

# THE JOURNAL



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### NEW

TOLL FREE PHONE NUMBER

1-866-482-GTHS (4847)

**THE JOURNAL**  
**OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 3, FALL-WINTER 2001**

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**THIS JOURNAL IS MADE POSSIBLE  
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**PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

**BY KARL MICKLITZ, GTHS PRESIDENT**

**At our last Board meeting it was decided to raise the membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per year. This increase is needed to cover the cost of printing and mailing the journal. It seems there is no end to constantly rising costs.**

**You should by now have received my letter regarding the 2001 Annual Operational Fund Drive, which included a blue donation card for your use. If you haven't made your pledge or donation, please do so right now. Your organization needs your support, and I kindly ask that you respond generously.**

**I also want you to mark your calendars for the 2002 Annual Convention which will be held in conjunction with the Texas German Society in Shelby (Austin County) on the weekend of March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**In this time of uncertainty, let us be ever mindful of our blessings and rich heritage. I ask you to support our country and our organization to the fullest extent.**

**Auf Wiedersehen !**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

**BY JULIA GERMANY**

As I write this, we are just beginning our Annual Operational Fund Drive campaign. Within the first week, we raised \$2000. In light of the tragic events that coincided with our mail out, we are deeply grateful that so many of you responded with financial support for your cultural heritage. Your generous tax-deductible donations help insure our future.



German-American Day (October 6) was another opportunity for members and friends to share our cultural heritage with an evening of German-American games, beverages and music. Kids of all ages played *Mensch Aeger Dich Nicht!*, dominoes and other games enjoyed in both countries. Many thanks to all the volunteers who hosted the event and to all the folks who provided the "gemuetlichkeit." Special thanks goes to Charles Patrick, who wandered through the Old German Free School playing his accordion to the delight of all.

Mark your calendars for Saturday 27 April 2002 – the unveiling of our state historical marker. In the last issue of The Journal we noted that this event would take place on October 6. Due to corrections to the text of the marker we were unable to meet this deadline. That won't be the case in April. The unveiling will open our annual MaiFest event. On Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> our Sunday Speaker Series will be a roundtable discussion with descendants of the founders of the Old German Free School. Plan a weekend in Austin celebrating Spring German-Texan style! And just in time for all those wildflowers.

We realize that being a statewide organization located in Austin means that some of you can't make our events and to that end we want to encourage you to offer German-Texan events such as a games night in your communities. Invite your neighbors, the German students and anyone interested in experiencing our heritage.



**FRÖHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN Y'ALL !**

**JULIA**



## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig

The events of September 11, 2001 are ones which are etched indelibly in our mind. We all saw images of airplanes flying into the World Trade Towers in New York City. A number of lives were cut short during such tragedy. All of our experiences looked at the tragedies in different ways. I recall coming through New York from a speech I made in Connecticut in the early 1980's and spending the weekend in New York. My son, Jon Todd Koenig, and I went to the World Trade Center and took the elevator up to the top of One World Trade Center to the elegant restaurant known as "Windows on the World". At that time, which was almost twenty years ago, we rode up the elevator with Miss Universe contestants, and had perhaps fifteen of the loveliest women in the world in the elevator with us. I always smiled when I thought of that experience.

Younger people who still have young children at home, such as our daughter, Jill, could only think of the poor day care children whose parents (who worked at the World Trade Center) were not coming to pick them up on the afternoon of September 11 or on any other afternoon. Some of us had business acquaintances who officed in the World Trade Center and who either survived or not, depending upon any number of nuances. My brother, Weldon Koenig, was scheduled to fly to New York for a business meeting on the afternoon of September 11, but his flight was grounded before it left Austin, Texas. Our friends, Manuella and Herbert Roller, were in the mid Atlantic coming back to the United States from a trip to Germany and were shuttled off to Newfoundland, Canada. The Bach Society in Houston had a choir coming from Dresden, Germany which was in mid Atlantic when the announcements of the attack were made. The plane carrying the choir turned back to Germany and the choir missed its scheduled performance at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston. We lost many brave and talented people on September 11. Yet, a new spirit within the United States has developed in which we feel much more unified as a nation than we have at any time in the recent past. I chair a Naval NROTC alumni group at the University of Texas. We has our annual reunion in Austin on September 29 and had a significant number of alums show up. Being patriotic and honoring those who serve and those who have served in the armed forces was suddenly back in vogue after September 11.

The events of September 11 and following will leave an indelible mark. Those events also very vividly point out our mortality. It is important that we plan our time remaining on this earth in such a way that our family, our friends and our charitable causes are remembered. It is important that we all leave our mark on our communities and on our families. If you have not already prepared a Will, this is a good time to do so. You should typically care for your family and provide for their welfare after you are gone, but you should also give back to the charities and causes that you hold dear. This will typically include your family and spouse. It will often include your church, synagogue or temple, your university and other charitable groups such as the German Texan Heritage Society. A Will in which you leave 10% of your estate to GTHS for preservation of German Texan heritage, a beneficiary designation which provides that a portion of your IRA or 401(k) plan passes to GTHS, or that a portion of your life insurance passes to GTHS, is something that should be thoughtfully considered. Recently the annual fund drive commenced and in your mail will be a request to support GTHS. Be generous and promptly return your donation at a high level. If you have misplaced your donation form, please look up our web site at [www.main.org/germantxn](http://www.main.org/germantxn) or email the office at [GermanTexans@aol.com](mailto:GermanTexans@aol.com). If you desire to talk about ways in which you can leave your German mark, please call Rodney C. Koenig at 713-651-5333 or email me at [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com)

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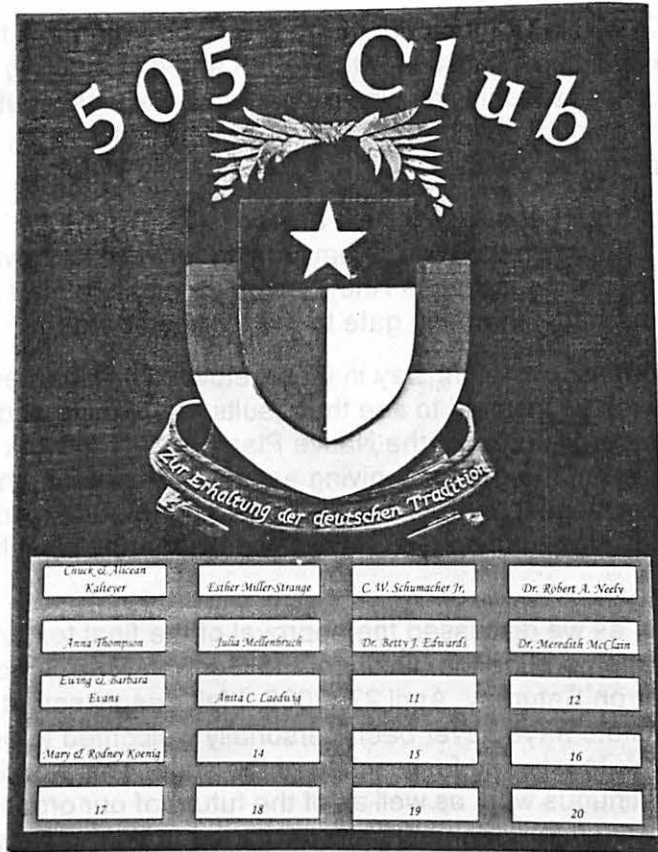
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**THE 505 CLUB**





**JOIN THE UNIQUE 505 CLUB  
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WE WILL ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS  
BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE TO BE EXHIBITED  
AT THE GTHS HEADQUARTERS**

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YOU WILL BECOME A MEMBER OF THE  
CLUB IN VERY GOOD STANDING**

## **A GTHS challenge from the Llano Estacado outpost**

On Saturday, October 27, 2001, 12 members of the GTHS board and all four officers arrived at the German Free School building in Austin for the fourth and last meeting of the calendar year. The only board member physically missing was Helga von Schweinitz, but she had sent an official letter bringing up a point of new business for consideration and so, even though she was in Germany, her spirit was actively with us.

Each time I fly into Austin from Lubbock for such an occasion (two hours "hin und zurueck" on Southwest rather than 12 hours on the road), I am looking forward to arriving at the elegant headquarters of our statewide organization. And I am never disappointed as I park on 10th street and then head through the charming gate to the terraced gardens.

Arriving early this time from my overnight stay in Georgetown, I meandered through the garden plantings and, as usual, was so inspired to see the results of planning and care: lovely, healthy plants everywhere. The recent interest of the Native Plant Society to work with us on the maintenance and expansion of the gardens, giving especial attention to the plantings of Lindheimer, is a very happy aspect on the horizon. According to our executive director, one member of that society has signed up in the GTHS 8-week German class! Now that is really news!

During the board meeting, as we discussed the approval of the final text of the Texas Historical Commission plaque, commemorating the history of the German Free School and the festive ceremony which will occur on Saturday, April 27, 2002, I felt deeply sorry that so many of our members throughout the state have never been personally welcomed to our building, perhaps especially those from the outposts and far reaches of the state. This wonderful place is the symbol of 23 years of continuous work as well as of the future of our organization. But few draw inspiration from it the way we board members are privileged to do regularly.

Thus I plan to offer a **special tour package to the 25 or so GTHS members scattered throughout the Panhandle featuring a special hosting and welcome to their German-Texan Heritage Society headquarters on the weekend of April 27th**. I offer this plan now as a challenge to you who are committed to the health and growth of our organization to consider doing the same for your local groups. If we in Lubbock can rally the forces almost 400 miles from Austin, perhaps you can do it from your home? Will the Llano Estacado GTHS members see you in Austin on April 27th? I do hope so!

### **PROPOSED ITINERARY:**

**Friday, April 26:**

Arrival in Austin (airport or in vans?) on Friday afternoon.

Transfer to Georgetown: tour of Southwestern University campus and downtown Square.

Reception at a historic home in Georgetown. Dinner at German Restaurant in Walburg, TX.

Overnight in hotels, B&Bs, private homes?

**Saturday, April 27:**

9:30 departure for Austin. Tour capitol building followed by lunch at Scholz's Biergarten. Early afternoon visit to the new Texas Historical Museum.

Arrival at the GTHS headquarters for the dedication of the plaque. Walking tour of Austin?

Dinner at German restaurant in Georgetown (Georgetown Restaurant)

**Sunday, April 28.** Possible tour to Salado for late morning shopping and lunch at the Stage Coach Inn. Afternoon return to Lubbock.

**for further info, please contact:**

**Meredith McClain at 806-744-6033 or email: [meredithmcclain@cs.com](mailto:meredithmcclain@cs.com)**



# **PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE 2002 ANNUAL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**

**THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 15-16-17, 2002**

**AT BRENHAM AND SHELBY**

## **→FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

Registration begins at 4 pm in Brenham's Community Hall located downtown on Main Street at Highway 105. Pick up maps and information about things to do and see in Brenham and the surrounding area.

## **→FRIDAY EVENING**

At 7:30, return to the Community Hall for the GTHS reception. Meet and visit with friends and enjoy light refreshments.

## **→SATURDAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON**

Saturday morning drive along the "Bluebonnet Trail" (Farm-to-Market Road 389) to nearby Shelby. At Harmonie Hall, built in the 1880s for the local German singing society, we and the Texas German Society will have a joint morning and afternoon program of speakers and entertainment, with a catered lunch served at the hall.

## **→SATURDAY EVENING**

Back in Brenham, dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Hall with music by a local band providing dance music along with German polka and waltz numbers.

## **→SUNDAY MORNING**

At 9:00 a.m. we will meet again at the Community Hall for a morning educational program and the annual GTHS business meeting, with adjournment before noon, leaving time to see more of Brenham or visit interesting places in the Brenham area.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW  
AND RESERVE A PLACE TO STAY IN BRENHAM  
SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR A LIST OF ACCOMODATIONS.**

**In addition to attending the annual convention, meeting friends, and dancing to a German band, there's lots for you to do and see in Brenham and the surrounding area.....**

### **THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN BRENHAM**

Brenham has a German heritage, and each year in May since 1884 has celebrated its own *Maifest*. If history or genealogy interests you, visit Brenham's **Heritage Museum**, housed in a 1915 former post office building, featuring permanent and special exhibits and historic photographs of early Brenham and Washington County towns, many of them German immigrant communities. Germans were among the founders of Brenham's **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**, established more than 100 years ago. Germans also operated many of Washington County's thirty-six breweries in 1901. Today the **Brenham Brewery** on West First Street produces German-style lager beer and welcomes visitors. Brenham's German heritage also is reflected by **Blinn College**, founded in the 1880s by the German branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On a walking tour of downtown Brenham's "**Main Street District**" you will find buildings of an earlier era that now house more than forty stores for your shopping pleasure. Other things of historical interest in Brenham include the **Giddings-Stone Mansion**, built in 1869; a **steam fire engine** built in 1879; and an **antique carousel** dating back to 1910 which is one of only four of its kind. Brenham also has the only commercial wholesale greenhouse in Texas that allows the public to tour its working operations. It is **Ellison's** on South Market. You also can take a wine-making tour of the picturesque, hillside **Pleasant Hill Winery** and enjoy wine-tasting afterwards. Or you may want to visit the **Blue Bell Creameries** in southeast Brenham. It offers weekday tours ending with a sample of its ice cream and a visit to its gift shop.

### **THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN THE BRENHAM AREA**

Many points of interest are within a short drive from Brenham. The small town of **Round Top**, located southwest of Brenham, has German roots dating from the mid-1800s. Its German-style **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** was built in 1867, and its antique, hand-made organ of cedar wood is unique. **Henkel Square** at Round Top is an open-air museum of dwellings and structures built 1820 to 1870 and has a superb collection of German-Texan furnishings, utensils and art. Near Round Top is the site of **Nassau Farm** purchased by the *Adelsverein* in 1843 before its first colonists reached Texas. The town of **Burton** twelve miles west of Brenham also has a German heritage. The **Burton Cotton Gin**, built by Germans, is Texas Historic Landmark open to visitors along with an adjacent museum. At **Independence**, north of Brenham, visitors to the **Antique Rose Emporium** can see several unique, restored buildings from the 1840s and 1850s and can stroll through the 8-acre retail garden filled with antique roses and native plants. Close by are the ruins of the original **Baylor University**, along with the **Texas Baptist Historical Center and Museum**. Northeast of Brenham is **Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park** where you can visit "**Barrington**," the home of Texas' last President, **Anson Jones**, now a **Living History Farm**. And you can visit the **Star of the Republic Museum**, devoted to the history of Texas from 1836 to 1845. Nine miles east of Brenham is the **Monastery of St. Clare**, home for a



group of Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns who support themselves raising miniature horses and selling art work in their gift shop. Visitors are welcome to pet the horses. **Chappell Hill** is east of Brenham on the highway to Houston. This historic town has more than twenty-five historical markers and ten historic sites. You may take a guided tour of "downtown" and visit the Chappell Hill Historical Museum, which is a must-see for Texas history buffs.

## WHERE TO STAY IN BRENHAM?

→ **The weekend of our annual meeting may be "Bluebonnet Time" in the Brenham area. The blooming of the bluebonnets always brings out many people who drive the Bluebonnet Trail" which runs around Washington County. This can be a busy time for Brenham motels. For that reason, it would be a good idea for you to reserve a place to stay as soon as possible for Friday and Saturday nights, March 15 and 16. TODAY IS NOT TOO SOON!**

### Motels in Brenham

**BEST WESTERN INN, 979/251-7791 (35 rooms are blocked until February for GTHS members @ \$64-69)**

**COACH LIGHT INN, 979/836-5657 (advertises rooms at "low" rates)**

**DAYS INN, 979/830-1110 (90 rooms @ \$36-65)**

**HILLTOP MOTOR INN 888/672-1378 or 979/836-7915 (80 rooms; advertises "reasonable" rates)**

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, 800/465-4329 or 979/836-4590 (57 rooms @\$79 rate)**

**RAMADA LIMITED, 800/2-RAMADA or 979/836-1300 (\$59-89 rate)**

### RV Campground in Brenham

**ARTESIAN PARK RV CAMPGROUND, 979/836-0680 (49 full RV hook-ups with 30 & 50 amps)**

### Bed and Breakfasts in Brenham

**ANT STREET INN, 979/836-6717 (14 rooms in 100 year old downtown hotel @ \$95-250)**

**THE BRENHAM HOUSE, 979/830-0477 (one suite and one room)**

**FAR VIEW ESTATES, 979/836-1672 (rooms in 1925 house @ \$85-195)**

**INGLESIDE, 979/251-7707 (rooms in house near downtown @ \$85-120)**

## RECENT EVENTS AND NEWS

### CHANGE OF TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER

The last edition of the Journal announced a new toll free telephone number for the GTHS Office in Austin. Since then, the toll free number has been changed to 1-866-482-4847. (reported by Julia Germany)

### GERMAN-TEXAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Julia Germany, the GTHS Executive Director, invites all GTHS members and friends to attend the annual German-Texan Christmas Market and festivities which will be held at the German Free School in Austin on December 1, 2001, from 10 am until 5 pm. For those have never visited the German Free School, it is located at 507 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, two blocks west of Interstate 35.

### TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY CUTS DEGREE IN GERMAN

Texas Lutheran University (formerly Texas Lutheran College) at Seguin, will drop its bachelor degree in German at the end of the current academic year, citing a declining interest in the study of the German language. The university's Board of Regents approved this move after learning that enrollment in German courses had become cost prohibitive. At present only two students are seeking a degree in German, according to a university vice president. (reported by Theresa Gold)

### THE 2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD

Below, front row, left to right: Julia Germany (GTHS Executive Director), Ewing Evans (President), Joe Burges (Vice President for Communications), and Margaret Hitzfeld (Secretary). Back row, left to right: Charles Kalteyer (Vice President for the Operational Fund), Muriel Vaughan (Vice President for Hospitality), Helga von Schweinitz (Vice President for Education), Arlene Burges (Vice President for Volunteer Operations), and Charles Clinger (Vice President for Building Facilities).



### **GERMAN SONG FEST AT NEW BRAUNFELS**

The 110th German Song Fest (Sängerfest des Texanischen Gebirgs-Sängerbundes) was held at New Braunfels, September 22, 2001, with some 300-350 persons in attendance, most of them German-Texans or Germans. The next annual Sängerfest will be held at Corpus Christi, Texas, at the end of September 2002. It will be hosted by the Heimatmelodie Gemischter Chor. (reported by Hans Micklitz)

### **GERMAN-AMERICAN CONCERT**

Trefor Smith, a pianist from Hamburg, Germany, presented a piano concert at Texas Tech University, October 6, 2001, celebrating German-American Friendship Day. His program included works by Beethoven and Liszt. During his visit to Lubbock, Smith also conducted master classes for area music teachers, in cooperation with the Department of Music at Texas Tech. (reported by Dr. Meredith McClain)

### **GERMAN BAND CONCERT AT ROUND TOP**

The Texas all-State German Band, officially known as *Blasmusik Texas*, presented a free ninety-minute concert August 11, 2001, on the town square at Round Top in Fayette County, together with members of the Round Top Brass Band. *Blasmusik Texas* is a volunteer band of musicians from all parts of Texas. Members annually perform at German-Texas fests and similar events. (reported by Rodney Koenig)

### **THE WEIHNACHTSMARKT AT NEW BRAUNFELS**

New Braunfels will hold its annual German Christmas Shopping Market, the Weihnachtsmarkt, at the New Braunfels Civil Center on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 16-17-18, 2001. Friday and Saturday hours are 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday hours are 11 am to 5 pm. A \$5.00 admission fee is good for all three days. The Weihnachtsmarkt offers Christmas decorations and a raffle, with food available at Sophie's Kaffee Haus. Proceeds benefit the Sophienburg Museum and Archives at New Braunfels. For more information phone 830-629-1572 or visit [www.nbtex.com/sophienburg](http://www.nbtex.com/sophienburg). (reported by Theresa Gold)

### **GERMAN COOKIE RECIPES FOR SALE**

GTHS is offering for sale copies of *Oma's Cookie Buch* by Connie Schneider Krause. This collection of traditional German cookie recipes is recommended as a Christmas stocking stuffer. The price is \$5.00 per copy (\$3.50 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling and tax). To get a copy send your check to GTHS, Attention Oma at P.O. Box 684171, Austin, Texas 78768-4147. A personal, signed copy can be obtained by including a printed request with the specific information along with your check.

### **GERMAN-AMERICAN MONUMENT ERECTED IN MINNESOTA**

The Hermann Monument in New Ulm, Minnesota, has been recognized by the U.S. Congress as a national symbol honoring contributions to the United States by Americans of German heritage. The statue of Hermann, a German folk hero, was erected by German-Americans. According to legend, Hermann was a warrior-leader who freed the German tributes from foreign domination. A similar statue of Hermann stands in Detmold, Germany. (reported by Theresa Gold)



### **NEW DATE FOR DEDICATION OF GFS HISTORICAL MARKER**

The last edition of the Journal announced the dedication ceremony for the German Free School historical marker was scheduled October 6, 2001, German-American Day. This had to be cancelled. The ceremony has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2002, in conjunction with MaiFest. Meanwhile, an effort is underway to locate descendants of students who attended the German Free School during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (submitted by Julia Germany)

### **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN HISTORICAL MARKER**

Most of the women who founded the San Antonio Section of the National Council of Jewish Women in 1907 were of German ancestry. A Texas Historical Commission marker honoring this society was unveiled May 14, 2001, during a ceremony held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio.



**THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL BUILDING AT AUSTIN**  
(photo by Julia Germany)

**LECTURE BY GERMAN PROFESSOR**

Barbara Gugold, a member of the faculty of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, delivered a lecture at Trinity University in San Antonio on October 16, 2001, during a visit to Texas to recruit college students for study in Germany through the Institute for International Studies. Her talk was titled "Eleven Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall and How the Germans Relate to Each Other."

**GERMAN-TEXAN TRAVELING EXHIBIT AT COMFORT**

The traveling exhibit, "The Contributions of German-Texans to the Lone Star State," organized by Dr. Meredith McClain, member of the GTHS Board of Directors, opened a month-long stay at the public library in Comfort, Texas, with a public reception on August 11, 2001. (reported by Dr. Meredith McClain)

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL**

November 28, 2001, marks the tenth anniversary of the day when the German-Texan Heritage Society became sole owner of the German Free School Building in Austin. For GTHS members who have never visited the building, it and the GTHS office are located in Austin at 507 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, two blocks west of Interstate 35. (reported by Helga von Schweinitz)

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEND A HELPING HAND TO THE GTHS**

On September 1, 2001, twenty-five students from the German class at Bowie High School in Austin volunteered fifty hours of work at the GTHS Office. They stuffed 2,500 envelopes with information about GTHS's annual operational fund drive, they entered data for the mailing on the two computers in the office, and they washed down the outside windows and doors of the German Free School building. (reported by Julia Germany)

**GERMAN LANGUAGE CLASSES AT THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL**

On Monday, September 24, 2001, Austin's newspaper, the American-Statesman, ran an article promoting German language classes for advanced beginners offered this fall at the German Free School building by the Guild. Four individuals signed up for the course by 10:30 am the first of registration. By the end of the week, ten were enrolled for the eight-weeks course. (reported by Joe Burges)

**GTHS AD IN GERMAN LIFE**

The GTHS Executive Director, Julia Germany, asks everyone who reads German Life magazine to look for GTHS's four-color ad on page 61 in the October-November edition.

**TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT**

The Lower Colorado River Authority and Fayette Electric Cooperative have awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Texas German Society to restore and preserve the society's historic Witte-Schmid Haus (House) built in 1860 in Austin County and donated to the society in 1986.



## A SALUTE FROM THE GERMAN NAVY

submitted by Frank E. Donahue

*The following are edited and abridged parts from an e-mail message recently sent to his father by a U.S. Navy officer (an ensign) aboard one of our ships, the Winston Churchill, following the terrorist attacks of September 11.*

"Dear Dad,

We have spent every day since the attacks standing high security watches. About two hours ago the junior officers were called to the bridge to conduct drills when we got a call from the LUTJENS (D185), a German warship that was moored ahead of us on the pier in Plymouth, England. While in port, the WINSTON CHURCHILL and the LUTJENS (D185) got together for a sports day/cookout on our fantail, and we made some pretty good friends. Now they called, requesting to pass us close up on our port side to say goodbye. Our Captain told our crew to come topside to wish them farewell. As the Germans were making their approach, our Conning Officer saw through binoculars that they were flying an American flag. As they came even closer, we saw that the flag was flying at half-mast. As the ship came alongside, we saw that the entire crew of the German ship were manning the rails, in their dress blue uniforms. They had made a sign that read "WE STAND BY YOU." Needless to say, there was not a dry eye on the bridge as they stayed alongside us for a few minutes and we cut our salutes. It was probably the most powerful thing I have seen in my entire life and more than a few of us fought to retain our composure. The German Navy did an incredible thing for this crew. It's amazing to think that only a half century ago things were quite different, and to see the unity that is being demonstrated makes us all feel proud to be out here doing our job. I'll write you when I know more about when I'll be home, but for now this is probably the best news that I could send you. Love you guys."

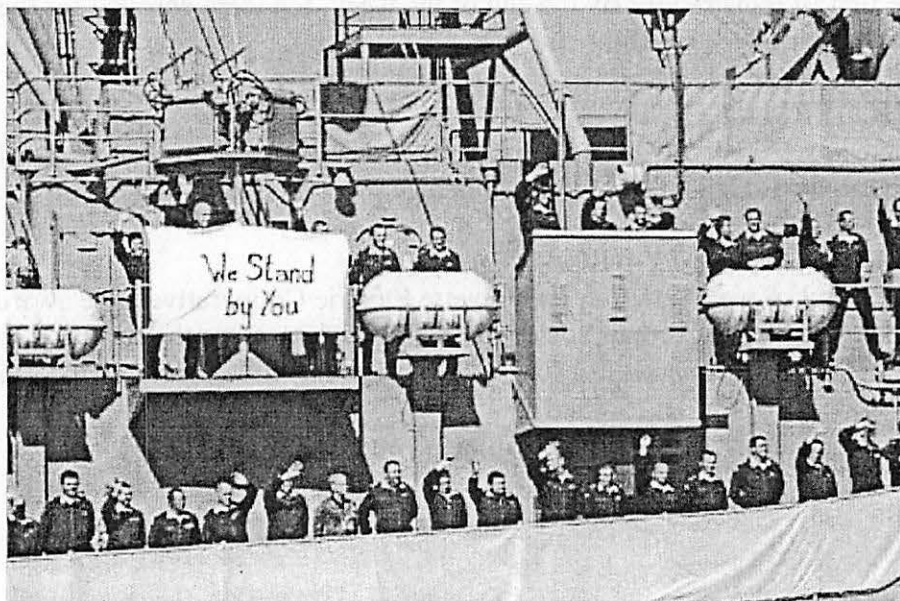


Photo by PH2 Shane McCoy/U.S. Navy



## IN MEMORIAM WENZEL HASSLER

Wenzel Hassler, a San Antonio resident, died September 21, 2001, at age eighty-seven following a stroke suffered in August. He was the son of Vinzena Hassler and Anna Beutel. Born in Germany, August 20, 1914, when his father was fighting in World War I, Wenzel was four years old before meeting his father the first time. Later, living among the Germans in Czechoslovakia, Wenzel enlisted in the the Czechoslovak army. But after the German takeover of Bohemia in 1938, he was conscripted into the German army. After the German invasion of Russia, Wenzel was sent to fight on the Eastern Front. Almost his entire military unit was killed in battle, but Wenzel was among a few taken prisoner by the Russians. His captors were about to execute him when he said to them in Russian "only you and God know what you are about to do." They spared him and forced him to become an interpreter for them. Wenzel collected information about dead and wounded German prisoners in hopes their families in Germany could be notified. He survived the war and in 1952 emigrated to the United States with his wife Anna Kundel and the surviving three of their six children. One son died after reaching the U.S., and Wenzel's wife died in 1971. In 1996, he married Lillian Schneider. In 1998, he became a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Wenzel's survivors include his wife Lillian, daughter Barabara Hassler Schramek, son Alfred Hassler, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## IN MEMORIAM CHARLES WILBURN VON ROSENBERG

Charles Wilburn von Rosenenberg died July 27, 2001 in Dallas, Texas, at age ninety-three. He was born at Hallettsville, Texas, November 28, 1907, a son of Otto Carl von Rosenberg and Lisette Schenk. Charles attended Texas A&M University and the University of Texas where he earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in history and government. He was author of a history of the von Rosenberg Family, an early German-Texan family that immigrated to Texas in the 1850s. He taught high school at Fredericksburg. Then in the late 1930s, he took a position with the Social Security Administration, where he worked for thirty-five years before retiring as Deputy Director in the Division of Administrative Appraisal and Planning. During World War II, Charles served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a research analyst and used his fluency in German as a translator. After Germany's surrender, he interviewed German industrialists and government officials including Albert Speer, one of the war criminals convicted at the Nuremberg Trials. Charles never married. His survivors included two grand nieces, Ann von Rosenberg of Dallas and Kathryn von Rosenberg Reeder of the Woodlands, Texas, Funeral services were held in Hallettsville, August 13, 2001, with interment at the Hallettsville Cemetery.

## **DURST FAMILY SEARCH FOR GERMAN RELATIVES AT DETTENHAUSEN**

By Nelson Durst

Janet Durst Sweet of Palo Alto, California, and Margaret Durst Godfrey of College Station, Texas, the daughters of Nelson and Annie Durst, traveled to Europe in July 1994 and spent a few days in and around Dettenhausen, Germany, from which the John Durst, Senior family emigrated to Texas in 1846. They met four Durst families, only one a known relative. Wilhelm Durst, then (1994) in his late eighties, was a descendent of John Durst, Senior's grandfather.

They also met Fritz Durst and his son Rolf, not known to be relatives. Mildred Durst Woods, Nelson Durst's sister, and her late husband Robert Woods visited Dettenhausen in 1970 and met Fritz and Rolf, who then was a teenager. Rolf knew English and he has been corresponding with Nelson Durst. Rolf sent Nelson an item from a 1980 Dettenhausen area church paper. It refers to a report in a Stuttgart, Germany, newspaper of the first annual Durst Family Reunion held in Fredericksburg, Texas, on August 31, 1941. Someone must have taken or mailed the brochure published after that first reunion to someone in Germany.

Dettenhausen is a suburb of Tübingen, an old university city in southern Germany, about fifty miles north of the Switzerland border. It seems to be common knowledge there that the Durst family's name originated in Switzerland and that it once had an umlaut, Dürst. Perhaps the umlaut was dropped by those who left Switzerland, probably in the 1500s.

## **ERNDTEBRUECK TO SHELBY: FAMILY RESEARCH PROJECT**

By Henry Wolff Jr.

A search of his family roots in Germany has become a much larger project for Victoria Advocate columnist Henry Wolff Jr.

He has expanded his research to include all the families that came to Texas from Erndtebrueck and other nearby villages in Siegerland-Wittgenstein, there being at least eight of the families that are related in some way to his Wolf family.

"Wolf is the original family spelling," he notes, joking that his grandfather, the first Henry Wolff, changed the name "to keep the dogs off."

"Most of these families," Wolff says, "settled in and around Shelby, Austin County, Texas, in the mid-1850s, though some would also settle around Yorktown, DeWitt County, and others in and around Fredericksburg in the Hill Country."

Henry and his wife, Linda, spent three weeks in June visiting 10 ancestral villages between them in Germany and neighboring Alsace, France.

"My Wolf family came from the small village of Zinse, just out of

Erndtebrueck," he says.

Erndtebrueck will be celebrating its 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006 and Wolff would like to have all the families researched by then that came from that village and other nearby villages, such as Zinse, Grossenbach, Wolmensdorf, etc.

His great grandparents Christian and Marie Elisabeth Weyand Wolf immigrated to Shelby in 1851 along with Christian's brother Frederick and his wife Marie Elise Treude.

"While I have the Wolf family well documented in Germany," he says, "I need additional information on Frederick's family in Texas, for instance."

There are a number of other families in the Wolf genealogy from Erndtebrueck and nearby villages who had family members immigrate to Texas including the Weyand, Treude, Birkelbach, Voelkel, Sassmannshausen, Marburger, Althaus and Afflerbach families. Others known to have come to Texas include the Menn, Martin, Goebel, Wied, Riedesel and Wunderlich families.

There are other names familiar to both the Shelby and Erndtebrueck areas, as well, such as Hassler, Wagner, Herling, Bald and Schlabach.

"While I have information on some of these families," Wolf says, "there are others for which I have little or no information thus far. I would like to hear from anyone who can provide names and information on any family members who immigrated to Texas from the vicinity of Erndtebrueck. This would include their parents in Germany, children born in Germany and Texas, where they settled, what ship they arrived on (if available) and the year, and any interesting family stories of their voyage or experiences in settling in Texas.

"My intention is to put this information together in some form for distribution to families in both Texas and Germany in celebration of the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that one village and surrounding area that contributed so much to the German settlement of Texas, and particularly Shelby." Wolff says.

There are now thousands of descendants in Texas and elsewhere in the United States who can trace their ancestry to the immigrants from Erndtebrueck and neighboring villages.

"We also have many distant relatives in Germany who are as interested in their Texas cousins as we are in finding them," Wolff further notes. "Words can not describe how thrilling it was for me the day that I stood at the site in Zinse where the Wolf house stood before it burned in 1906. Many other of our ancestral homes are still in use today and many of the names mentioned above can be found on local businesses, street signs, and in the village telephone directories."



"I only knew of two distant family connections in Germany," Wolff says, "but while there met several others. I learned that the remaining members of the Wolf family had moved to Bad Driburg and I left Erndtebrueck and Zinse knowing this was just the first trip in search of my German roots.

"It is my hope that many others will plan to return to this beautiful area of Germany that is their ancestral homeland for Erndtebrueck's 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration."

Those who would like to contribute to Wolff's Erndtebrueck to Shelby family research project may contact him by mail at 1704 Milam Dr., Victoria, TX. 77901, telephone 361-575-3689, or e-mail [wolfhaus@txcr.net](mailto:wolfhaus@txcr.net).

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR: A RESEARCH TOOL FOR GERMAN-TEXANS WHOSE ANCESTORS CAME FROM THE AREAS OF GERMANY UNDER NAPOLEON'S CONTROL, 1799 TO 1815**

from the June 2001 Newsletter of the Castro Colonies Heritage Association  
submitted by Theresa Gold

The French Revolutionary Calendar (or Republican Calendar) was introduced in France during the French Revolution (1789-1799) on November 24, 1793 and abolished on January 1, 1806. It was used again briefly under the Paris Commune, a revolutionary government established in France by the people of Paris during the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871). It is helpful to genealogists tracing their French heritage to know something of this calendar.

A Republican year consists of 365 or 366 days, divided into 12 months of 30 days each, followed by 5 or 6 additional days. The months were:

Vendémiaire (vintage): Sept.	Pluviôse (rain): January	Prairial (meadow): May
Brumaire (mist): October	Ventôse (wind): February	Messidor (harvest): June
Frimaire (frost): November	Germinal (seed): March	Thermidor (heat): July
Nivôse (snow): December	Floréal (blossom): April	Fructidor (fruits): August

The year was not divided into weeks. Instead each month was divided into three *décades* of 10 days. The 5 or 6 additional days following the last day of Fructidor were called *vertu* (virtue), *génie* (genius), *travail* (labor), *l'opinion* (reason), *récompenses* (rewards), and the leap day, *révolution* (revolution).

Years are counted since the establishment of the first French Republic on September 22, 1792. The Gregorian Calendar date on which each year of the Republic started is as follows:

Year 1: September 22, 1792	Year 8: September 23, 1799
Year 2: September 22, 1793	Year 9: September 23, 1800
Year 3: September 22, 1794	Year 10: September 23, 1801
Year 4: September 22, 1795	Year 11: September 23, 1802
Year 5: September 22, 1796	Year 12: September 23, 1803
Year 6: September 22, 1797	Year 13: September 23, 1804
Year 7: September 22, 1798	Year 14: September 23, 1805

The date 5 Fructidor 10 indicates day 5 of the month of August of year 10 of the French Republic (August 23, 1802). As there are only 30 calendar days in each month of the Republican Calendar (3 *décades*), the actual day is more difficult to ascertain. It requires reckoning the days of the Gregorian Calendar, starting with the first day of the Republican year in question, in 30-day increments. For those of you who are familiar with the Internet, there are conversion tables on [www.francogene.com](http://www.francogene.com). Click on "Republican Calendar." If you would like more information, please contact me.

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Internet Sources:

[www.tondering.dk/claus/cal/node7.html](http://www.tondering.dk/claus/cal/node7.html)  
[www.windhorst.org/calendar/#monthnames](http://www.windhorst.org/calendar/#monthnames)

—John Glyn Wernette, Corresponding Secretary

## WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF?

By Edward Henry Gaulin, Sr.

A message on the Internet caught my eye the other day and I can't get it out of my mind. A West Coast genealogist had been exchanging information with a researcher in Virginia for some time. Then it happened. Her last message bounced -- it couldn't be delivered as the address no longer existed. Fortunately she had received a number of family group sheets from her correspondent which listed a telephone number. When she called the number a man answered, so she asked for her Internet friend and, after a slight hesitation was told, "Oh, Mary Ann passed away three weeks ago." Shocked, but ever gracious, she expressed her sympathy and commented how close this long-distance relationship had become and how it will be missed by her. The husband explained that he was sorry that he couldn't be of any help because he really didn't know much about what his wife was doing with her genealogy.

Perhaps you too have noticed at genealogical gatherings that the average age of the participants is something in excess of 39 years, at least judging by hair color. Most of us really don't have a lot of time to devote to our hobby until after the kids are grown, out of school and we've retired. Then it is no longer a hobby, it becomes an obsession. At some point in our continuous search for dead people, our ancestors, we recognize our own mortality and start to think about a permanent home for our research. If our children or grandchildren appear to be interested, we have it made, but frequently that's not the case. Then what happens to our "stuff"?

Genealogists are usually pretty smart people, until it comes to providing for the distribution of their genealogical assets. The latter, in my case anyway, is a room full of books, journals, magazines, pamphlets, maps, photographs, brochures, newsletters, computer equipment and furniture (desk, chairs, file cabinets, tables, lamps, etc.). The files are loaded with folders bearing

family and town names, historic events, and a bunch labeled "MISC." There are miles of computer printouts, hundreds of photocopies, and many "original" vital records. My desk is usually loaded with correspondence awaiting an answer -- either mine or from someone else. What should my wife do with all this stuff when I make the ultimate research trip -- a personal meeting with my ancestors?

If you still want to have any of your assets given to your alma mater or a local library or anywhere else, personally contact that agency and discuss the possibility -- right now. It won't come as a surprise to them and they should be able to advise you immediately of any conditions of acceptance. If you can support those conditions, ask for a written acknowledgment that can be placed with your will.

Some other things that you can do right now are to distribute copies of your research among your family, friends, and, perhaps, local or national libraries. This is simple if you have progressed to the book-writing stage, but don't be too concerned if you haven't. Many genealogists assemble their pedigree charts, group sheets, pertinent vital records, selected family photographs, and other important documents in notebook form. They write a brief introduction, provide a table of contents, and sometimes an index before having copies made for distribution. Afterwards, the notebook can be kept current with a new year's letter which might include new charts and photos.

