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NEW TOLL FREE PHONE NUMBER

1-866-482-GTHS (4847)

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23RD ANNUAL GTHS MEETING AND CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2002

BLINN COLLEGE, BRENHAM, TEXAS

REGISTRATION

Please read the registration information below very carefully and indicate the number of registrants in the appropriate box. **Note that registration fees for members and non-members are different.**

To **avoid late charges**, this form and all registration fees must be postmarked by September 10, 2002.

Make your **check payable to GTHS** (to pay by MasterCard/Visa, see below), and return your payment with this form to:

German-Texan Heritage Society, P.O. Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

For further information, contact GTHS toll free at (1-866-482-4847) or via e-mail <GermanTexans@aol.com>.

Please note that food for the Saturday night banquet can not be guaranteed with late registration.

Fees quoted below are per person.

\$40 – Full registration for **GTHS MEMBERS**. Increases to \$45 if not postmarked by September 10. Includes all activities on September 27-29.

\$45 – Full registration for **NON-MEMBERS**. Increases to \$50 if not postmarked by September 10. Includes all activities on September 27-29.

\$50 – Registration for **walk-ins during the convention**.

\$20 – Registration for the **Saturday night banquet and dance only** on a space-available basis.

\$5 – Registration for the **Saturday night dance only** (8 to 11 p.m.) on a space available basis.

\$25 – Exhibitor Table

GTHS MEMBERS	
EARLY BIRD before 10 Sept.	_____ x \$40 = \$ _____
AFTER 10 September	_____ x \$45 = \$ _____
AT THE DOOR	_____ x \$50 = \$ _____
BANQUET & DANCE ONLY	_____ x \$20 = \$ _____
DANCE ONLY	_____ x \$5 = \$ _____
EXHIBITOR TABLE	_____ x \$25 = \$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

NON-MEMBERS	
EARLY BIRD before 10 Sept.	_____ x \$45 = \$ _____
AFTER 10 September	_____ x \$50 = \$ _____
AT THE DOOR	_____ x \$50 = \$ _____
BANQUET & DANCE ONLY	_____ x \$20 = \$ _____
DANCE ONLY	_____ x \$5 = \$ _____
EXHIBITOR TABLE	_____ x \$25 = \$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK MASTERCARD/VISA _____ EXP _____

Please print or write legibly; your name tag will be made from this information. Membership in GTHS is not a prerequisite for registration.

NAME _____

ADDITIONAL NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (incl. area code) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

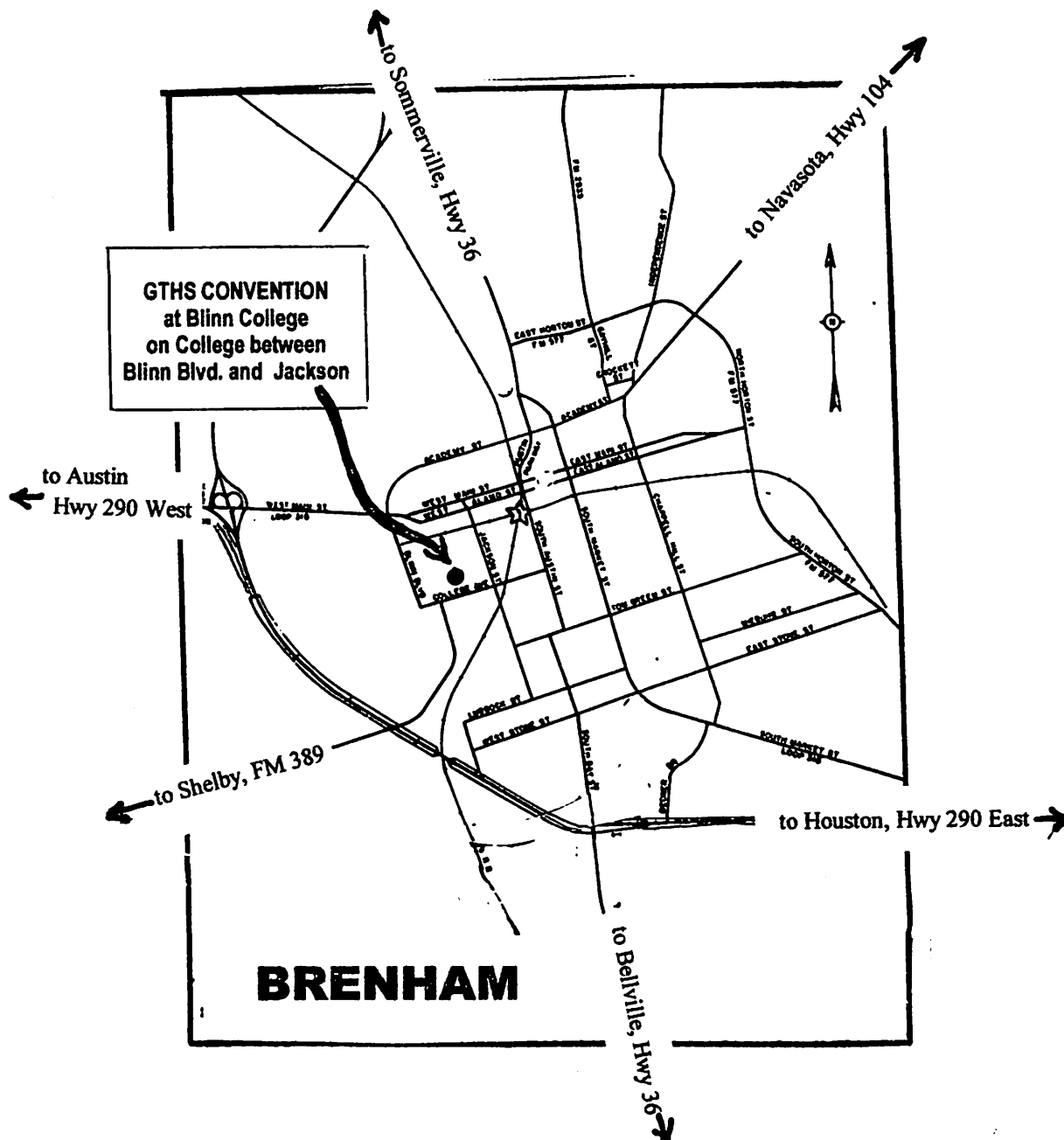
THE 2002 ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2002
ON THE CAMPUS OF
BLINN COLLEGE
IN
BRENHAM

