endured a serious illness and had a spiritual experience that led to his becoming active as a minister of the gospel. About four years later, the family moved to Texas and settled in the Waco vicinity where their last child, Marie, was born. She died at one year of age, the only of their children not to survive to adulthood. Henry was ordained a Methodist minister of the Southern Conference of the German Methodist Church in 1881 and then pastored churches at Rose Hill, Hochheim, Caldwell, Llano, Rutersville, and Fredericksburg, in addition to the Hedwig's Hill circuit consisting of Beaver Creek (now Hilda), Hoersterville and Plehweville (now Art), and Mason, causing the family to move frequently. His last term, 1897-1902, was at Fredericksburg before his resignation in 1902 due to "charges" that remain largely unknown. the family moved to Monthalia to be nearer sons August, Carl and Louis. Hanne died in 1903 and is buried there. A few years later, Henry went alone to Oregon where he stayed and worked for about ten years, although no one can explain satisfactorily exactly why he went. He returned to Texas in 1916, lived with his children, and died in 1920 at age 83. He is buried on the Leifeste Ranch in Mason County. Section II of this book has nine chapters, one for each child who lived to adulthood and married (all but the youngest, Maria). These children and their spouses are: Heinrich Friedrich who married Emilia Afflerbach, Friedrich Wilhelm who married Juliana Mathilda Glaeser, Caroline Louise Justine who married Conrad Leifeste, Wilhelm Henry L. G. who married Juliana Catherina Schmitt, Wilhelmine (Minna) who married August Pluenneke, August who married Mathilda W. Afflerbach and Caroline Bauer Weichmann, Louis who married Margaret Nagel and Lena Sievers Meyer, Hannah who married Charles Feuge, Carl H. who married Louisa Hornung (plus Maria who died young). Each of these chapters has a biographical history of the child, photos, family group sheet information, and a list of descendants, some lines to the fifth generation, with the birth and death dates in outline form. Altogether, there are 750 blood descendants in the U.S. With inclusion of spouses and adopted children, the Pape Family totals over 1,200 persons. Throughout are glimpses of events of the times woven into the family narrative as well as photographs, documents and maps. The entire book is well organized and quite attractive with excellent typography and photo reproduction.

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

Members intending to publish their own family book may be interested in the methods used to produce this excellent-appearing volume. A telephone conversation with the compiler-author-editor revealed that the text, index, borderlines, and photo cutlines were prepared using the layout program WordPerfect for Windows to produce a camera-ready manuscript on a Panasonic laser jet printer. The author used Excell to prepare the ancestor charts and Famtree to produce the family group sheets and descendant charts; these were pasted-up onto the camera-ready manuscript pages. A graphic arts business prepared the 123 photos into halftone so the printer could fit them into the places marked on the manuscript pages. A high resolution halftone (120 dpi, or dots-per-inch) resulted in a high quality of photo reproduction in the book; even though it was printed on paper plates, it has the appearance of a book printed on metal plates. In addition to its value in documenting a pioneer German-Texan Methodist minister and his family, this book is a shining example of the high quality work a family can produce as a privately-published family history book.

Note: Willowdeen and Louis Rossner of San Antonio have donated a copy to GTHS for the office's reference library.

Across the Atlantic and Beyond: The Migration of German and Swiss Immigrants to America by Charles R. Haller; Heritage Books, Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 301, Bowie MD 20716, telephone 1-800-398-7709. 324 pages, 5.5" x 8.5", softcover; illustrations, maps, bibliographies, glossary, index of names. \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping from publisher.

This book begins with a history of the author's Hendricks family, 1680s emigrants from Krisheim to Germantown, and traces the later generations on their migrations to other parts of Pennsylvania, Illinois and Kansas, all drawn mainly from other secondary sources. But, then rather than naming all the descendants as would be expected in a "family history," the author studies each and every aspect of the family's German background in six additional Parts, each with topical essays, over 26 essays in all. Each essay has its own bibliography of sources, many of them published in Germany in the German language. The essays cover topics in depth and are far ranging. Although many of them will be of little interest to descendants of German-Texan families, others offer insights into German history that are valuable to anyone with ancestors emigrating from Germany at any time. A great deal of emphasis is placed on the history of printing, including the Frankfurt and Leipzig book fairs beginning in 1450, but the author also deals extensively with Martin Luther and the Reformation, mapmaking and travel guides, religious wars, Menno Simons and the Mennonites, William Penn and the Quakers--all as factors influencing the emigration movement in Germany. Here one can find in one place many details not found elsewhere, such as a list of all the Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire with dates of their reigns and a map of the major dialectic divisions of Germany. This interesting map shows the east-to-west Benrather (or Uerdinger) Line which marks the distinction between users of High and Low German, as well as a north-south line which distinguishes between the West Slavic region to the east and the Flemish, Dutch, Frisian and Danish influences to the west. Part Six, the Push and the Pull, includes an essay on the German Americans. Here is buried a brief, two-page history of the German Texans. Other items of potential interest include a "partial" list of passenger ships to Philadelphia, 1681-1683, and a chronology of U.S. railroads, 1825-1890. The value of this book for German-Texan readers, those not having colonial Pennsylvania ancestors, is in the general background on the history of Germany. Although some details are tedious, all the essays combine to paint a picture of Germany as our ancestors knew it, certainly