Computerized genealogical data can be distributed in the same way on diskette. Sometimes an envelope or jacket is provided in the notebook described above to house data disks. Another way some researchers try to insure the safeguarding of their electronic data is to submit it to the LDS Ancestral File (tm) or one or more of the other commercial collections. If you don't know how to do this, consult your local genealogical society or Family History Center or even the public library for instructions.

Another thing you can do right now to benefit your heirs is to clean up your files. Eliminate unnecessary correspondence and duplicate copies of records. Toss out all those old printouts you made in 1984 on your Apple IIe computer. Sell all the "Genealogical Helper" magazines you have saved since 1973, because you will never open one of them again and you know it. If you get 50 cents each for them you can have a pretty good dinner. Give away all that old computer software that is taking up room on your bookshelves -- it's probably not worth anything anyway. Label your photographs, and diskettes too.

I find it a bit morbid, but you may wish to write your epitaph and select your tombstone now to insure future researchers will not encounter some of the same problems that you've had.



Some of our brighter colleagues say "My college library is getting all my stuff" or it's going to the local public library or to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City or even to the Library of Congress. Well, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but unless you are a celebrity or a huge financial donor, these institutions probably won't want your material -- they just don't have room for it. They would be grateful for a copy of your book, but they might not want the manuscript or research notes. The FHL would appreciate a GEDCOM disk of your genealogy database files, but it doesn't want your paper pedigree charts or family group sheets.

So what are your spouse and children to do with all of your stuff? They could really do a couple of dumb things with it if you don't provide guidance to them while you still can. It could be placed in the weekly trash collection and don't say "They wouldn't do that" because it unfortunately happens all the time. How about a garage sale? Now that is really scary, but it also happens every day. Remember all those old photos and tintypes you have seen in flea markets? How about all those bargain genealogy books you bought because you got to that garage sale before the dealers did? They all had to come from someplace.

What should you do to insure the sane distribution of your genealogical assets? Perhaps the first thing is to make a record of what you have and then try to keep it current. Show the acquisition date and how much you paid for each item on the inventory sheets. This is especially helpful for artifacts, collections, and books. A photographic record of these items, including those of rare books, could also be useful. Microfilm, microfiche and complete photocopies of books and some records have value. Back issues of many journals, newsletters, and magazines are also in demand by genealogists and therefore have value. However, if you don't tell them what is valuable, your heirs probably won't know.

Now that you have identified your assets, you need to tell someone what you want done with them. Maybe the simplest way is to prepare a letter to your heirs, but remember this lacks the force of law. If they want to, they can toss everything in the trash. A better way to provide for the distribution is in your will, particularly if you also designate sufficient funds to carry out your wishes. Your Last Will and Testament is also where you may make specific bequests: your copy of the 1898 edition of Burke's Peerage to your FGS Conference roommate or your old roll-top desk to your newest granddaughter. Your wishes can now be enforced by the courts, if necessary.

(The article above appeared in the December 1998 issue of the Rochester (New York) Genealogical Society's newsletter, "Hear Ye! Hear Ye!")

## ***ROUTES TO THE ROOTS***

by Helga von Schweinitz

Following Dr. U. Wagner's presentation at the TGS/GTHS convention in Waco in April 2001 I received many requests for information on how to travel in the greater Bremerhaven area and how to find the places Dr. Wagner had mentioned. I was not able to get a simple list of the places with comprehensive instructions, but one can just go there and ask for advice at the local Tourist Information. However, for those not familiar with German, I suggest reading on:

During a week-long symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in Bremerhaven, Germany, in June 2000, I participated in several day or half-day trips organized by Dr. Wolfgang Grams who runs an agency called Routes to the Roots. I was impressed by the variety of topics covered on each outing and by the thorough planning and good timing. I met with Dr. Grams again on my recent trip to Bremen and asked him for information and brochures on those programs and excursions that would be of interest to Americans who want to find out more about the ancestors and their lives and emigration experience. He handed me a thick folder, and in one and a half hour over coffee in the Ratskeller, we touched only the big outline of what one can get involved in by contacting *Routes to the Roots*.

Before I continue my account, let me give you some addresses:

**Dr. Wolfgang Grams**

**Routes to the Roots**

**E-mail: [Routes@t-online.de](mailto:Routes@t-online.de)**

**Internet: [www.routes.de](http://www.routes.de)**

**Phone: 011 49 441 962 0433**

**Fax: 011 49 441 962 0434**

**Street Address:**

**Babenend 127**

**D 26127 Oldenburg, Germany**

All guided tours and correspondence can be conducted in English and can be changed and tailored to individual needs or special wishes of a group. Here are a few samples of tours on the list:

Sailing on the Weser river from Bremen to Bremerhaven in a restored ship.

Bremen-Bremerhaven-America; Heritage, History, Culture. (4 days)

Hamburg-Cuxhaven-America (4 days)

Oldenburg, Osnabrueck, East-Friesland, Bremen, Bremerhaven (a 9-day field trip in the Northwest of Germany covering heritage, history, culture, landscape)

Your personal itinerary, based on your advanced information or on research done by the agency for you, including visits to farms, church offices, archives and local experts.

The Palatine Emigrant . Includes Heidelberg, Castle Hambach, a Rhine cruise, the emigration agency in Osnabrueck, Bremen, Bremerhaven and a dinner on an old sailing vessel.

Dr. Grams will try to participate in the 2002 TGS/GTHS convention and be available for your questions. At that time he is taking a group of German tourists to sites of interest in the South and Southwest of the USA.

## **GIESE-JUENGERMANN REUNION HELD AT ROUND TOP**

Descendants of the families of Johannes and Anna Marie Juengermann Giese, Sr., Ludwig and Caroline Naegeli Giese and Johan and Anna Marie Giese Juengermann met on September 22, 2001 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at Round Top, Texas for their annual reunion. Fifty persons were in attendance. Those in attendance came from San Antonio, Nursery, Round Top, Wallis, Brenham, La Grange, Eules, Richmond, Victoria, Angleton, Irving, Arlington, Sherman, Austin, Pearland, Rosenberg, Pampa and Coppel. Host for the 2001 reunion was Diana Giese Rhodes of Nursery.

Anna Marie Giese Bayles, president, of Pearland conducted the afternoon meeting following a noon meal of a variety of good food brought by those in attendance. Rose Anderson Thomas, secretary/treasurer, of Austin reported the events of the 2000 reunion. A monetary donation was made at the 2000 reunion to the cemetery fund of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and this year a donation will be made to the cemetery fund at James Bell Settlement Cemetery at Ledbetter. Early ancestors from the Giese and Juengermann families are buried at these cemeteries.

Maria Helena Fair of Palm Bay, Florida was recognized as the newest addition to family. The youngest female in attendance was Lu Bayles of Pearland. Her parents are James and Marie Giese Bayles. Jonathan Giese of San Antonio was recognized as the youngest male. His parents are Paul and Robin Giese. James Rothermel of Brenham was the oldest male in attendance. Paula Giese Heinsohn of La Grange was the oldest female at this year's reunion. James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel of Brenham were recognized for their 54 years of marriage. James B., Kathryn K., Leda, Grace, & Quintin Juengermann of Pampa traveled the longest distance. Two deaths were reported since the last reunion: Viola Giese Seiler of San Antonio and Ralph Isaac Clark of Pasadena.

Officers elected for the 2002 reunion were: president, Jack Juengermann of San Antonio; vice-president, John Henry Juengermann of Eules; secretary, Dorothy G. Rothermel of Brenham; and treasurer, Rose Anderson Thomas of Austin.

Group pictures were made of the descendants of the following families: Fritz and Anna Cybilla Giese Ponfick, Johann (Henry) and Bertha Spies Giese, Johann and Helen Heins Juengermann, Ernest and Emily Juengermann, Ludwig and Ida Scharenberg Giese, Gus and Augusta Giese Weid, and William and Erna Giese Finck.

Hosts for the 2002 reunion will be Edward and Marie Juengermann Anderson of Arlington and John and Helena Juengermann Fair of Sherman. Next year, the reunion will be held in the Round Top area again.

Submitted by: Dorothy Noak Rothermel



## KNEIP FAMILY SECOND REUNION

The second annual reunion for the descendants of Adolph Wilhelm and Christiana (Immelt) Kneip was held on July 14, 2001 at the American Legion Hall in Round Top, Tx., Fayette County. Adolph and Christiana and their six sons--Theodor Wilhelm, Karl Friedrich, Heinrich Adolph, Wilhelm (William) and (twins) Adolph H. Wilhelm and Ferdinand Christian Kneip left Germany and landed at Galveston Tx. on October 30, 1852 on the Ship CLEMENTINE. With 143 passengers. For what reason the family chose to settle in Fayette County is not known.

Registration started at 10:30 A. M. Again, name tags were used with a different color for descendants of Heinrich & Clara Ploeger Kneip, Adolph & Elise Huth (first wife) & Emilie Von Rosenberg Kneip, Ferdinand & Emmie Ploeger Kneip families. Group pictures were also taken of the families of the three sons.

Edgar Leonhardt led the group with a German Table Prayer that the older people always prayed before they ate a meal. Since the German language is not known by the younger generation, the same table prayer was prayed in English. A covered dish lunch was then served to the Eighty Five people attending. Eighty family members and five guests.

The business meeting was led by Berdie Barker. Loretta Leonhardt read the minutes and treasurer report of last year's reunion. Vivian Barker gave a report of the Graves Markers that need to be replaced. Loretta Leonhardt gave a report on the Family History Book that was started at the reunion last year. During this past year, we gathered information on 745 family members for our book. There are still family members that need to be included. We hope to get that information this year.

Election of officers was held for the next Kneip Family Reunion on Sunday July 14, 2002 at this same American Legion Hall. President Robert Kneip, Vice President Berdie Barker. Secretary/Treasurer Alice Kneip. Lydia Ann Heins, Gladiola Kruse and Loretta Leonhardt will continue with the Kneip Family History Book.

The following were recognized: Oldest female:: Evelyn (Kneip) Boenig 90 years from Woodsboro, Tx., Oldest male :: Allen Kneip 87 years from California. Youngest child:: Vance Charles Baker 3 months from Brenham, Tx. Longest married couple :: Edgar and Loretta Leonhardt 48 years from Red Rock, Tx. Most recent married couple :: Allen and Janet Crozier 3 years from Austin, Tx. Traveling the farthest distance was Melvin Kneip and Daughters April and Sarah from Hawaii. Travelers from out of state were, Allen Kneip from California and Loretta (Kneip) Johnson from Mississippi.

Submitted by::

Loretta Hartfield Leonhardt  
278 John Craft Road  
Red Rock, Texas 78662-2658

## KREBS FAMILY GATHER FOR 44th REUNION

September 16, 2001 at the American Legion Hall Shelby, Texas was the gathering place for eighty-three descendants of Heinrich and Dorothea (Keidel) Krebs. Descendants of children Wilhelm, Edward, Julius and Marie (Krebs) Schulze attended from different places in Texas and Oklahoma. There are only three family members of the fourth generation still living. Wilma (Krebs) Lewis of Algra, Oklahoma is one of the three and she attended this 44th reunion. The Krebs reunion is held on the third Sunday of September every year and always at the American Legion Hall in Shelby, Texas.

A catered meal of barbecue beef and chicken, also veggies and very good home made desserts was served at noon. A business meeting and auction was held in the afternoon.

This year, Wedding and individual pictures of the fourth generation descendants were added to the Krebs Family History Book "AN EIGHT GENERATION JOURNEY." The longest married couple was Edgar and Ida (Krause) Schmidt, married 60 years, from Burton, Texas. Most recent married were Justin and Abby Pizzitola married 17 month from Houston, Texas. For the year 2002 the fifth generations pictures will be added. This family book was compiled by Judy Chovanec and Loretta Leonhardt two years ago.

Heinrich and Dorothea (Keidel) Krebs and their eight children immigrated from Braunschweig Germany, leaving from Alberbuittel Hanover Germany on October 4, 1847 and landing at Galveston, Texas on November 27, 1847 after 54 days on the ship "Barque Franziska" with 167 passengers and Captain Hagelorn in control of the ship. Their children all had four or five names but here in Texas they were known as Wilhelm, Franz, Otto Theodore, Edward, Herman, Julius and Marie who had a twin sister who died in Germany at the age of 53 days. This twin was named Wilhelmine Friedrika Julie Elizabeth Krebs. Her birth or death will not be found in Germany. If a child does not live to the age of one year, that birth and death is not recorded with their family history.

Carl Heinrich Ferdinand Krebs was born at Blankenburg, Germany on October 24, 1795 and Dorothea Louise Henrietta Keidel was born on December 13, 1806 at Bockenem Germany. They were married on November 17, 1825 in Germany. What town is not known. Another daughter was still born at Willow Springs, Texas--Fayette County in the year 1849. At this time the Krebs Family Cemetery was started. One acre out of the 1290 acres of farm land that they bought on January 8, 1848 just 42 days after they landed in Texas was and is still used for a cemetery. This cemetery is still a very beautiful place and many family members are resting there. Including Heinrich, Dorothea and six of their children.

I am still looking for the name of the family that Heinrich, Dorothea and their children lived with after they came to Schoenau, Texas--Austin County. Dorothea (Keidel) Krebs Mother's maiden name was Kock. I have no first name for her.

Submitted by::

Loretta (Hartfield) Leonhardt 278 John Craft Road Red Rock, Tx. 78662-2658

## MEMBERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO SECTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, MAY 1907

The San Antonio Section of the National Council of Jewish Women was organized May 13, 1907. The following were the officers and original charter members, among whom were many German-Texans.

President, Mrs. E. Hertzberg	Vice President, Mrs. M. Haas
Recording Secretary, Mrs. J.J. Sterne	Corresponding Secretary, Miss (?) Marx
Treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Seligman	Miss Helen Gugenheim
Miss Alice Haas	Mrs. Jesse Oppenheimer
Miss Ellie Oppenheimer	Mrs. Julius Oppenheimer
Miss Essie Longine	Miss Carrie Pfeiffer
Mrs. Jacob Simons	Miss Nita Wolff
Mrs. Nat Washer	Miss Cecile Halff

In addition to those listed above, the following women attended the first called meeting of the NCJW on May 15, 1907. Most of them were German-Texans.

Mrs. Abe Bodenheimer	Miss Sophie Bodenheimer	Mrs. Oscar Berman
Mrs. Sol Dalkowitz	Mrs. Sam Dalkowitz	Mrs. H. Frank
Mrs. M. Friedman	Mrs. L. H. Freed	Mrs. Ben Dubinski
Mrs. Dave Gottlieb	Mrs. Lewis Goodman	Mrs. Jack Gugenheim
Miss Edna Gugenheim	Miss Ella Goldman	Mrs. B. Weiderman
Miss Cecile Haas	Miss Beatrice Marks	Mrs. Sam Harris
Mrs. Sol Hirshberg	Mrs. Alec Halff	Mrs. Ike Haas
Mrs. Sylan Neiman	Mrs. A. Kahn	Mrs. S. Halff
Miss Anita Kaufmann	Miss stella Levison	Mrs. E. Longine
Mrs. D.H. Levy	Mrs. I. Lang	Mrs. A. Lang
Mrs. S. Levine	Mrs. Louis Lindheim	Miss Florence Marks
Miss Stella Marks	Miss Clara Moritz	Miss Irene Michel
Mrs. H. J. Meyer	Mrs. Henry Oppenheimer	Mrs. M. B. Smith
Miss Jennie Phillips	Mrs. L. P. Peck	Mrs. D. J. Strauss
Mrs. P. Sulzbacher	Mrs. Will Sanger	Miss Minnie Strauss
Mrs. M. Steifel	Mrs. S. Wallack	Mrs. A. H. Wolff
Mrs. I. Roseman	Mrs. Henry M. Halff	Mrs. Armand Halff
Miss Blanche Armour	Mrs. A. Bergel	Miss Libby Falkenstein
Mrs. E. Goldstein	Miss Myrtle Moke	Mrs. Sidney Pfeiffer
Miss Ruth Goldsmith	Miss I. Green	Mrs. (?) Blum
Miss Mae Engel	Mrs. S. Rabe	Miss Rachel Baer
	Mrs. R. Rabe	

This list of names is from the May 14, 2001 program for the dedication of the Texas Historical Commission marker honoring the San Antonio Section of the NCJW. Submitted by Theresa Gold.



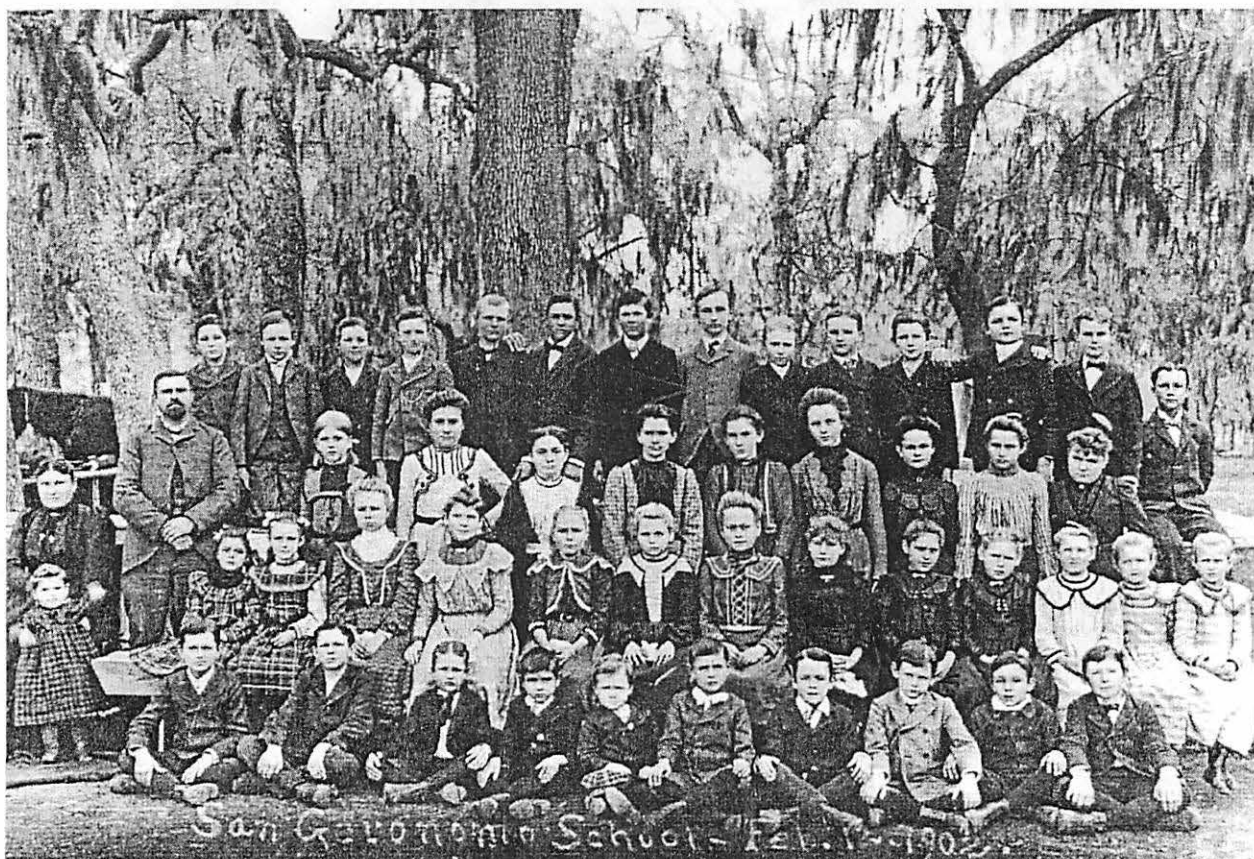
**1902 PHOTOGRAPH OF STUDENTS AND VISITORS  
THE SAN GERONIMO SCHOOL IN GUADALUPE COUNTY**

submitted by Willowdeen Rossner

This is a photograph made in 1902 showing the students of the San Geronimo School, their teacher and visitors. This was a rural school in Guadalupe County near the town of Geronimo. It was one of several schools German settlers in Guadalupe County established. In the local German community it was known as the Laubach School. It later became part of the public school system.

Pictured is the teacher, Fritz Pape, and his wife, Juliana Glaeser Pape, and their toddler daughter, Ida Pape. Fritz and Juliana Pape were the grandparents of GTHS members Willowdeen Rossner and Walden Shelton. Ida Pape was their mother.

The following family names have been identified for students in the picture: Altenhof, Bittner, Exrleden, Glaeser, Gosemann, Jomas, Jung, Kohler, Nagel, Neuse, Pape, Schmitt, Semmler, Tschoepe, and Weilbacher.





### Sonntag Family History



Picture Of Friedrich Herman Sonntag Family  
Back Row L to R: Augusta, Gottfried, F.H.  
Fr. Row L to R: Will, Gus, and Alvin  
Picture Taken In Oelsnitz/Erzg.  
Before Departing for USA in 1877

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## Sonntag and Diener Family

**Friedrich Herman (sometimes Hermann) Sonntag, (F.H.)**, was born July 14, 1846 in Oelsnitz/Erzg. Saxony, Germany (the eight of nine children) to **Johann Gottfried Sonntag** and his wife, **Christliebe Johanna Ebert-Sonntag**. His grandfather, also named **Johann Gottfried Sonntag** (wife's name **Christiane Caroline Jacob-Sonntag**), like other Sonntags back to 1609 AD had farmed the same tract (#210) of land at Oelsnitz/Erzg. (in older German language Ölsnitz/Erzg.). In 1871 after serving in the Franco-Prussian War (of 1870 – 71), F.H. was discharged from the army, took over the ownership - operation of the family farm, and was married to **Augusta Amelia Diener-Sonntag**, born August 10, 1850, in Oelsnitz. Augusta's family had farmed the tract #196 down the road from the Sonntag farm, a short walking distance, from 1850 AD and descendants continue to live in the beautiful, recently remodeled, original house.

In 1877, F.H. and Augusta Sonntag traveled to Bremen, Germany, and from there on the ship named **Wiser** landing in New York June 2, 1877, then probably via ship to Galveston, Texas, but records were not kept on domestic arrivals, and probably with the help of Germans who preceded them, they traveled to Dallas and Collin County, Texas, USA where they purchased about 1079 acres (436 hectares) of land. They farmed this Collin County land and a farm purchased about 1892 in Bosque County near a German family whose name was Seedig and who F.H. had helped move from Galveston, Texas, when they arrived from Germany about 1883. It is interesting to note that two of the Sonntag sons, born in Germany, married two of the Seedig sisters (also born in Germany) in 1902. It is also interesting to note that two of the younger Sonntag sons born in Collin County married sisters named Webb.

By 1890, F.H. and Augusta Sonntag had twelve children total (four born in Germany and eight born on the Collin County, Texas farm. The youngest child died as a teenager in 1905. By 1905, F.H. and Augusta turned their land in Collin and Bosque Counties, Texas over to their children and purchased about 4200 acres (1700 hectares) of land near Tampico, State of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. In 1905 F.H., Augusta, and initially Elsie (the youngest daughter) moved to Mexico. Elsie later returned to the Collin County farm to finish school. F.H. continued to develop the land in Mexico until his sudden death on December 14, 1915 of what is believed to be a heart problem. F.H. seems to have failed to recognized his own advancing years and the distance from his caring family during the then ongoing revolution in Mexico. After F.H.'s death it took about a week for Augusta to get a telegram to her family in Texas asking for their help. It took several days for two of her sons to travel to her aid and to return her to the Collin County, Texas home, by which time she was ill with pueumonia and died on January 26, 1916 at the homeplace in Collin County, Texas, USA.

In 1998 the author was the first descendant in 121 years to travel to Oelsnitz/Erzg. in the hope of restoring communications between those who share ancestry with us – building of a friendship-bridge across the wide distance that separates us. The author is now in contact with a few Germans who share our ancestry and will serve as a clearing house for information from either side of the Atlantic Ocean on the **Sonntag, Diener, Jacob, and Ebert** families.

Warden Mayes; E Mail: [warmayes@aol.com](mailto:warmayes@aol.com); Phone: 214-341-6360  
9945 Tanglevine Dr.; Dallas, Texas 75238-1527



**Sonntag Family History**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**S183 Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag**

Born: May 13, 1875 in Oelsnitz/Erzg., Saxony, Germany.

Christening is recorded on page 18 of the Ev. Luth. Ch. of Oelsnitz/Erzg., Ger.

Certificate of Nationalization in USA dated Sept. 13, 1921.

Died: Sept. 7, 1954 in the family home in Meridian, TX.

Married Sept. 26, 1901, Clifton Immanuel Luth. Ch. by Past. G. Lienhardt to:

**S183W Johanna Dortha "Emma" Seedig**

Born: Nov. 25, 1882 in Rixdorf, near Berlin, Germany.

Died: Feb. 7, 1966 in Meridian Hospital, Meridian, TX., USA.

For information on Emma's family see page 73 to 75.

To this marriage nine children were born:

**S1831 "Henry" W \_\_\_\_\_ Sonntag** Born: Oct. 12, 1902 in \_\_\_\_\_.

Died: Oct. 3, 1985 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married by Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clifton, TX. to:

**S1831W "Minnie" \_\_\_ Herzog** Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: Feb. \_\_, 1947 in \_\_\_\_\_.

To this marriage no children were born.

Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)

**S1832 "Clara" \_\_\_\_\_ Sonntag** Born: July 28, 1905 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married Aug. 25, 1935 in Immanuel Lutheran Church of Clifton, TX. to:

**S1832H "Herman" Schmidt** Born: July 29, 1903 in \_\_\_\_\_; Died: July 12, 1972 in \_\_\_\_\_.

To this marriage two children were born:

**S18321 Emilie Schmidt** Born: Sept. 27, 1938 in Fort Worth, TX.

Married June 14, 1986 in Zion Lutheran Church of Ft. Worth, TX. to:

**S18321H Ronald Eugene Wienke** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Ronald had two children by prior marriage (Tammy and Kim):

1 **Tammy Wienke** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

1H **Don Snowder** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage two children have been born:

11 **Cory Snowder** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

12 **Alicia Snowder** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

2 **Kim Wienke** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

2H **Larry Thompson** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage one child has been born:

21 **Trever Thompson** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

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### Sonntag Family History

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

**Clara Sonntag (cont.)**

Emilie and Ronald adopted one child:

**S183211 Adria Wienke** Born: Dec. 6, 1974 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

**S183211H \_\_\_\_\_ Long** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage three children have been born:

**S1832111 Jonathan Long** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

**S1832112 Jacob Long** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

**S1832113 Jackilyn Long** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

**S18322 Eva Janette Schmidt** Born: Dec. 24, 1942 in Fort Worth, TX.

Married Oct. 14, 1978 in Trinity Lutheran Church of Houston, TX.

by Pastor Donald Blask to:

**S18322H Elmer Leroy Zach** Born: Feb. 17, 1932 in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage one child has been born:

**S183221 Jennifer Nichole Zach** Born: Sept. 9, 1973?

Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)

**S1833 "Freda" J. \_\_\_\_\_ Sonntag** Born: May 11, 1907 in \_\_\_\_\_

Died: Aug. 20 (or 21), 1997 in \_\_\_\_\_.

Married Dec. 16, 1942 Rev. Wiederaenders in St. Paul Luth. Ch.; San Antonio to:

**S1833H Franklin Jackson Boone** Born: Oct. 3, 1906 in \_\_\_\_\_

Died: April 30, 1983 in \_\_\_\_\_.

No information about children born to this marriage, if any.

Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag

**S1834 "Emil" Julius Sonntag** Born: Oct. 18, 1908 in \_\_\_\_\_

Died: June 6, 1994 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married by Paster Nixon on July 30, 1933 in Private home in Clifton, TX. to:

**S1834W Mabel Elizabeth Oswald** Born: Aug. 29, 1908 in \_\_\_\_\_

Died: May 11, 1998 in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage two children were born:

**S18341 Earl Jay Sonntag** Born: Aug. 23, 1937 in Meridian, TX.

Married May 23, 1959 in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

**S18341W Lanelle Schminke** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage two children have been born:

**S183411 Brent Sonntag** Born: Jan. 22, 1961 in \_\_\_\_\_ ; Not married.

**S183412 John Sonntag** Born: Sept. 17, 1967 in \_\_\_\_\_ ; Not married.

(June 2000) Replacement Page 9 (b)

**Sonntag Family History**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

**"Emil" Sonntag (cont.)**

**S18342 Donny Joe Sonntag** Born: Feb. 9, 1946 in Meridian, TX.

Died: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Served in US Army (final rank E4) from Oct. 4, 1967 until July 20, 1969

Married \_\_\_\_\_ (later divorced) in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

**S18342WElizabeth Alfie** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage two children were born:

**S183421 David Sonntag** Born: Mar. 6, 1974 in \_\_\_\_\_

**S183422 Misty Sonntag** Born: Sept. 3, 1977 in \_\_\_\_\_

Donny Joe Sonntag remarried \_\_\_\_\_ (later divorced) in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

**S18342(W)Beth** \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Donny Joe Sonntag remarried \_\_\_\_\_ (later divorced) in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

**S18342(W)Patricia** \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To Donny and Patricia three children were born:

**S183423 Heather Sonntag** Born: July 12, 1982 in \_\_\_\_\_

**S183424 Kimberly Sonntag** Born: April 8, 1984 in \_\_\_\_\_

**S183425 Nathaniel Sonntag** Born: Aug. 17, 1986 in \_\_\_\_\_

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

**S1835 "Arnold" Otto Sonntag** Born: Aug. 23, 1910 in Meridian, TX.

Died: May 17, 1997 in \_\_\_\_\_

Lived in Winfield Kansas from \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_

Married by Rev. Hartenberger on Aug. 23, 1985 in Perryton, TX. to:

**S1835W "Elfrieda" Alma Schade** Born: Dec. 6, 1915 in Eldorado, KS.

To this marriage four children were born:

**S18351 "Sylvia" Clarice Sonntag** Born: July 20, 1936 in Beaver, OK.

Married by Rev. Zender on April 1, 1956 in Winfield, KS. to:

**S18351H "Thomas" Dean Ozbun** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: March 5, 1936 in Winfield, KS.

To this marriage three children were born:

**S183511 John Virgil Ozbun** Born: Sept. 24, 1956 in Winfield, KS.

Married Dec. 15, 1973 (divorced June 1975) at Arkansas City, KS. to:

**S183511WSherrie Hopper** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage one son was born:

**S1835111 Darrell Ray Ozbun** Born: Aug. 15, 1974 in Winfield, KS.

John Virgil Ozbun remarried Aug. 30, 1979 in Pratt, KS. to:

**S183511(W)Penny Kaye** \_\_\_\_\_ -Acheson Born: Sept. 11, 1954 in \_\_\_\_\_

Penny Kay had a daughter by a previous marriage (Adoption not known):

**Heather Acheson** Born: Dec. 16, 1974 in \_\_\_\_\_

(June 2000) Replacement Page 9 (c)



## Sonntag Family History

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

**"Arnold" Otto Sonntag (cont.)**

**"Sylvia" Clarice Sonntag (cont.)**

**S183512 Paul Thamas Ozbun** Born: Aug. 15, 1959 in Arkansas City, KS.

Married Dec. 23, 1980 in Manhattan, KS. to:

**S183512WAnne Melissa Boyd-Thompson** Born: Feb. 17, 1956 in \_\_\_\_\_

Anne Melissa had a daughter by previous marriage (adoption not known):

**Katherine Anne Thompson** Born: Oct. 25, 1977 in Manhattan, KS.

Married Apr. 19, 1997 in Tulsa, OK. to:

**Jeffery Allen Neal** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage two sons were born:

**Dustin Allen Neal** Born: July 19, 1997 in Tulsa, OK.

**Nathan Lee Neal** Born: Sept. 13, 1998 in Tulsa, OK.

Paul and Anne Ozbun have two children:

**S1835121 Robert Thomas Ozbun** Born: July 24, 1981 in Manhattan, KS.

**S1835122 Shelly Lynn Ozbun** Born: May 30, 1983 in Tulsa, OK.

"Sylvia" Clarice Sonntag (cont.)

**S183513 Mark Lynn Ozbun** Born: Sept. 19, 1960 in Arkansas City, KS.

Married July 12, 1980 in Winfield, KS. to:

**S183513WVivian Kay Mitchek** Born: Aug. 2, 1961 in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage one daughter was born:

**S1835131 Nicole Lynn Ozbun** Born: Sept. 3, 1982 in Manhattan, KS.

Mark remarried Feb. 22, 1987 in Winfield, KS. to:

**S183513(WSusan Marie Wilson** Born: Aug. 16, 1958 in \_\_\_\_\_

"Arnold" Otto Sonntag (cont.)

**S18352 Betty Jo Sonntag** Born: Nov. 20, 1943 in Wheeler, TX.

Married Mar. 3, 1943 (later divorced) in Denver, CO. to:

**S18352HRaymond E. Palmer** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: Mar. 3, 1943 in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage two children were born:

**S183521 Trygve Wayne Palmer** Born: June 1, 1967 in \_\_\_\_\_

**S183522 Dawn Raelene Palmer** Born: June 30, 1970 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married Feb. 24, 1989 (divorced Nov. 30, 1989) in Wichita, KS. to:

**S183522HJohn Frederick Flippin** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage three children were born:

**S1835221 Spencer Harrison Flippin** Born: Mar. 4, 1992 in Wichita, KS.

Spencer died: Mar. 6, 1992

**S1835222 Zoa Gates Flippin** Born: July 6, 1994 in Wichita, KS.

**S1835223 Maxwell Deckard Flippin** Born: Jan. 17, 1997 in Wichita, KS.

(June 2000) Replacement Page 9 (d)

### Sonntag Family History

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

**"Arnold" Otto Sonntag (cont.)**

**Betty Jo Sonntag (cont.)**

Betty Jo remarried Aug. 31, 1991 in Wichita, KS. to:

**S18352(H) Dale Warlick** Born: July 7, 1928 in \_\_\_\_\_

"Arnold" Otto Sonntag (cont.)

**S18353 Lennis Louise Sonntag** Born: March 1, 1952 in Pampa, TX.

Married Dec. 18, 1971 in Pittsburg, KS. to:

**S18353(H) Bill Joe Moore** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: Apr. 18, 1950 in Kingman, AZ.

To this marriage one daughter was adopted.

**S183531 Wendy Suzanne Moore** Born: June 2, 1976 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married Sept. 22, 1996 (later divorced) in \_\_\_\_\_, AZ. to:

**S183531(H) Jared Skinner** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

"Arnold" Otto Sonntag (cont.)

**S18354 Nancy Lynn Sonntag** Born: May 24, 1956 in Winfield, KS.

Married Feb. 23, 1975 in Winfield, KS. to:

**S18354(H) Rex Owen Finley** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: July 28, 1953 in Winfield, KS.

To this marriage two children were born:

**S183541 Renea Finley** Born: Jan. 22, 1980 in Winfield, KS.

**S183542 Aaron Michael Finley** Born: Aug. 25, 1981 in Winfield, KS.

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

**S1836 Louis H\_\_\_\_\_ "Louie" Sonntag** Born: Nov. 18, 1913 in \_\_\_\_\_

Died: June 6, 1999 in \_\_\_\_\_

Married Jan. 1, 1939 in Immanuel Lutheran Ch. of Clifton, TX. to:

**S1836W Ellen Prater** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

To this marriage three children were born:

**S18361 Dora Ann Sonntag** Born: Oct. 16, 1943 in Meridan, TX.

Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:

**S18361H \_\_\_\_\_ Maler** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

No information on children, if any.

**S18362 Darrell Ray Sonntag** Born: June 1, 1945 in Meridian, TX.

No information on marriage or children, if any.

**S18363 Douglas Arthur Sonntag** Born: Oct. 3, 1949 in Meridian, TX.

No information on marriage or children, if any.

(June 2000) Replacement Page 9 (e)

## Sonntag Family History

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

- S1837 Edwin H\_\_\_\_ Sonntag** Born: Aug. 15, 1916 in St. Paul Lut. Ch., Ft. Worth  
 Died: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Served in the US Army (final rank: Sgt.) from May 20, 1941 to Oct. 21, 1945.  
 Married May 12, 1946 in St. Paul Luth. Ch., Ft. Worth, TX. to:
- S1837W Maxine Luedtke** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: Jan. 10, 1922 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 To this marriage three children were born:
- S18371 Frances Ruth Sonntag** Born: Feb. 22, 1947 in Ft. Worth, TX.  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:
- S18371H \_\_\_\_\_ Latour** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 No information on children, if any.
- S18372 Doris Jean "Jeannie" Sonntag** Born: Nov. 21, 1948 in Ft. Worth, TX.  
 No information on marriage or children, if any.
- S18373 Edwin Herbert "Eddie" Sonntag** Born: Dec. 28, 1949 in Ft. Worth, TX.  
 No information on marriage or children, if any.

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

- S1838 Pauline E\_\_\_\_ "Polly" Sonntag** Born: Dec. 6, 1918 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married by Pastor R. Wiederaendies, St. Paul Luth. Ch. on May 28, 1944 to:
- S1838H Howard Glen Woodruff** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: Nov. 3, 1919 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died: May 27, 1995 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Served in the US \_\_\_\_\_ (final rank Sgt) from Oct. 1, 1941 until April 5, 1945.  
 To this marriage two children were born:
- S18381 Glenda Ann Woodruff** Born: June 30, 1951 in San Antonio, TX.  
 No information on marriage or children, if any.
- S18382 James Thomas Woodruff** Born: March 31, 1957 in Santa Rosa Hosp., SanAnt.  
 Served in US Navy June 20, 1978 until June 20, 1984. No more information

(June 2000) Replacement Page 9 (f)



**Sonntag Family History**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Johann Gottfried Sonntag (cont.)**

**Friedrich Herman Sonntag (cont.)**

**Heinrich "Alvin" Sonntag (cont.)**

- S1839 Selma A\_\_\_ Sonntag** Born: Aug. 31, 1922 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married by Pastor Heckman on June 2, 1946 in Zion Luth. Ch. of Ft. Worth to:
- S1839H Thomas V\_\_\_ "Tom" Bargsley** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: July 12, 1924 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Served in the US \_\_\_\_\_ (final rank Cpt.) from May 1, 1943 until Dec. \_\_\_ 1945.  
 To this marriage two children were born:
- S1839I Sandra Kay "Sandy" Bargsley** Born: Dec. 5, 1952 in All Sts Hosp., Ft. Worth  
 Married (later divorced) \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:
- S1839IH Ray Baldheim** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
 To this marriage no children were born:  
 Sandy was remarried \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:
- S1839I(H) Steven Allen Collins** Of Milwaukee, Wis., Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
 To this marriage one daughter was born:
- S1839I11 Mia Soleil Victoria Collins** Born: Jan. 1, 1992 in \_\_\_\_\_.

Selma A\_\_\_ Sonntag (cont.)

- S18392 Howard Thomas Bargsley** Born: Oct. 12, 1954 in All Saints Hosp., Ft. Worth.  
 Married July 22, 1989 at Sagamore Hill Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX. to:
- S18392WKatye Scarborough** of Ft. Worth Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
 To this marriage one child has been born:
- S18392I Betsy Ann Bargsley** Born: April 26, 1998 in \_\_\_\_\_  
 A second child is expected in Sept. of 2000.
- S183922 \_\_\_\_\_** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

**Sonntag Family History**

**Additions And/or Corrections (April 2001)**

Page iv and v: Insert replacement page iv and v between existing pages iv and v.