TO PRE-REGISTER, USE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE



BE THERE

GTHS ANNUAL CONVENTION 2002



TENTATIVE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

4:00 Registration in lobby of the Student Center; pick up maps and information about things to do and to see in Brenham and in the surrounding area of early German settlement.

7:30 Reception with coffee and cake in the Banquet Room

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 11:00 Morning program

TENTATIVE PROGRAM, CONTINUED

11:00 – 12:00 Business meeting

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 4:30 Afternoon program

6:30 – 8:00 Dinner in the Banquet Room

8:00 – 11:00 Dance

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 – 9:30 Continental Breakfast

9:30 – 12:00 Final program

In addition to attending the annual convention, meeting friends, enjoying a Saturday night banquet 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** 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 furnishing and 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 a 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 eight-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** and a 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. Southeast of Brenham is **Industry**, the first permanent German settlement in Texas, founded in 1831. There you can see the restored 1838 Republic of Texas post office. Nearby, **Shelby** was settled primarily by Germans in the early 1840s. Harmonie Hall at Shelby was built in 1883 and used by a German singing society. **Berlin**, west of Brenham, was founded about 1849 by German Lutherans. It is only one of many communities in the Brenham area settled in the 1800s by German immigrant pioneers. Others include **New Wehdem, Bleiberville, Gay Hill, Zionsville, William Penn, Waldeck, Welcome, Latium, Oldenburg, Frelsburg, Wiedeville, Greenvine, Schönau, Prairie Hill, New Ulm** and more.

WHERE TO STAY IN BRENHAM?

Motels in Brenham (list from Brenham Chamber of Commerce)

BEST WESTERN INN, 979/251-7791 OR 1-800-528-1234

COACH LIGHT INN, 979/836-5657

DAYS INN, 979/830-1110 or 1-800-329-7466

HEARTLAND COUNTRY INN, 1-800-871-1864

HILLTOP MOTOR INN, 979/836-7915 or 1-888-672-1378

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, 979/836-4590 or 1-800-465-4329

RAMADA LIMITED, 9779/836-1300 or 1-800-272-6232

REGENCY INN, 9779/830-0030

RV Campground in Brenham

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

Bed & Breakfast Inns in Brenham and the Brenham Area (list from Brenham Chamber of Commerce)

A Cabin in the Country (■, *, û)
(Brenham 979-836-3605 or 979-830-3422)

Allcorn House (■, *, û) (3 rooms)
3 miles n. of Brenham (979) 836-6717

Ant Street Inn (■, †) (14 rooms)
*Historic Downtown Brenham
1-800-481-1951 or (979) 836-7393*