valuable reading and reference for anyone genuinely interested in their German ancestral background.

Note: a copy has been donated to GTHS for the reference library at the office.

**THE HEINRICH SEEKER FAMILY: From Westphalia to Texas
by H. Charles Eckert, Brenham, Texas**

A nine-page family history of the HEINRICH SEEKER FAMILY OF Hanover/Westphalen Provinces of northeastern Germany has been printed in Brenham. A descendant, Mrs. Rosa Seeker Herzog, age 88, teamed up with her Lutheran Pastor, Rev. H. Charles Eckert of the Prairie Hill Community to write the book.

The Seeker-Lessmann-Schwenker Families of the Stemwede area of Westphalia were caught up in the squeeze concerning land, compulsory military service in the Prussian Army and the exit of many friends to Texas during 1870-90. They came to Texas and settled in the Washington County area near Brenham, Texas. Maps, naturalization papers, deed records and church records all verify their presence and multiplication as a family.

The book describes chapter by chapter details that are known at the present of Gerhard Heinrich Seeker of Brokum, Amt-Diepholz, Hanover, Germany (1831-1913) who came to America with at least three of his children: Louise (1858-92), August (1864-1928), Henry, Jr. (1867-91), and possibly another daughter (Name Unknown) who lived in Salem, North Dakota.

Pictures of family members (the first three generations in Texas) are included in the book. The first daughter, Louise, married 12-23-1884 to Wilhelm Oberhoff (1861-1937) and they had five children: Malinda (1885), Wilhelm (1886), Anna (1888), Alwine (1890), and Henry (1892) Oberhoff. Descendants continue to live in the Brenham & Houston area. William Oberhoff married Minnie Muegge (1865-1946) after Louise's death in 1892 and they had seven children.

The second child, August Seeker (1864-1928) married twice; his second wife of whom there are living descendants was Sophie nee Schwenker (1867-1940). Details of this family, pictures and copies of land purchases give a clear description of the eleven children and their descendants. A copy of the 1900 census in Washington County and pictures of the family at their home in Wichita Falls (1908-1910) are clear descriptions of the locations of the family. Grandpa Henry Seeker (1831-1913) was along for the move.

Children of August and Sophie Schwenker Seeker were: Emma Fuelberg (1887-1911), Adolph (1888-1959), Gus (1890-1928), Henry (1892-1953) who remained in Wichita Falls and raised his family there, Sophia Schramme (1896-1977), Ida Loesch (1889-1947), Caroline Holtkamp (1900-1989) who raised her family in Fort Bend Co. near Needville, Lydia Kolwes Booth (1902-1990), Rosa Herzog (1905), Albert (1907-79), and Walter (1910). Pictures and genealogical details are given for each family. One of the authors, Rosa Herzog has copies of the wedding pictures of all of her family and they are reproduced along with details of family lineage.

The third child, Henry Seeker, Jr. (1867-91) married 11-15-1888 to Anna nee Kneuppel (1870-99). They had two children: Otto (1889) and Anna (1890) who married 4-6-1911 to Fritz Fuelberg who had been married to her cousin Emma Seeker (1877-1911). They had six children. Otto and Anna's mother, Anna nee Kneuppel re-married 12-3-1891 to August Muegge; they moved to McGregor where three children were born.