Page 8: On line 9, **Sterner** may be spelled **Stoerner**.

On line 22, after "...Bosque County, TX." add "to:".

On line 31, after "... **Price Ball (S1862H)**" add "see page 59."

Last line after **Ball:** add "Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_."

Page 9: Pages 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e, 9f, & 9g replace page 9 totally.

Page 11: Full name for S1841H is **Albert Curtis Bowman**, a roofer worker. The Family lived at 2920 College, Ft. Worth, TX. He was 21 YO at Dot's birth.

Page 11: After line 36 & before S1841112H add One child has been born to this marriage.

**S1841112I Hanna Christeen Schwager** Born: September \_\_, 1996.

Page 11: After S1841114 - add Married February 17, 2001 in Austin, TX. to:

**S1841114 Joshus Blais** Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

Page 12: Beginning of line 38, before **Juan Mario Gonzales**, add "**S184114H**".

Beginning of line 40, before **Jennifer**, add "S1841141".

Beginning of line 41, before **Amanda**, add "S1841142".

Beginning of line 42, before **Tiffany**, add "S1841143".

Beginning of line 43, before **Joshau**, add "S1841144".

Beginning of line 44, beginning of line, add "S1841145 **Juliana**".

Page 20: On line 35 after April add "27" as the date of birth.

After line 36 add the following two lines.

"To Cory was born:

**S18422221 Tyler Smith** Born: Dec. 27, 1998 in \_\_\_\_\_"

Line 39, **S18422221 Carl** should read **S18422222 Destiny Lee Smith** Born: Oct 27, 1999.

Page 22: On line 15, after **Warden Sr.**'s name correct page # to 85, 86, & 111.

Page 29: **Billy Hodges** died Jan. 27, 2000, in Fort Stockton, Pecos County, TX.

Page 31: In line 24, after **S184512 "Leigh** add "to close quotation marks after Leigh.

Page 34: After line 31, **S184613 Patrick David Brown...** Waco, TX., add three lines:

Married Feb. 5, 2000 in St Luke Methodist Church of Houston, TX. to:

**S184613W Jami Lynn Perrin** of \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

To this marriage no children have been born.

Page 36: After line 30, **S18471)H Cecil Revels ...** add the following two lines:

To this marriage one child has been born:

**S184714 \_\_\_\_\_ Revels** Born: \_\_\_\_ 1999 in \_\_\_\_\_.

Page 42: After "**S185135HF Donald H**" the name should read "**Vogler**"

Page 49: Last line: PIN # should read **S18534121** before **James David Roberts**.

Page 88: Line 6 add a new line as follows: Died: Jan. 27, 2000 in Fort Stockton, TX.

Shane and Amber had a second girl **H2212 \_\_\_\_\_** Born: \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

Page 89: Next to the last line, **Merrit**, is **Merrick**, Born: Mar. 5, 19\_\_.

Page 90: After the line "**O644**" add "**O645 Juliana Gonzalez** Born: Dec. 31, 1998".

Page 144: In the last line "**(142)**" should read "**(1412)**".

Page 146: At the end of first line the name should read "**Anna Marie Sonntag-Petzold**"

After the four gerichtsbuch references add as a separate paragraph, the following:

It is called to the readers attention that on page 566 of the Chronical Of Ölsnitz In Erzgebirge shown on page 144 of this book, that a Peter Sonntag owned, in 1570, the track number 196 which is herein referred to as the Diener farm. This Peter Sonntag may have been the father or grandfather of the Georg Sonntag who acquired the Sonntag farm (track # 210) in 1630 from another Georg Sonntag.

### A Lateral Family Line To The Sonntags

Attempting to align these Sonntag family members with those of Sonntag Family History  
Dietrich Sommerschub Bloodline

Pin Description

- \*S Daniel Sonntag; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*S1 David Sonntag; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*S11 Carl Friedrich Sonntag; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*S111 Friedrich "Oskar" Sonntag; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*S1111 Johanna Elsa Sonntag; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_  
Married September 12, 1925 to:
- \*S1111H Karl Erich Sommerschuh; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_  
To this marriage three sons were born:
- \*S11111 Dr. Dietrich Sommerschuh; Born April 7, 1935 in \_\_\_\_\_  
90613 Großhabersdorf, den  
Fronbergweg 6  
Tel: 09105/507  
Germany

- \*S11112 \_\_\_\_\_; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_
- \*S11113 \_\_\_\_\_; Born: \_\_\_\_\_; Died: \_\_\_\_\_

### Wolfgang Schreiter Bloodline

- \*S1112 Oscar \_\_\_\_\_ Sonntag (Brother to Johanna Elsa Sonntag-Sommerschuh)
- \*S11121 Luise \_\_\_\_\_ Sonntag Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
Grew up in Neu Oelsnitz  
Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:
- \*S11121H \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
To this marriage \_\_\_\_\_ children were born:
- \*S111211 \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:
- \*S111211H \_\_\_\_\_ Schreiter; Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
To this marriage two children were born:
- \*S111211 \_\_\_\_\_; Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_
- \*S111212 Wolfgang Schreiter; Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
Bürgermeister Of Burkhardtsdorf  
Am Markt 8, PF 13  
09235 Burkhardtsdorf  
Germany  
Married \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to:
- \*S111211W Christine \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
Died: ? January \_\_, 2000 of cancer.  
To this marriage one child was born:
- \*S1112111 Martin \_\_\_\_\_ Schreiter Born: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
May be reached at [martin.schreiter@s1998.tu-chemnitz.de](mailto:martin.schreiter@s1998.tu-chemnitz.de)  
or [martin.schreiter@gmx.de](mailto:martin.schreiter@gmx.de)  
Plans to be in Mount Vernon, WA in summer of 2001.



## Sonntag Family History

### Surnames Of Women Who Married A Sonntag Descendant

Acheson 9c	Harris 11	Purvis 48
Alfie 9c	Hartnett 29	Ragsdale 54
Angle 8	Hawley 39	Rivera 11
Adams 20	Herzog 9a	Risley 46
Bagwell 54	Hopper 9c	*Rogers 52
*Baker 52	Hunt 34	Rutherford 62
*Barnes 19	Jacob 4	Scarborough 9g
Beard 60	*Johnson 48	Schade 9c
Blades 52	Keith 56	Schmidt 9c
Boyd 9d	Kellman 54	Schminke 9b
Brennan 50	Kimberlin 49	Seedig 8, 9a, 74 - 76
Brundage 60	*Kirby 30, 81-82	*Shelton 33
Burrus 13	Lamb 62	*Smith 31
Calloway 60	Lange 47	Shaw 20
*Carpenter 46	Lansford 56	Stecker 35
Chapel 43	Ledford 43	Stoerner 8, 73
Claytor 43	Lewis 44, 51, 65	Sutton 49
Cochron 39	Luedtke 9f	Thomas 20
Covington 23	Maddox 45	Toeery 57
*Craft 10, 77 - 80	Martin 45	*Tucker 49
Crossley 52	Maxwell 52	Walden 57
*Davis 53	McCarver 67	Walker 46
Devlin 58	McCurdy 60	Ward 57
Diener 7, 69 - 72	McGinney 54	Weaver 49
Dument 52	Miller 36	Webb 66, 67
Earls 62	Mitchek 9d	Welch 54
Ebert 4	Mott 56	Wells 20
Espenlaub 41	Munkres 61	Wildung 32
Feagins 39	Norris 47, 53	*Wilson 9d, 52
Forrest 36	Oswald 9b	*Woodhead 19
Gilbreath 39	Patek 24	*Wright 43
Griffith 49	Pierce 36	Yates 64
Guess 50, 51	Prater 9e	Young 38, 51, 81

Notes: 1) The number to the right of a surname indicates the page on which a person of that surname is recorded as marrying a Sonntag descendant. 2) An asterick (\*) before a name indicates that both a man and a woman of that surname married a Sonntag Descendant.

(June 2000) Replacement Page iv

### Sonntag Family History

#### Surnames Of Men Who Married A Sonntag Descendant

Acker 57	Crim 27	Lowrimore 64	Richardson 15
Alexander 54	*Davis 55	Luttrell 55	Roblin 67
Algers 48	Dunfield 67	Maachele 47	*Rogers 49
Alvarez 44	Durst 34	Maitland 55	Royall 25
Antwiler 59	Erickson 55	Maler 9e	Schamberger 34
Ashley 44	Evans 8, 55	Mangum 44	Schmidt 9a
Baird 21	Everhart 32	Mata 45	*Shelton 32
*Baker 55 *	Fagan 45	Mayes 22, 85-86	Schwager 11
Baldheim 9g	Finley 9e	Mayfield 67	Sibery 47
Ball 8, 59	Flippen 9d	McCallum 16	Skinner 9e
Bargsley 9g	Fornier 50	McCollum 66	Slaughter 60
*Barnes 64	Forson 47	McRae 40	*Smith 15, 18
Biggerstaff 61	Fowler 36	Meadows 56	Snowder 9a
Bilderback 62	Gentry 20	Messengale 43	Spears 11
Bishop 15	Goans 50	Moore 9e, 50	Stephens 15
Blackmon 64	Golden 18	Morphis 67	Strickland 14
Bohmfalk 31	Gonzalez 12	Morris 32	Sullivan 18
Boone 9b	Goodson 12	North 33	Swiedom 26
Boren 25	Goodchild 17	Olson 12, 90	Tervino 55
Bowman 11	Harless 64	Ozbun 9c	Thompson 9a, 14, 62
Boyd 55	Hanna 42	Pafford 60	Troncoso 18
Braun 25	Henry 20	Palmer 9d	Tucker 14
Brinsfield 49	Hodges 29, 87-89	Pannell 34	Vest 14, 64
Brown 15, 34, 34	Holbrook 64	Pompa 17	Vogler 42
Bryant 68	Horne 45	Ragnell 21	Warlick 9e
Calverley 21, 83-84	Humphries 59	Ramsey 45	Whichard 11
*Carpenter 54	Jeffus 65	Raindalar 50	White 9f
Charles 13	*Johnson 20	Revels 36	Wideman 14
Childs 41	Jones 46	Rich 52	*Wienke 9a
Clark 40	*Kirby 13	Ringo 62	Williams 39, 50, 61
Collins 9g, 28	Latour 9f	Roberts 49	*Wilson 43
Cook 26	Long 9b	Robertson 63	Woodruff 9f
*Craft 34			*Wright 21
			Zach 9b

Notes: 1) The number to the right of a surname indicates the page on which a person of that surname is recorded as marrying a Sonntag descendant. 2) An asterick (\*) before a name indicates that both a man and a woman of that surname married a Sonntag Descendant.

(June 2000) Replacement Page v

## What Was The Name of Dr. Ferdinand Herff's Wife?

By Theresa Gold

*Editor's Note: Dr. Ferdinand Herff (1820-1912), a famous German-Texan, settled at San Antonio in 1850 and during a long career as a surgeon established a national reputation for advances he pioneered in medicine. But what was his wife's name? In this article, Theresa Gold answers that question and gives the conflicting information her genealogical research discovered.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE NAME OF THE WIFE OF DR. FERDINAND HERFF

#### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

First name:

There should be no question about the spelling of Mrs. Herff's first name

Mathilde

which is the German spelling for Mathilda.

A few sources spell the name Mathilda, the English spelling. However, in German, the final "e" is pronounced rather like a soft "a." Sources using Mathilda as the spelling are either assuming the English spelling or spelling the name as pronounced.

Maiden Surname:

The preponderance of evidence from the best and most reliable secondary sources for her maiden surname points to

Klingelhoeffer

However, the only primary source has the spelling as

Klingerhoeffer

and it is certain that such spelling is in the record of her death/burial.

Note that only one secondary source uses Klinger- (New Encyclopedia of Texas, Vol. 1, page 325, item on Ferdinand Herff), and that source has Mathilda as the first name.

Conclusion:

If we wish to use the best and most reliable secondary sources, the written material the public would be most likely to incur, then the choice would be: Klingelhoeffer.

However, if we wish to use the sole primary source available, then the choice would be: Klingerhoeffer.



### The Name of the Wife of Dr. Ferdinand Herff

Burial record, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Mathilde Klingerhoeffer, Book A-viii, 332-333.

I have not personally viewed this record, but my contact did. He is a reliable researcher and historian and is a member of the Church's History and Archives Committee. He reported to me that:

He inspected the record personally;

The handwriting is very clear; and

The spelling he gave me is as on the record: Klingerhoeffer.

On the day he inspected the record, he discussed the name with "Woody" Chipman, a descendant of Dr. Herff. Mr. Chipman agreed to him that this is the correct spelling.

If there is any need for another person to view the record, the Church's archivist (in his 80s) is there on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Death Certificate

Not consulted

Private family records

Not consulted

Dr. Ferdinand von Herff. The Regulated Emigration of the German Proletariat With Special Reference to Texas. Translated by Arthur L. Finck, Jr. San Antonio: Trinity University Press., 1978.

Introduction by Arthur L. Finck, Jr., page xix: Mathilde Klingelhöfer

Ferdinand Peter Herff (Laura L. Barber, editor) The Doctors Herff: A Three-Generation Memoir. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1973.

Vol. I, pages 11 and 19: Mathilde Klingelhofer

But, in Vol. II, page 515, Index: Herff, Mathilde Klingehofer

Frederick C. Chabot. With the Makers of San Antonio...

page 387: Klingelhoeffer

She died July 9, 1910, aged 87 years

(St. Mark's, A-viii, 332-333)

The Handbook of Texas (1952) Volume 1

Page 801: Does not mention his wife at all. Sources: Pat Ireland Nixon, A Century of Medicine in San Antonio (1936), F. C. Chabot With the Makers of San Antonio (1937), and William Corner San Antonio de Bexar (1890)

The New Handbook of Texas, Volume 3

Page 570: Mathilde Kungel Hoefffer. Article is by Vernie A. Stenbridge. Sources: Henry B. Dielmann's article in SWHQ, Ferdinand Peter Herff's two volumes The Doctors Herff, and Pat Ireland Nixon's A Century of Medicine in San Antonio.

The Name of the Wife of Dr. Herff

Page 2

Henry B. Dielmann, "Dr. Ferdinand Herff. Pioneer Physician and Surgeon." Southwestern Historical Quarterly LVII (Jan. 1954)

Page 275: Mathilde Klingelhoeffer of Giessen, a daughter of Wilhelm Klingelhoef, an associate justice of the same court with von Herff's father, and a niece of...Baron August von Hoffmann.

San Antonio Daily Express, Sunday Morning, July 10, 1910

Page 10: Mathilde Klingelhoef Herff

San Antonio Light, same day, San Antonio Public Library's reel for that period is missing.

Transcript by John O. Leal: Mathilde Kingelhoef Herff

This transcript also says that she will be buried in a tomb of brick (wasn't, or isn't like that now) and that she was the first woman in Texas to have a piano (wasn't)

Freie Presse für Texas, July 13, 1910, page 8

List of deaths, paragraph style

Frau Mathilde K. Herff, 87 Jahre

(also: Frau Hulda Groos, 57 Jahre)

Grave marker in City Cemetery #1

Mathilde K. Herff

San Antonio Light, Sunday, May 19, 1912

Funeral of Dr. Herff to be held Monday.

Statements from peers, but no biographical information

San Antonio Light, Monday, May 20, 1912, page 3

Many will pay last tribute to Dr. Herff

No biographical information

San Antonio Express, Sunday Morning, May 19, 1912

First page, continued on pages 4 and 5

Death Claims Dr. Ferdinand Herff, Famous Surgeon

Details of his last day; wife's death a severe blow. Detailed biography, but does not say "The Forty" (university men to establish a communistic colony in America). The doctor became the leader of the band. "Political conditions at the time made existence to free-thinking and liberty loving people in the German states almost unbearable." All the details used by Henry B. Dielmann and Ferdinand Peter Herff appear in this article.

He married Miss Klingel Hoeffer.

The Name of the Wife of Dr. Herff

Page 3

San Antonio Express, Monday, May 20, 1912, page 2

Funeral of Dr. Herff

As a young man, imbued with what today was called socialistic ideas and came to this country - to establish a communistic colony. (He never mastered intricacies of English pronunciation - this contradicts Peter Ferdinand Herff, Vol. 1, page 13, "slight accent.")

S. W. Pease. They Came to San Antonio. (Typescript, unpublished? or privately published?)

Unpaged, but arranged in alphabetical order by surname

Herff, Dr. Ferdinand Charles [sic] Sr.

Wife given as: Miss Mathilde Kingelhoefter

Farther down same page: Klingelhoefter

"The German Texans," pamphlet by Institute of Texan Cultures, page 12

Dr. Ferdinand von Herff, no mention of wife

Glen E. Lich, "Goethe on the Guadalupe" in German Culture in Texas. A Free Earth: Essays from the 1978 Southwest Symposium, edited by Glen E. Lich and Dona B. Reeves. Boston: Twayne, 1980

Page 56, mentions Herff's return to Germany and his marriage, but does not name her beyond "The Mrs. Doctor von Herff," quoting H. B. Dielmann's SWHQ article which cites an 1850 letter by wife of Prof. Ernest Kapp of Sisterdale.

This paper seems to be the source of the term "Freethinker" in connection with the Bettina settlers.

Crystal Sasse Ragsdale, "The German Women in Frontier Texas," German Culture in Texas, as above.

Page 144: Mrs. Mathilde Herff, only mention found

Glen E. Lich. The German Texans. San Antonio: University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, 1996.

Pages 39-41: Bettina settlement

Pages 84-86: Herff as leader in medicine

No mention of Herff's wife

Rudolph Leopold Biesele. History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861. (Reprint of 1930, San Marcos: German-Texan Heritage Society, 1987)

Pages 154-157: The Forty

Page 157: "Dr. Herff went back to Germany and married in Darmstadt."

Does not name the wife

Louis Reinhardt. "The Communistic Colony of Bettina (1846-8)." Quarterly of Texas State Historical Association. Vol. III, pages 33-40.

No mention of Mrs. Herff



The Name of the Wife of Dr. Herff

Page 4

Kenn Knopp. "A Tribute to Ferdinand Ludwig Von Herff." Enchanted Rock Magazine Part 1, July 1996

Page 38: Mathilde Klingelhoefer

Same, Part 2, August 1996

Page 15: Mathilde Klingelhoefer

"A Letter from Friedrich Schenck in Texas." Translated by H. T. Edward Hertzberg. Introduction by Glen E. Lich. Southwestern Historical Quarterly. CXII (July 1998) 144-145  
Introduction on Bettina Colony by Glen Lich is based on his "Goethe on the Guadalupe" in Lich and Reeves, German Culture in Texas.

No mention of Mrs. Herff. No mention of Dr. Herff at all!

A 20th Century History of Southwest Texas Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907. Vol. I

Page 136: Ferdinand Herff, M.D. includes Civil War service, but nothing on anti-Confederacy sentiments.

Wife: Mathilda Klingelhoefer

William Corner, San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History. San Antonio: Bainbridge & Corner, 1890.

Page 115, "An Interview with Dr. Ferdinand Herff, Senior, May 19th, 1890":

No mention of his wife at all; emphasis is on the unnamed colony.

C. Stanley Banks, "Two Pioneer Physicians of San Antonio." Friends of the P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library. Annual Bulletin No. 2, October 1973. Pages 2-17.

About Dr. George Cupples and Dr. Ferdinand Herff.

Page 10: Miss Mathilde Klingelhoefer

P. I. Nixon. A Century of Medicine in San Antonio. San Antonio: , 1936.

Not consulted.

Ellis A. Davis and Edwin H. Grobe, editors. The New Encyclopedia of Texas. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, n.d. [mid- to late-1920s]. Vol. 1 (of 4)

Page 325: William L. Herff, son of Dr. Ferdinand Herff and Mathilde Herff

Page 325: Ferdinand Herff, second son of Dr. Ferdinand Herff and Mathilda (Klingelhoef) Herff

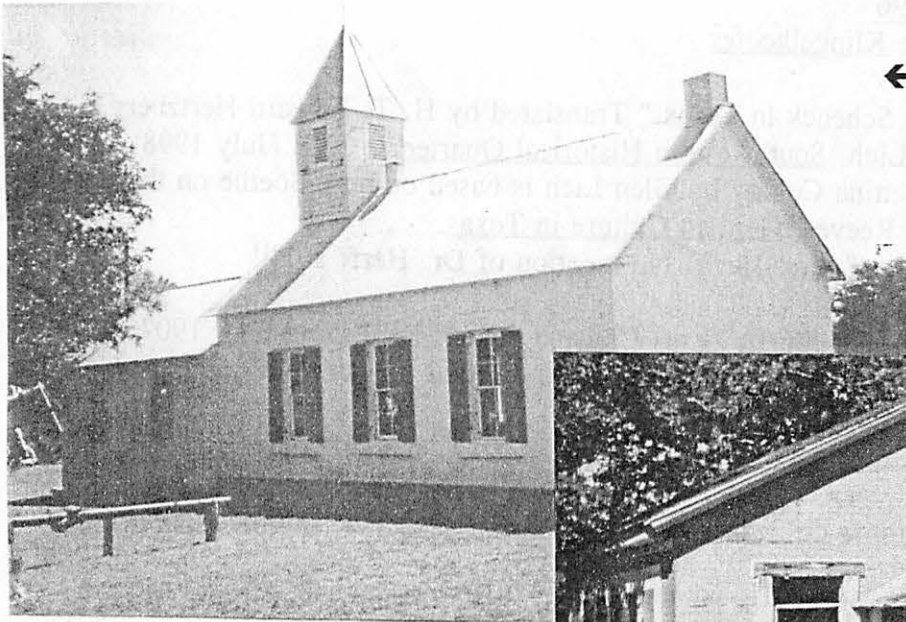
Page 730: August A. Herff, son of the late Dr. Ferdinand Herff (mother not named)

Theresa Gold  
14 Sept. 2000

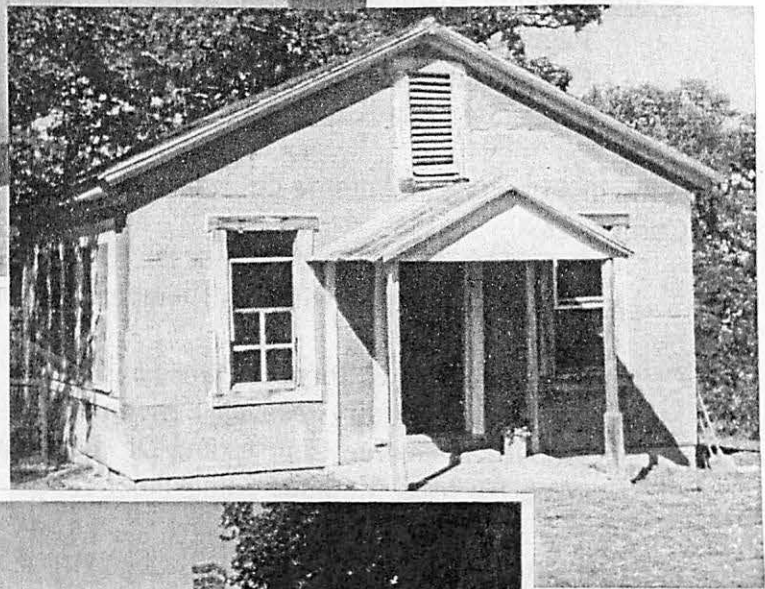
### PHOTOS: THE RURAL SCHOOLS OF GILLESPIE COUNTY

Photographs by Frances Heimer Copeland

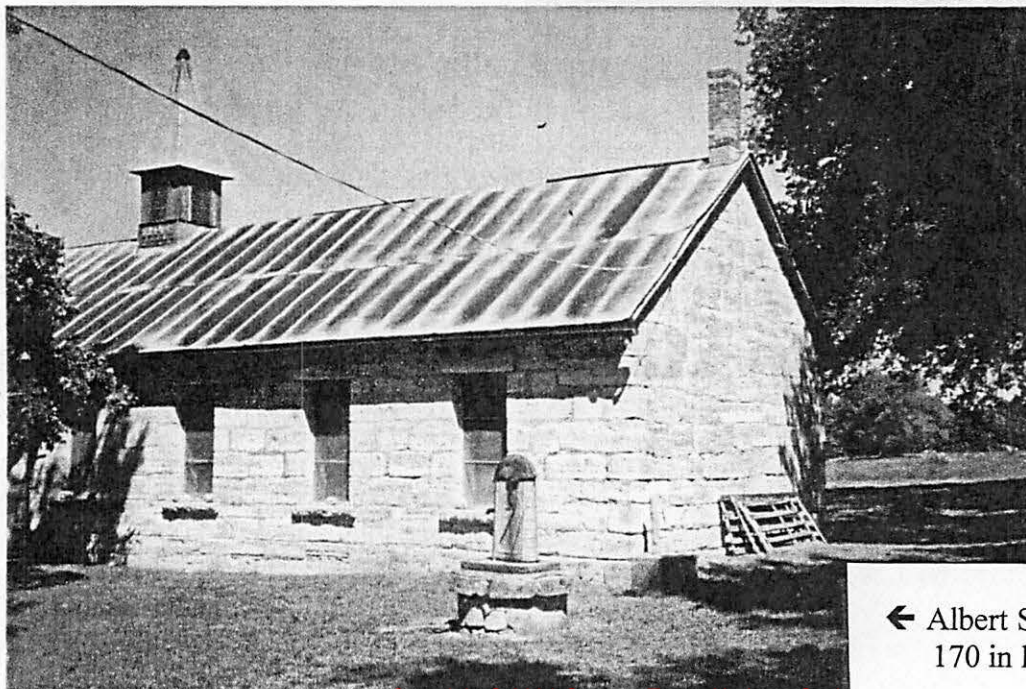
*Note: The last edition of the Journal included a story on the rural schools in Gillespie County by Ronni Pui. In September, Frances Heimer Copeland attended an open house at these schools put on by the Friends of Gillespie County Schools and took these pictures.*



← Lower South Grape Creek School (see page 171 in Last Journal)



Nebgen School (see page → 172 in last Journal)

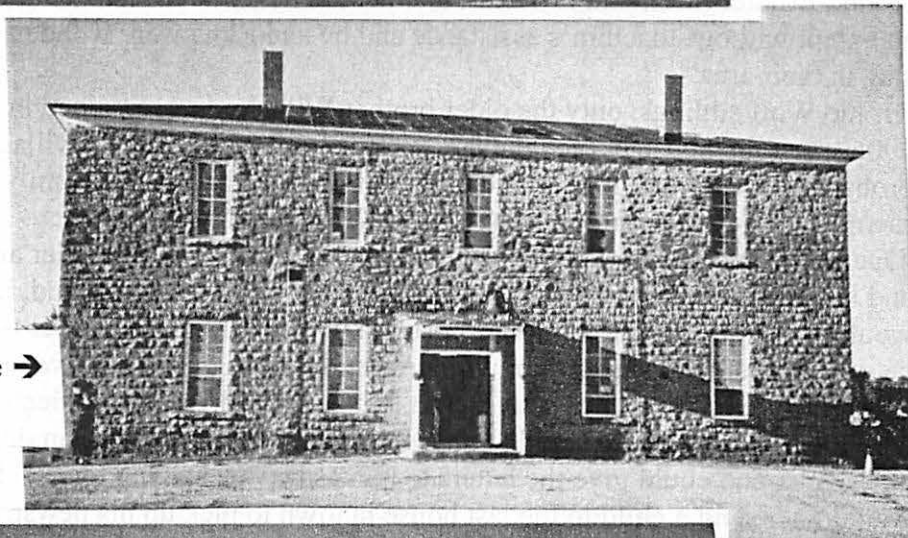


← Albert School (see page 170 in last Journal)

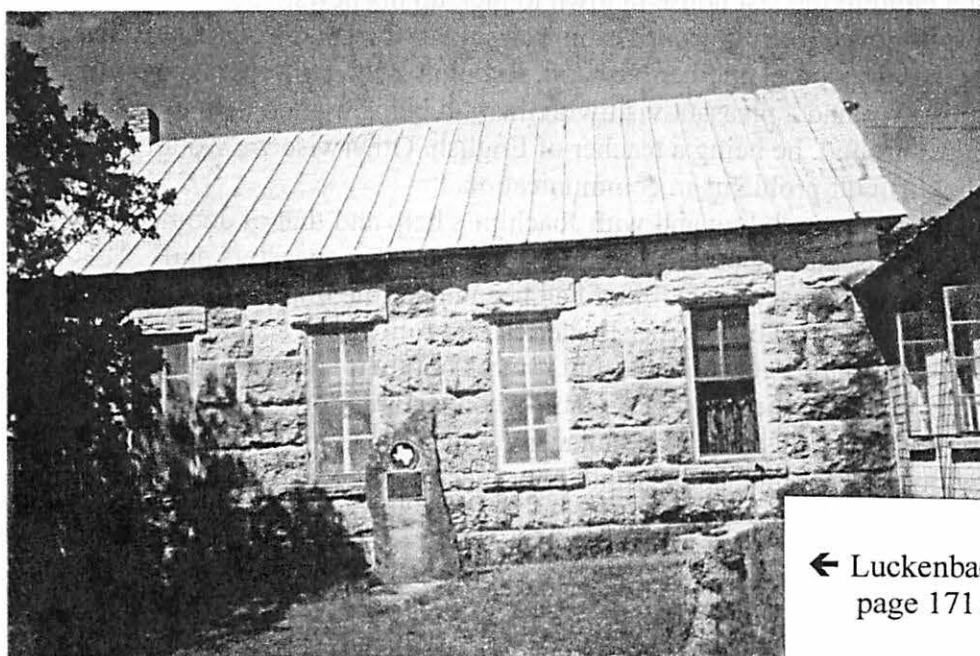




← Rheingold School (see page 172 in last Journal)



Willow City School (see → 173 in last Journal)



← Luckenbach School (see page 171 in last Journal)



**“HENRY’S JOURNAL” (from the Victoria Advocate, June 29 and July 25, 2001)  
by Henry Wolff Jr.**

Words can not adequately describe my feelings as I stood at the spot where my ancestors once lived in Germany.

It was an emotional experience standing in the woods at Zinse, a small village just outside of Erndtebrueck in an area from which a number of families immigrated to Shelby in Austin County around the mid-1800s, including my ancestral Wolfs – Wolf being the original family spelling.

Joachim Voelkel, who grew up in Erndtebrueck and now lives with his wife, Elma, and two sons in nearby Hilchenbach, had located the wooded spot where the Wolf house once stood and some history about the village. The residents of the mountainous, wooded area were mostly farmers and charcoal makers at the time that my grandfather Christian Wolf, his brother Frederick and their wives left Germany for Texas in 1851.

There are many ancestral ties between the Wolf, Voelkel and other families in and around Erndtebrueck and in Texas, and I could never have researched my family to such an extent without Joachim’s assistance and he and Elma were wonderful hosts during our stay in their area.

Of the Wolf siblings, only the older brother Wilhelm had remained in Zinse, and after 1906 when the house burned the last Wolf is said to have left the village. That was probably a son of my great-grandfather’s brother Wilhelm. The family also had a small sawmill for a time before moving to Bad Driburg in North Germany.

One of the Wolfs who lived in the old home was a wholesale dealer and insurance agent and had the only pub in town. Voelkel located a bit of family legend, how this Wolf would get a lot of mail. While the postman waited for him to answer the letters, it seems he was obligated to supply him with drinks. To solve this expensive problem, he subscribed to a newspaper from Berlin, but had it addressed to a location at the far end of the village. That way he could answer the letters while the postman delivered the newspaper and could give the letters to him as he was leaving town. The frugal Wolf would later send a child to the last house in town to pick up his newspaper.

When the last Wolf moved, the pub concession was sold to Carl and Louisa Afflerbach whose granddaughter, Ingebord, and her husband, Rudolph Bald, still operate a pub and guesthouse in Zinse. We had a pleasant visit with them, it being a great help to have Joachim showing us around, he being a teacher of English. Otherwise we would have had to overcome some difficult problems in communication.

Genealogy as a task is never ending and with Joachim’s help and that of another genealogist, Andreas Sassmannshausen, I learned a lot about my ancestors and straightened out some misconceptions. Like I had been under the impression that my grandfather Christian Wolf and his brother Frederick had followed a sister, Mrs. Heinrich (Mary Elizabeth Wolf) Marburger to Texas, but it turns out their sister Mary Elizabeth had died as a child. No doubt there is a close family connection, however, the Marburgers appearing on the census for Austin County adjacent to the Christian Wolf family in 1870, likely being neighbors at the time, and I would now speculate she was probably a cousin.

It does help to explain the George Wolf in her household, who I could not otherwise connect, and who may have been a brother.

I returned from Germany with more family research to do.

Tracing ancestors can be a very exciting thing and it certainly added a wonderful dimension to our journey in Europe. We visited 10 ancestral villages, five for me in Germany and Alsace, and five for my wife Linda in Germany where she had some exceptional luck in finding distant Schmelzer relatives in Burgoberbach and her Kiefers in Pfaffenweiller.

Despite language difficulties, with the help of some ladies who appeared to be gossiping on the street near the church in the Bavarian village of Burgoberback, Linda found the Schmeltzer home. She made connections with a number of distant relatives including a family genealogist, Gerhardt Bockler, and a Schmelzer descendant, Karen Sauer, who spoke beautiful English and was a willing translator. The local priest provided copies of church records.

In search of Linda's Kiefer family in Pfaffenweiller, near Freiburg, we found a lady at the church who spoke little English but took us to the mayor's office where they told us of a local Kiefer who ran a guesthouse. He had an extensive family chart, as well.

Everywhere we found family, we felt at home in the old country.

It is a long way from Victoria, Texas, to Erndtebrueck, Germany, yet the world seemed small that morning during services at the Evangelische Church.

It was the morning of my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and Linda and I had decided to attend services where my paternal ancestors had been baptized, confirmed and married, they being from Erndtebrueck and the smaller nearby village of Zinse. I thought how much larger the world must have seemed to my great grandparents Christian and Marie Elizabeth Weyand Wolf when they left Germany for Texas in 1851.

Even though the service was in German, to me it didn't appear to be all that much different from any Lutheran Church in Texas. The pastor impressed me as being a good one, even though I couldn't understand what he was saying.

And, the singing was wonderful.

It was a confirmation anniversary day for some of the older members and a nice lady who spoke limited English was sitting beside me and did her best to explain what was going on. I attempted to explain my family connections to the church and that the Wolf family was some distant kin to others including the Afflerbachs and the Voelkels. She introduced us to couple of older ladies in the pew directly in front of us who were Voelkels.

She later called over a younger woman, Michaela Gobel, who spoke good English and wanted us to meet her husband Thomas. We arranged to meet at our hotel after the services and Thomas mentioned there being Afflerbachs in his family, though the Gobels were from nearby Grossenbach. Some had come to America, and Thomas said he was interested in locating any living relatives that might be in Texas.

I had remembered seeing the Gobel name in the cemetery at Shelby where my great grandparents are buried, a number of families having settled in the Austin County community in the mid-1800s from Erndtebrueck and surrounding communities. Many of the families were related, including some eight families that I can link to my family in some way.

After returning from our visit to Germany, it didn't take me long in searching county history books to find and e-mail Thomas information on Johann Peter Gobel (Goebel). He had immigrated to Shelby in 1848 from Grossenbach and in 1852 married Elise Wied Wunderlich of Feuding, who had come over on the same boat.

While Thomas was determining that Johann Peter was indeed of the same family, I happened to think about Patsy Goebel of Cuero, who has been involved in a lot of historical and archaeological research in DeWitt County. I wondered if her husband, Bobby, might be some relation to the Gobels of Grossenbach. Pleased to learn of relatives in Germany, Patsy said Johann Peter was Bobby's great-great grandfather.

Not only that, I learned that Johann Peter Goebel had sold 100 acres of land to my great grandfather Christian Wolf at Shelby on Dec. 26, 1866, for \$1,500.

In regard to the Wied and Wunderlich families, they have a definite connection to this area as well as to Shelby, in that the community of Wied between Hallettsville and Shiner in west central Lavaca County is named for two Wied brothers who settled there around 1873. F.W. Wunderlich donated land for a public school.

Joachim Voelkel, who is distantly related and my contact in Germany for Wolf and other Erndtebrueck to Shelby families, has Wieds in his lineage.

A number of Wunderlichs immigrated to Texas, including Heinrich and Elise in 1866. The two Wunderlichs met and married aboard ship on their way over. From Feuding, Heinrich never returned to Germany but remained fond of his homeland and is remembered for a poem that he wrote, "Oh, My Wittgensteiner Land."

Johann Jost Wunderlich of Heilingenborn, near Feuding, and his second wife Maria Elisabeth Wied of Feuding came to Texas with their family in 1848. They are both buried in the cemetery at Shelby. Mary Elizabeth's daughter, Maria Elise, is the one who married Johann Peter Gobel.

There is an incredible number of descendants in Texas today of the families from Erndtebrueck and other nearby villages that first settled in the little rural community of Shelby and we all have numerous distant relatives in Germany.

In this small world it has become much easier for us to find each other.

At the Shelby Cemetery, seventeen members of the Wunderlich Family are buried. These include Edwin, Elise, Emil, Ernt, Friedericke, two Heinrichs, Hulda, Ida, Johann, Johanna, two Maries, Roy, Wilhelm and two Willies.

----from The Cemeteries of Austin County, Texas  
by the Austin County Historical Commission

**THE GENEALOGIST'S NIGHTMARE**  
submitted by Christa Prewitt

Dear Cousin,

In response to your letter, I am sorry to inform you that Grandpa "Fred" died some time back and the stuff you asked about is not available. The personal property the family did not want was sold at an estate sale. All those boxes of junk did not interest a single buyer. We were able to salvage several binders for the kids' homework after we sent all the paper to the incinerator. The kids really complained about having to lug all that paper and pictures of those ugly old folks to the Dumpster. An old family Bible from the 1840's did bring \$ 5.00. The one from the 1870's did not sell.

There also was a bunch of floppy disks that we were able to reformat and download some games for the kids to play on their new play station. At least SOMEBODY got some good from the three generations work. I saw the fellow at a flea market a couple of weeks ago and he said he threw the Bible in the trash after nobody was interested in it. He said he got an offer for fifty cents for it, but would rather burn it than give it away. He seemed to be having a lot of success with some very nice Elvis paintings at his booth.

The two aunts you asked about are also dead. They were such a delight and could talk all day long about the things Papa had written about. I remember them saying something about some records that were copied from two courthouses that later burned. Neither ever wrote down a single thing.

The letter you referred to was one he typed up and sent to lots of folks who wrote him. He laughed about them never getting any of his hard work as well as his Fathers and Grandfather who was in the Civil War. He guarded all the information carefully to the bitter end. I wish I could remember some of the things to help you, but I was bored to tears listening to them talk about the family members who were in the Civil war and those silly pieces of paper he showed so proudly. I vaguely remember they had some beeswax seals and something to do with the land grants that were destroyed in the courthouse fires. I wish I could remember the story about his Grandfather's evening with Jefferson Davis when he was on the run.

There are also some very juicy stories that were handed down, but I don't remember them very well. Another thing I remember after he got sick was some fellow calling him and he agreed to let him come down and copy all his material. He told him he would call him back when he felt better. Papa mentioned something about letting the society the man was from have all his work since nobody in the family cared anything about a bunch of people who had been dead for 200 years. Papa died the next week.