Barrington (■, *) (2 rooms)
Washington 1-800-591-9894 or (936) 878-2844

Brenham House (■, †, †, †) (2 rooms)
Brenham 1-800-259-8367 or (979) 830-0477

Browning Plantation (■, *, †, †) (6 rooms)
Chappell Hill 1-888-912-6144 or (979) 836-6144

Captain Tacitus Clay House (■, *) (4 rooms)
Independence (979) 836-1916

Country Cottage (*)
Chappell Hill (713) 528-2961

Country Place Cottage (*, û) (2 rooms)
Independence (979) 836-6429

Creekside House (*, †, û, f) (2-3 rooms,
Cottage style guesthouse) *Independence
(979) 830-0888*

Czech Inn (*) (4 rooms)
*Ledbetter - 28 miles W of Brenham
979-278-3626*

Far View (■, †, †) (7 rooms, 1 suite)
Brenham 1-888-327-8439 or (979) 836-1672

Fox Hollow Bed & Breakfast (■, *, f) (3 rooms)
Brenham (979) 836-7854

Ingleside (■, †) (5 rooms)
Brenham 1-888-643-7707 or (979) 251-7707

James Walker Homestead (■, *, û) (2 rooms)
6 miles east of Brenham (979) 836-6717

Ledbetter Bed & Breakfast (■, *, û)
*Ledbetter - 28 miles W of Brenham
1-800-240-3066 or (979) 249-3066*

Lillian Farms (*) (6 rooms)
Chappell Hill (979-421-6332)

Long Point Inn (*, f, û, †, c) (3 rooms plus a log cabin)
FM 390 near Burton (979) 289-3171

Mariposa Ranch (■, *, û, f, c, †) (11 rooms plus a log cabin)
9 miles north of Brenham (979) 836-4737

Murski Homestead (■, *, û) (3 rooms)
Brenham (979) 830-9143

Nueces Canyon Ranch Resort (*, û, f, h) (12 rooms)
9 miles w. of Brenham 1-800-925-5058 or (979) 289-5600

Prairie Hill Farm (*)
*(Country Retreat for Women, near Burton)
(979) 289-3106*

Sommerside (■, *, f, †) (2 rooms)
Washington area (936) 878-2433

Southern Rose Ranch (*, †, f, h) (1 room Guest house,
Accommodates up to 5 people) *Chappell Hill
(979) 251-7871 or (979) 251-4028*

The Little House (*, †) Small guesthouse
Chappell Hill (979) 830-5416

The Stage Coach Inn (■, †, †) (2 guesthouses)
Chappell Hill (979) 830-8861

B&Bs Outside the County Line

Briarfield at Round Top (†, *, û) (7 rooms)
*Round Top - 17 miles SW of Brenham
1-800-472-1134*

Heart of My Heart Ranch (■, h, c, †, *, û, f) (8 rooms-2
cabins)
*Round Top -17 miles SW of Brenham
1-800-327-1242*

Outpost at Cedar Creek (■, *, c, û)
*Round Top - 15 miles S of Brenham
(979) 836-4975 1-888-433-5791*

Round Top Inn (†, *, û) (8+ rooms)
*Round Top - 17 miles SW of Brenham
1-888-356-8946 or (979) 249-5506*

The Settlement at Round Top (■, *, û) (10 rooms)
*Round Top - 17 miles SW of Brenham
1-888-768-6386*

Texas Ranch Life - Ranch House (†, *, †, û, f, h.)
*Bellville - 17 miles S of Brenham
(979) 865-3647*

- Historic Building or Home
- h Horseback Riding Available
- * Rural Country Setting c Log Cabin Available
- † Within Brenham City Limits † Children friendly
- û Unhosted Accommodations Available
- f Fishing Available † Pets Accepted

For more information, call 1-888-BRENHAM or
Visit www.brenhamtexas.com
Many B&B's have website links. 4.10.02

THE JOURNAL
OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

by Karl Micklitz

President, German-Texan Heritage Society

Convention time is right around the corner. Please mark your calendars for the weekend of September 27th through 29th. Be assured that your Board is working hard on planning for this event at Blinn College in Brenham. As you can see, the expenses involved are very reasonable, so plan to attend and perhaps bring some guests.

In this issue you will see a report about the historical marker dedication at our headquarters building in Austin. Many descendants of the founders of the "German Free School" were in attendance, several of them from far-away places.