GTHS Genealogy Section, continued

Heinrich Seeker had a step-son, the child of his second wife, Louise nee Schwenker Lessmann Seeker (1840-1900), HEINRICH LESSMANN (1874-1942). He came to America with his step-father and mother, married in neighboring Wiedeville at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 12-2-1897, to Louise nee Wellmann (1876-1952). Henry & Louise Wellmann Lessmann lived in Washington County for 12 years where their first six children were born and baptized: Louise (1899), Henry (1900), Ben (1901-84), Lily (1903-89), Charles (1906-86), Nelda (1908-75). The family moved to Marlin, Texas, southeast of Waco where two other children were born: Gertrude (1910-88) and Herbert (1912-75). The move was made during the time (1908-10) when the Heinrich/August Seeker family were in Wichita Falls, and so contact was lost until 1991 when a descendant, Roy Lessmann, came to Brenham searching for family roots. His visit sparked the publication of the Seeker History Book. He is doing research in Germany and will eventually publish a Lessmann History Book.

The final chapter of the 76-page book is the Karl Schwenker Family who married with the Seekers. Another book is being planned when the research is completed on the Schwenkers. Six Schwenker children came to Texas where they married and multiplied. The oldest, Amelia (1862-1935) married Wilhelm Nordt (1853-1931) and twelve children were born, plus three to Mr. Nordt by a previous marriage to Wilhelmina nee Giese (1859-82).

Heinrich Schwenker (1864-1955) married Lina Priesmeyer (1863-1944); they moved to Taylor, Texas where their children were: Emma (1888), Sophia (ca1890), Bertha (1894), Carrie (1897), Henry, Jr. (1901), Lillie (1903), and infant Will. Sophia Schwenker (1867-1940) married August Seeker of Brenham (pages 23-53 of the book).

Elise Schwenker Pohlmeier (1869-1941) married William Pohlmeier (1864-1944) at Sandy Hill in Washington County. Their children were Emma (1892) Schulte, Bill (1895), Mathilde (1900) Heidemann, and Hattie (1902) Sommer.

William "Billy" (1875-1949) and Emma Pfeffer lived in Brenham, adopted several children. Augusta Demuth (1872-1955) married Anton Demuth in Germany and they came to Texas in 1927 leaving two daughters there, but three sons came to America: Anton, Peter, Frank.

One Schwenker son, Karl "Charlie" remained in Germany where he pursued a career in the German military. He was a pilot with the airships known as dirigibles and flew to America several times between the two wars. There is correspondence with his descendants in Germany and Switzerland.

The Seeker book includes an incomplete Index of Names and Places which is invaluable for those who are not acquainted with the family and are looking for a specific name.

Note: Co-author Charles Eckert has donated a copy of this book to GTHS.

Conservation Society

The San Antonio Conservation Society library, at 107 King William St., has become available to the public for research. The library is open for research 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The library contains materials on the political, religious, ethnic and cultural histories of Texas.

For those trying to restore old homes, it offers information on proper painting, repairing, restoration and registration of historic structures.

Society officials say there also are maps, architectural documents, archeological studies, newspaper and historical periodical clippings, city directories, video tapes, oral history cassettes and more than 400 photographs.

It would be worthwhile for local history buffs to spend a few days sifting through the library. For more information, call the Conservation Society office at 224-6164.

San Antonio Express-News, 19 April 1993

Why Is My Grandfather So Shrouded in Mystery?

For years I have been trying to learn the truth about my grandfather, but all I have found are mystery and conflicting stories.

According to his death certificate, Peter VANDERSTAY (or VANDERSTAAY) died June 5, 1905 in Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico at age 65. Also according to his death certificate, he was born in Oruevelard, Rhine Province, Germany, as were his parents, Peter VANDERSTAY and Elena GABRIELL. (I do not know if GABRIELL is a middle or maiden name). But there is no such town. According to the 1920 Texas census, where my grandmother - presumably his widow - was living at the time, his place of birth was Holland - no further identifying location.

At some point, he left Germany (or Holland) and migrated to Mexico through the port of Veracruz. He married Francisca RAMIREZ in Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico by whom he had two children - Carlos, born in May 1871, and later, Elena, date of birth unknown. Presumably, he later married my grandmother, Dolores RENDON, by whom he had 6 children. Dolores RENDON was born in Monclova in August, 1862. Their 6 children with approximate dates of birth are as follows: Margarita - 1887, Peter (Pete) - 1889, Maria - 1891, Carlota (Lottie) - 1894, Olga - 1897, and Otto (my father) - 1899.

From bits and pieces of information handed down to me by various family members, I believe my grandmother was hired at a very young age as a live-in maid and/or nanny for the children, a practice not uncommon in Mexico. According to family legend, Peter's first wife (Francisca) left him with their 2 children and my grandmother raised them. His death certificate, however, lists Francisca RAMIREZ as his widow. No mention is made of my grandmother. Francisca is buried beside him in Santiago, Mexico and my grandmother is buried by a daughter in Houston. Was my grandmother his mistress and not his wife? Or was there a marriage not recognized by their Catholic faith?