I am so sorry Papa and the two generations wasted so much of their life on such worthless hobbies and hope your family will follow something more interesting. We enjoy Bingo and bowling very much here in Pleasantville. I really enjoyed hearing from a long lost cousin and would like to hear back if you find anything important. The kids need the computer for their games and I need to watch the "Millionaire" show.

Thank you, Cuz,  
Tammy Jean



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE COMFORT NEWS, AUGUST 9, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY DR. MEREDITH McCLAIN

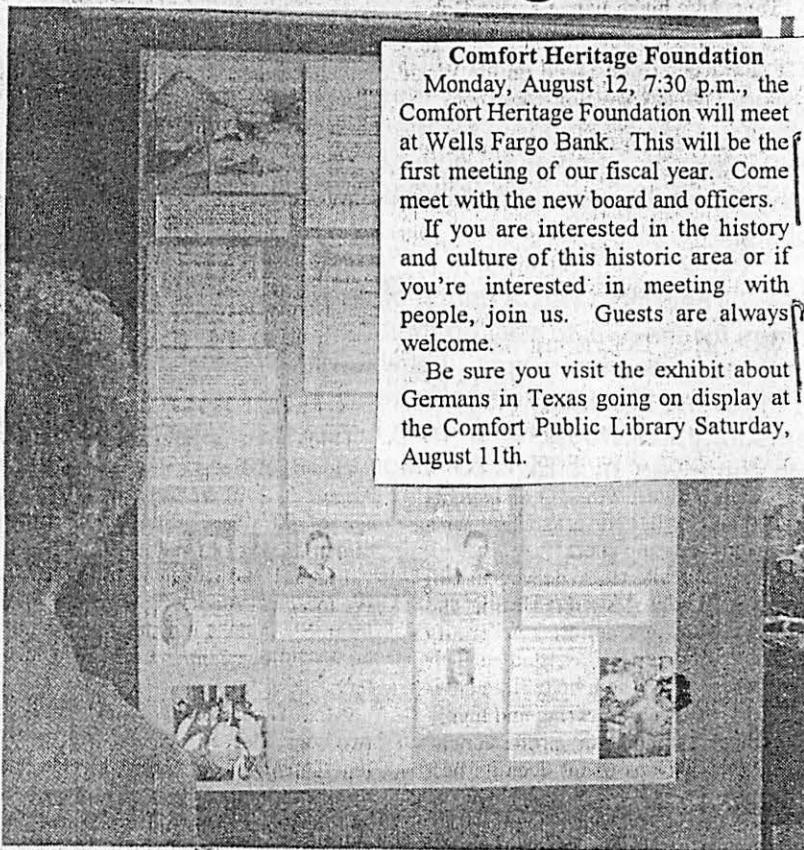
## German-Texan Traveling Exhibit at the Library Saturday, Aug. 11th

Comfort will host a museum-quality traveling exhibit entitled "The Contributions of German-Texans to the Lone Star State" beginning on Saturday, August 11, with a public reception planned from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on that day at the Comfort Public Library.

The unique exhibit is free to the public who is invited to stop by and view it during regular Library hours throughout its stay in Comfort, ending the second week in September.

A grant from the German Government and matching funds from Texas Tech University have provided funds to construct the 10 double-sided panels currently in the exhibit. These panels, many constructed by Texas communities where the exhibit has been, portray three major themes: "German Seed in Texas Soil: Settling the Land," "Principles and Persecutions: Surviving Difficult Times in Texas," and "Texas Seed in the German Soul: the Powerful Myth of the West."

Dr. Meredith McClain, Director of the Southwest Center for German Studies at Texas Tech University, prime mover behind the exhibit, conceived the idea to create quality traveling exhibits that would move throughout the United States and then on to Germany. She identified a need to tell the stories and share the contributions of German immigrants, especially in Texas, where romantic myths of cowboys and Indians often distort the concept most Germans have of history and culture in our area. With little known in Germany of the large numbers of German immigrants who came to Texas during the 19th Century, the exhibit is an attempt to relate some of their



**Comfort Heritage Foundation**  
 Monday, August 12, 7:30 p.m., the Comfort Heritage Foundation will meet at Wells Fargo Bank. This will be the first meeting of our fiscal year. Come meet with the new board and officers.  
 If you are interested in the history and culture of this historic area or if you're interested in meeting with people, join us. Guests are always welcome.  
 Be sure you visit the exhibit about Germans in Texas going on display at the Comfort Public Library Saturday, August 11th.

Comfort showcases German-Texan traveling exhibit

stories and to illustrate a more realistic picture of what life was like for those who had hopes and dreams of acquiring land, prosperity and increased freedoms.

Dr. McClain's hope was that each community in Texas receiving the exhibit would construct its own panels highlighting significant cultural aspects and historical events contributing to its local development. Area organizations, including the Comfort Heritage Foundation, Maria Martha Verein and Kendall County Historical Commission, are stepping up to the plate and beginning work to complete new panels this month for the inclusion in the exhibit. Persons

interested in working on the Comfort panels are urged to contact Judi Youngers at 995-3431.

To date, the exhibit has traveled to nine Texas communities and once it leaves Comfort, it will be shown in New Braunfels, San Antonio, and possibly San Angelo. In 2002 it will be shipped to Germany and displayed in Dresden, Hohenstein, Ernstthal, Bamberg, Saarsbrücken, Montebaur, Wilhelmshafen, Bad Segeberg and Berlin.

A special presentation of the Comfort/Kendall County panel additions is tentatively planned for September 8. More information will be forthcoming on this event.



THIS ARTICLE IS FROM THE BULVERDE- SPRING BRANCH TIMES GUARDIAN  
 SEPTEMBER 5, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY FRANCES HEIMER COPELAND

# Raising Cane

**C**harlie Biesenbach has had molasses on homemade bread every morning since

he can remember. At age 74, Biesenbach still makes his own molasses each summer.

Recapturing a time when most food products were made at home, Biesenbach has, for the past seven years, grown ribbon cane for molasses. Homemade molasses "doesn't taste the same as what you buy," said Biesenbach. He uses most of the molasses himself. What he doesn't use, he gives away or sells.

Biesenbach moved to Bulverde in 1956 from Schumansville, Texas, when he married Elsie Heimer, a native Bulveredian.

"My wife was from here, born and raised," said Biesenbach. "We built a home here before we ever got married."

Together they raised three sons, Jerry, Calvin and David, and two daughters, Marcia and Marlene. Today, Biesenbach and his wife still reside in the home they built and have six

grandchildren to keep up with. He is hopeful that his offspring will continue the family tradition of making molasses.

The property that Biesenbach farms belonged to his wife's family.

"I hated like all get-out to see it sold," said Biesenbach. This is the land that he now grows his ribbon cane on. In addition to molasses, he makes his own wine and sauerkraut. He raises hogs for homemade sausage, and also grows their feed.

Biesenbach prefers to grow his crops the natural way. "I don't use any chemicals on my crops; I do everything organically," Biesenbach said. "The land can be rebuilt — not with chemicals, but with plant life."

Even though there was little rain during the recent growing cycle, his crop was good this year, Biesenbach said. "We have our own water supply right here.

"It's not as dry now as it was when I came back from Korea in the 1950s. There's over 300 wells here now where there used to be three or four. What will happen if we have another four- to five-year drought, like we did back then?" asked Biesenbach.

"We're spoiled, no doubt about it," he added.

Early in his career, Biesenbach worked as head of maintenance for several area companies, including the San Antonio Country Club, San Antonio Medical Professional Building and Baptist Memorial Hospital.

"In those days," said Biesenbach, "if something broke, you fixed it. You didn't go running out to buy a new one." And it's a good thing that he is mechanically inclined. Biesenbach owns 26 antique tractors, which he displays in a show put on by the Fredericksburg Antique Tractor and Gas Engine Club in Stonewall during the last full week of June each year. You can also find him displaying his antique tractors and homemade molasses at the Comal County Fair (coming up the end of this month).

Twenty-five years ago, Biesenbach started C.B. Paving in Bulverde. The company specializes in residential paving and is now run by his son, Jerry. Since his retirement, Biesenbach keeps busy with all of his agricultural products.

He's been asked on numerous occasions to attend functions at the local

senior citizens center, he said, but "I haven't got time for that now. Maybe when I get older."

Biesenbach has lived in Bulverde for over half a century, but when asked what the area was like in times gone by, he answered, "I'm still a newcomer.

"I've only been here 46 years, so I can't say much about [the history of] the area. If someone told me when I was growing up what things would be like today, I wouldn't have believed it

— I still don't. But that's what they call progress, I guess."

As the molasses neared the final stage of cooking, Biesenbach's family started to gather around the 50-year-old stove that had once belonged to his father-in-law. His wife brought homemade bread with butter on which to spread the fresh batch of molasses as the grandchildren eagerly awaited the treat.

Biesenbach expresses simple, uncomplicated pride in his home, his family and his molasses. The down-to-earth gentleman farmer has one goal for the future.

"God willing and the creeks don't rise, I'll live to be 103. Anything after that is a bonus."



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 10, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY THERESA GOLD

# Israel evokes Holocaust in Berlin embassy facade

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — Israel dedicated its new embassy in Berlin on Wednesday, evoking its painful shared history with Germany and the void left by the extermination of Germany's rich Jewish life in the Holocaust.

"This embassy building is different because even though it is new and impressive, and the marble gleams and the walls exude light, it enfolds the screams of the past," said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who led the opening ceremony.

The embassy consists of an old villa that has been remodeled to serve as the ambassador's residence and a newly built embassy.

The facade of the embassy building contains six abstract columnlike structures crowned by a sweeping green roof. Architect Orit Willenberg-Giladi said the design was meant to create an association with the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

"The terrible and painful cloud of history casts a dark shadow and will continue to do

so on this home," Peres said.

The residential villa was owned before World War II by a Jewish businessman, Hermann Schoendorf, whose family fled Berlin for Paris in 1934 after the Nazis came to power.

In a symbol of postwar German-Israeli friendship, Peres and German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer planted two flowering apple trees on the embassy's grounds.

Fischer underscored Germany's special relationship with Israel, rooted in atonement for the Holocaust, and he noted that Germany has the fastest-growing Jewish community in Europe, largely due to an influx from the former Soviet Union.

Fischer also alluded to a recent surge in neo-Nazi crimes in Germany, which the government is trying to fight in part by seeking to outlaw the far-right National Democratic Party.

"We want Jewish people to live in Germany as freely as others and to grow as a part of society," Fischer said.

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 23, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY THERESA GOLD

# Alsatian wines full of variety

Alsace has changed nationality five times in the last century, depending on who won the last war. Alsations at times have had to know how to make two different styles of wine from the same vineyards.

During German times, the wines had residual sweetness like German wines, but during French times, the rieslings, pinot blancs, tokays and gewürztraminers were bone dry like French wines.

Climate conditions determine which grape varieties can ripen



**BILL STEPHENS**

sufficiently and still produce great wine. The typically French grape varieties of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, pinot noir and chardonnay metamorphose into sylvaner, pinot blanc, riesling, tokay-pinot gris and gewürztraminer.

These are the grapes of Germany, cold-weather grapes,

from which Germans traditionally make sweet wine. Since France makes dry wines primarily, the wines of Alsace are totally dry but have the names of sweet wines from Germany. This makes Alsatian wines the least understood of the wine world.

There are no red grapes among those produced in Alsace, again because of the difficulty of ripening the grapes sufficiently to make wine.

This causes no problem at the dinner table for the Alsations, as they are legendary for laying out a roasted wild boar and offering it with riesling or gewürztraminer. It works beautifully.

Alsace has been French for a while now, and contemporary wines show it. It is the intense, focused flavors Alsations extract from their grapes and the crispness of the dry style that win the day when paired with strongly flavored foods — a pairing more difficult to achieve with the sweetness of many traditional German wines. More modern German wines in the trocken, or dry, style have less residual sugar and are more food-friendly.



Flavor intensity increases as you move up from sylvaner, pinot blanc, riesling, tokay-pinot gris to gewürztraminer. "Once you put your nose in a glass of gewürztraminer, you will never forget,"

Alsations are fond of saying. That's because of its unique floral, spicy aroma. That makes this wine a favorite with many spicy cuisines, Hunan and Mexican being two that spring to mind immediately.

Domaines Schlumberger is the largest vineyard owner in the Grand Cru districts surrounding Guebwiller and carries the reputation of being one of Alsace's premiere wineries. They achieve this reputation with a wine style generous in flavor and balanced between all the taste elements.

The Schlumberger Pinot Blanc 1998 is an example of style conquering a grape than usually produces pedestrian wines either totally flaccid or, at the other extreme, acidic to discomfort. The

Schlumberger Pinot Blanc has concentrated flavors, balanced fruit, a long pleasing finish and is totally dry. It's a great relief from monolithic chardonnay at less than \$10 a bottle.

Likewise, the Schlumberger Cuvée, Les Princes Abbes, Riesling 1996 is totally elegant with focused aromas of honey and oranges and full-bodied flavors. This is a stunning wine at about \$15 a bottle.

Schlumberger Pinot Gris, Les Princes Abbes, 1998 is a big, full-flavored wine with spicy fruit flavors and aromas. This is a completely charming wine with none of the metallic character that pinot gris can assume. It is a bargain at \$16 per bottle.

The wines of Alsace should not be overlooked in your collection.

*Bill Stephens is a free-lance writer for the Express-News.*

## WINE FINDS



### Great wines

Domaines Schlumberger Gewürztraminer Fleur De Guebwiller 1997 is the essence of what this varietal is about. Stick your nose in the glass and the wine's spice, floral and honey aromas are emblazoned in your memory. It is a blend of grapes from the Grand Cru areas of Saering, Kessler and Kitterle and achieves a flavor intensity seldom found in these styles of wine. \$18 a bottle.

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 12, 2001  
SUBMITTED BY THERESA GOLD

# German breweries' market evaporating

BY CAROL J. WILLIAMS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HAMBURG, Germany — In this land of Oktoberfest, quart-size mugs and midmorning breaks for pilsner instead of coffee, it would be natural to assume that Germans are the biggest beer drinkers in the world. Natural, perhaps, but wrong.

The Czechs and the Irish have nudged the Teutons into third place in the global guzzling contest. What's more, Germans' thirst for the brews for which they are famous is forecast to keep falling.

Wine and soft drinks are gaining ground on Deutschland's traditional tippel.

Environment-friendly packaging requirements are driving up costs even as oversupply is forcing brewers to sell their products for less. A recently lowered blood-alcohol limit, to 0.05 percent, is having the intended effect among drivers who

love their Porsches and BMWs more than a beer buzz. And health-consciousness is gaining a foothold, as younger Germans eat less, drink less and head to the gym.

These forces have combined to unsettle an industry that employs 40,000 people and accounts for three-quarters of the breweries in Europe. The 1,270 German businesses putting out 5,000 beer brands are drowning in overproduction, dumping 30 percent more beer into the country than its citizens want to consume.

And as demand is expected to dwindle further, market analysts warn that hundreds of the breweries are doomed to go under.

"Until very recently, no one in Germany had ever heard of iced tea or an energy drink," said Erich Dederichs, business director of the German Brewers Association in Bonn. "Beer has been the main drink here for so long that any

new beverage that comes into fashion takes away from our market."

In addition, shifting demographics mean that the proportion of Germans in their beer-drinking prime, from the early 20s to the late 50s, is getting smaller each year, while the number of their more abstemious elders is growing.

And wine consumption, already on the rise, shows promise of winning over more of the educated, white-collar sector, said Klaus Rueckrich of the German Vintners

Association.

"Worldwide, there is a more friendly atmosphere for wine drinking than for other alcoholic beverages," said Rueckrich, noting the emerging evidence of health benefits from moderate alcohol intake. "Wine consumption has doubled in Germany over the last decade."



"But that's not why beer consumption is down," he said. "It's not a cause-effect relationship. Beer is falling because it was at this tremendously high popularity level in Germany, and now people have different behaviors."

Dederichs points out that in terms of volume, beer still outsells wine by 5 to 1, and he insists that it will remain the drink of choice in the huge consumer sector that associates beer with sports, whether as spectators or participants.

"Wine is not a thirst-quencher," he said. "The propaganda put out is that wine makes you healthy while beer makes you fat. But the first claim is relative, and the second is simply untrue."

Still, by the late 1990s the industry had recognized that it was in trouble, and it commissioned the Arthur Andersen accounting and consulting company to analyze the market.

The result of that two-year study is a recently released report urging intensive consolidation and an end to the overproduction that is driving prices below break-even levels.

The social changes that have reduced consumption are here to stay, the analysts concluded, so only the very big and the very special will be around in a decade.

"People's lifestyles are changing, and there are big generational differences. Beer is seen as old, dead, uncool, while other drinks are more chic. And anyone who thinks

this is going to turn around is a dreamer," said Rudolf Boehlke, a project manager at Andersen's Frankfurt office.

Per capita beer consumption in Germany has fallen nearly 20 percent from its 1970s peak of 156 liters to today's 125 liters — though that's still equal to 354 12-ounce cans per year for every man, woman and child. That compares with about 238 cans per person in the United States.

"Those who survive this upheaval will be the ones who pay attention to what the customer wants," Dederichs said.

Austin American-Statesman



Thursday, June 21, 2001



Victor Calzada/El Paso Times

## Honoring German prisoners of war

German air force Spc. Alexander Lanew carries a bouquet of flowers to be placed among the grave markers of 26 German soldiers during a ceremony

Wednesday at Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso. The soldiers died while being held as prisoners of war at Fort Bliss during World War II.



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE, JUNE 28, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY RODNEY KOENIG

## Program brings German pen pal to Jersey Village

By **FLORI MEEKS**  
 Chronicle correspondent

When Gisela Koenig and Michelle Cordes were children, they wrote to one another about their lives and their countries.

This year, the girls have been sharing their experiences in person.

Koenig, 16, who is from Munich, Germany, has spent the last 11 months living with Cordes and her family in Jersey Village.

"I wanted to learn more about America," Koenig said. "I always liked English, and I've been here before. I liked the people a lot."

Koenig is a participant in the Youth for Understanding International Exchange Program. The nonprofit organization works with more than 7,000 American and international students

each year. Founded in 1951, the program's intent is to help teens experience life in a new culture.

Koenig and Michelle Cordes, 18, be-

gan their friendship in elementary school, when they were assigned by their respective teachers to be pen pals. The girls did not stop writing when the school year ended, and both of them have made short visits to see one another.

In recent years, the girls started corresponding by e-mail. About a year and a half ago, Koenig mentioned she was interested in becoming an international exchange student. Michelle wrote that it would be fun if Koenig could live with her and her family.

"Gisela asked if she was serious," said Judy Cordes, Michelle's mother. "She wrote, 'If you are serious, I can request a family to live with in the U.S.'"

Michelle spoke with her parents, and they agreed to be Koenig's hosts. Koenig and the



Janice Smith photo

Gisela Koenig, a foreign exchange student, has spent the last 11 months with a Jersey Village family.

the atmosphere at Jersey Village more relaxed than school at home.

"Here, I think students and teachers are more friends," she said. "I really loved my teachers. I don't know how much I learned in school, but I really enjoyed it."

She also noticed differences in school structure.

"With our system, you don't have to go to kindergarten. You attend four years of elementary school, and then you choose from four levels of school."

Students who opt for the "easy track" complete high school in the ninth grade. The highest level continues through the 13th grade, Koenig said, and it is required for all students who want to attend college.

Students have the option of changing their educational course, Koenig said, but doing so can be a difficult process.

She is sure she wants to attend college, but she has not made up her mind about a career.

As much as she enjoyed learning during her stay in the United States, Koenig made fun a priority, too. She and Michelle made a trip to New York City last winter, just in time to experience a massive snowstorm.

"Munich is near the mountains, so I know snow," Koenig said. However, she said that she saw more snow in New York than she has ever seen in Munich.

One of the most challenging adjustments for Koenig has been transportation in Houston, or the lack of it.

"In Munich, public transportation is really good," she said. "If I want to go somewhere, I could go. Here I don't have a car, so I rely on rides."

Cordes still had to go through an application and interview process to be approved. Koenig had heard about the organization during a school presentation.

Though the Cordeses approach was a little different, Judy Cordes says the experience of hosting Koenig was a blessing to her, her husband, Philip, and their children, Aaron, 21, Michelle, and Garrett, 10.

"You grow as a person," Judy Cordes said. "When you take someone into your family, you grow. There's a give-and-take there. You get past that, and there are times you have a lot of fun.

"Also, it helps you look at your American way not as the only way."

Living in the United States required some adjustments, Koenig said, but the differences between Houston and Munich are not as large as one might expect.

"My daily routine changed, but I didn't think life was that different," she said. "It was the little things."

In Munich, Koenig attended an all-girl campus with about 500 students. At Jersey Village High School, she was among 3,500 male and female students. She found



Walking and biking, common modes of transportation in Europe, are not always practical in Houston, where sidewalks are comparatively rare, she said.

But that doesn't mean Koenig is eager to leave.

"Everybody should do something like this," said Koenig, who will leave Houston this weekend. "I wish I could stay longer."

Michelle said she will miss living with Koenig, too. She got Koenig hooked on making creative photo scrapbooks, and they spent a lot of time together working on their shared hobby.

"Having her here was like having a sister," she said. "Our trip to New York was really cool. It snowed like crazy. We had a blast."

Koenig says she hopes to return to Jersey Village for Christmas, and she has invited Michelle and several friends from Jersey Village High School to visit her next summer.



Janice Smith photo

Exchange student Gisela Koenig, left, relaxes with the Cordeses, from left, Judy, Aaron, Michelle, Garrett and Phil.

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE, JULY 8,, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY JO PEEBLES ADAMS (MRS. ROBERT T. ADAMS)

# Rice serves as overseas model

## University collaborates with Germans on private school

By **RON NISSIMOV**  
 Houston Chronicle

American higher education owes a lot to Germany.

Rice University is at the forefront of returning the favor.

Most universities in the United States are modeled after the theories of Prussian linguist and statesman Wilhelm von Humboldt, who was asked in 1808 to reform that nation's educational system in the wake of its humiliating defeat to Napoleon.

Humboldt created the University of Berlin, one of the first educational institutions in the world to combine teaching and research. Humboldt used as a springboard the then-novel idea that universities should both educate their students and cultivate their character.

Today, many German educators are asking U.S. universities to help rescue that country's higher education system by showing them how to better implement Humboldt's vision.

Rice is serving as a model for what will be only the second full-fledged, private university in Germany. The school, International University-Bremen, will open its doors for the first time this fall with an estimated 100 students.

"In a way, Rice going back to Bremen is like when the vines in France were killed by disease in the late 19th century, and the French brought back their vines from California," said James Sheehan, a Stanford University history professor.

"I think all European continental universities are, in some way or another, in trouble."

Rice University and the city-state of Bremen agreed in 1998 to collaborate on opening the university. Government and educational officials asked several U.S. universities if they were interested, but Rice was the first to send a delegation there.

Several other U.S. universities have collaborated with efforts to open private professional schools in Germany, but Rice is the only one to serve as a model for a comprehensive university.

Rice President Malcolm Gillis said the Houston university is honored to play a role in what could be an important milestone in German and European higher education. He said the time is right for Germany to take on the challenge of transforming its system, and said it could lead to innovations throughout Europe.



"I have been convinced for some time that unified Germany would represent the center of gravity for Europe in the 21st century," Gillis said in a news release. "Germany now, more than ever, is the economic, political and intellectual crossroads of Europe, largely because this nation has assumed much of the mantle of leadership in European economic and social integration."

Gillis said one reason he wanted to collaborate with IU-B was his interest in sending Rice students abroad to study. Until the creation of IU-B, there was no place in the world where Rice engineering students could take courses that could be easily transferred for their majors.

Rice also has provided a model for the residential college system, in which students live in the same dormitory throughout their studies.

Rice has not spent money on the project, but its provost for international affairs, Tom Hochstetler, as well as mathematics professor emeritus Raymond O.

all Germans caused once top-notch institutions to become inefficient.

Many German universities have tens of thousands of students but do not have adequate resources because they charge little or no tuition and collect almost no money in contributions.

In this sense, Sheehan says, German universities have swayed from Humboldt's vision. Even though Humboldt wanted a university education to become accessible to more people, partly to train better soldiers, he still saw them as places to train an educated elite.

According to a recent article in the German press, the student-teacher ratio at the University of Cologne is 123-1. The eventual projected student-teacher ratio at IU-B is 12-1.

Dozens of private professional schools have popped up in Germany in recent years to address these concerns, and several have affiliations with U.S. universities, such as the Fuqua business

school in Frankfurt with Duke University and the Hanover school of management with Purdue University.

There are 41 such private institutions, but only 1.4 percent of German college students attend them, German news reports said.

Sheehan said Oxford and Cambridge universities in England, which did not incorporate research until this century because they were founded to educate clergy, are highly ranked because they stayed small.

Older universities in the United States, such as Harvard and Yale, were modeled after Oxford and Cambridge. But most U.S. universities founded in the latter part of the 19th century by wealthy businessmen, such as Rice, Stanford, Johns Hopkins and the University of Chicago, used the Humboldt model, Sheehan said.

Because of their success, older universities followed suit, he said.

He said large U.S. public institutions are more successful than their European counterparts be-

"Ronny" Wells have spent the past year at IU-B helping the school get started. Wells is married to a Bremen native whose great-great-grandfather was once the city's mayor.

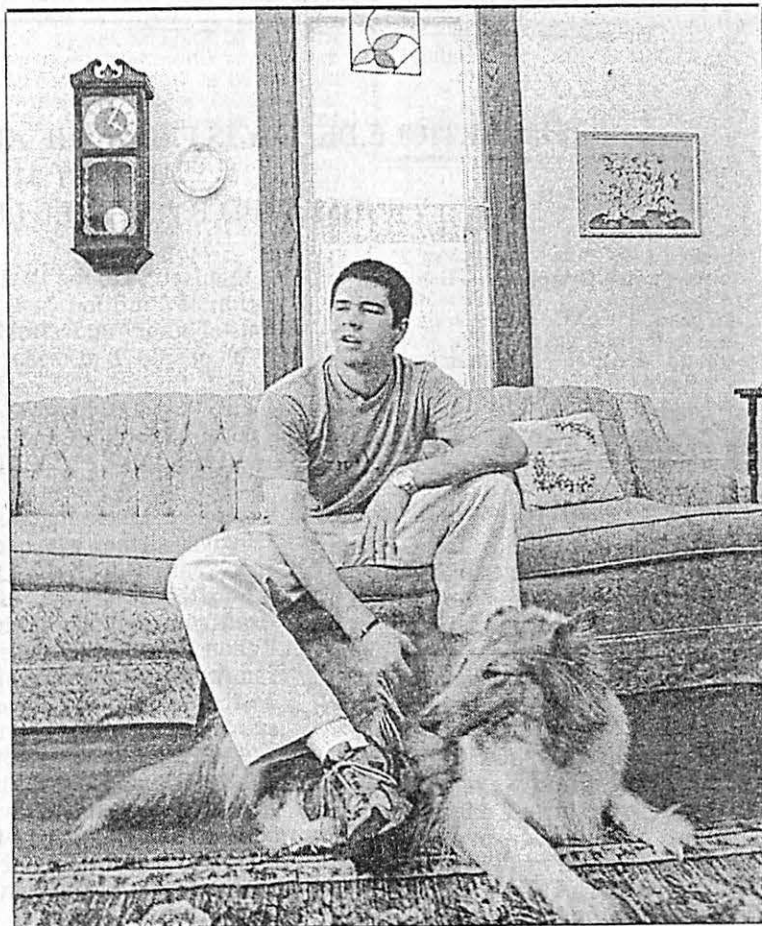
IU-B is projected to eventually have 1,200 students. Its emphasis is on the natural sciences, and all classes will be in English to highlight the school's international character. Only 25 percent of its students are projected to be from Germany.

IU-B will be a highly selective, private institution, charge tuition and build a sizable endowment through private contributions.

"We must change our entire educational system. We can't afford to tell anyone we're the greatest and best to the point where we'll sit back," said Bremen Mayor Henning Scherf in a recent interview in the German newspaper *Die Welt* (The World). "We need a lively educational scene not only in Germany, but in the rest of Europe."

Sheehan said German higher education institutions have continued to try to live up the Humboldtian ideal of combining research and teaching, but they have gotten too big to effectively carry out the mission.

He said German universities have always been state-run, and the post-World War II ideal of providing a free college education to



John Everett / Chronicle

Sean Hattenbach, 18, a graduate of Lamar High School, will be a member of the first freshman class at Germany's International University-Bremen this fall.



cause they are not burdened with educating almost the entire population. They charge tuition, can choose their students and can rely on philanthropy to raise much of their money.

"To go to a German and ask him to contribute to his university is like going to somebody in the United States and saying, 'Wouldn't you like to endow a bus for the rapid transit system?'" Sheehan said. "You might think it's a great thing to have and you might ride it all the time, but you don't feel is something you ought to contribute to. That's the way most Germans think about their universities."

He said that, in general, there is not a culture of philanthropy in Europe like there is in the United States. This will be one of the largest obstacles IU-B will face.

The school received start-up money of 230 million marks, or about \$100 million, to convert a vacated military educational institution into a university.

IU-B hopes it's the only money

it will receive from the government. School officials hope to increase that endowment to 500 million marks within four years.

IU-B spokeswoman Beate Wolff would not say where the endowment stands.

The only other full-fledged private university in Germany, Witten-Herdecke, which was started in 1983, has had to ask the government to bail it out of financial straits. This is one reason some Rice and IU-B officials describe IU-B as the first private university in Germany.

IU-B stresses that it will admit students based on merit, regardless of their ability to pay. Those who cannot afford the tuition will be provided scholarships or loans.

"For me, being elite has to do with allowing the best students to study at the top level," Wolff said. She said the school received 300

student applications this year, and 1,500 applications for a couple of dozen faculty positions.

Sean Hattenbach, of Houston, will be in the initial freshman class. He heard about the Bremen school during a presentation at Lamar High School.

"This would be such a great experience I couldn't pass it up," he said. "I sent for (an) application soon as I heard about it."

The soon-to-be Eagle Scout said his parents were initially not so eager. His mother, Sharon, said she was concerned about her son attending such a young institution. But her worries were assuaged when she and her son visited Bremen in April.

She said the affiliation with Rice is "big plus" in her mind.

"I think the school is going to be a huge success and something people are going to know about."

THIS ARTICLE BELOW IS FROM THE AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN  
AUGUST 31, 2001  
SUBMITTED BY MURIEL LUEDTKE VAUGHAN

**BY CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Associated Press

EL PASO — In nearly perfect English, the German Air Force general preaches a message heard most often from Holocaust survivors and their families: "Never forget."

Brig. Gen. Dierk-Peter Merklingshaus commands the German Air Force units in Canada and the United States. He is the third in a succession of commanders who have required their troops stationed at Fort Bliss to tour the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center.

"We have to live with this terrible history, and we have to learn our lesson here," Merklingshaus said. "We must do everything to see it's not forgotten. (Then) let's turn around and look forward and make sure nothing like that will happen again."

Merklingshaus said the best and brightest in Germany, from doctors to symphony directors, blind-

ed themselves to the Nazi extermination of 6 million Jews and millions of other "undesirables."

"If people had seen it early enough, they might have been able to say, 'Stop it right now,'" he said.

Museum founder and Holocaust survivor Henry Kellen has

welcomed Merklingshaus and the 130 to 150 airmen who take the tour each year.

Fourteen years ago, after he retired from owning a clothing store, Kellen created the museum as "a reminder how hate and bigotry can destroy a civilized society." It is supported by private donations.

"(Merklingshaus) is not denying the Holocaust. He is saying people should know about what happened," Kellen said. "I feel he is trying to ask for forgiveness like the president of Germany not too long ago did."

Merklingshaus makes himself available to the museum as a guest speaker and embraces the tours, a tradition started in 1995 by Brig.

Gen. Eckart Wiens, who had been stationed in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Ilse Irwin, a retired University of Texas-El Paso German instructor, was recruited to escort the airmen and address them in German. Irwin was a young girl in Germany during the 1940s. One of her great-grandmothers was Jewish, but Irwin said her family didn't qualify as Jewish under government standards.

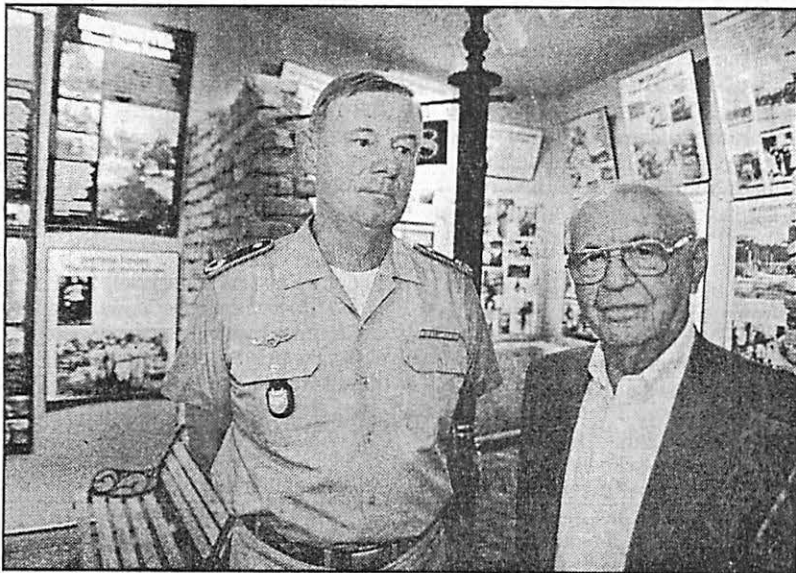
In the museum is a nearly life-sized model of a rail car bound for a death camp. Painted on a backdrop inside the car are fearful Jews wearing the yellow stars that

branded them. On a soundtrack, muffled cries are interrupted by the crack of a rifle shot — a summary execution.

Many of the exhibits display artifacts such as a striped camp uniform, a pile of abandoned children's shoes and teeth extracted for gold fillings. Marble tiles on a wall commemorate victims, including



# German airmen embracing lessons of Holocaust museum



J.R. Hernandez/Associated Press

German Air Force Brig. Gen. Dièrk-Peter Merklingshaus, left, requires German airmen in Texas to tour the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center. He met last month with museum founder Henry Kellen.

many relatives of El Paso residents.

Irwin says some soldiers challenge her, asking about the caricatures of Germans in the 1960s television show "Hogan's Heroes" and whether the United States has the right to deliver such lessons after it ravaged the American Indians and enslaved African Americans.

But Irwin delivers a message that

isn't only for Germans and avoids assessing blame.

Her message urges a vigilance and activism that will prevent future holocausts. It also stresses the importance of acting early against intolerance.

"It is about the ethical dimensions of their rights and privileges and duties as democratic citizens," Irwin said.

Merklingshaus, born in 1945 when Germany was in shambles from World War II, said his country suffers from a collective guilt.

"My parents — they were ashamed. They were deeply ashamed," Merklingshaus said. "Even my generation is deeply ashamed about it. But shame can distract you from looking forward."

Capt. Burkhard Kulka, who toured the museum, had a different perspective.

Although young Germans today are well-taught about the Holocaust, he said, they do not feel responsible.

"I don't feel guilty for this," Kulka said. "I never had anything to do with this. My father didn't have anything to do with this."

However, Kulka, who also has visited a German concentration camp, said he believes the museum offers some vital lessons.

"We're responsible to see that this never happens again," he said. "Not just the Germans. All the people."

The German Air Force operates from Fort Bliss and Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M., where it has permission to train Tornado fighter-bomber pilots and other air support personnel.

Kellen's family was killed by German soldiers. He and a few others escaped from a concentration camp and were hidden by a poor Lithuanian farmer. Kellen said the man took a chance after hearing that children at the camp were being killed.

"I survived because some wonderful people were risking their lives," Kellen said. "These were not ordinary people, they were heroes. (If) they were caught, they were executed with us."

Kellen and Merklingshaus greet each other warmly, and Kellen praises his friend's good heart. But Kellen, who has no family graves to visit, cannot bury the past.

"What they did cannot be forgotten and cannot be forgiven," Kellen said. "It's painful for them, but it's painful for me, too, because they have families, and I don't. Brother, sister, Papa, Mama — each one was killed under different circumstances."



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 13, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY THERESA GOLD

# Swastika was benign symbol for ROTC programs

Hard as it is to imagine, the now-sinister twisted cross once was a symbol of good luck. A local-memorabilia expert reports having seen it as a charm on pre-World War II good-luck tokens, along with a four-leaf clover, rabbit's foot and horseshoe.

Before it was co-opted by the Nazi Party, the swastika appeared in the logos of American businesses, including a railroad and a hardware company.

Also spelled "svastika," the symbol's name derives from Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language.

"It is a very ancient device, found in remains of the Bronze Age (before 1000 B.C.), in parts of Europe, in India, Asia Minor and of the North American Indians, whose descendants still use it for



**PAULA ALLEN**

ornamental purposes," says the Modern Encyclopedia, published in 1935. The swastika also was "used by the Hitler followers, or Nazis, in Germany as their emblem."

Adolf Hitler adopted the symbol in the summer of 1920, says William L. Shirer in "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." Before the German political party received international attention, swastikas were used by ROTC programs in four San Antonio School District high schools: Brackenridge, Jefferson, Lanier and Main Avenue.

Color schemes were determined by the schools, says James Hammack, a collectibles specialist at Alamo Heights Coin Shop who has seen their swastika-bearing insignia. In his experience, Brack-

enridge patches had white swastikas on an off-blue or purplish background. Jefferson had red swastikas on blue; Lanier, gold on blue; and Main Avenue, red and white.

Photographs show the patches worn on uniform left sleeves. The arms of the cross on local ROTC insignia were commonly arranged in a clockwise manner, set at an angle.

Because Lanier and Jefferson were newer schools, their ROTC programs used the symbol for fewer years. Chet Steele, a 1940 graduate of Jefferson High School says it was gone by the time he became a cadet in 1937. Bobby Kingston, a 1941 Brackenridge graduate, says it doesn't appear in that school's La Retama yearbooks for 1939 through 1941.

In photographs, ROTC cadet sponsors wear white caps with purple patches in the shape of five-pointed stars with what appears to be a white Alamo in the center.

ROTC manuals of the period at the Fort Sam Houston Museum

don't address regulations for cadet sponsors' uniforms, but the swastika wouldn't have been out of line for cadets or sponsors.

"In general, ROTC uniforms (coats, trousers, caps and insignia) were similar to those of the regular Army and National Guard," says museum director John Manguso. "The use of the swastika in the United States before World War II was not uncommon."

The 45th Division (Oklahoma National Guard), for instance, used a gold swastika on red as its shoulder-sleeve patch from 1922 to 1939. The four Ls that make up the design represented the four states that originally supplied troops to the division — as well as Oklahoma.

"The swastika was not exclusively associated with the German National Socialist Workers (Nazi) Party until almost the outbreak of the War in Europe in 1939," says Manguso.

In May of that year, the 45th Division changed its insignia to a thunderbird. "Soon after that," he says, "the swastika disappeared

about as fast as sauerkraut became 'liberty cabbage' in 1917."

Channel history: Reader Helen Ess forwarded a clipping from the newsletter of the Heritage Nursing Center in Wyckhoff, N.J., Olympic swimmer Gertrude Ederle — whose 1927 visit to San Antonio after becoming the first woman to swim the English Channel was the subject of this column March 4 — is the issue's featured resident.

At age 93, says the newsletter, "Ederle reflects on her accomplishments with pride," with clear memories of the New York ticker-tape parade that celebrated her return after the Channel swim.



**Yearbook photo from San Antonio's Breckenridge High School 1935 yearbook.**



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 27, 2001  
SUBMITTED BY THERESA GOLD

# Many ways to draw swastika, but negativity lingers

Many readers wrote with follow-up comments and questions on the column that answered Arthur Reyna's question about the use of the Nazi-associated symbol on ROTC cadet sponsors' uniform caps, as shown in a 1935 Brackenridge High School yearbook.

"The 1935 La Retama appears to be the last annual to display the swastika," writes Enos Gary, a member of the Brackenridge Mid Thirties Alumni Association.

Gary checked copies of the school's La Retama yearbooks for 1936, 1937 and 1938 and says the emblem no longer appears in photographs of ROTC cadets or their female sponsors in those years leading up to World War II.

Some readers were concerned with the distinction among variants in the hooked-cross design. "The swastika is a good-luck emblem," writes John D. Byrne.



PAULA  
ALLEN

"Backwards, it's a bad-luck emblem. The Germans' (swastika) was reversed — big joke to our soldiers."

In fact, there are as many ways to draw a swastika as there are interpretations of its significance: with the central bar straight or tilted, hooks straight or curved, using four L-shapes or only three.

The symbol has been found on "ceramics dating from as early as the 3rd century B.C.,"

says *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Design*, edited by Udo Becker and first published in German. This 1994 reference traces the swastika's use across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas.

Its cross-cultural significance nearly always has been positive: good luck and healing, the life-giving power of the sun; rain and water; fertility, the powerful Norse god Thor's intersecting lightning bolts, the "keys to paradise" in Buddhism, and a charm to ward off

evil spirits during the Middle Ages.

Before it was sullied by association with the Nazi Party, the symbol was used by groups such as Freemasonry and the Boy Scouts.

Some depictions of the swastika in this and other design encyclopedias show swastikas with their top hook pointing to the right; others point to the left. On some artifacts painted or carved with many swastikas, the directions alternate in a repeating pattern.

A Native American blanket made in the 1930s features back-to-back swastikas facing in opposite directions, as shown in "The Swastika: Symbol Beyond Redemption?" by Steven Heller (2000, Allworth Press).

"Indians in this country used the emblem as decorations on their clothes," writes Rafael L. Fuentes, a veteran of World War II who remembers the right-pointing Nazi swastika from his tour of duty in North Africa.

Other readers also pointed out the Native American use of the swastika or sun-wheel, usually pointing left. Though there is a difference, it's a subtle one. Heller's book includes an account of a "solemn ceremony" in which



COURTESY OF ARTHUR REYNA

The swastika was used as a symbol of good luck by many groups.

representatives of four Arizona Indian tribes "forsook use of the swastika design in native basket and blanket weaving."

As reported in the *New York Times*, Feb. 29, 1940, the participants placed swastika-bearing crafts and clothing in a pile, "sprinkled them with colored sand and set them afire."

The form of the swastika adopted by the Nazis was the design of Friedrich Krohn, says Heller, adding that "Hit-

ler's major contribution was to reverse the direction of the swastika."

The Nazi leader preferred the right-pointing version because it was used on an old German coat of arms; he may have thought the historical association lent legitimacy to his upstart movement.

Local militaria collector Robin Ellis sent some photographs that show the Nazis were less than consistent in their use of the design. Aircraft insignia feature both straight and tilted swastikas.

Ellis also enclosed a clipping from *New Mexico* magazine, December 2000, about the similarities between the Nazi emblem and the ancient good-luck charm.

"The Germans used the swastika with the arms bent clockwise as a symbol of their Nazional-socialist party," writes Loring Emory. "On aircraft wings, they used another version...in which the arms were arranged around a central cross."

"We must accept that the swastika of antiquity is identical to the one that the Germans used during their historical moment of madness — no apologies needed."

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY DAILY,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

# McClain's diplomacy earns medal

## STRONGER TIES:

The German professor will be the second woman to receive the Lucius Clay honor.

By Kristina Thomas/Staff Reporter

On Oct. 6, Meredith McClain, a Texas Tech associate professor of German, will receive the Lucius Clay medal in Duesseldorf, Germany, making her only the second woman in the world to receive the honor.

The Federation of German-American Clubs presents the honor annually to someone who has strengthened the bond between Germany and America. Not only is McClain the second woman to receive the award in the last 20 years that it has been given, but she also is the only person to ever get it who is not a politician, diplomat or a member of the media.

The medal is named after Gen. Lucius Clay, who McClain said saved West Berlin and symbolically saved West Germany with his airlift in 1948. McClain said Clay is an admired man and to receive an award established in his name is a great honor.

The first award was presented in 1980, two years after Clay died.

McClain said her interest in Germany came from a life-altering experience she had when she was in college.

She said she studied music at Oberlin College in Ohio and the entire junior class had the opportunity to study in Austria.

"I was 19 years old and went to do my junior year when I was in Vienna for three months, learning how to speak German," she said. "I finished out the year in Austria when I realized that this had changed my life. I finished my music degree and then went to (the University of Texas) and started learning German."

McClain has been at Tech for 25 years, and in that time, she has worked with many student organizations to bring German and American students together. She said her most successful program was a group of German dancers who became the Texas State German Dancers.

McClain has studied works by author Karl May, a German author whose stories took place in the Llano Estacado. She said for a long time, she worked at taking people from West Texas to Germany and recently realized the people in Germany want to come to Lubbock. Since 1995, she has held tours that introduce groups of people from Germany to Lubbock, Amarillo and areas of New Mexico.

"The first tour that I did in 1995 was completely full and a Greyhound (bus) holds about 43 people," she said. "There was a lot of interest in the West Texas area and the Indian areas of New Mexico."

McClain said a man who saw her when she first started doing programs between Tech and Germany nominated

her for the award. She said his organization in Germany nominated her without her knowledge and got all of the information needed.

McClain said she is honored to be awarded this and hopes that Tech will share with her in that.

"I am hoping that Texas Tech, whoever Texas Tech is, will be happy about this," she said.

P.G. Christiansen, chairman of the department of classical modern languages and literature at Tech, said he is excited about McClain receiving the award.

"I am very much impressed because I am old enough to remember who Lucius Clay was and the honor that comes with this medal," he said. "It is an important recognition given by the country of Germany."

Christiansen said McClain has brought a lot to Tech's modern languages program.

"She has done a lot of work related to working out relations between people in Germany and West Texas," he said. "Throughout her career, she has helped her students appreciate and understand German culture."





JEREMY MOORE/Staff Photographer

MEREDITH MCCLAIN'S EFFORTS to strengthen the bond between the United States and Germany earned her the Lucius Clay Medal, making her only the second woman in the world to receive the honor. She said her interest in Germany came from a life-altering experience she had while in college.

## European Union unfurls new currency



FRANKFURT, Germany — Europeans on Thursday got a first look at their new currency — seven state-of-the-art notes that are said to be the most counterfeit-proof in the world. The new bills start circulating Jan. 1, when 12 European countries move toward a common currency designed to ease trade.

The new bills were introduced

in dramatic fashion: Workers peeled away plastic sheets to reveal two-story high versions hung across the European Central Bank's headquarters

The new bills will come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros, with different sizes for different denominations to help blind people. A euro is currently worth about 91 cents. Euro coins will be introduced in most of the 12 countries in December.



FROM THE AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN AUGUST 31, 2001

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THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2001 EDITION OF THE BULVERDE AND SPRING BRANCH TIMES GUARDIAN submitted by Frances Heimer Copeland

# Harvey Schaefer is

By Elaine Rogers  
TIMES GUARDIAN STAFF WRITER

# Bulverde's writer-historian

**H**arvey Schaefer's interest in local history stemmed from stories that he was told growing up.

"My grandmother was born in Cedar Bricks, in Kendall County, and told me about the Comanche Indian raids," Schaefer said. "The Smith brothers [Clinton Lafayette Smith and Jefferson Davis Smith, whose story is recorded in the book "The Boy Captives," based on Clinton L. Smith's narrative] got captured by the Indians here, from that little house out back."

Schaefer's family has lived on the same piece of property since 1896.

"Both my grandmothers were born in the area, and both my grandfathers were born in Germany," he said. Schaefer's

father was born near Cibolo and was a teacher for three years at Specht's Store School. After he married, he gave up teaching and became a rancher.

"I've always been interested in history," said Schaefer, "and thought I wanted to put down on paper what I learned about Bulverde." A retired building contractor, Schaefer started collecting data with the help of Martha Dody Freeman of Bulverde, and last year wrote "A History of the Settlement of Bulverde and the Bulverde Community Center, 50 years of Community Service 1950-2000."

August Pieper built the first house in the settlement in 1854, on Bulverde Road about one mile from where Sweet's Store now stands and across from Cibolo Creek. There were eight original families, and "they all came from Germany," said Schaefer.

First called Pieper's Settlement, Bul-

verde was spread out between U.S. 281 and Blanco Road on the Bexar County side, according to Schaefer's book. The first homes were constructed of logs. The original settlers had an abundance of mountain cedar at their dis-

posal, which they found was both durable and easy to work with.

In addition to the log homes, many buildings were constructed "using the 'factwerk' method that the settlers brought with them from Ger-



PHOTOS BY ELAINE ROGERS

### HALF A CENTURY AND COUNTING:

Bulverde author and resident Harvey Schaefer poses with his wife of 57 years, Evelyn.

many. This was a more permanent type of home that consisted of a braced framework of squared cedar posts with the intervening spaces filled in with homemade bricks or quarried stone," Schaefer wrote. Milled lumber became available in the 1870s, and most homes were then

built of wood.

So how did Pieper's Settlement come to be known as Bulverde? One of the most popular stories, according to Schaefer, goes back to 1900, when the settlement petitioned the U.S. Postal Service for a post office with rural delivery. Three names were submitted: Herrera, after a league grant; Volverde, after a surveyor of Spanish land grants; and Pieper's Settlement. A drawing was held, and the name Volverde was chosen. Because the name was penned in the old German script, the "V" looked like a "B," and the "O" looked like a "U," at least to the postal authorities, and the name was recorded as Bulverde.

Schaefer said that, in his opinion, the most significant change to Bulverde came in the 1940s, when the "young boys went off to war and saw the advantages that were over the hill. When the young people left, the old-timers sold off the ranches. That was when the picture changed."

Until that time, the Germans were the ethnic majority, and Bulverde was considered an isolated German community. When the land was developed and sold, outside influences were seen in earnest for the first time. Of the early families, 20 still have a presence in Bulverde and occupy 30 percent of the land, Schaefer said.

Schaefer has written three books for publication: "Germania Farmer Verein 1875-2000 (Organization of Anhalt)," "A History of the Settlement of Bulverde and the Bulverde Community Center, 50 years of Community Service 1950-2000," and "Dripping Springs, Comal County, Texas" (a supplement to "The Boy Captives").

Additionally, he has written a family history about his maternal grandparents, titled "Fink & Company," which he hopes to have published.

Currently, Schaefer is hard at work on a new book. This one is on the native plant life of Bexar, Comal and Kendall Counties. His research has uncovered 605 species. The book will include Schaefer's own line drawings of the plants.

Schaefer and his wife Evelyn have been married for 57 years and have three daughters: Patricia Wahlfahrt of New Braunfels, and Yvonne Schmidt and Laurie Barnes, both of Bulverde. The Schaefer's also have three grandchildren.

Schaefer's vision for Bulverde's future includes the spacing of homes to prevent overcrowding, and the preservation of the water supply as well as the native plants and flowers.

Schaefer's books may be purchased directly from him or at the Old Downtown Bulverde Emporium. They can also be found in the reference section of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library.

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, JUNE 9, 2001  
submitted by Frances Heimer Copeland

BY SONJA GARZA  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

"1851 — Carl Hilmar Guenther, a 24-year-old German immigrant, arrives in Fredericksburg, Texas, to build his own flour mill on Live Oak Creek. The mill is successful, but a succession of floods and droughts prompts him to consider greater opportunities."

— Lewis Fisher, San Antonio author and historian

Carl Hilmar Guenther's quest for "greater opportunities" led the Pioneer Flour king 65 miles southeast to San Antonio, where

he found an even bigger market for his flour, establishing a mill on a bend in the San Antonio River just south of downtown.

On Friday, 150 years after Guenther first arrived in Texas, generations of descendants and company officials celebrated the sesquicentennial of C.H. Guenther & Son Inc. by unveiling five bronze history markers and a commemorative plate.

About 50 people attended the unveiling Friday afternoon on the grounds of the Guenther House, Guenther's original home site.

The markers celebrate company milestones, among them:

the creation of the Pioneer and White Wings flour brands in 1899; the construction of a 20-story grain elevator, once the tallest structure in the city, in 1922; and the renovation of the Guenther home site in 1988, opening to the public as a museum, gift shop and restaurant.

The company's 150th anniversary plate was presented to Amanda Ochse, great-granddaughter of the founder.

The plate's design is from World War I-era advertising art featuring a young woman holding a royal flush poker hand. At the top of the plate are the words, "Not to be beaten." The



# Flour firm marks its 150th year



EDWARD A. ORNELAS/STAFF

Scott Petty (left), chairman, and Dale Tremblay, chief executive officer, remove a flour sack Friday from one of five bronze plaques at the Guenther House as part of C.H. Guenther & Son's sesquicentennial.

plate also contains a quote from Guenther on the back.

The limited-edition plates, made by Lenox, went on sale to the public at 4 p.m. Friday at

Guenther House, 205 E. Guenther St.

Guenther family members and shareholders were given the opportunity to preorder plates by noon Friday.

A total of 400 plates were made, and 260 of them arrived Thursday morning, said Donna Vaughan, director of the Guenther House. The remainder is expected to arrive Wednesday,

she said.

By Friday afternoon, shareholders had bought 190 of the \$75 plates, leaving 70 in the first shipment available to the public. Vaughan said she was overwhelmed by the public's interest in the plate and had received about 50 calls from people wanting one before it went on sale.

Only one plate is allowed per customer, Vaughan said. However, Guenther family members were allowed to purchase additional plates for their relatives.

The company at one time distributed commemorative plates to its customers but discontinued the practice several decades ago. The last was issued around 1988 for the Guenther House's opening.

The plates hold fond memories for George DeWinne, whose father owned Daylight Bakery

on West Commerce and collected a few commemorative plates through the years. The bakery was open from the mid-1920s to the late '40s and used Pioneer Flour for its baked goods.

"I remember the (flour) delivery trucks — blue trucks with canvas tops," he recalled.

The oldest family-owned business in Texas, C.H. Guenther & Son makes a variety of products, including biscuit, pancake, cornbread and flour tortilla mixes, as well as frozen foods. The company's present-day San Antonio plant is on the original mill site Guenther purchased in 1859.

The Guenther family continues the company's sesquicentennial tribute with a family reunion this weekend. More than 200 descendants are expected.



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE FREDERICKSBURG STANDARD/RADIO POST  
JULY 4, 2001  
SUBMITTED BY SHERYL BROWN

# As 'American' As July 4

## *C.H. Guenther Declared His Own Independence, Came To The U.S. With A Love Of Democracy*

By Kenn Knopp

*In 1996, Pioneer Flour Mills of San Antonio celebrated 140 years of continuous operation as the oldest flour mill still owned and operated by the same family in the United States. Today at 205 E. Guenther Street in San Antonio's King William District, the stone home built by Carl Hilmar Guenther is the site of a restaurant and visitors may tour the Mill Museum.*

*Guenther's life and story have special ties to the history of Fredericksburg and to the upcoming July 4 holiday.*

*Thanks go to the great-granddaughters of C. H. Guenther — Mrs. Amanda Hurst Ochse and Mrs. Helene Hurst Harrison — for their permission to publish information and quotes from Guenther's private letters.*

### He Came To America To Celebrate

In 1850 the teenager, Carl Hilmar Guenther of Weissenfels an der Salle, Sachsen, Germany, completed his apprenticeship as a miller.

Just 30 or so years earlier, Weissenfels and the area was the scene of heavy fighting between the forces of Napoleon against King Friedrich Wilhelm von Preussen and allies from Russia and Austria.

Great struggling ensued throughout the Weissenfels region, particularly in Halle an der Salle nearby. But finally Napoleon's long hold on Germany ended with his defeat in 1815. Weissenfels and that part of Sachsen were given to Prussia through the Congress of Vienna Treaty that brought the real end to the Napoleonic Wars.

Prior to 1850, Guenther endured four years of virtual slavery under the heel and demands of a master in the trade of milling. Graduating and

receiving his completion diploma was a feeling of great satisfaction and release. He could now seek immediate employment; or, as the German expression goes, he could first celebrate by being a "Wanderbursche auf der Walze" and travel hither and yon, wherever curiosity and hospitality presented itself at little or no cost.

Guenther told his friends that he was going to Switzerland on his "Walzer" and would go from place to place until he was ready to make an employment decision. But that's not at all what he actually did.

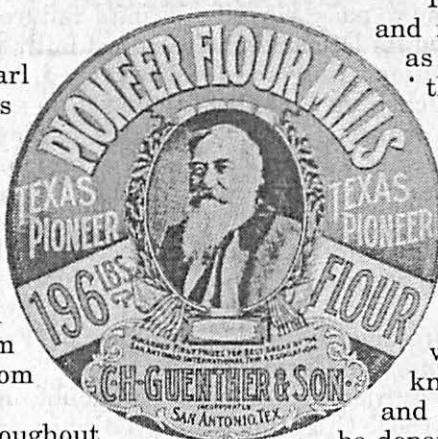
Instead of going to Switzerland, he made his way to the Port of Bremerhaven where he accepted odd jobs, intent on finding a way to get to America. He misled his friends in order to avoid confronting his father, whom he felt would only say no to him no matter what he proposed.

He loved his parents, siblings and relatives in a remarkable way, as his many letters to them through the years would attest. He simply felt that a "Walzer" to America would be the best way to establish his independence from his father and, at the same time, earn his family's respect.

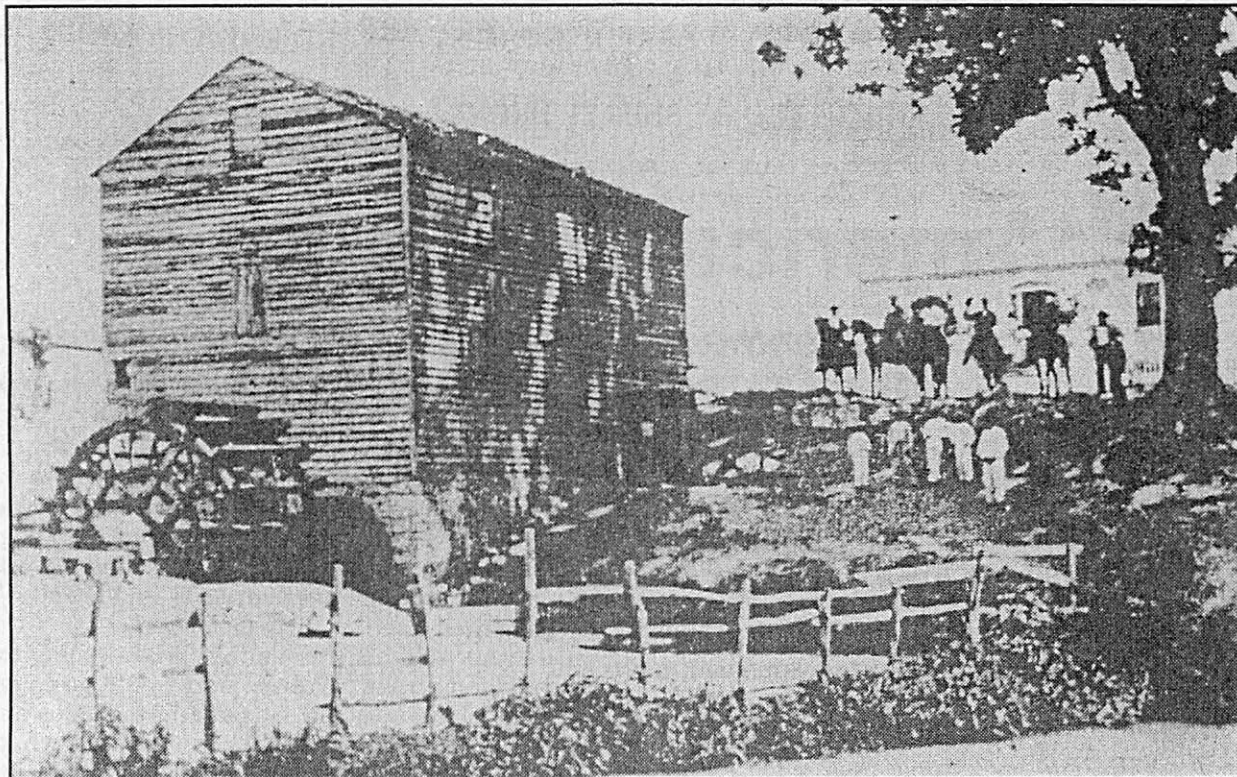
Guenther was eager to see for himself what America was all about. He wanted to know more about the right to vote and if it was true that people could be depended upon to vote for what was right and moral. Guenther believed that German feudalism and its monarchy was strangling his beloved country to death. He simply wanted to see democracy for himself. He wanted to observe the practice and not the theory of true freedom.

After arriving in America, he wrote his parents about what he had done. He emphasized that he had absolutely no trouble finding work in New York, Wisconsin, Louisiana and Texas.

In a subsequent letter, he wrote his parents







**PIONEER FLOUR MILLS** began its history in Fredericksburg as the operation of Carl Hilmar Guenther who came to the Texas Hill Country from Germany in 1851. He began building his mill, which opened in September of that year. Having left Germany with the desire to see democracy in action, Guenther delighted in the Fourth of July holiday.

that he would be making his way home again soon. But that would never come to pass. He fell totally in love with America and its Declaration of Independence, its Constitution, its varied lands and peoples, and Friedrichsburg and the classic beauty of the Texas hill country.

For him, just one breath of freedom's air in the Texas hill country gave him boundless exhilaration and motivation. He now saw firsthand the great difference between people running their own affairs rather than royalty running the people.

Guenther's detailed and expressive letters to his parents, siblings and friends in Germany were saved by his mother and returned to him in Texas just before she died in 1861. Guenther's granddaughter, Regina Beckmann Hurst, had these letters printed in a compendium in 1952 before she died.

The letters are a tribute to an unquenchable,

enterprising spirit, to remarkable tenacity despite failure and to a deeply implanted and abiding faith in God put there by his parents who proved, over and over again, that they loved their son in every way come what may. Best of all, his parents told him just how proud they were of him before they died.

Today, Guenther's great-granddaughters, Amanda Hurst Ochse and Mrs. Harrison, are protectors of these cherished letters that serve as first-hand accounts of the veritable mind, heart and hope of an intrepid pioneer and builder of Fredericksburg, San Antonio and Texas.

No doubt, even Guenther must have been moved when, in answer to his letters, his parents outdid him in their expressions of faith, love and trust in him. They backed up their trust in him with their prayers and the financial support they

could afford to send.

In the excerpts of these letters, the city's name is spelled the way it was founded, Friedrichsburg.



**From a Letter of  
May 15, 1849**

"... I love America better than Germany. It has the same climate as Europe, Asia and Africa all put together. It has cold and warm areas; it has everything that people need, pleasures and even luxury. But best of all, it is free! Were Germany free I would soon be back there. I hope you will do what you can to help freedom in Germany...."

**From a Letter of  
January 7, 1851**

"...From New Orleans to Galveston to Indianola, Texas by steamer, I joined twenty others in paying for a teamster ride to San Antonio. I thought I had paid for traveling space on a wagon; but the men had to follow the wagons on foot. There were two wagons, each pulled by twelve oxen.

There was never a lack of food. The men killed plenty of deer, quail, ducks, geese and turkey. On account of walking behind the wagons, I learned to know Texas very much better than if I would have traveled by stage coach."

In San Antonio, Guenther hears of a town populated almost exclusively by Germans, Friedrichsburg -- named for a

fellow Prussian, Prince Friedrich Ludwig Wilhelm von Hohenzollern:

"...where the countryside up there is beautiful and healthy and which expert doctors claim is the healthiest location in all the world."

**From a Letter of  
September 7, 1851**

"Dear Family... With pleasure I can tell you that I have found a place for my home. I have bought 150 acres of land three miles from Friedrichsburg. I have the most beautiful location to be found within a radius of twenty miles on a creek called Live Oak. It cost \$800. The Pedernales River flows about

12,000 paces below me. I am busy building my mill ... and hope to be grinding in four months.

"I cannot delay because there is no mill within 60 miles of here. There was a mill operated by Mormons on the Pedernales River but this spring a flood washed it out. Everyone in town keeps asking when the mill will be ready. They are tired of doing their own grinding by hand."

Guenther's Live Oak Mill opened in September 1851.

**From a Letter of  
Jan. 7, 1853**

"Dear Father... you suggest that in choosing a wife I should keep an eye out for one with a good dowry. But in this country I would be glad if I could find

one to my taste gladly dispensing with the dowry.

"Here, a lady with a dowry of just \$1,000 would be so conceited that it would only cause trouble. Spring brings roses and time will eventually bring me the right wife!"

**Summer, 1853**

"...It is nice that you are so interested in my affairs and are now so concerned about me finding a beautiful wife. But you cannot shove a thing like that into the oven and take it out fully cooked in half an hour! You ask about my neighbors along Live Oak Creek who are:

"Von Wrede, from Kraehwinkel near Frankfurt; Haerter, a lawyer, son of the minister of war in Proln; Lahlikum from Muenster, Westphalen; Schnerr, the son of a hotelier of Frankfurt am Main; the Lungkwitz brothers from Halle, one is a landscape artist, the other a mechanic.

"Also Petri, brother in law of Lungkwitz, a portrait artist from Dresden with two sisters, both maiden ladies he brought with him; Leyendecker, from

Kadenbach, Westerwald; Friedrich "Fritz" Pape, who has the finest farm; Pohs, from the Hunsrueck in the Pfalz; and Von Cloudt and son, from Hannover, a fine worker in iron and wood."

**The Fourth of July  
Festival of 1853**

Guenther's "liebingsfest" or very favorite celebration was always the Fourth of July -- the Independence Day Festival which he and his family never failed to celebrate together whenever they could. He celebrated freedom in America in a way that he never could do in his lifetime in Germany.

Germany's freedom was his deep-seated prayer. The Live Oak Community and Guenther's Mill and Store was the gathering place where all the neighbors gathered their horses, surreys and wagons to travel the three miles into Friedrichsburg to join the many other Gillespie County communities in the giant Fourth of July parade.

"...the members of the Live Oak Community Club had neighbors Lungkwitz and Petri, esteemed artists, create a flag. The Live Oak club including the wives and families entered Friedrichsburg proudly and joined other organizations that were lining up at the Marktplatz downtown.

"Then the big July 4th parade began, going all the way to the Vereinshaus (the former Adelsverein office, not the Vereinskirche, where the Subway sandwich shop is now located). It was a rousing July 4th celebration that followed, first with a loud and reverent reading of the Declaration of Independence."

**Letter of 1854**

"...It is with gratitude that I receive your blessing, dear par-



ents, upon my recent engagement. My betrothed, Dorothea Pape, a neighbor, comes from Hannover, Niedersachsen, and came to Texas under the sponsorship of the Adelsverein, having left Germany in 1844.

"Her father lost three of his four children on the trip from Germany to Friedrichsburg. Mr. Pape is now also the County Treasurer. My betrothed was not allowed to leave the farm until she was thirteen for fear of lurking Indian tribes. For schooling she had to ride three miles into Friedrichsburg on a fully galloping horse both coming and going.

"It was only one mile down the road (at Nasse Krick) that Indians captured twelve-year-old Rudolph, son of Gottlieb Fischer. After that, the Papes would accompany my betrothed to Friedrichsburg where she stayed with friends for six months at a time to attend school.

"But it was a great advantage that my betrothed stayed at home so much being that she has mastered the learning of homemaking skills, and, an ideal mother her children can learn by.

Carl Hilmar Guenther and



Dorothea Pape Guenther

Dorothea Pape were married in the fall of 1855 by Lutheran pastor Burchard Dangers in the Vereinskirche.

"Now I live to enjoy life," he wrote his parents in 1857. "I am the happiest of my entire life. No longer do I live only to work and to achieve. I even read while my wife sews, and sharing the readings have brought us great satisfaction."

On April 20, 1857, they were blessed with their first born son, Fritz, the first of many children.

#### Letters of 1859

"Dear Mother... now some businessmen in Friedrichsburg, including the wealthy Van der Stuckens, are trying to put together their own steam mill in the center of the city.

"Feeling there is not enough business but for one mill, I have decided to go to San Antonio to look around since there are 10,000 people living there now. But my wife, Dorothea, loathes the idea so much that it is making her sick when she thinks of leaving her family.

After learning of the death of his father in Germany, Guenther writes to his mother on Sept. 1:

"I have found a fine tract of land in San Antonio along the river. The land cost \$2,000. Our move was not easy because of Dorothea's homesickness for Friedrichsburg and her family. She bursts into tears now and then and all too frequently.

"Her father, Fritz Pape, has leased the Live Oak Mill."

#### Devout Unionist Guenther Dismayed At Coming Civil War

#### From Letter of January 18, 1861

"Dear Mother... the political goings on are causing much doom and gloom. The South will probably secede from the North. The fundamental reason for secession is arrogance. These



Carl Hilmar Guenther

people (Confederates) cannot stand prosperity and peace. They are determined to take a beating! My address now is: C.H. Guenther, Esq., P.O. Box 153, San Antonio, Texas. Here in America every business has its own post office box. The "Esq." denotes a respected citizen. But even if you write only my name, it will reach me.

#### From Letter of March 16, 1864

"Dear Mother... there is great strife occurring in Friedrichsburg. The city is being torn apart because of the conflict between the majority Unionists and those for the Confederacy.

"For safety sake, my mail and money is to be re-routed to my banker's affiliate: Groos, Biersch & Company, Matamoros, Mexico."

By 1867, he and Dorothea had three sons and three daughters. The Civil War was over and again, he wrote happily to his mother that the entire family was celebrating the Fourth of July festival to honor the Declaration of Independence.

"We celebrated and celebrated," he said, "and did not come home until dawn!"



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 19, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY THERESA GOLD

# LIVING LEGACY

'Father of Texas Botany' immortalized in plants' names

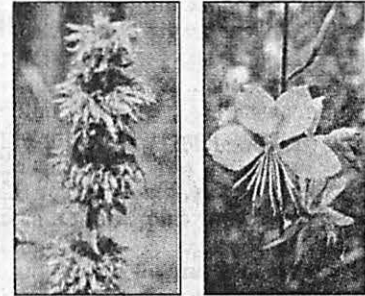
BY TRACY HOBSON LEHMANN  
 EXPRESS-NEWS HOME & GARDEN EDITOR

**H**is name doesn't have the familiar ring of Stephen F. Austin or William Barret Travis, but Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer's historic contributions are as Texan as the prickly pear. In fact, the prickly pear is one of almost 50 plants that bears the German immigrant's name.

Lindheimer, dubbed the Father of Texas Botany for his work as a plant collector in the mid-1800s, might not be a name for the grade-school history books, but the name is known among gardeners. In its Latin forms — *lindheimeri* and *lindheimeriana* — the label pops up often in nursery pots and plant books. In its common form, Lindheimer is attached to specimens such as muhly grass, gaura, senna and beebalm, all plants valued in water-conscious landscapes.

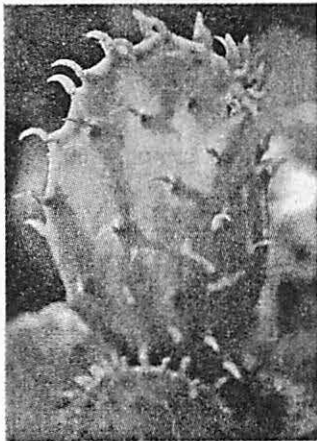
"Lindheimer and the information we can glean from the gardens of the past have a real message for us in the present," says William Welch, professor of horticulture and extension horticulturist at Texas A&M University. "Not only are the plants interesting historically, but they are practical. We are looking for landscapes that are user-friendly and environmentally efficient in their use of resources."

Welch, co-author of "The Southern Heirloom Garden" (Taylor Publishing, \$29.95), will discuss Lindheimer's contributions to Texas botany and the historical German influence on Texas gardens at 10 a.m. today in New Braunfels as part of the city's celebration commemorating Lindheimer's 200th birthday. Welch's presentation takes place at the Brauntex Theater, 290 W. San Antonio St. Tickets cost \$14 and include lunch at the Sophienburg Museum and a viewing of an exhibit of Lindheimer's specimens on loan from the Smithsonian Institution. For more information, call (830) 629-1572.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BARNEY CANION

Almost 50 plants bear Ferdinand Lindheimer's name, including beebalm, *Monarda lindheimeri*, (left) and gaura, or Lindheimer's butterflies, *Gaura lindheimeri*.



The Texas prickly pear, *Opuntia lindheimeri*, (top) owes its identity to its namesake, Lindheimer, as does the Texas yellow star, (above) *Lindheimera texana*.

Lindheimer, a teacher at a boys' school in Frankfurt, Germany, eventually settled in New Braunfels after immigrating to the United States in 1834 as a political refugee. Dissatisfied with cold weather in New York, Lindheimer ventured to Illinois with other German expatriates, then to Mexico, where he managed a plantation and began collecting plants and insects. In 1836, he came to Texas and joined the army.

It wasn't until 1843, after settling in the Houston area, that Lindheimer began botanizing — collecting plant specimens and shipping them to other botanists for classification. With the encouragement of friend George Engelmann of the Missouri Botanic Garden and Asa Gray, a Harvard University botany professor, Lindheimer began searching the untamed frontier for new species of plants, according to Greg Grant, a horticulturist and lecturer at Stephen F. Austin State University and co-author with Welch of "The Southern Heirloom Garden."

The explorer was paid \$8 per 100 plants mounted, described and identified, says Anna Lee Hicks, a member of the Ferdinand Lindheimer chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in New Braunfels. His collecting began around Houston and Galveston, and he ventured north and west to Victoria, Gonzales, San Felipe, Columbus, Bastrop, San Antonio, New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.



# Plants discovered on Texas frontier

## find favor in today's gardens

Collecting plants was a hobby among Europeans in the mid-19th century, says Barney Canion, caretaker of the Lindheimer House, a five-room fachwerk structure that is now a museum on the banks of the Comal River. Botanists also were eager to catalog the flora and fauna of the New World, and Gray offered Lindheimer more money to collect plants in the Rocky Mountains and west to the Pacific.

Lindheimer, though, was content to focus on Texas flora. In all, he cataloged more than 1,400 species in six years, Hicks says.

His letters to Engelmann, translated from German to English in "A Life Among the Texas Flora" by Minetta Altgelt Goyne (Texas A&M University Press, \$17.95, paperback), detail history and hardships of pioneer life. He shipped crates of plants from Galveston to New Orleans then up the Mississippi River

to Engelmann in St. Louis. The process often was snarled by weather; war and cantankerous shipping agents.

Other frontiersmen feared run-ins with Indians. Not Lindheimer. The Comanches around Comal

County revered the eccentric man with a bushy beard because they thought he was a medicine man, Hicks says. The natives had seen him poking around the prairies and hills and digging up plants and assumed he was gathering herbs to make magic potions.

Lindheimer curtailed his plant-hunting expeditions after marrying and starting a family in the mid-1840s. With the help of wife Eleanor, though, he continued to mount dried plant specimens on silk paper and ship them to Gray and Engelmann.

Political interests derailed the intellectual's botanical pursuits in the early 1850s. He became editor of New Braunfels' first newspaper in 1852, a position he held for two decades before returning to his work as a naturalist.

In all, Lindheimer gathered as many as 100,000 specimens of Texas species, according to Grant's estimates. Today, his collections are held at more than 20 institutions, including the Missouri Botanical Garden, the British Museum, the Museum of Natural History in Paris and the Komarov Botanic Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. His specimens were shown at the Paris World's Fair. The collection was lost at sea when the ship transporting it back to the United States sank in

the Atlantic.

His legacy, though, survived.

"When he came here, this was all wild country," Canion says. "Then came man with fences and horses and cows that ate a lot of grass and plants. Whatever plants have survived in the wild are going to be in a barren pasture or along fence lines."

After settlers and livestock came burgeoning populations.

"(Lindheimer) saw plants that we don't see today in their native ranges because of development," says Craig Oatman, who serves on the board of the New Braunfels

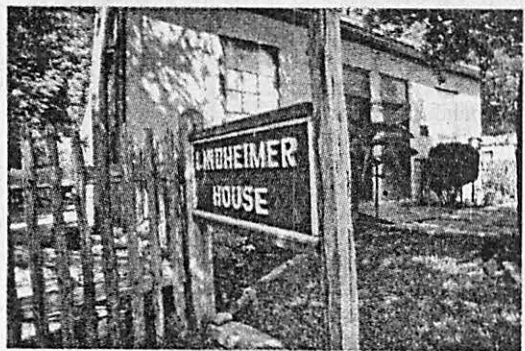
Conservation Society and owns a plant nursery in San Antonio. At least a half-dozen of the plants that bear Lindheimer's name are used in water-conscious landscapes today, Oatman notes, adding that others are wildflowers and what some might consider weeds.

The botanical legacy bearing his name would please Lindheimer. When a delicate yellow wildflower, now known as the Texas yellow star, was classified with a genus bearing his name, the teacher-turned-naturalist compared it with having a child.

"Do you write my name among

the stars with this little *Asteroid*? Did I serve botany in that way? If I die childless, then I shall nevertheless leave a little immortal daughter, the *Lindheimeria texensis*," he wrote to Engelmann in 1842.

Indeed, the name lives on.



Lindheimer's house, built in 1854 in New Braunfels, is now a museum.

**THE LINDHEIMER HOUSE AT  
491 COMAL AVENUE IN NEW  
BRAUNFELS IS OPEN 2-5 PM  
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS  
SEPTEMBER 1 TO MEMORIAL  
DAY.**



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, MAY 16, 2001  
 SUBMITTED BY ROLAND DULLNIG

# Texas petal pioneer blossoms at event

## 200th birthday fest in New Braunfels

BY KAREN ADLER  
 EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

If the German immigrants who settled in New Braunfels in 1845 were pioneers, then Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer was a trail-blazer.

Lindheimer had been living in Comal County for years when Prince Carl of Solm-Braunfels hired him to guide a group of settlers to what

■ Schedule would become of events/4H New Braunfels.

A political activist and intellectual, Lindheimer denounced the German government and came to America in 1833 with a desire for a new start. He roamed the Texas wilderness with a two-wheeled covered cart and was paid to collect unknown species of Texas plants and wildlife as part of an arrangement with a Frankfurt botanist and his partner at Harvard.

Botany became his passion, but his life's work didn't end with flora.

In his lifetime, Lindheimer was a teacher, a naturalist, a traveler, defender of free speech and the first editor and publisher of the *Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung*, now the *Herald-Zeitung*. Forty-eight plant species bear his name, and today he is known as the father of Texas



SOPHIENBURG MUSEUM PHOTO  
 Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer is considered the father of Texas botany.

botany and is recognized worldwide. He died in 1879.