In 1904 Peter brought my grandmother and her 6 children to San Antonio and returned alone to Santiago a short time later, dying there in 1905. He owned and operated a sawmill in Santiago which was passed to his eldest son, Carlos, at the time of his death. I was told that Carlos contributed to the support of my grandmother and her brood for awhile after Peter's death. I was also told that the "Sam Henry German Catholic Church" in San Antonio may have given financial and other aid to the family. I have recently learned that there are descendants of Carlos still living in Santiago, but they spell the name "WANDERSTAI".

According to family legend, Peter VANDERSTAY left Holland (?) to escape conscription. Or did he leave Germany to escape

conscription? Did he travel first to another country to escape detection? Why is he not listed on German passenger lists? Supposedly he came over on a ship named "Olga" and traveled with an older brother, Otto, who died en route and was buried at sea.

My father, the youngest, never knew much about his father. His older siblings reacted in a strange and defensive manner if asked about him. Does anyone out there have any suggestions to help me solve the puzzle of my grandfather?

From: Dolores V. Thurman, P. O. Box 8173, Jacksonville TX 75766

MORE BITS AND PIECES

Did you know?

• No one celebrated birthdays before the calendar was invented in 4000 B.C., because there was no way to know the date. After the calendar was used to keep track of time, only kings celebrated birthdays as no records were kept on common people.

Return of Former Prussian State Archives From Merseburg to Berlin Begins

The first shipment of materials from the Prussian Cultural Heritage Secret State Archive, which consists of files and documents of the former Prussian state and which was kept in part in Merseburg (Saxony-Anhalt) after World War II, arrived in Berlin on Tuesday (April 13). The undertaking is aimed to undo the division of the holdings as a consequence of World War II and the division of Germany, according to Werner Knopp, the president of the Prussian Cultural

Heritage Foundation. A converted granary will serve as temporary storage for the documents over the next few years. Laid end-to-end, the archive would stretch about 25 kilometers (about fifteen and a half miles); Knopp said that it will take 100 truckloads to transport the materials to Berlin and that the complete move will take about a year.

The archives, one of the largest document collections in Germany, were housed in the Dahlem section of Berlin in 1924. In 1943, some of the materials were stored in potassium and salt mines in Saxony-Anhalt; in 1948, after examination by the Soviet occupying forces, they were given to the then-regional government of Saxony-Anhalt. In the German Democratic Republic, the Prussian archive was under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior; it was available, with some restrictions, for research.

The oldest of the documents and written materials date back to the twelfth century; the most recent are from 1945. Original samples of the Prussian kings' handwriting were preserved, as were state treaties, construction plans, property deeds and patents. Despite the fact that the archive kept the word "secret" in its title, it is open to researchers. ■

The Week in Germany—April 16, 1993

**WARNING
GENEALOGY POX**

VERY CONTAGIOUS TO ADULTS

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bills from spouse and numbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE !

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is--the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it.

Taken from "Ancestors Unlimited, "Southwest Nebraska Genealogical Society; sent by Leonora and Carl Wolf, New Braunfels

German-Texan Heritage Society

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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	\$ 6.00
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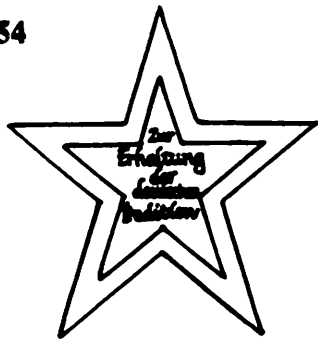
The German-Texan Heritage Society calendar year is from January 1 to December 31. Membership payments and renewals are due in January.

Completed projects of the Society:

1. The reprint of *ROEMER'S TEXAS* (temporarily out-of-print).
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*.
5. The reprint of Victor Bracht's *TEXAS IN 1848*, translated by Charles Frank Schmidt.
6. The dual-language edition of Alwin H. Sörgel's Texas writings, *A SOJOURN IN TEXAS, 1846-47*, translated and edited by W. M. Von-Maszewski.

For more information or price lists for books and back issues contact:

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
507 East 10th Street
P O Box 684171
Austin, Tx 78768
Telephone: (512) 482-0927



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 - Genealogical exchange. (What names?)
 - Photographing historical sites.
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 - Other. Please list.

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1992
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GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY JOURNAL

Compiled by Doris Fischer Obsta

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