"He was probably the first flower child," said Anna Lee Hicks, past president of the Sophienburg Museum & Archives. "He had a free spirit."

"He was what you would call a Texian in the true sense of the word," she said, noting that he joined the Texas Army just after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Lindheimer's spirit — and his 200th birthday — will be cele-

brated Saturday and Monday with a slew of events that will pay tribute to his contributions to New Braunfels and Texas.

Monday, his actual birthday, has been declared Lindheimer Day by the governor, Hicks said.

"Rarely, Texas has an opportunity to honor someone with such a varied and vivid past," she said.

The Sophienburg will kick off the celebration Saturday morning with a speech by Texas A&M Professor William Welch, followed by a luncheon and viewing of the Smithsonian Institution's Lindheimer exhibit at the Sophienburg. The Smithsonian has loaned a portion of its exhibit to the Sophienburg through the end of June.

Also on Saturday, about 30 Lindheimer descendants nationwide will gather at Landa Park for a family reunion. Lindheimer's great-great-granddaughter, Kay Loudon Mrazek, said she will read excerpts from the journal of Max Eugene, Lindheimer's son.

Mrazek, a Corpus Christi resident, said she began planning the family reunion when she found out about the 200th birthday celebration. She said she plans to distribute copies of the diary and old family pictures to her relatives this weekend.

"I'm just in awe," she said of how New Braunfels plans to honor her family patriarch. "We never grew up thinking he was anything other than a farmer and a botanist."

Monday's events will be capped off with the Historic Outdoor Art Gallery's dedication of the Lindheimer mural on the side of the

L.A. Hoffmann building, now home to Texas Home Place Mortgage in downtown New Braunfels.

San Antonio artist Alex Brochon is painting the mural, which will show Lindheimer holding a *Lindheimera texana*, known as the Texas Yellow Star. His home, the newspaper press and other plants named for him also are illustrated.

"Lindheimer's life is so varied," said Wayne Rahe, president of the Historic Outdoor Art Gallery, a nonprofit organization. "We're trying to depict all the elements of his life."

The painting will be about 130 feet long and 32 feet high. "It's a fairly massive mural," Rahe said.

The Lindheimer piece will be the second in a series of five public murals planned by the art gallery, Rahe said.

"He probably is our most important citizen," Rahe said. "He's the one that's responsible for New Braunfels being here. To me, he was just a feisty old guy. He probably would be the epitome of what a pioneer would have been."

kadler@express-news.net



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD, JULY 27, 2001  
SUBMITTED BY RODNEY KOENIG

## Ein Kleineswurstfest Festivities Coming To Round Top

The Texas All-State German band, officially known as *Blasmusik Texas*, is coming to Round Top, Saturday, August 11, to perform a free 90-minute concert on the town square at 6:30 p.m.

*Blasmusik Texas* is a volunteer band comprised of professional and accomplished musicians from throughout the state. At this performance, the band will be joined by ten musicians from the Round Top Brass Band. The music is Central European, German, Czech, Alsatian, Austrian, and consists of polkas, waltzes, and marches and Volksmusik (folk music). The 45-piece European instrumentation band meets several weekends a year to rehearse and perform for German-Texan Fests and similar events, including "Night in Old Fredericksburg" and the New Braunfels "Wurstfest."

The band was formed in July 1993 in Fredericksburg, for the primary purpose of representing Texas at a Blasmusik festival (wind band festival) in Germany in 1994. Musicians came from all over Texas to comprise a Texas All-State Band named *Blasmusik Texas*. Herbert Bilhartz is the director of music.

Philhartz is a former director of the Hermann Sons German Band in San Antonio.

Duwain Pingenot, president of *Blasmusik Texas* since its inception in 1993, said the band chose Round Top as its rehearsal venue so that the band members could explore the many interesting sites in Round Top and around Fayette County.

"We are really excited and looking forward to playing in the 'Heart

of Texas,'" he said.

The public is invited to attend this special musical treat on the Town Square in Round Top. Bring lawn chairs.

Refreshments and wurst will be available at stands on or near the square. Drawings will be held for door prizes donated by the Round Top merchants. Businesses will be open late the evening of the performance for shopping convenience.

Free parking is available. The City of Round Top, the Round Top Chamber of Commerce, The Round Top Brass Band, The Round Top Rifle Association and the DYD of Round Top make this event possible. The Round Top Rifle Association Hall will serve as the alternate location in case of rain. For more information, call the Chamber office at 979-249-4042 or visit [www.blasmusiktx.com](http://www.blasmusiktx.com) or [roundtop.org](http://roundtop.org).



The *Blasmusik Texas* band meets several times a year to rehearse. Lucky for Fayette County residents, they will rehearse in Round Top on Saturday, Aug. 11



THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS,  
OCTOBER 14, 2001  
SUBMITTED BY FRANCES HEIMER COPELAND

Marriott, Knibbe family  
combine to offer tourists  
a rollicking time.

BY MELISSA S. MONROE  
EXPRESS-NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

Ranch life can be challenging in times of economic slowdown and drought, but Chuck Knibbe and his family have found a way to keep their 1,000-acre property from turning into another housing development.

By partnering with the Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk hotels, the Knibbes are turning their 147-year-old ranch into a destination where tourists and locals can find a full ranch experience. About 30 minutes north of downtown, in the small Spring Branch community, guests can take part in western parties, hayrides, skeet shooting, tubing and horseback riding.

The Knibbe Ranch is a first in the Marriott chain of 2,000 properties, said Rob Gillette, Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk director of food and beverage. The ranch's short distance from downtown and its authenticity provide a destination that's been dubbed "Rockin' M Experience at Knibbe Ranch," he added.

"When people come to San Antonio they want to experience something that's Texas — like an actual working ranch," Gillette said.

But keeping the ranch alive for the sixth generation didn't come without sacrifice from the Knibbe family.

A former stockbroker, Chuck Knibbe, 57, retired last year to run the ranch full time. His son, Chad Knibbe, 27, left his information technology job in Houston to help

his father operate the ranch. Additionally, daughter Shannon Knibbe, 31, is the ranch's booking liaison to Destinations by Marriott, a local destination management company. Mom, Sharon Knibbe, 57, is also a professional tour guide who will help to provide tours at the ranch.

"This is a wonderful blessing for the ranch and the family because it allows us to have the extra income to pass the ranch on to future generations," Chuck Knibbe said. "Kids who are not used to ranching and don't have a natural interest will likely pass it up and sell the land. But if you put something in place to add some in-

come, then all those combine and will help it stay in the family."

A strong work ethic is not foreign to the Knibbe family, whose roots trace to Germany.

Chuck Knibbe's great-great-grandfather Dietrich Knibbe was in search of the American dream when he migrated to the Texas Gulf from Germany in the 1850s to become a farmer. However, this dream didn't include losing his young wife along the trip and all of his farming equipment.

His luck got better over the years when he built up the Knibbe Ranch that spread thousands of acres across the Texas Hill Country.

The Knibbe family and Marriott officially entered into the long-term partnership in July, with plans of opening a 12,000-square-foot pavilion and rodeo arena by early next year. The Knibbe family plan to spend several hundred thousand dollars for the new facilities and make room for a road to accommodate buses.

Plans are also in the works to add log cabins and meeting space next year that will be called the

Spring Branch Creek Retreat Center, said Chuck Knibbe.

Despite the huge investment and being dependent on the fluctuating tourism business, the Knibbes say Marriott was the perfect match for them.

"There's no doubt in my mind that this will be a success," Chuck Knibbe said. "(Marriott) is giant and they have so much marketing power. I'm excited in particular who we are involved with."

Destinations by Marriott Director Curt Pfannstiel said the Knibbe Ranch will profit from other destination management companies or groups who want to have events there. He said the ranch is not exclusive to Marriott

meetings, but destination management companies will have to coordinate bookings through Destinations by Marriott and use Marriott catering.

Ranch packages or tours will vary in price depending on the services, but could run from \$45 to \$125 per person, Gillette said.

Pfannstiel said Destinations by Marriott will continue to offer other ranch properties, such as the Don Strange Ranch, to groups that request them.

Like the Knibbes, many other ranch operators have found opening their properties to tourism helps them survive in the seesaw agriculture industry.

The 148-year-old King Ranch in South Texas is one of many ranches in Texas that have found success in catering to guests while providing farming and livestock activities.

"There's a lot of interest in this as a way to supplement income," said Jack Hunt, King Ranch's president and chief executive officer. "I think as the nation urbanizes, the rural experience becomes

even more attractive to people. But here we don't look at it that way. We see it as a way of meeting the interest of the community."

The Knibbe family hopes the quarter-of-a-mile of riverfront along the Guadalupe and its Spring Branch Creek will draw guests to offset ranch-operating costs. Chuck Knibbe said cattle don't often bring in enough profit to support land that's worth millions.

"The cattle business provides a modest income and people who love this industry stay in it because of the ranching lifestyle," he said. "There's not enough money in the cattle business, so we want to share it with tourists to experience the ranch."

*"When people come to San Antonio they want to experience something that's Texas —"*



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OCTOBER 21, 2001

*I have heard that there was an internment camp for German civilians during World War II. If so, where was it? Also, is there a German Heritage Month?*

— Gina Busselmann

Through World War II, there were several prisoner-of-war camps for captured German soldiers in Texas. At the outset of war with the Axis powers, citizens of Germany as well as Japan and Italy were interned at Fort Sam Houston, says John Manguso, director of the Fort Sam Houston Museum.



PAULA ALLEN

"Initially, the internees were kept in a small compound in the Infantry Post, then were moved to Dodd Field," Manguso says. "They were eventually repatriated to their native lands through neutral countries."

Dodd Field, at the north-east end of the post, next became the site of a POW camp and was used at the end of the war as a processing center for returning American soldiers, says "A Pocket Guide to the New Post" (1995, Fort Sam Houston Museum).

Regarding a celebration of German heritage, to date, there's only one day designated for reflecting on Teutonic roots.

"To my knowledge, there is not a celebration of German Heritage Month, although October is the month most people think of because of the German tradition of Oktoberfest," says Julia G. Germany, executive director of the German-Texan Heritage Society in Austin. Oct. 6, she says, is German-American Day, which commemorates the founding in 1683 of Germantown, Penn. — the first German settlement in what would become the United States.

More recently, the significance of October in this respect increased with the unification of the former West Germany and East Germany, Oct. 3, 1990, says local historian Theresa Gold, who has advocated celebrating the whole month.

Also, an overlap with the better-established Hispanic Heritage Month (usually

# German heritage

## celebrated on

# Oct. 6

observed from Diez y Seis, Sept. 16, through Columbus Day, Oct. 12) sets up strong competition for the public's interest.

For information about the German-Texan Heritage Society, visit [www.main.org/germantxn](http://www.main.org/germantxn) or write to the organization at 507 E. 10th St., P.O. Box 684171, Austin 78768-4171.

**Peaceful demonstration:** Speaking of German-Americans, longtime Beethoven Maennerchor (men's chorus) member Lee H. Gastinger sent copies of letters sent to the Maennerchor's William Schuwirth by Frank Badger of the San Antonio Rifles and Robert B. Green of the Belknap Rifles militia unit (covered here Sept. 16).

The singing group was formed by German-Americans in 1867, says Gastinger, an active member for more than 50 years. From 1887 on, the Maennerchor sponsored an annual Saengerfest (song festival), to which Schuwirth invited the Belknap Rifles and the older San Antonio Rifles.

At Saengerfest, says Gastinger, "There was always a parade with choirs from Austin, Galveston, Houston, Dallas, New Braunfels and of course San Antonio."

To vary these ranks, "They were in need of a few good marching units." Invited to participate in the first parade, April 15, 1887, Green replies that "We will aid you all we can," while Badger promises, "You can count on us."

THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE FREDERICKSBURG STANDARD  
SUBMITTED BY SHERYL BROWN

## German Heritage Honors Given

Two representatives from Texas Tech University were special guests at a luncheon hosted by the Gillespie County Historical Society on Friday, July 27, at the Plateau Café.

Guests were Dr. Meredith McClain, professor of German at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and Robert Hickerson, chief operating officer of Texas Tech University's Junction Campus.

One of the purposes of the luncheon was to recognize Dr. McClain for her contribution to German heritage preservation and also to recognize Fabrice Cotel, an apprentice from Montabaur, Germany, who has been working at the Plateau Café as a "chef in training".

J.L. (Skip) Knopp, representing Mayor Tim Crenwelge, gave both guests the "Ehrenbürger" (honorary citizen) award of Fredericksburg at the luncheon.

Dr. McClain serves on the board of directors of the German-Texan Heritage Society, headquartered in Austin, and has worked tirelessly to tell the stories of German-Texans who have contributed to the state of Texas.

It was through her efforts at Texas Tech University that the present exhibit on German-Texan Heritage at Bank One was created.

Knopp, who also represents the German Heritage Commission, said, "Dr. McClain and her department at Texas Tech University have for many years been involved in Fredericksburg's German heritage activities."

He added, "This year, she won the German government's pres-

tigious Lucias Clay Award for German-American Friendship, and this fall she will go to Düsseldorf, Germany, to accept this international honor."

Members of several organizations committed to German heritage preservation attended the luncheon.

Paul Camfield, Bill and Carol Elliott and Sherryl Brown of the Gillespie County Historical Society attended.

Kenn Knopp and Skip Knopp of the German Heritage Commission participated in the dialog with Dr. McClain and Hickerson about the future of higher education in Gillespie County.

Interest was expressed for the new Multi-Institutional Teaching Center that will be administered by Texas Tech University, scheduled to open in June of 2002 in Fredericksburg.

Patrick Klein, president of the Fredericksburg-Montabaur Sister City Verein, expressed thanks to Cotel for the German-style luncheon he had prepared and acknowledged the generosity of Andy Smith, owner of the Plateau Café for

hosting Cotel during his apprenticeship program in Fredericksburg.

Hickerson said, "Another important goal here of the Fredericksburg Teaching Center is to initiate a first class hotel-restaurant training program. The German Heritage Commission's sponsorship of Cotel encourages us in this endeavor."

Special guests of Dr. McClain included Irina Graeber, graduate assistant in the German Department at Texas Tech, and her husband, Marcus Graeber, of Brandenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany.



**THE ISLAND OF REICHENAU IN THE BODENSEE**

by Ron Hunka

Once, when I looked at the Bodensee on a map of Germany, I noticed an island in the lake called Reichenau. The map indicated that it had three Romanesque churches. Having once taken a college course in medieval architecture, this caught my eye. But I did not think about the island again until we had a discussion at the weekly *Stammtisch* at the German Texan Heritage Society in Austin one day last year. That discussion led me to believe that this island and the churches were worth a visit. After all, these churches were built at a time when the cliff dwellings in our own southwest were hundreds of years in the future. I decided then that I would visit the island of Reichenau on my coming vacation to Austria.

My wife and I began to plan a trip late last year to Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. My wife was born in Linz, Austria, and we have visited her relatives several times there in the last few years. We enjoy very much traveling in Austria. It is a country which I find uniquely beautiful with its many mountains, lakes, and quiet, scenic villages, where the lodging hospitality, at an inexpensive price, is rarely equaled in our own country. For me, Austria is a refuge from the stress of life in high tech Austin. We like to stay in the *Bauernhofe*, which are farmhouses or country inns, sometimes hundreds of years old, where the owners have a few rooms or apartments to rent to contribute a little to their making a living. On our last vacation, on the way back from Austria, we arranged to spend three days seeing the Bodensee. It rained a good deal during the time that we spent there, but we managed to visit a number of towns on both sides of the lake and the island of Reichenau.

The Bodensee, *Lake Constance* in the English-speaking world, is a huge lake whose shores lie in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Texas has some very large man-made lakes, such as our own Lake Travis and the highland lakes, but the Bodensee is a natural lake and far larger than any of them. It is also the source of the Rhine. The towns along its banks have developed over hundreds of years. They include places such as the surprisingly modern Friderichshafen, where Graf Zeppelin built and tested his airships that once gracefully crossed the Atlantic at an altitude of a few hundred feet while well-to-do passengers drank Moselle wine and glimpsed whales, sharks, and other ocean life from their luxury craft.

The town of Meersburg, also on the north shore, in Germany, has a medieval hub with an elegant castle, numerous half-timbered buildings that house restaurants, pastry cafes, lodging, wine warehouses and shops. The streets rival in interest those of middle Rhine towns such as Bacharach and St. Goar. Meersburg can be reached from the south only by ferries that depart at fifteen to thirty minute intervals throughout the day and night from Konstanz, on the south shore. The island of Reichenau is on the same side of the lake as Konstanz. It is easily reached from there by driving northwest, about a twenty minute drive, the last part of which is over a narrow causeway, about a mile long. This branch of the lake is called the Untersee.

A Benedictine monastery was founded on Reichenau in 724. During the 9th through the 11th centuries, the abbey church, the church of Sts. Peter and Paul, and the church of St. George were built there. The island's monastery became an important center for art and literature in the Europe of that day.

The afternoon we drove to Reichenau, the weather broke, and the sun came out. After four days of rain, the sunlight brought out the deep green hue of the grass and the colors of the wildflowers and illuminated the walls and rooftops of the houses. With few visitors and little traffic the week before Easter, the island seemed pleasantly peaceful.

The island is divided into three communities, each of which has one of the churches. With regard to their nearness to the mainland, these parts of the island are respectively called Oberzell, Mittelzell, and Niederzell. There are large, upright maps posted strategically on the island that show where the churches, the hotels, restaurants and other points of interest are located. Apart from this help, it is quite easy to find one's way around on the island. It is only about three miles long and a mile wide. About 4,500 persons permanently inhabit the island, but the houses seem more distantly spaced than in most towns in Germany, and there are large open areas. Over half of the island is used for the cultivation of vegetables and a small part for vineyards.

Due to time constraints, we visited the interior of only two of three churches although I did photograph all three from the outside. The first church that we visited was the one in Niederzell, at the far end of the island, the small church of Sts. Peter and Paul. When I look at the photos I took of this church that day, I see a twin towered light-colored stone structure with a red tile roof across a green field with yellow wildflowers, against a sky of billowing



clouds with patches of blue. The church is near the shoreline of the island, and one can look beyond the boat docks, across a mile or so of water, to a picturesque town on the other side. Inside the church, which is simple in nature, there is a large crucifix suspended from the vaulted ceiling toward the apse, which has a single, small stained glass window. On the sidewalls and in the apse, one notes frescoes painted so long ago that they have almost faded away, like pictographs I have seen in the Devil's river area of south Texas. There are also stone tablets, appearing once to have been outside, worn smooth from age. One notes the signs of renovation and preservation carried out over the years. Behind the church is a simple parish cemetery.

One passes the church of St. George in the Oberzell community upon coming to and leaving the island. It was the one that we did not enter. I photographed it from across the street, next to a vegetable market operated by a pleasant lady. She had some beautiful looking vegetables, especially the crisp-looking radishes. This church has a single, square tower which seems aesthetically less pleasing than the church at the other end of the island. From a guidebook we bought, one can see that it has many frescoes painted along the upper portions of the naves and a flat ceiling. Where the other church has a rounded apse, this one is square with a flat rear wall and no windows.

The largest of the three churches is the abbey church or the minster in the central portion of the island. It is much larger than the other two. When one looks at the abbey church, one sees more a complex than a single building. A graphical representation in the guidebook traces its complex construction history through at least eight major renovations. I remember reading in my architecture class the history of several medieval churches. Such changes were the order of the day for them. Renovation was ongoing, and what began as a Romanesque church evolved through time with the addition of gothic elements and those of the succeeding architectural styles.

Standing near the minster, it is difficult to see the building because of its large size and multiple towers and branches. The best pictures I took of the exterior were from several hundred yards away, across one of the many vegetable gardens.

The church served as a monastery, though no monks live there today. In the year 880, it was recorded that 118 monks worked within the monastery. In the tenth and eleventh centuries, the monastery achieved a reputation for the

illumination of manuscripts and goldsmithing and the artistic and literary center of southwestern Germany. It also had an important college that contributed many archbishops and bishops of that time. The island also became the home of the dethroned grandson of Charlemagne, Charles the III, the so-called Charles the Fat, who died and was buried there in 888.

Unlike the church of Saints Peter and Paul with one or two visitors, the minster had a modestly larger number of visitors to its interior. I remember seven or eight Spanish tourists with a guide who led them into the church and seated them on the wooden benches and began to lecture. I listened a little to see what I could understand, not that much.

At the far end of the room, my eyes were drawn to the striking red and white stained glass windows in the gothic choir, which was added in the fifteen century, the source of much of the light in the room. These were so much in contrast to the otherwise predominately gray and stone colored interior. The central nave of the church was quite large with a high ceiling. The cold, smooth stone floor and simple Romanesque interior evoked in me a sense of the long years through which the church had passed. Again there were the stone memorials and tablets so worn with age that little could be made out about those they were meant to memorialize. One could not but think of those many generations of men who worked and died here in dedicated and selfless anonymity.

There was a small sign inside the front door which read in part, "Please walk through this church with respect and silence, for over 1200 years it has been a place of prayer".

In the year 2000, Germany added the monastic island of Reichenau to the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage centers. In the United States this designation has been awarded to, among others, Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, and the Statue of Liberty.

The Bodensee (English, Lake Constance) is a lake on the border between Germany, Switzerland and Austria. It is forty-six miles long, 210 square miles in size, and its maximum depth is 827 feet.

--- Webster's New Geographical Dictionary



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## THE POOR PALANTINES

### The First Large Migration of Germans to America, 1709-1710

Part One

By Merle E. Prinz

**A**braham Lauck is not a name found in American history books, but his story is a genuine part of American history. Born to Johann Valentin and Anna Catharina (Ruhl) Lauck in 1686, confirmed in the church at Wallau (near Wiesbaden, Germany) in 1702, Abraham began his trip to America in 1708. The Wallau churchbook entry of that year reported the departure of the Valentin Lauck family (with wife and four children) for Ireland "because they could not go to the New Land."<sup>1</sup> The trail of the parents and a brother is lost (possibly died in Ireland, England or at sea) but Abraham and two sisters, Elisabetha Catharina and Elisabetha Christina appear in the New York colony in 1710 as a part of the first major German/Palatine wave to settle in America. They established German-American family lines continuing to this day.

#### A HISTORY ALMOST LOST

Writers of American history textbooks generally ignore the Palatine story, such as that of the Lauck family, although they were part of the first large group of Germanic speaking peoples to risk everything to migrate to the New World. Their story is one of desperation, courage and a singular determination to find new homes in America. This they did, but at a very high price—one in four would die on the way to the New York colony and over half of those destined for the Carolina colony would die during the crossing or at the hands of the indigenous tribe.

During the spring of 1709, large numbers of peoples from the Rhine River region, dominated by the Phalz or Palatine part of Germany, decided to follow the few souls of 1708. After paying the local

Baron or Elector 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the value of their property for a departure permit, they abandoned their ancestral homes and risked everything to venture into the unknown. Also left behind in their wake was the legacy of Seventeenth Century Europe—a time of war and misery for most of the population. The Thirty Years War, 1618-1648, involved most of the European nations and states in violent disputes over religion and political power. The Rhineland of Germany became a favored battleground. Memories of the death and devastation caused by the various armies—that lived off the land—remained with the surviving inhabitants for years thereafter. After the Thirty Years War, Louis the XIV, a French monarch, frequently sent his armies into the territory west of the Rhine in an effort to dominate the region. His invading French armies ensured the Rhineland and Palatine populations would suffer from high taxes and the continued destruction of life, homes and farmsteads. The people from the northern reaches of Switzerland to the borders of the Netherlands had little hope for a better future for themselves or their children.

This first major migration of Germanic peoples to America came from the Rhineland and were generally known as Palatines and more than often "Poor Palatines" in the English press. Their story involves a mixture of Palatine courage, English mercantilism, and British naval expansion with a large dose of sympathy on the part of Queen Anne of England.

Palatines were not the first Germans to go to the New World. German craftsmen were part of the doomed Jamestown colony in 1608, they made up a large part of the New Sweden colony (1638)—the second governor was Johannes Printz, a



German nobleman from Holstein. In 1683, an important group of German settlers led by Francis Daniel Pastorius established Germantown in Pennsylvania. However, no mass movement of Germans to the colonies happened until 1709-10. For the Palatines, the decision to leave the homeland was founded more on survival instinct than adventure. The winter of 1708-09 was one of the coldest recorded in modern history and as a result, livestock, wild animals, and cultivated crop land, especially vineyards and orchards, were frozen. This event probably was the catalyst that triggered the movement. Many of the men were in the occupation of "vinedresser" and the freeze ensured this line of work would disappear for a number of years.

Religion, but not necessarily religious freedom, played a vital role in addition to the loss of work. William Penn, a Quaker, was deeply concerned over the plight of these tortured peoples and had toured the region in earlier years to encourage them to go to Pennsylvania. His agents remained active for years. Books and pamphlets by Penn, the British government, and investment merchants proclaiming the wonders of the colonies had been circulated among the Palatines. An interesting pamphlet published by the Reverend Joshua von Kocherthal, a German preacher, encouraged migration to the "Island of Carolina" as the region was often called. Kocherthal had never been to the Carolinas but was possibly paid to write a glowing report by English investors. With the help of Queen Anne, he led the first small group of Palatines to America who began the community of Newburgh, New York in 1708. A Protestant leader among the early "auswanderers" (immigrants) in the Palatine region, Kocherthal's New York records are valued sources of information today.

#### QUEEN ANNE'S SOLACE

Queen Anne's consort, Prince George of Denmark, a Lutheran like many of the Palatines, died on October 28, 1708. During his life he must have

shown concern for the hardships of the Palatine Lutherans for the Queen found solace in providing help to the Palatines. While her interest was compassionate in nature, her allies in government and business had other agendas.

The political leaders of England supported the movement to bring Palatines to England for various reasons. In his book, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, Walter Knittle states the British government held the position that it was "the protector of the Protestant cause in Europe."<sup>ii</sup> The policy was consistent with earlier help extended to the French Huguenots (Protestants) who were the object of persecution and murder with the indulgence of the French king. Other political leaders were concerned that populating the new colonies with English peoples would deplete the native land. The solution to send Protestant Palatines would help build the colonies and preserve the home population.



Evangelische Kirche Wallau where the Palatine Abraham Lauck was Confirmed in 1702

The solution reflected the popular mercantile economic theory that viewed "a dense population as an element of national strength."<sup>iii</sup> As a further inducement for the Palatines to immigrate, the

English government passed its first general naturalization law in March of 1709 that made it possible for the foreign immigrants to secure all the rights of natural-born subjects.<sup>iv</sup> This ensured the rights of land ownership among other rights valued by the Palatines.

#### THE EXODUS

Word of free transportation by English ships from the Netherlands to England spread among the people, and a steady stream of "Palatines" moved north along the Rhine to Rotterdam. These people were poor and were dependent on the generosity of others for food and shelter. In general, they were given help along the way, and the Dutch provided food and funds while they waited for a ship. The government records of the times indicate aid was a



significant burden on the Dutch and was soon to be on the English.

Frank Reid Diffenderffer, in his 1897 presentation to the Pennsylvania German Society, states, "...by October [1709], between 13,000 and 14,000 had come."<sup>v</sup> The city of London, a population of about 30,000 at the time, was overwhelmed by the fall of 1709. The Queen ordered 1,000 tents to be provided. Some of the prominent citizens took up collections for the "poor Palatines." As many Palatines as could tried to find work. This placed them into confrontation with English workmen, and these riots caused the destruction of some of the Palatine temporary shelters as well as injury to the people. The Savoy Palace and Chapel, a district in London that had fallen on hard times, served as a center for the German speaking Protestants, mainly Lutheran and Reformed followers. Three important clergymen, Ruperti, Tribekko, and Treke conducted services here, distributed welfare, and exchanged news and information. They worked with the English and their parishioners in an effort to save lives and move the immigrants on to new homes.

### A RACE WITH DEATH

Death by starvation and disease became a daily event. Diffenderffer writes that more than a 1,000 died in the Blackheath encampment alone.<sup>vi</sup> The government, in keeping with the anti-Catholic laws of the time, determined that Catholic Palatines (estimated to be nearly one third of the number) could not stay and returned them to the Netherlands with alms to help them on the way. Various resettlement schemes were explored from working the mines in Wales, to farming in the north of England, or laboring on West Indies plantations. Some entered the British Army. An estimated 3,800 were sent to Ireland in order to establish a Protestant group on that island. This was not particularly successful and many returned to England and thence to America. Interestingly, in the 1930s Dr. Knittle discovered evidence that descendents of this group were still living in Limerick County, Ireland.<sup>vii</sup> Most of the Palatines settled in Limerick were skilled in the manufacture

of linen fabric and are credited with the successful improvement of Irish linen production and its world fame.

The Lords Proprietors of Carolina proposed to the Board of Trade that a group of Palatines be sent to what is now North Carolina. The final action included a number of Swiss under the leadership of Christopher von Graffenried, a high born Swiss. He also selected about 600 Palatines to settle a colony. This Palatine/Swiss group established the city of New Bern, North Carolina. Tragically, ships carrying the Palatines were at sea 13 weeks and by

the time they landed in Virginia, almost half had died of starvation and disease. In time the local tribe took a few more lives until the surviving Palatines eventually made a peace agreement with the Tuscarora. Palatine compliance with the treaty led to disputes with the English settlers who did not have an understanding with the tribe. The Tuscarora decided to

attack the English and on a single day in September 1711 killed about 100 persons in settlements south of the Albemarle Sound. The Germans would not fight the Tucaroras as promised in the treaty; however, the Palatines are believed to have secretly provided the English leaders valuable information about tribal activity.<sup>viii</sup>

Graffenried, who barely escaped death by torture by convincing the Tucaroras he was King of the Palatines, sold the colony land to an Englishman, Thomas Polloch, and returned to Europe. The remaining Palatines were denied any rights to the land previously promised. Some relocated to Virginia and were settled on the plantation of Governor Spotswood in a community called Germanna. Here they built a fort as part of the agreement to defend the frontier. In 1717 a group of Palatines who had been detained in England due to the arrest of the ship's captain for debt, were shipwrecked off the Virginia coast. Starvation had taken some on the voyage and the survivors were sold as slaves to Governor Spotswood by the ship's captain. Spotswood sent this group to join the Palatines in Germanna. The cost of seeking a new land was high indeed.

**By 1709 between 13,000 and 14,000 Palatines had come to the City of London, which had a population at the time of about 30,000 people.**

### TAR, PITCH, AND NEW YORK

In the seventeenth century, the British Empire expanded rapidly all around the world. This island nation developed a large fleet of ships for war and merchant use. The construction of the wooden ships required tar, pitch, and hemp to keep them watertight. Clearly, these items, collectively called naval stores, were vital to survival of the national enterprise. In his book, Dr. Knittle discusses the strangle hold that Sweden had on the naval stores trade. Finland, then a part of Sweden, had a near monopoly on the production of these items and the Swedish Tar Company controlled the sales and shipping. This situation threatened British national interest through undesirable political influence, profiteering and a less than reliable delivery.<sup>ix</sup>

A few years before the Palatine invasion of England, the British began looking at the American colonies for naval stores. Reports from the New York colony, originally the Dutch New Amsterdam colony, indicated an abundant supply was available there. Over the next few years, more investigation and cost of production analysis led the British to the conclusion that a colonial source should be developed. An additional factor, the French expansion into the New England region concerned the British. Suddenly, the Palatines were available labor and the production of naval stores in the colonies a necessity.

During August and September 1709, plans were made to send a large group of Palatines to New York to produce tar and related items and at the same time occupy the region on the Hudson River north of New York as a bulwark against the French. Since the Palatines had bitter memories of the French armies, this idea seemed to get two birds with one stone. In the first week of November, the Commissioners of Transport were instructed to prepare two men-of-war to escort 3,000 Palatines to New York.

### COLONEL HUNTER

The newly appointed governor of New York, Colonel Robert Hunter, was on hand in London and played an important role in the final business

arrangements for placing the Palatines under contract. Political differences in Parliament made it necessary to ensure payment for the cost of transport to New York and, as a result, the Palatines became indenture servants to the government until they had produced enough stores to off set the cost of passage and their subsistence expenses. Knittle observes that the terms of the contract could have kept them in perpetual serfdom. The potential for war with the French caused the British to arm the Palatines which was to prove a mixed blessing in the future. A review of the law for awarding land to settlers concluded it was too generous for this group and the land to be awarded was reduced from a maximum of 2,000 acres to 40 acres.

Transportation contracts with ship owners allowed only "five pounds, ten shillings per head" for each of the 3,300 passengers. This was much lower than the usual rates of 10 pounds to Carolina or seven

to Pennsylvania. However, the owners secured compensation for demurrage and delay. The rates were 11 shillings and six pence per ton for each ship and six pence per day for each Palatine. This contract feature was to cause much suffering for the passengers and profit for the owners.

### DESPERATE VOYAGE

The passengers were packed into ten small ships as closely as possible. The convoy departed from London at the end of December 1709 but delays in sailing the coastline to the port of Plymouth held up the departure from English waters until April 10, 1710. They were to be penned up in the holds of these ships for nearly six months, given little and poor food, and bad water. Starvation and ship fever (typhus), spread by fleas and body lice, took a terrible toll, especially the young and elderly. The first ship to arrive at New York was the *Lyon* on June 13, 1710 and the last one, the *Herbert*, delayed by a shipwreck on Long Island, arrived on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Colonel Hunter reported that 446 and later 470 of 2,814 Palatines had died during the voyage. An estimated 250 more died while waiting to get on the mainland from Nutten (Governor's) Island where they had been detained until the

**The passengers were packed into ten small ships as closely as possible ... 470 of 2,814 Palatines died during the voyage.**



diseases were controlled. It should be noted that record keeping was not an exact science in this time and others had higher numbers. Passenger lists were always suspect, for example, Abraham Lauck does not appear until the Hunter list of October 4, 1710 and the West Camp Lutheran church books recorded his marriage to Anna Catharina Becker on September 27, 1710, an event that may have happened on Nutten Island. Knittle notes that the chief benefactor of the deaths was one Peter Willemse Romers, a coffin maker in the summer of 1710. He claimed payment of 59 pounds, 6 shillings for 250 coffins.<sup>x</sup>

The high number of deaths also left many orphans. Governor Hunter decided to distribute these children, reportedly 74, as apprentices to the citizens of New York. Although New York held over 900 African slaves at the time, an apprentice was a working hand welcome in a colony constantly short of cheap labor. Hunter went beyond orphans and forced some families to give up children to apprenticeship. A future leader of the Palatines, John Conrad Weiser, a widower with eight children, was one forced to give up his son, George Frederick in this manner.<sup>xi</sup> Life as free citizens would continue to elude these Germans for some years to come.

### UP THE HUDSON RIVER

While the Palatines struggled to survive, Governor Hunter selected the lands to be settled and establish the tar production camps. At this time, a Scotsman named Robert Livingston held claim to a very large, over 160,000 acres, tract of land on the Hudson on which the pitch pine grew. He was a clever businessman and had over the years done business with the various governors. Hunter purchased 6,300 acres of land on the west side of the river about 92 miles from New York from Livingston at a reasonable price. The selection was influenced by John Bridger, an Englishman residing in the New England region recognized for his skill in the production of naval stores.

Livingston also received authority to oversee the support and direct the work of the Palatines. He had the flourmill, bakery, sawmill, storehouses, and distribution of foodstuffs under his control. The people were not allowed to bake bread, and this old European ploy gave Livingston immense power. Each family was allowed a plot of ground 40 feet by 50 feet and told to build their hut. Few tools and no prepared materials such as lumber were offered, and this in October with winter at the doorstep. The ground was mainly shale that held no promise for home gardens. The prospects were grim indeed. //

<sup>i</sup> Henry Z. Jones Jr., *The Palatine Families New York 1710*, Vol. I, Picton Press, Camden, Maine 1985, pp522-528. This remarkable publication provides vital genealogical information about the Palatines in New York and a third volume, *More Palatine Families*, by the author in 1991 traces Palatines in the middle colonies and adds new information about the New York settlers.

<sup>ii</sup> Walter Allen Knittle, Ph. D., *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration*, 1937, reprinted by the Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1997

<sup>iii</sup> *Ibid.*, Knittle, P 27

<sup>iv</sup> *Ibid.*, Knittle, p 28

<sup>v</sup> *German Immigration to America: The First Wave*, Don Heinrich Tolzmann, Ed., Heritage Books, Inc., Bowie MD, 1993, p. 266

<sup>vi</sup> *Ibid.*, *German Immigration to America*, p. 316

<sup>vii</sup> *Op. Cit.*, Knittle, Chapter IV

<sup>viii</sup> *Op. Cit.*, Tolzmann, Ed., "The German Immigration to America" by Henry Eyster Jacobs. p. 58

<sup>ix</sup> *Op. Cit.*, Knittle, see Chapter V for details

<sup>x</sup> *Op. Cit.*, Knittle, p. 149

<sup>xi</sup> *Op. Cit.*, Knittle, p. 149

### Who Says Germans Have No Sense of Humor?

Someone once said that the shortest book in the world is entitled, "*A Thousand Years of German Humor.*"

It is no secret that Germans can be "too German," too serious at times. But NO sense of humor?

That's giving us a bad rap.

For example, did you know that Wilhelm Busch invented the comic strip in 1865?

He called it "*Max und Moritz.*" We even read it here in America. The Americanized version was called, "*The Katzenjammer Kids.*" Now some of us can remember that's why we called them "The Funnies."

## DIE NACHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

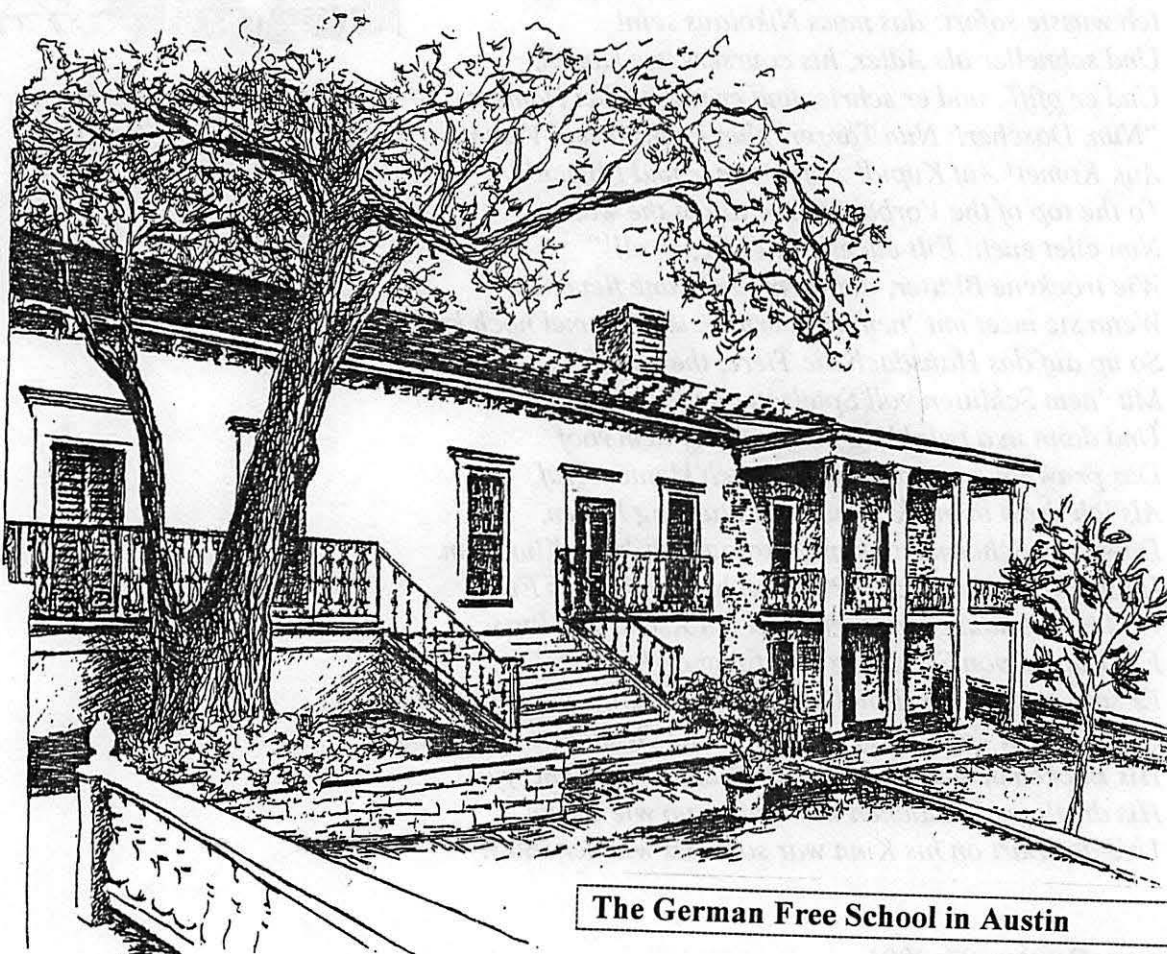
*A German-Texan Version of Clement C. Moore's The Night Before Christmas.  
by Helga von Schweinitz*

*'s war die Nacht before Christmas, und all durch das Haus  
Keine creature sich muckste, nicht mal eine Maus.  
Die Socken were hung by the Schornstein mit care  
In der Hoffnung that Nikolaus soon would be there.  
Die Kinder were kuschelt gar snug in their beds  
While Träume von Zuckerplums danced in their heads.  
Und Mama in her Häubchen und ich in my Käppi  
Had g'rad nesteld down für a long Winter's nappy  
Als out auf dem Rasen such Getöse arose,  
Ich sprang aus dem Bett to see: Was ist da los?  
Away an das Fenster ich flog wie ein Blitz,  
Tore offen den Laden, the sash just a Schlitz.  
Der Mond auf der Brust of the new fallen snow  
Gab ein Glitzern of Mittag to the Dinge below.  
Als, was to my staunenden eyes should appear,  
but a Miniatur-Schlitten und acht kleine reindeer,  
Mit 'nem Kutscher so lebhaft, so alt und so klein,  
Ich wusste sofort: das muss Nikolaus sein!  
Und schneller als Adler, his coursers, sie kamen,  
Und er pfiff, und er schrie, und er rief sie bei Namen:  
"Nun, Däscher! Nun Tänzer! Nun Pränzer und Vixen!  
Auf, Komet! Auf Kupid! Auf, Donner und Blitzen!  
To the top of the Vorbau, to the top of the wall!  
Nun eilet euch! Eilt euch! Eilt euch, y' all!"  
Wie trockene Blätter, die vorm hurricane fleuchen,  
Wenn sie meet mit 'nem Hindernis, zum Himmel hoch kreichchen,  
So up auf das Hausdach die Tiere, they flew  
Mit 'nem Schlitten voll Spielzeug und Nikolaus, too.  
Und dann in a twinkling hört' ich auf dem roof  
Das prawning und pawning of each kleinem Huf.  
Als ich drew in my Kopf und was turning herum,  
Down the Schornstein kam Nikolaus mit 'nem Klumbum.  
He was dressed ganz in Pelz von his Kopf to his Fuss,  
Und his Kleidung war tarnished mit Asche und Russ.  
Ein Bündel von Spielzeug war flung on his back,  
Er sah aus wie ein Händler, just opening his pack.  
Seine Augen - wie sie glitzerten! Seine Grübchen - wie merry!  
His Bäckchen wie Rosen, sein Näschen wie a cheryy!  
His drolliges Mündchen war drawn up wie a how,  
Und der Bart on his Kinn war so weiss wie der snow.*





*Den Stumpf seiner Pfeife hielt er fest in his teeth  
Und der Rauch, der umkreiste den Kopf wie ein wreath.  
He had a breites Gesicht und a rund little belly  
That shook wenn er lachte, wie 'ne Schüssel voll jelly.  
Er war chubby und rundlich, ein recht lustiges Elfchen,  
Und ich lachte, wenn I saw him, in spite of myselfchen.  
Ein Zwinkern des Auges, und a twist of his head  
Bald gab mir zu wissen, ich had gar nichts to dread.  
Er sprach nicht ein Wort, ging direkt to his work  
Und füllte die Socken, then turned mit a jerk,  
And laying his Finger aside of his nose,  
Und giving a Nicken, durch den Schornstein he rose.  
Er sprang auf den Schlitten, to his team gab a whistle,  
Und vondannen sie flogen wie der Flaum einer Distel.  
But ich hörte ihn rufen als er drove out of sight:  
"Eine fröhliche Weihnacht, y'all! Und Good Night!"*



L. PALE, 1910

## **How the German Free School came to the German-Texan Heritage Society.** by Helga von Schweinitz

November 28, 2001, marks the tenth anniversary of the day when the old "German Free School" building in Austin became the unincumbered property and responsibility of the German-Texan Heritage Society. This day was preceded by very unusual events which deserve to be chronicled. Many details have to be left out just to save space.

In 1991, Ann Lindemann was the GTHS president, Anna Thompson secretary, Lew Marquardt was the part-time executive director, and I was not on the board that year but very involved in several committees. GTHS was renting a small office in Manchaca and had a phone number listed in the Austin phone book for the first time ever.

This listing in the phone book proved to be of major consequence when on January 23, 1991, Lew received a phone call from one Patti Stoetzner who said she was assisting an elderly gentleman who was looking for a non-profit organization to whom he might give his home, the so-called "German Free School", a historic building at 501 E. Tenth Street in Austin. The gentleman had poor eyesight and had asked her to look in the phone book under G for some German organization because the house had a German-Texan history. Patti found the German-Texan Heritage Society and dialed 280-3351.

Lew, just like me and most of us GTHS members, was not familiar with that house. He told Patti that the prospect of having that building certainly deserved to be considered, but at this moment he could not make any promises. He immediately wrote a letter to president Ann, also to Anna and me since we lived in Austin, to alert us of the possibilities and to expect a call from Patti. GTHS member Rodney Koenig, an attorney with Fulbright & Jaworski in Houston, was also informed and offered legal assistance to GTHS without charge. We all became cautiously excited about the prospect.

Research about the house and its owner, the condition of both, the history of that "school", past-due tax questions, valuation, appraisals, title search and more kept Anna and me busy for a few weeks. Patti helped us generously with what she knew, but she advised us to be very discreet because the gentleman did not want his privacy violated and had not made up his mind about GTHS. He was still considering other options for his donation. Questions lingered in our mind: Why us? Why does he not give it to the University, why not to the School for the Deaf, since he was deaf, as we had heard? Had he no family to consider? Was that old house possibly in such poor state of repair that nobody else wanted it? Could GTHS afford the upkeep?

The executive members of the board and I were invited to the home in question for Sunday, February 9, 1991. We were greeted by five yapping dachshunds in the yard, and then we were very graciously welcomed by the owner, Dr. Kelly Stevens, a 96 year old gentleman too weak to leave his armchair. Patti Stoetzner, who knows sign language, interpreted between Dr. Stevens and us. We walked through part of the house over oriental rugs oohing and aahing at antique furniture, oil paintings, and fine china.

Our research and the visit to the house gave us the following knowledge to report to the full GTHS board: The house, built by German settlers in 1857 as a school, had a tax valuation of \$114,474.00; the land was appraised at \$220,800.00. As a non-profit organization we would not have to pay all of the taxes, if any. The building seemed to be in surprisingly good condition



inside and out. Kelly Stevens had spent the last forty years restoring and modernizing it. It had been a private residence since 1872. It had no heating, no air conditioning, but electricity, gas and modern plumbing. Patti hinted that the furniture, a lot of art work and most things in the house might be given to us in the will as well as some money for the upkeep. ....might be given.

Dr. Kelly Stevens had no German ancestry. He was an artist, art collector and teacher of art. The largest room in the house was his studio, no longer used as such, but instead as a depository for a lot of "stuff" that an artistic, collecting personality accumulates through the years. He indicated that he did not want the University of Texas receive the house since it would then lose its historic significance among UT's many real estate holdings. All his previously considered heirs had passed away in recent years. He thought that the descendants of the German immigrants who built the school would be the logical and most interested group to nurture the heritage that this house represented. From Patti we learned that Dr. Stevens had expressed to her that he also hoped that whoever would agree to take care of the house would also pay tribute to his personal legacy. And then there were the five yapping dachshunds that he loved (and never heard) who would not like to be separated ever.

Whatever the conditions and circumstances were, at the next board meeting it was decided, that it would be irresponsible to let a building of such importance to the history of the German-Texans slide into unrelated hands. Besides, it had long been the dream of many GTHS members to be given a house some day, a home for the Society, maybe in Fredericksburg or New Braunfels, maybe in San Antonio. This "School" in Austin dropped like a miracle, a dream come true, on us. Had we been in the market to buy a building for our office and mission needs, we would have ordered inspections and estimates and consulted experts. However, Dr. Kelly's deteriorating health, combined with the historical uniqueness of the project, excluded those steps when we deliberated the acceptance of the gift. Time seemed of the essence.

Rodney Koenig undertook the delicate negotiations about a transfer of the title to the property. This was complicated by Dr. Stevens' deafness and his need for privacy. On August 2, 1991, Kelly H. Stevens signed a Warranty Deed with Reservation of Life Estate. That document gave GTHS title to the real property, but Kelly Stevens had the right to stay in the home as long as he lived. Dr. Stevens also drafted a new will, but the contents of such an instrument is not really known until after a person's death, and all assumptions can't be relied on. We were hoping for some money towards the upkeep of the house.

Later in August, Dr. Stevens invited Austin GTHS members to visit his home. Although he was too ill to greet his guests, his attendant gave each woman in our group a rose that Stevens had bought for the occasion. He also asked me and my husband, Hans, to come back some other day to take photos of the house and especially one of himself with his favorite dog, Brett, on his lap. We did. For a shot of the entire complex Hans climbed on the ledge of the high building across the street and was almost arrested by the security guards. For a view from further away showing the neighborhood, Hans and I asked in the Marriott Hotel for a certain room on the 11th floor for half an hour. We had a lot of explaining to do. The fact, that GTHS members living in the Austin area had met monthly for years as the "Capital Area Group", was a blessing, because there was a group already established to help take care of upcoming chores should we actually take possession of the house.

During the September, 1991, GTHS convention in Corpus Christi, the Society's first ownership of real estate was announced and introduced to the general membership with a display

of pictures. Even that early in the game fund raising efforts were initiated because it is a well known fact that the upkeep of any house costs money..

Since Dr. Stevens' health was deteriorating, the inevitable had to be discussed at a special board meeting on October 12, 1991. By that time, W. M. Von-Maszewski was the Society's president. Anna, Hans, Patti, Helgard Suhr and I as chairperson were to take matters in hand should Kelly Stevens pass away. It was decided that we should spend \$50.- on a flower arrangement and make a donation of the same amount later to the State School for the Deaf. Thus we felt rather well prepared for the event. All the details had to be decided upon when we came to that bridge. I contacted the executrice of Kelly's estate, Rosemary Stapp, and we discussed - by exchanging written notes since she is deaf - how we could be of help to each other in the future. There was hardly any personal contact any more with Kelly Stevens, because that was his expressed desire. A letter of appreciation from Ann Lindemann and an engraved silver dish were some of the tokens by which we tried to show our gratitude for the generous gift of the home.

On November 29, 1991, Patti Stoetzner called and told me that Dr. Stevens had passed away in the hospital the night before. From that moment on, the old "German Free School" and its contents were the responsibility of the German-Texan Heritage Society. We did not know to whom the contents belonged, we had not seen the final version of the will, but we were the custodians of everything on and in the property. That included the five yapping dogs.

The house stood in the middle of downtown Austin with vagrants and drug addicts swarming all around 507 East Tenth Street, especially in the dead-end alley behind the house. Many of Kelly's young friends seemed to have keys to the doors which did not really lock anyway. Before the sun set that day, Hans had re-keyed all the locks, we established a schedule to feed and pamper the yapping dogs and clean up after them, and we closed all the windows. That led to other problems which will be chronicled later.

On one of the first exploratory tours through the house and through the stack of Dr. Stevens' mail that had accumulated during the last weeks of his life, we found a letter from Kelly's only surviving sister, Mary Campbell. She expressed to her brother that she shared his happiness about having discovered the German-Texan Heritage Society and about his decision to give the Society his home. Anna and I sat at Kelly's kitchen table when we read this, and it made us feel really good to know that Kelly had never regretted having given his home to the German-Texan Heritage Society which he had found in the phone book.

For the early history of the German Free School building one can read the article "Restoration" in the Summer 1991 issue of the GHTS Journal on pages 136 and 137. It is a reprint of an article that appeared in the American Statesman on August 21, 1960.

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The story about the first years of ownership will be told at a later date. The will, other heirs, the court case, the fate of those yapping dogs, the founding of the guild, the termites, mold and crumbling walls and several almost disasters were the topic of my well received paper given in 1993 at the annual symposium of SGAS, "Restoration of a Structure". I can convert my notes into a written article if there is an interest in it.

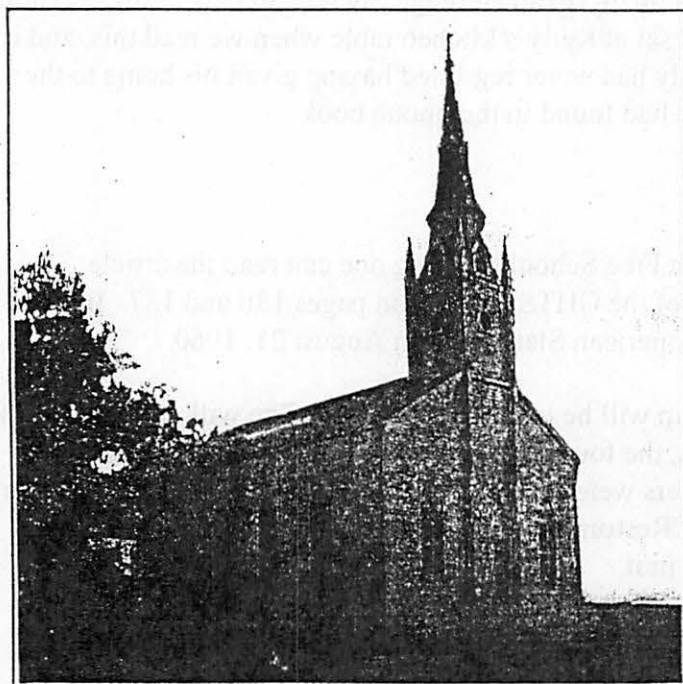


## THE FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN HOUSTON

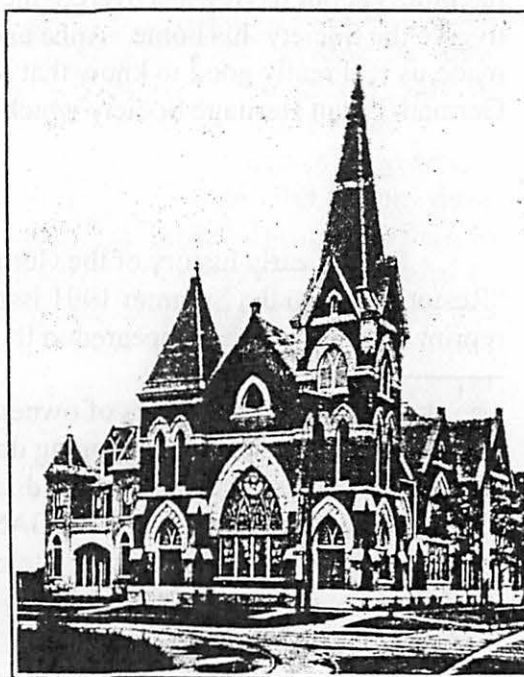
by Dr. Terry L. Smart

The year 2001 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Houston's First Evangelical Church, located at Holman Avenue and Caroline Street. This is one of the pioneer German churches established in south Texas. Its origins go back to July 21, 1851, when a small group of German immigrants at Houston organized themselves as "The First German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation" and wrote a church constitution. Their pastor was the Reverend Caspar Braun, who had arrived at Houston only a short time earlier from a pastorate in the eastern United States. At that time, Braun's small congregation was holding services and meetings in a schoolhouse near the Protestant Episcopal Church (now Cathedral) on Texas Avenue. Braun conducted his first communion service on July 13, 1851. Thirty-four persons attended. The first confirmations (for six young people) were in February of the following year. The congregation continued to use the schoolhouse until a frame church building was erected in 1854 on the south side of Texas Avenue facing west. At that time, the congregation still was small, probably numbering no more than sixty members, but it steadily increased in size during the long, thirty-year pastorate of the Reverend Braun, who died in 1881. During his three decades at Houston, Braun was one of the few Protestant ministers in south Texas who could speak German.

Interim pastors served the church until 1883. From 1883 to 1895, under the leadership of the Reverend F. Werning and then of the Reverend W. Hackmann, the congregation affiliated with the Evangelical Synod of North America, opened a parochial school, and conducted outreach religious services for settlers along Bray's Bayou east of Houston. As the church grew, a need arose for a larger building. In 1901, property on the corner of Texas Avenue and Caroline Street was purchased for \$8,000, and in October construction of a new, red brick, Gothic-style structure began. It was completed in July of 1902, and a pipe organ was installed in 1903. In 1907, a two-story, red brick parish hall



OUR FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
Texas Avenue and Milam Street  
1854 to 1902



OUR SECOND HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
Texas Avenue and Caroline Street  
1902 to 1927

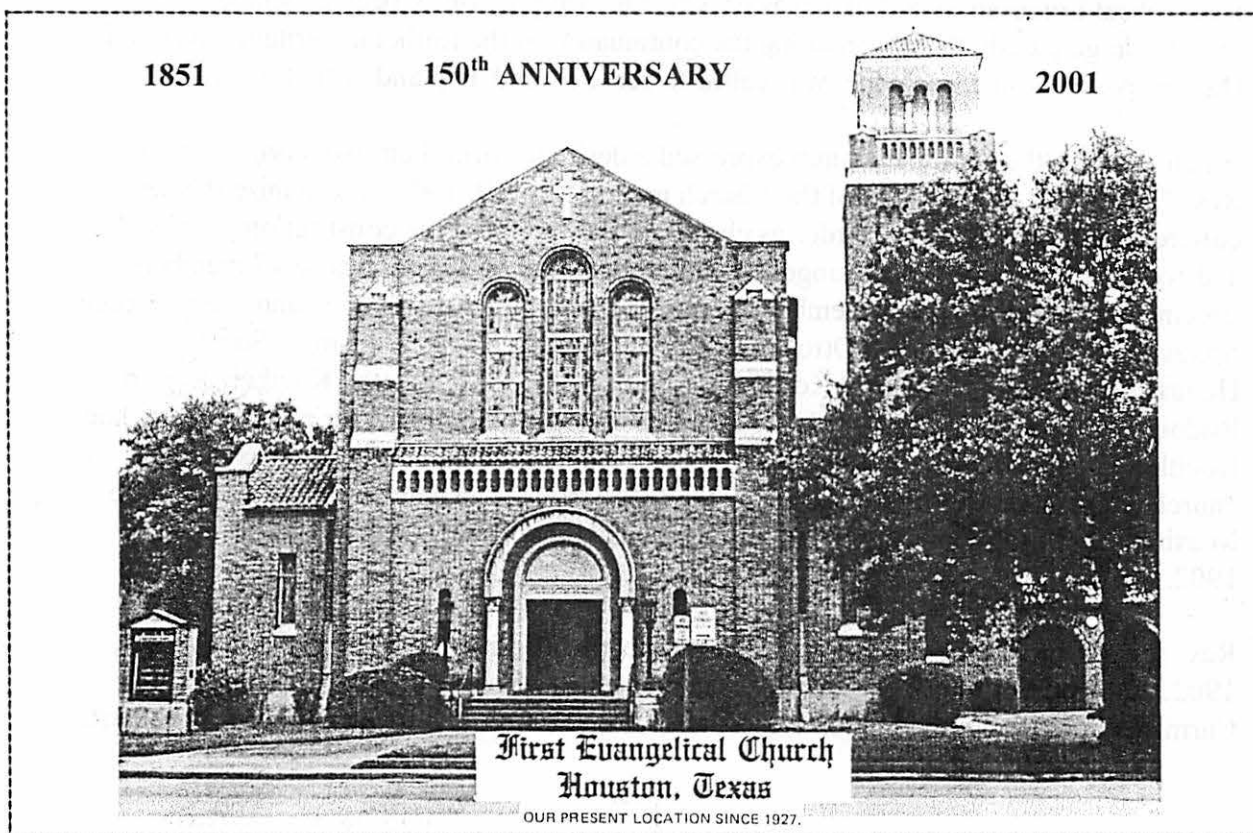


was built. This had living quarters for the pastor upstairs and rooms downstairs for the Sunday School and other activities. Between the years 1903 and 1908, services in English were introduced. Until then, all worship services had been in German. During the anti-German hysteria accompanying World War I, the congregation faced the sort of discrimination other German-speaking congregations throughout Texas experienced.

In the early 1920s, the congregation liquidated its debts, and thanks to generous donors remodeled the church interior and modernized its pipe organ. But during these years downtown Houston was expanding, and business firms repeatedly made offers to purchase the church's property for commercial use. In 1926, the congregation decided to sell. A new site for a church edifice, an educational building, and a pastor's residence was acquired in the block bounded by Holman, Austin, Francis and Caroline Streets, and construction soon was underway. The new church, which is the congregation's present home, was completed in October of 1927. And it was then the congregation took its present name, "The First Evangelical Church." The church's constitution was translated from German into English in 1930. The church continued to offer worship services in the German language until 1955. The last German service was held on Good Friday of that year.

In 1934, The First Evangelical Church joined the Evangelical and Reformed denomination. In 1958, the church became a member of the United Church of Christ and remained with it for ten years. In 1968, it withdrew from the U.C.C. and in June of 1969 was admitted to membership in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

In 1967, the Harris County Historical Society made microfilm copies of the records of this historic church and placed them with the Houston Public Library. Another source of information is the brief history published by the church in 1976 to commemorate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.





**THE MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
AT CARMINE, TEXAS  
1902 – 2002: 100 YEARS  
by Dorothy Noak Rothermel**

The Lutherans of Carmine will celebrate 100 years on May 19, 2002 of coming together to worship, to praise, to nourish, to pass on the word of God in their community and in their church. Their persistence in this endeavor, in seasons of joy and sorrow, of growth and decline, is evidence of their faithfulness to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Moses, to Jesus Christ their Redeemer, and to the Holy Spirit.

German Lutherans had settled in this area early in the 19th century. They came to Texas, landing at Galveston, to escape from harsh conditions, inequities, and revolutionary wars in Germany. They did not find life easy on the new frontier of Texas, but they did rejoice in the new-found hope of a better life. And so, the churches were built: Bethlehem at Round Top, Winedale Lutheran, LaBahia Prairie Church, and many others. Certainly not all these churches survived, but they are testimony to the faithfulness of the first German Lutherans of this area.

The Lutherans of Carmine, a community founded in the 1880's along the HT&C railroad tracks, aligned themselves with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Round Top, already a well-established church and serving a large part of the area. Pastor J. Adam Neuhardt, the pastor at Round Top, also served Carmine, occasionally conducting services in the school house there. In 1902, Pastor Neuhardt, dying of cancer, asked the officials of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas of which he had previously been a member to take over his large parish, thereby insuring the continuance of the Lutheran heritage. Rev. John Harder, pastor from Greenvine, was called to serve Round Top and with it, Carmine.

When in 1902, the Carmine church expressed a desire to form their own congregation, Rev. Harder and 17 members of the Church met on May 19, 1902, to organize the new congregation. With Pastor Harder as chairman, they adopted the constitution proposed and so became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas. Those 17 members became the church's charter members: Henry Weyand, Sr., Adolph Niemann, John George Spitzenberger, E. W. Hoppe, Otto Eichler, Gustav Hackemack, William C. Sump, Heinrich Liebscher, A. William Kollatt, Martin Spitzenberger, Konrad Koether, Johann Rudolph, Frank Eichler, August Ickert, Emil Wiesner, Heinrich Werner and Mrs. Karoline Koehler. Henry Weyand, Adolph Niemann and August Ickert were elected as the first church council and Rev. John Harder as the first pastor. The new church took the name Martin Luther Lutheran Church and so has retained that name since its organization in 1902.

Rev. Harder served the congregation a very short while, from May 19, 1902 to August, 1902. When the Round Top church called as their new pastor, Rev. F.A. Bracher, the Carmine church accepted his services as well. He was installed by Rev. Harder in August,

1902. Rev. Bracher conducted services in Carmine every 2 weeks in a newly built Methodist Church, called Union Church. At this time a Sunday School was organized and classes taught in the school house. It interesting to know Carmine, at this time, paid an annual salary to their pastor of \$100.

The young congregation continued to grow and soon expressed a desire to acquire their own church building. Since the Methodists had had little success growing in the heavily-populated German area, they offered to sell their building to the Lutherans. This offer was accepted in December, 1903. And in January 1904, the altar, pulpit, organ and bell as well as the building itself was dedicated to the services of the Triune God as a Lutheran sanctuary. It is the same altar and bell that were dedicated that Sunday in January 1904 that are still us use today. Lenten services were introduced at this time as were evening services in the summer. The pastor's salary was raised from \$50 to \$100.

Pastor Bracher was called as a missionary to northwest Texas in the autumn of 1907, and the congregation granted him a release. Bethlehem Lutheran of Round Top and Martin Luther of Carmine then called as their pastor, Rev. John Harder, the same John Harder who had organized the Carmine congregation in 1902. He served from Round Top until 1916. While serving Martin Luther, it was Rev. Harder's privilege to ordain Mr. Martin C. Hoermann into the Holy Ministry on Nov. 19, 1916. Also during this time a Ladies Aid was organized with 17 members on June 1, 1914, Pentecost Monday.

The Rev. A.H. Falkenburg was called to serve both congregations at Round Top and Carmine in 1916. He too served from Round Top to 1926. As was the custom in German communities, confirmation classes were conducted in the German language. As far as can be determined in the records of the confirmation classes, this practice continued until 1921. At this time the records show an English class as well as the customary German class. In this way, the English language was slowly to become the primary one.

Pastors Bracher and Falkenburg also served the Winedale Church, a small community near Carmine, and Waldeck Church, not far from Ledbetter. The pastors of Round Top Bethlehem Lutheran served most of the small churches in the countryside until 1926. At that time Martin Luther of Carmine, Winedale and Waldeck called as their pastor Rev. Henry Brunotte. It marked the first time Carmine has a resident pastor for at a special congregational meeting in October, 1926, the church voted to buy a house two lots south of the church property to be used as a parsonage. Rev. Brunotte served the congregation from 1926 to 1944.

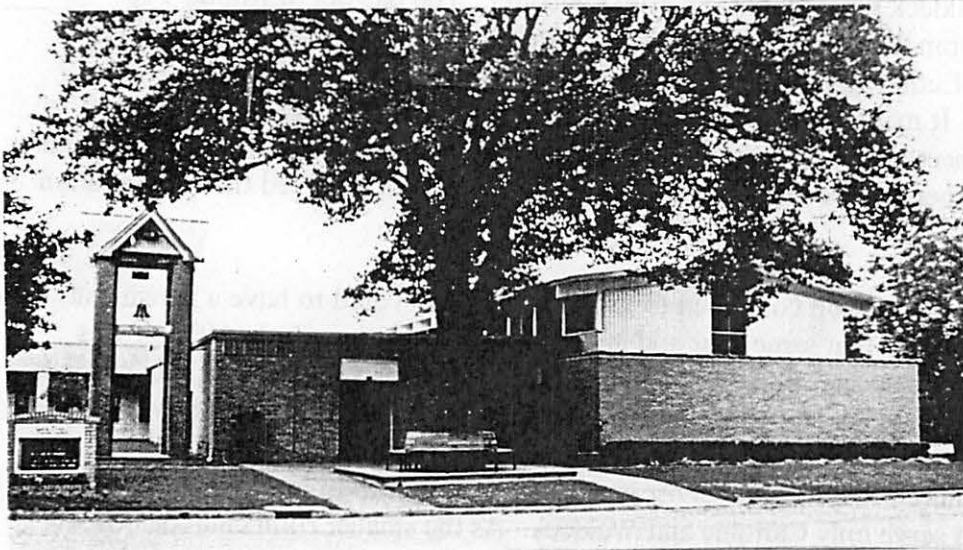
The Ladies Aid organization continued to grow and in 1941 voted to have a parish hall built. It was dedicated that same year and name "Frauenvereinshaus". In 1975, it was converted to an Educational Building for the Sunday School classes. Today, this building serves as the Carmine City Hall after having been moved off the church property.

The Winedale Church ceased to function as a congregation in 1946 leaving the pastor at Martin Luther to serve only Carmine and Waldeck. As the smaller rural churches closed



their doors, the faithful transferred to larger Lutheran churches in the area, Martin Luther of Carmine among them. The names on the membership roles of these smaller churches, Winedale and La Bahia Prairie in particular, indicate that descendants of these members maybe found on the membership roles of Martin Luther: Bergmann, Ullrich, Althaus, Georges, Fuchs, Krause, Klatt, Jacob, Afflerbach, Loewe, Lehmann, Eichler, Hackemack, Hinze, Renck, Neutzler, Knebel, and Plueckhahn to name a few. Rev. Leo H. Simon accepted the call of the congregation and served from 1944 to 1948. He was followed by Rev. A.T. Kluge, who served from 1949 to 1956. Other pastors who have served Martin Luther were: Rev. August M. Hannemann -1957-1967; Rev. Irvin S. Briese-1967-1970; Rev. Ronald G. Dybvig -1970-1972; Rev. Hilmer C. Krause -1972-1976; Rev. Ronald A. Mueller-1974-1975; Vicar Glen Bengson-served as Vicar to Rev. H.C. Krause for his internship-1975-1976; Rev. Stephen L.Clark -1976-1986 ; Rev.Wm. Larry Davis-1987-1989; Rev. James Boyd -1990-1997; Rev. Paul Bohot is presently serving the Martin Luther congregation.

Improvements to the church property during these 100 years attest to the growth of the congregation. Over the years, purchase of additional land surrounding the church property provided for building programs that saw renovations and improvements of existing buildings, and in 1960, the congregation took action to plan for the the building of new facilities for worship and education. Dedication services for the new sanctuary were held on November 6, 1966. These building programs have added additional Sunday School rooms, offices, and a meeting room/parlor. On-going activities attest to the faithfulness of the Lutherans of Martin Luther as the congregation continues to support the education of its youth and to meet the needs of all members of the congregation. The congregation will observe its 100th anniversary on May 19, 2002. In observance of this historic event in the life of Martin Luther at Carmine, a second history of the last 25 years of the congregation is being written and will be ready for the 2002 celebration. This compliments the one written for the first 75 years - 1902-1977. Both copies will be available for purchase at the observance of Martin Luther's 100th Anniversary on May 19, 2002.



**Martin Luther Lutheran Church at Carmine, Texas**

**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT BULVERDE**  
submitted by Frances Heimer Copeland

In 1901, when attending a funeral at Bulverde, located north of San Antonio, a Lutheran pastor from San Antonio, H. Schmidt, noticed all the people in the area and said "So many people! So many people living here! You folks should build yourself a church." The farmers and ranchers in the area took this to heart and four months later began building their church, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran. The site was on the north bank of the Cibolo Creek on Obst Road. Heinrich Kupferschmidt gave the land on which the church was built. Work on a wooden structure began February 22, 1901, and the final shingles on the roof were in place by Easter Monday. Members of the congregation did most of the work, and the total cost of materials came to \$439.35, which included the gold paint for the altar. The new church was dedicated June 2, 1901. In December, the Reverend William Lembke was installed as the first pastor, and a parsonage for him was built in 1902. In 1906, Christian Serold, gave land on the south side of the Cibolo Creek for the church's cemetery. This later was enlarged by additional land donated by Arno Serold.

Church services were held in the afternoon of the first Sunday of each month and were conducted in German. Women and children sat on the pulpit side and men sat on the opposite side of the church, as was the custom. The church's constitution, adopted in 1901, was recorded in German and not translated into English until 1939. In 1933, however, members voted to conduct services in the English language.

In 1947, Under the leadership of Pastor R.C. Albert, members voted to relocate the church to three acres of land on Highway 281 donated by August and Clara Voges. The name of the church was then changed to St. Paul Lutheran. Construction was completed in 1951, and the new church building dedicated August 24. In 1959, a parsonage was built.

In 1988, the congregation voted in favor of becoming part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 14, 2001, with a worship service at 10 a.m. and a festival on the grounds that afternoon. (*Editor's note: This is an edited and abridged version of information in the program for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and an article in the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung, October 13, 2001.*)

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT BRENHAM**  
abridged from Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage

Many German immigrants settled in Washington County. In the 1880s, visiting pastors from surrounding communities conducted worship services for German Lutherans (the *Kreuz Gemeinde* ) living at Brenham until the German Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized in 1890 and a constitution adopted. A church building was erected the following year, 1891. This was destroyed by a storm in 1900. (This was the same storm that devastated Galveston that year.) A new church was completed and dedicated in 1901. As the congregation grew in size, so did the need for larger quarters. In 1925, the congregation moved to a new location where its third (and present) church was constructed. This building was remodeled and enlarged in the 1960s.



**SCHAFFKOPF: A GERMAN IMMIGRANTS' CARD GAME**

submitted by Christa Prewitt

A review of the Klessig family book in the October/November/December 1999 issue of *Der Blumenbaum* ("How will you tell YOUR German-ancestry story?") elicited interest in the game of *Schafkopf* (Sheephead), brought to America with Klessig immigrants.

Here are the instructions for playing *Schafkopf*, from *The Klessig Family in America II*, compiled by Wayne H. Jens:

*Schafkopf*, or Sheephead, is believed to be 200 years old. The story is told that in 1818, a coachman traveling in Sachsen learned the game from the peasants. After returning to his master in Altenburg, the coachman explained the game to him. The game was then described by him to the local Tarok Club where it soon became a favorite.

Later a first book of Skat (including *Schafkopf*) was published by a Professor Hemple, a cousin of a Hemple who was a member of the Tarok Club. Since that book was published, the game has spread to many countries and various rules and variations were adopted locally.

**Preliminaries**

**Players:** Three; in some variations four or more may play

**Cards:** The pack contains 32 cards, 6 through 2 of all suits are removed. All queens, jacks and diamonds are permanent trumps. **Ranking:** queen of clubs, queen of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds, jack of clubs, jack of spades, jack of hearts, jack of diamonds, ace of diamonds, ten of diamonds, king of diamonds, 9, 8, and 7 of diamonds.

In each plain suit the cards rank ace (high) 10, king, 9, 8, and 7

**Point Values:** The high cards have point values as follows:

Each ace counts 11. Each 10 counts 10. Each king counts 4. Each queen counts 3. Each jack counts 2. No count for lower cards

**Dealing:** Each player receives ten cards dealt in rounds of 3-4-3. After the first round of three cards dealt, two cards are dealt face down on the table to form the skat, widow, blind, or dummy.

**The Player:** Vorhand (eldest hand) has the first right to pick up the skat; then Mittelhand and Hinterhand in turn have the right to pick it up, if the preceding players have passed. The first to take the skat becomes the Player and contracts to win at least 61 points by cards taken as tricks. If all three pass, the deal is played for the least amount of points.

**The Play**

When the skat has been picked up, the Player discards two cards face down. He is opposed in play by the two other players.

The opening lead is made by Vorhand. A lead calls upon each hand to follow suit if able; if unable, the hand may play any card. A trick is won by the highest card of the suit that was led or by the highest trump. The winner of the trick leads to the next play.

**Scoring**

If the player takes 61 to 90 points, he scores 2 points. If he takes 91 or more, he scores 4 (called making Schneider).

If he wins all the tricks (Schwarz), he scores 6. The points in the beginning discard are counted for him at the end of the game.

If the player takes only 31 to 60 points, he loses 2 game points. If he takes less than 31, he loses 4 (Schneider), or if he loses all of the tricks (Schwarz), he loses 6. A running total of game points is kept for each player, and the first to reach 10 wins the game.

**Play in Least Game**

When all three pass, the skat is set aside but is added to the tricks of the player who wins the last trick. Vorhand makes the opening lead, and the rules of play are as usual. But the object is to win as few points in tricks as possible. Each plays for himself.

If every player takes a trick, the one with the least points scores 2 game points. If two tie for the least, the one who did not take the last trick between the two tied persons wins 2 points. If each takes 40 points, the dealer wins 2 game points.

If one player takes no tricks, he scores 4 game points. If one player takes all the tricks, he loses 4 points, the others scoring nothing.

**Strategy**

There are 14 trumps, leaving only 16 plain cards in play. The chief requirement to pick up the skat is a long trump suit, about seven including four of the top eight trumps. With fewer trumps or less top strength, the hand should hold one or two aces. The odds are roughly two to one against picking up a trump in the skat. There are only six cards in a suit, so it is unlikely that ace and 10 will win two tricks unless the hand is strong enough to take out the adverse trumps first. When trumps are long and strong enough for a bid, tens are better out of the hand than in.

**MEMORY OF LOUIS JORDAN HONORED ANEW  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN**

by John O'Malley

On Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> at the University of Texas-Texas A&M football game in Austin a pre-game ceremony took place which honored the memory of a young man from the Hill Country who died in France during the First World War. At that ceremony a new stadium flagpole was dedicated to the memory of Louis Jordan, who was born in Fredericksburg, and is considered to have been the greatest Longhorn football player in the early era of Texas football. Louis Jordan, whose name Fredericksburg's American Legion Post 244 has carried since its founding in 1919, was killed in action in France on March 5, 1918, the first Texas officer to die in the First World War.

Louis John Jordan was born on January 30, 1890 in Fredericksburg, the fourth of six children of William and Augusta Jordan. At the time of his death Louis' mother had predeceased him in 1907; and, besides his father, he was survived by a brother Harry, and four sisters: Mrs. Elgin (Anna) Kothmann, and Emma, Betty, and Elsie Jordan.

Louis Jordan spent eight years in the Fredericksburg public school system, starting when he was eight years of age and finishing when he was age sixteen. As a boy he was truly gifted; not only was Louis an outstanding student, but he was also handsome, and possessed great physical strength and athletic ability. He was truly his father's pride and joy.

Since Fredericksburg did not then have a High School, Louis attended the San Antonio Academy until he had attained sufficient academic credits to enter the University of Texas at Austin. From the start of his university education in 1911 Louis demonstrated those outstanding qualities of leadership and scholarship which were reflected in his excellent academic record in the Department of Engineering, and his great accomplishments on the athletic field. Although he is best known as the first University of Texas player to be named to an All-American football team, while he was a student he also set a state record in the hammer throw, which still stood at the time of his death. Louis was part of a tough breed of Texas athletes. As a lineman on the University football team he not only played the entire game without a helmet; but the same eleven members of the Longhorn team who started the game usually finished it.

Louis played varsity football from 1911 to 1914. In 1913 the University of Texas lost only one game, and that one to Notre Dame whose team captain, Knute Rockne, was later to become one of Notre Dame's greatest football coaches. In 1914, with Louis as their Team Captain, the Longhorns went undefeated for the first time since 1900. Following graduation with honors in Electrical Engineering Louis returned to the San Antonio Academy to teach; but he resigned after a year to accept an engineering position with the Public Service Company at San Antonio, where he worked for about four months until he entered the United States Army.

John O'Malley's tribute to the memory of Louis Jordan originally appeared as a feature story in Fredericksburg's newspaper, the Standard.



On May 14, 1917, about five weeks after the United States entered the First World War, Louis volunteered for service; was given three months training at Leon Springs; and was then commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Field Artillery on August 15, 1917. Following his commissioning he returned to Fredericksburg on five days leave, which allowed him one last visit with his family before he sailed for Europe on September 12, 1917. He landed first in Liverpool on October 2; but only two days later, on October 4, he arrived in France, where he was immediately assigned to a School of Instruction under French officers.

On New Year's Day 1918 Louis was assigned to Battery C, 149<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, the famous Rainbow Division, whose Chief of Staff was Colonel Douglas MacArthur. One regiment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> which gained fame for valor was its 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (the old "Fighting Irish" 69<sup>th</sup> New York) whose commander, Colonel William J. Donovan, in the Second World War became the Director of the Office of Strategic Services, America's predecessor to the CIA.

Louis Jordan was among the first Americans to take to the field of battle. On November 20, 1917 the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division relieved the Army's First Division, which a month earlier had taken over the trenches held by two French divisions in the Luneville sector of the Western Front. The Luneville sector was about fifteen miles southeast of the City of Nancy, and was considered then to be relatively quiet. However, during the previous year in the terrible fighting at Verdun, about sixty miles to the northwest of Luneville, the French Army had suffered 542,000 casualties and had inflicted 434,000 casualties on the Germans. At Verdun in February and March 1916, according to historian Martin Gilbert, French artillery was killing German soldiers at the rate of one every forty-five seconds, and the French death rate was even higher; but despite the terrible French losses, the City of Verdun was never surrendered to the Germans.

The principal American battles of the First World War were fought to the north of Luneville. The great German offensive of March-June 1918 was brought to a halt by the Doughboy and Marine brigades of the U.S. Second Division at Belleau Wood and Chateau-Thierry; and the later great American Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives were fought in Picardy and Flanders. The battle line to the east of Luneville, however, was essentially unchanged from the time that the 42<sup>nd</sup> received its baptism of fire there in 1917 until the Armistice took effect on November 11, 1918.

Lieutenant Jordan's death came during a German artillery barrage on March 5, 1918 when a German shell made a direct hit on the dugout he was occupying. Two days later he was buried with military honors at the nearby Benamelli Cemetery on the very same day that nineteen infantrymen of the 42<sup>nd</sup> were killed when a German artillery shell hit their dugout. At their funeral service the following poem was read, which was composed by Joyce Kilmer, a member of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, who was later also killed in action:

...death came flying through the air  
And stopped his flight at the dugout stair,  
Touched his prey –  
And left them there –  
Clay to clay.  
He hid their bodies stealthily  
In the soil of the land they sought to free,  
And fled away.

The same poem could as well have commemorated the death of Louis Jordan.

When the fateful War Department telegram arrived in Fredericksburg on March 8, 1918 informing Louis Jordan's father of his death the news devastated his family, and cast a pall over the entire Fredericksburg community. After the war had ended, honors were not long in coming. Among the first to honor Lt. Jordan's memory were the war veterans of Fredericksburg, who in November 1919 organized American Legion Post 244 of the Department of Texas, and named it in his honor.

In June 1921 Louis Jordan's body was repatriated to the United States at the request of his family; and on Thursday June 9, 1921 it arrived at the Fredericksburg Railroad Station from San Antonio, escorted by Army Sergeant Caldwell of Fort Sam Houston and C.W. Clemens of the Alamo Post, American Legion, of San Antonio. From the railroad station the body was escorted by the members of Post 244 to the Gillespie County Courthouse, where a prayer was said by Pastor Konzack; and an American Legion quartet from Post 244 rendered what was described in the **Fredericksburg Standard** as a "beautiful hymn". An honor guard stood watch at the casket, which was draped in an American flag, and rested in the midst of a profusion of flowers, until Saturday afternoon June 11, when Pastor Konzack again recited a prayer; the Legion quartet sang another hymn; and the funeral procession slowly made its way under the command of Army Major A.C. Kennedy to the Jordan family plot at the Stadtfriedhof.

Ex-soldiers, all in uniform, preceded the hearse, and a riderless horse followed it. Despite the rain, the turnout of those paying their final respects at both the Courthouse and along the way to the cemetery, was described as enormous. At the cemetery Pastor Konzack delivered an address in German; and among the other addresses in English was one by Dr. T.U. Taylor, Dean of the Engineering Department at the University of Texas, who read a personal letter from University President R.E. Vinson, who was prevented from attending the graveside services because of the heavy rains which had washed out the roads between Fredericksburg and Austin. At the grave the American Legion quartet sang a final hymn; Sergeant Caldwell sounded Taps; and a firing squad concluded the service.

The Jordan story does not end with his funeral, however; because the students and faculty of the University of Texas, as well as the people of Fredericksburg, would not allow his memory to fade away. In 1924 when a new stadium to replace the wooden bleachers of Clark Field was completed, financed through the donations of UT students and alumni, the UT student body dedicated the stadium in honor of the nearly 200,000 Texans – 5,280 of whom lost their lives—who had fought in the First World War. At that time the people of Fredericksburg donated a flagpole to be erected in the new stadium to honor Jordan's memory. That flagpole stood at the south end of the stadium until 1972, when a new scoreboard was erected there.

In the meantime, on September 18, 1948 a newly enlarged university stadium was rededicated to honor those men and women who had died in the Second World War; and on November 12, 1977, a small granite monument was placed at the base of the figure of Democracy, a statue which had been erected at the top of the North End Zone seats to honor the veterans of the First World War.

In 1957 Louis Jordan was chosen by the Longhorn Hall of Honor Council to be one of the four original inductees into the Longhorn Hall of Honor, "in recognition of those qualities that brought credit and renown to the University of Texas." On September 21, 1996 the University of Texas honored its legendary head football coach Darrell Royal by adding his name to the stadium, so that today it is officially known as Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium.



Each year one home football game at the University of Texas is played on Veterans' Recognition Day when appropriate ceremonies take place at the game honoring the memory of Texas war veterans. In order to perpetuate that custom the University in 1996 established a permanent Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium Veterans' Committee, which is charged with forever dedicating the stadium "in the memory of, and in honor of, UT students and alumni who paid the supreme price by giving their lives for their country."

One of the first acts of the Veterans' committee was to recommend the re-establishment of the Jordan memorial. So prior to the start of the Texas-Texas A&M game on November 24, Veterans' Recognition Day 2000, in a formal military ceremony, including an honor guard; a 21-gun salute; and Taps, a new flagpole at the south end of the stadium, with its original marker, was dedicated to the memory of Louis Jordan. Honored guests at that ceremony included Mrs. Gretchen Hartmann of Fredericksburg, a niece of Louis Jordan; and also Harvey Treibs and Fred Dietel, who represented the Louis Jordan American Legion Post 244 of Fredericksburg.

Visitors to the University of Texas campus may see, not only the portrait of Louis Jordan which hangs in the Second Floor of Belmont Hall, but also a special exhibit honoring him, including his 1914 UT letter sweater; part of his World War I uniform; and his shrapnel-pierced diary. Belmont Hall is on the northwest corner of the stadium grounds.

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### **SHELBY'S HARMONIE HALL** by Joycine Eckermann Hanath

**On March 16, 2002, the German Heritage Convention will be held at Harmonie Hall in the Shelby Community in western Austin County. This community was settled by German emigrants beginning in the 1830s. Today, the majority of the population in the area is made up of descendants of early German settlers.**

**Shelby was named for David Shelby whose land grant was the location of the community. "Roedersmühle" was what the Germans named the community for the water powered mill built on Skull Creek by Otto von Roeder in 1838. Some of the other early Germans settlers were Johannes Vanderwerth, August Vogelsang, Andrew Rothermel, Charles Olendorf, Witte, John Bernhausen, Heinrich Wagner, Harry Marburger, H. Schmidt, Johann Nicholas Henniger, Christian Henniger, F. Hetzel, P. Albrecht, Dr. Reisig, Christian Rudloff, Fentrop, Jacob Schneider, Sassenberg, Rosky, Walther, Treibig, Eisenberg, Krebs, H. Voelkel, C. Doss, H. Wunderlich, Heinrich Brandt, Rudolph Goebel, Suerth, H. Ott, and others.**

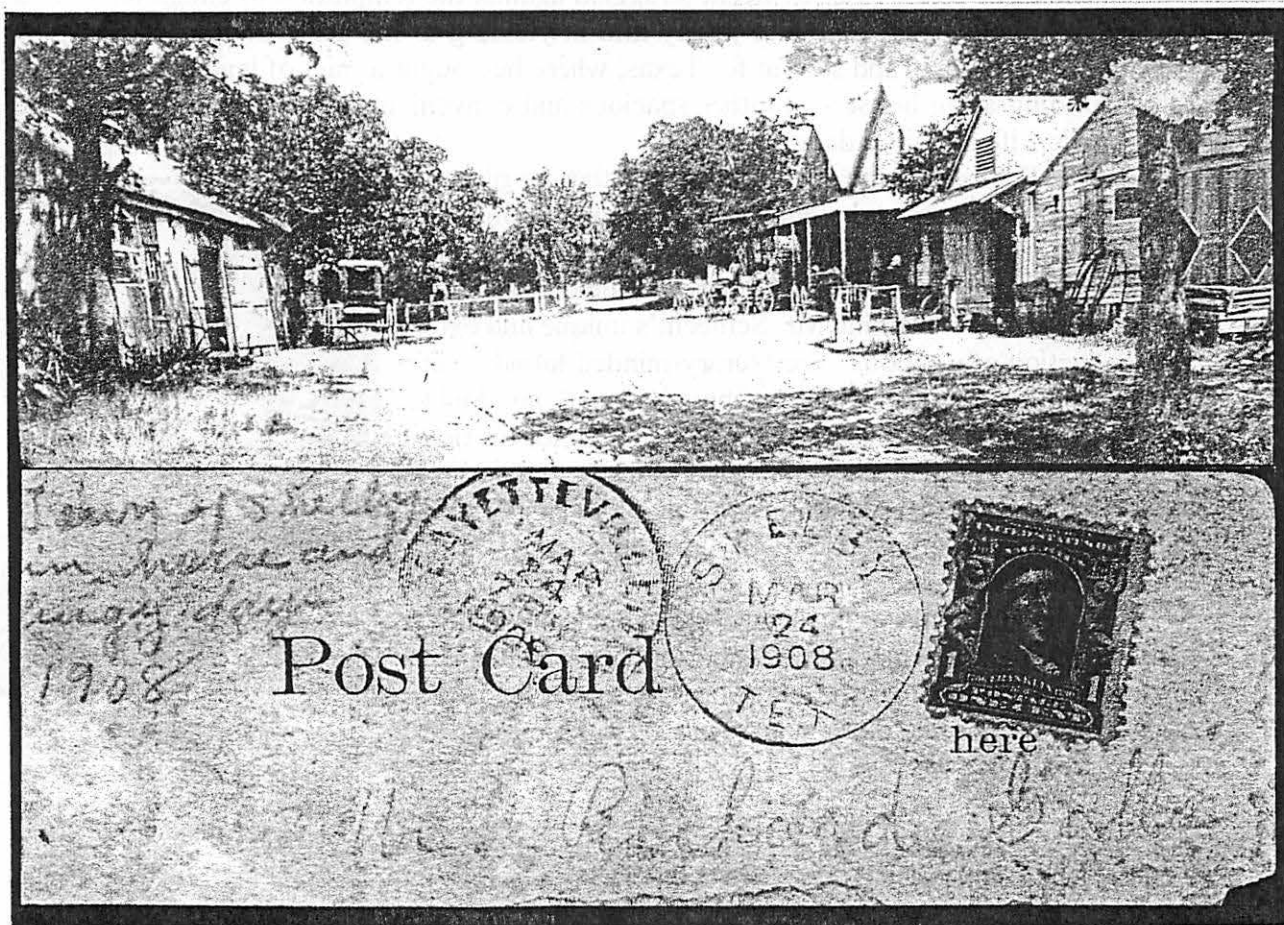
**The Harmonie Verein or German Singing Society was organized by Emil Trenckmann in 1875. Earlier in 1858, the Gesangverein or German Singing Society was organized by a Mr. Doss, once a concert singer at the Court of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV in Germany. There must have been a connection between these two organizations. Trenckmann's *History of Austin County, 1899* states that the Harmonie Verein should be regarded as a child of the 1858 singing society. The purpose of the society was to foster German songs, music and celebration.**

On June 5, 1883, under the leadership of president, A. D. Gross, land was purchased by the Harmonie Verein. A hall was build on this property by builder Oswald Palm. The attractive new structure of wood with a tin roof and an attractive stage served as the center of social life in Shelby. Presently, the original hall is still intact with several additions to the building.

The Saengerfest held on October 6, 1935 at Harmonie Hall in Shelby was a huge success with more than 2500 people in attendance. This was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the local Mannerchor.

In my memory of festivities at Harmonie Hall, the Saengerfests are vivid. German singing groups from Austin, New Braunfels, San Antonio, Houston and local singers provided a day of entertainment. For many years, this annual event was attended by nearly everyone in the area along with many people coming distances to participate.

As a descendant of German emigrants that settled in the Shelby area, I look forward to the joint convention of The German Texan Heritage Society and The Texas German Society. The German Heritage has been preserved in this area and proficient German is still spoken.



Main Street in Shelby, Texas, dated 1908 with post card addressed to Richard Galle, grandfather of Joycine Eckermann Hanath



## THE TRAGEDY OF CLARA MATTHAEI

by Selma Metzenthin-Raunick and Nolan Schulze

submitted by Charles Patrick

(This is part one of an article published in the Southwest Review, October 1935)

Clara Matthaei was a genuine Texas. On a visit to the state in 1849, her Geraan grandfather, Fritz Schlecht, from whom Clara seems to have inherited her aptitude for writing, had become intrigued by the vast expanse of prairie, the dense woods, the wealth of wild game --- by the untamed spirit of the land, so different from his overcrowded, over-developed, over-civilized home country. Although at first he feared to bring his family, accustomed as they were to the modes of living and the conveniences of a German city, to the raw and uncertain conditions of young Texas, the account of his experiences and observations, *Mein Ausflug nach Texas* (My Excursion to Texas), which was published shortly after his return to Germany, gives evidence of the hold Texas already had on him.

For eight years, Fritz Schlecht struggled against the temptation to emigrate. Then a decline in his business seemed to justify him in yielding to his great desire. Hurriedly he packed his belongings and set out for Texas, where he bought a tract of land near Bellville. After building a log house -- a rather spacious and convenient one for pioneer days -- he sent for his wife and little daughters.

The Schlecht home soon became a gathering-place of the settlers round about who enjoyed discussion not only of their individual problems but also of more general topics, political and social, American and European. Some, curious or interested, came to examine Mr. Schlecht's unique and extensive collection of weapons. The literary-minded found great satisfaction in browsing about his library -- small, no doubt, from a modern standpoint, but extensive enough for his time and music lovers found the family always ready to contribute to a varied musical program or group singing of simple folk melodies. Bach, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann were familiar household possessions.

How vital a place music held in the Schlecht family is made clear in an early poem by Clara Matthaei. The poem grows out of the fact that she had refused her most favored early suitor because he did not share her love of music:

One gift which we possess at home,  
Music and song, he cannot give;  
And, lacking this, I cannot live.



**Fritz (Friedrich) Schlecht**  
Author of *Mein Ausflug nach Texas* and grandfather of Clara Matthaei

Clara seems to have inherited other traits as well from her grandfather: love of the open country, of hunting, of outdoor labor; a romantic temperament; and the gift of self-expression. And like her grandfather, Clara loathed hypocrisy and affectation. Although

she was born after his death and so never knew him in person, she held his memory in high esteem. Only a few years ago she republished in *Das Wochenblatt* (Austin) Mr. Schlecht's *Mein Ausflug nach Texas*, adding a biographical introduction in which she expresses her appreciation of her grandfather's character. Clara also pays tribute to her grandmother Schlecht.

If I say . . . that I honor my grandfather, I must now add that I marvel at my grandmother. Brought up in a tranquil, bourgeois environment, suddenly uprooted—separated from brothers and friends never to meet again—[she came] into a strange, wild land, to a thousand discomforts and hardships, even perils! And how she adapted herself to everything without a murmur, with sustained cheerfulness!

Clara's mother, the elder of the two Schlecht daughters, who became Mrs. Arnold Matthaei, seems to have been of different mold, timid, and wavering, over-eager to be well regarded, very conventional, and in general quite incapable of understanding or respecting the strongly individual personality of her daughter. Although she was very tender-hearted and generous, and had many friends, Mrs. Matthaei had a horror all things unpleasant or inharmonious; her foremost desire was to have everything run smoothly.

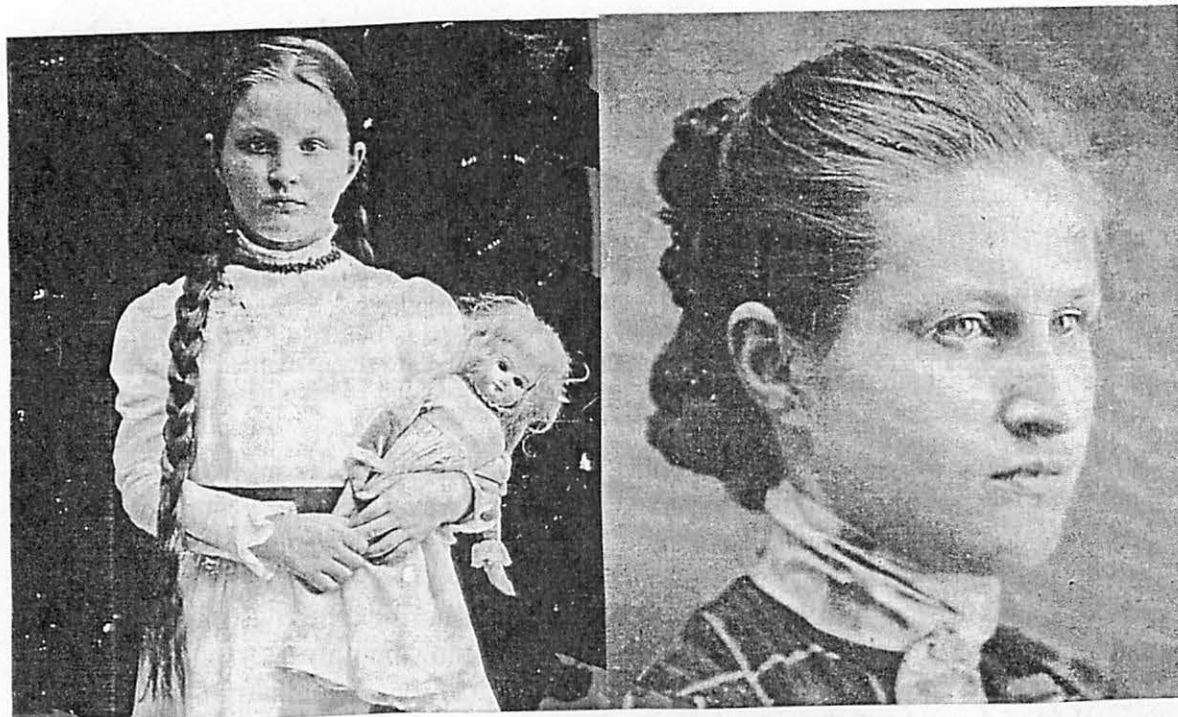
Several years after the death of her first husband, Mrs. Matthaei married again, and subsequently lived much of the time in a northern state while her children remained in Texas with their mother's sister, Anna Schlecht. It seems that Clara did not have very much affection for either her mother or her stepfather. Her devotion was given to Aunt Anna, who early became a dominant factor in the child's life. When Clara, years later, wrote of her grandfather that she had for him "the greatest sympathy, the most boundless admiration," she added, "my aunt Anna excepted"; and she . . . "had inherited more of his mind and spirit than my mother." Clara's first novel, *Wer bin Ich?* (Who Am I?), published in Leipzig in 1913, which deals with the unhappy relations between a mother and one of her daughters, while not literally autobiographical, nevertheless leads the read to surmise somewhat analogous conditions in the author's life.

Clara Matthaei was not born in the original log house built by her grandfather Schlecht but in a more pretentious home, which, together with a plot of land, the old gentleman had given to Clara's mother as her dowry. Clara, born in 1884, was the youngest of the three Matthaei children. Her brother, who was educated at Harvard, opened a law office in the home town, made a conventional marriage, and lived the conventional life of the small-town elite. Clara's sister, who with Aunt Anna had been friend and tutor to the baby of the family, likewise made a conventional marriage.

But Clara was different. And it was this difference which made her an author; for she learned early that she must not expect understanding or sympathy from friends and acquaintances or from her own family. She soon began to pour out her thoughts on paper; her first attempt at such self-expression was made in verse when she was thirteen years of age. Like her grandfather and her aunt Anna, she was given to roaming about the country on horseback, with a gun ready for her protection or for hunting. Thus her thoughts and dreams had ample time to take shape; but, as her first verses tell us, they were frequently far from comforting or satisfying.

Clara was never sent to school. In this matter the aunt was probably motivated, as later Clara herself was motivated with respect her own children, by the feeling that a school environment left far more to be desired than did the home. Reading, writing, and other elementary subjects Clara learned from her older sister. Once for a period of five





Clara Matthaei as a youngster and as a young woman (both undated)

months she received instruction three times a week at home from a tutor; but after her thirteenth birthday she received no formal education whatsoever.

The fact that this lack of academic training was no handicap to Clara, that it was perhaps even fortunate, is doubtless due to the inherent independence and inquisitiveness of her mind, as well as to the stimulating influence of the Schlecht home environment. About the first of these factors little can or need be said here: the reader need only glance into a few pages of any one of her literary productions. From what we know about Clara's childhood in the Schlecht home, we can readily imagine how she must have spent her days. There were Grandfather Schlecht's shelves of books -- almost exclusively in German, of course. There were her grandfather's relics, especially his rifles and numerous pieces of artistically engraved copper. There was riding and hunting.

Yet while these occupations doubtless afforded interest and variety, they were inadequate to satisfy Clara's zest for life and her desire for satisfactory companionship. Separated from her mother much of the time, lacking daily association with school companions, the girl must have endured many lonely hours. When she was sixteen years old, her sister, whom Clara loved dearly, was married. Thereafter Clara had to depend almost entirely upon the companionship of her aunt, and, as she says, "had plenty of leisure to dwell alone with my thoughts."

There was, to be sure, no lack of opportunity for friendship. Aunt Anna was noted for her hospitality. The family was one of the most distinguished, socially and culturally, in Austin County. Clara Matthaei was an attractive, popular girl. But she was also sensitive and mentally alert to such a degree that there were few or none who could give her the kind of love and friendship her mind and spirit demanded. Her frustrated longing for companionship finds passionate expression in *Wer bin Ich?* -- the novel already referred to, written in her twenties.

In 1909 Clara Matthaei's mother died, leaving to Clara the old homestead, and the land on which she had now lived for twenty-five years. And in 1913 Clara made the acquaintance of Ascension Palacios, a young Mexican who had left his native land three years before on account of the Madero Revolution. Since the young foreigner could speak no English, he was forced to earn his livelihood in Texas as a common day-laborer.

At this time Clara Matthaei was nearly thirty years old. As has been indicated, her early poems and her youthful, partly autobiographical novel show that during her late teens and her twenties she had suffered no lack of suitors and proffers of matrimony. These writings also reveal the inner struggles which accompanied these proffers and resulted, until the arrival of her foreign suitor, in refusals. But to romantic Clara Matthaei, who hated the narrow conventionalism of her home town, such an exotic figure as Ascension Palacios appealed strongly. Besides, he was very musical. In the space of scarcely half a year the young foreigner had completely won the young writer's affection.

Her marriage to Palacios on October 22, 1913, aroused consternation and disapprobation in all of Clara's friends. It was, of course, in direct opposition to the wishes of her family -- with the exception of Aunt Anna, who, in spite of, or perhaps because of, the storm which this marriage aroused, accepted the *fait accompli* with sympathetic understanding. The couple lived with Aunt Anna on the old Schlecht homestead. During their early married life they were so assiduously occupied with rehabilitating the farm, which had fallen into neglect during the years when there had been no man of the family in charge, that their social ostracism was of little concern to them.

When acquaintances and relatives finally realized the indifference with which the Palacios couple met their fate, there was a gradual loosening of tension. The terrible prophecies which the unconventional matrimonial venture had called forth failed of realization. On the contrary, the couple seemed to be happy and prosperous. Mr. Palacios learned to speak English and German, and they read German literature together; Clara learned to speak Spanish. She adapted her cooking and the whole management of the household to her husband's customs and tastes. He, in turn, learned to help celebrate Christmas, Easter, and birthdays in accordance with German traditions. Mrs. Palacios found in addition that her husband brought into her home a sympathetic understanding of her literary endeavors.

There were three children: Diego, born in 1914; Consuela, born in 1917; and Silvestre, born in 1921. "The children spoke three languages fluently. The family paid a great deal of attention to music, playing and singing Spanish songs, classical German compositions, and American folk songs." A letter written by Clara Palacios during these years reveals how active a life she was leading:

I do all the sewing and washing; from January to May and again from September until early winter I operate a couple of incubators. In the winter we kill from four to six hogs; in the spring we plant a large garden, with which my husband helps me as much as his labor in the fields permits. I preserve vegetables and cook blackberry, plum and grape jelly in sufficient quantity to last through the year—for instance, some fifty pints of snap-beans, one hundred jars of tomatoes, and so on. Although Aunt Anna is going on seventy-seven years, she still helps me faithfully with the children and about the house. In spite of my work, there always remains a little time to ride Pegasus.



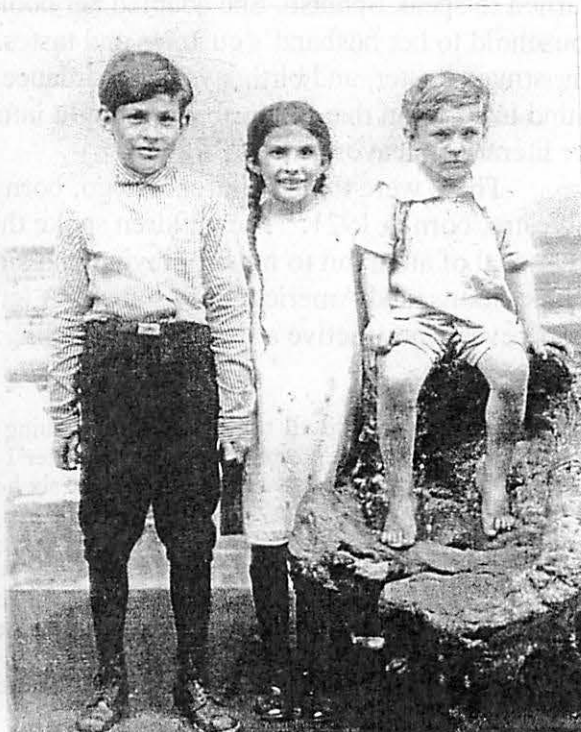
Of the interval 1922-34 little can be said here. Too many of the misfortunes and hardships which filled the last years of Clara Matthaei's life are intimately associated with the affairs of persons still living to withstand the light of the written or printed word. It maybe said, however, that the path of matrimony did not continue smooth for her. About twelve years after his marriage to her, Ascension Palacios suddenly disappeared from home. For some time he had acted in a manner which indicated that a sudden, unaccountable change had come over him. His disappearance was followed first by frantic searches on the part of his wife, and later by his spasmodic reappearance in Bellville, which gave rise to acute domestic disturbances. After a short time, Mrs. Palacios was forced to divorce him.

In the meantime a quiet young tenant on Mrs. Palacios' farm had proved to be her most faithful friend, ceaseless and unobtrusively seeking to make life bearable for the unfortunate wife and mother. Francisco Reyes had come to Texas and to the Palacios home before the birth of Clara's third child, whose godfather he became. His intention had been to return to Mexico after a short visit, but instead he remained with the family year after year, motivated at first, no doubt, by his friendship for Ascension Palacios, and later by a realization of the needs of the deserted family. The character and personality of Francisco Reyes are dominant in the motivation of the action in two novels by Clara Matthaei, *Bucher mit sieben Siegeln* and its sequel, *Der Compadre*. The incident of the near-kidnapping of Clara's daughter by some vengeful person and Francisco's interference to prevent the crime is a striking case in point.

Through many other trials, Reyes was Clara Palacios' constant reliance. Finally, in 1929, they were married. The loss of their property, the pressure of local prejudice, and the prospect of more tolerable living conditions in Mexico -- where Reyes owned a little property -- finally persuaded the hapless family in 1930 to move to Aguas Calientes. There Clara Reyes spent the remaining years of her life. She died November 2, 1934.



Clara, husband Ascension Palacios  
and son Diego about 1915



Clara's children Diego, Consuela and  
Silvestre in 1926

## THE CONFEDERATE HERO OF WALDECK

by Harvey Meiners and submitted by Muriel Luedtke Vaughan

(edited and abridged from an article in the Texas German Society Reporter, Vol. IX, No. 3)

William Guehrs, born January 1841 in the Brandenburg region of Prussia, was a young German immigrant who arrived in Texas shortly before the Civil War and made his home at Waldeck (then known as Long Prairie) in Fayette County. On October 12, 1861, Guehrs along with his friend Conrad Frosch enlisted in Creuzbaur's Battery of the Confederate Army. The battery was made up of German Texans from Fayette County. It was organized by Edmund Creuzbauer, a former Prussian army officer and was composed of about 150 men, four cannons, seventy-two horses, and thirty-nine mules. After a short tour of duty near Brownsville, the battery was transferred to Fort Griffin at Sabine Pass.

On May 4, 1864, the battery, along with a detachment of infantry and cavalry, received orders to move to Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana, two miles inland from the Gulf and south of Lake Charles. After twenty-five miles of difficult travel through marsh and sandy grassland, they made contact with the enemy on May 6, 1864. The enemy consisted of two Union gunboats, the *Granite City* and the *Wave*. The mission of the gunboats was to impress food and supplies from local residents, grabbing livestock, saddles, guns and horses wherever they found them, along with young Union sympathizers.

By dawn of May 6, the guns were in position some 1200 yards from the *Granite City*. Farther to the left was the *Wave*. At Gun #1, Sergeant Alex von Rosenberg prepared his small crew for action. At his side stood his brother Walter, as gunner. Cannoneers were William Guehrs, John Winn, William Peters and the Knelp brothers, Henry and William, from Round Top. With horses and mules safely in the rear, the crew sighted the gun toward the *Granite City*. Private Guehrs "wormed" the barrel of grit and sand, then loaded the first round. The crew of four waited for a signal to fire in the gray light of the May morning. The order came and the guns roared. Six or eight times they fired across the water before the surprised enemy returned deadly fire on Gun #1. William Knelp was killed and William Guehrs was severely wounded in the leg. The crew moved the gun to another position and continued to fire. William Guehrs, fighting pain and loss of blood, refused to be taken to a field hospital and continued to "worm" and load and fire his cannon with great difficulty, from a kneeling position.

The battle lasted seventy-five minutes until both the *Granite City* and the *Wave* surrendered. The battle won, Guehrs let his friends assist him to the field hospital. His wounds were treated, but the surgeons quickly realized he needed extensive care for recovery. With a medical furlough in his pocket and accompanied by his friend Conrad Frosch, Guehrs left Creuzbaur's Battery to recuperate at Frosch's home in Waldeck. He lingered all summer suffering from complications and infection. The injuries finally proved too much, and on September 3, 1864, he died.

Today Private Guehrs lies buried in the Waldeck Cemetery. Yet those who seek his last bivouac search in vain for the stone that marks his grave. In the northern part of the cemetery wooden crosses marked many graves. During years since, grass fires and time have contributed to the loss of these, but somewhere in this open area lies this Confederate hero, one of only four Confederate Medal of Honor recipients in all of Texas. It is the goal of the Waldeck community to erect a fitting monument in William Guehrs' honor.



## PLANS FOR MONUMENT TO HONOR WILLIAM GUEHRS

submitted by Muriel Luedtke Vaughan

The Waldeck Cemetery Association proudly proclaims that a Confederate Hero is buried in its cemetery. Private William Guehrs, one of four Medal of Honor (Confederate) recipients in the State of Texas, is deserving of recognition by the entire community. Our Association is planning to secure and dedicate a monument in April of 2002. A program will be printed for the dedication and a list of donors of \$50 or more will be included. If you would like to help, please send your donation to our Treasurer, Marceil Malak, 7444 Meiners Road, Ledbetter, Texas 78946-5118. Sincere thanks for your participation.

The Board of Trustees  
Waldeck Cemetery Association

\*\*\*\*\*

*The monument honoring German immigrant William Guehrs will bear the following inscription:*

PVT. WILLIAM GUEHRS  
CREUZBAUR'S BATTERY  
5<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS ARTILLERY C.S.A.  
BATTLE OF CALCASIEU PASS  
LOUISIANA – MAY 6, 1864

Pvt. Guehrs refused to  
Leave his post at the front  
Of the cannon to continue  
The attack on two federal  
Gunboats, despite receiving  
A serious leg wound.  
Devotion to duty and to his  
Battery mates was proven as  
Guehrs worked both number  
One and two cannon positions  
From his knees, resulting in  
Capture of both gunboats  
Pvt. Guehrs died of his  
Wound on September 3  
1864 at Waldeck. He was  
posthumously awarded the  
Confederate Medal of Honor  
For his devotion to the  
Confederate Cause.

Remember visiting Oma's house near  
Christmastime?

The smell of home baked cookies, the apples  
and oranges on the Christmas tree.

The wonderful feeling of being with family  
and friends, in a warm, homey, safe  
atmosphere,

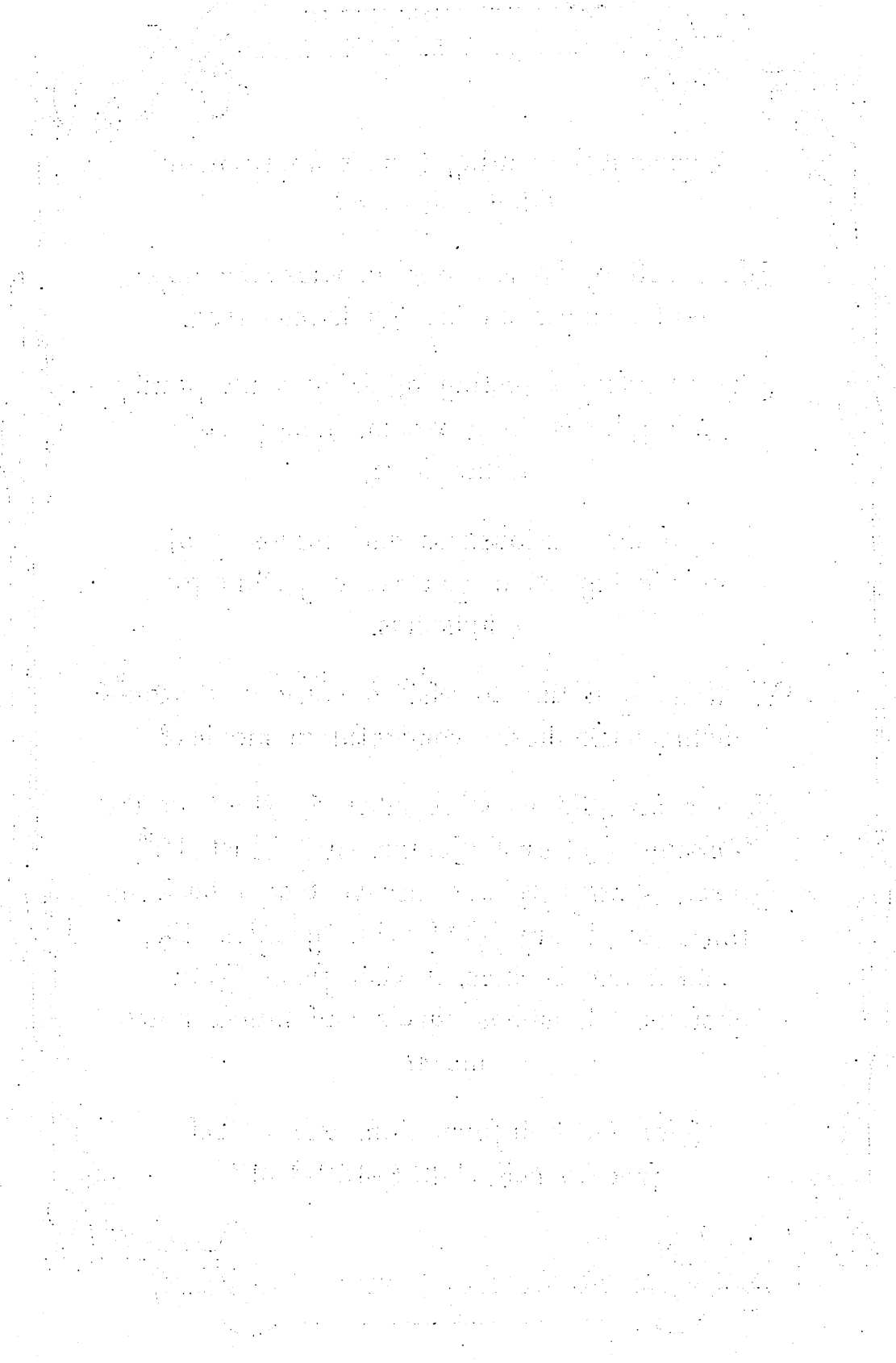
And the anxiousness and curiosity of  
wondering what you were getting for  
Christmas.

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bring back those wonderful memories?

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German Cultural Center, 507 East 10<sup>th</sup>  
Street, Austin, Texas, as we travel back in  
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 New York, NY 10017  
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Summer	June 10	August 1
Fall	October 10	December 1

### POLICY STATEMENT

Material sent for *The Journal* will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted articles must be typed, single spaced, on 8.5x11 white paper, with a margin of no less than .75 inches on all sides. No faxes please. Editor is not responsible for errors or misinformation.

### WHERE TO SEND WHAT

Send: Announcements, articles, conference info, meeting and reunion dates, genealogical inquiries, news and any other German heritage event information, subscription and membership inquiries, correspondence, donations, contributions and manuscripts for publication to the GTHS. All translated manuscripts must be accompanied by the German text. The Editor has the right and the responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS bylaws. Deadlines will be followed as closely as is possible with an all-Volunteer publication team ☺



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