This organization has a lot to offer, but like I mentioned in my last letter, we need more members to perpetuate ourselves. I want you to give some serious consideration to bringing in a new member this next year, and I can't think of a better way to start this effort than to bring this new member to our upcoming convention.

We are starting our Operational Fund Drive early this year so that we can keep the building open to be able to efficiently serve our members. We are counting on your generosity so that we can keep operating like we have been.

Auf Wiedersehen.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

by Julia G Germany, GTHS Executive Director

GUTEN TAG!

A giant HERZLICHEN DANK to all the volunteers and guests who made our Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony and 7th Annual MAIFEST a resounding success. Hundreds of volunteer hours and dollars went into the planning and execution of these two events, with generous support from local and national underwriters. Descendants of the founders, teachers and students of the old German Free School were on hand to help celebrate the unveiling of its new historical marker, with a moving opening ceremony performed by the Austin Fire Department Honor Guard, who posted the colors, and Jill Schutze Burnet who performed the National Anthem and our state song, *Texas, Our Texas*. An extra special thank you to everyone who traveled to Austin for this historic occasion. Your dedication to your family heritage is commendable and much appreciated.

Underwriter support is essential to the success of the Society. Members and friends, including the estate of Dr Kelly Stevens, enthusiastically donated items for our first annual Silent Auction, which helped us raise over \$3,000. It was great fun for everyone, especially those who walked away with unique treasures!

Another form of underwriter support for the Society comes from our Journal sponsor. For years now, we have seen "The Germania Insurance Companies – Proud underwriters of this publication" located on the cover of the Journal. Last year's big flood took its toll on Germania and they will now only be able to support one issue of the Journal per year. If you or someone you know would like to underwrite an issue of the Journal, please contact me for more details. We distribute nearly one thousand issues three times per year across Texas and the US. Underwriters do not have to be a company or organization – for example your family could sponsor an issue.

If you haven't already, be sure to check out our new Web site: www.gths.net. We have a calendar of events page that will let you know our Guest Speaker schedule at the German Free School; we have our Annual Meeting Registration Form available, and we can now accept payment online for book purchases, membership renewals, and registration for the Annual Meeting.

Thank you again for your continued support of your German-Texan heritage. I hope to see you in Brenham at our Annual Meeting 27-29 September 2002.

Bis bald!

julia

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD

by Ewing ("Wing") Evans, Guild President
(from the *Schulhaus* Reporter, Vol. 9, #3)

The fence is finished! Charles Clinger, Phil Sterzing and I added the last three sections, just in time for *Maifest*. Now Michael Charles (the gardener) can quit worrying about us trampling over his carefully tended gardens.

The flags (on the façade of the German Free School building) are flying again. We have illumination for them and for additional security. The lights are supposed to come on at dusk and turn themselves off at sunrise.

I want to thank each and every one of you who worked so hard to make our *Maifest* a success. We had the largest number of our statewide officers (the Board of Directors) attending that we have ever had. I appreciate their effort to travel all the way to Austin for this event.

Phil Sterzing built a dance floor for the *Maifest* party, and then he took it down over the next few days. The materials for this structure were donated by Calcasieu Lumber Co. If you have a chance, let them know that we appreciate their contribution to *Maifest*.

The Brenham Brewery donated the beer for *Maifest*. Their generosity is appreciated. And we should all notice them whenever we can. They provided two kegs of lager and a keg of pilsner!

The sausage and kraut were wonderful. Christa Prewitt uses her special recipe for the sausage. There were lemonade and cookies and potato pancakes, all donated by our volunteers and members.

As an added attraction to *Maifest*, we had a silent auction of donated items. I think this was an excellent addition, and we should repeat it whenever we can.

The Historical Marker has been a very long time effort on the part of many people. We had the dedication of this Historical Marker in the morning before *Maifest*. It was a wonderful sight to see 160 people in the garden of the German Free School, all related to the founders and first pupils of the school.

The donations of the things listed above, and the volunteer hours you contributed to the GTHS are absolutely necessary for the continued operation of the society. We do have a severe money crunch. More active members and continued donations are the key to our survival. Keep up the good work.

We always need new members. Ask your friends and relatives to join.

Let's have a great 2002!

FINANCIAL REPORT ON 2002 MAIFEST (summary)

\$10,787.68 Total income

[1] Maifest activities = \$3,174.68 (food and drink \$990.75; admissions \$282.00; sales \$282.29; cash donations \$885.63; donated goods \$734.01) [2] Silent Auction = \$2,913.00 [3] Raffle of Continental Airlines tickets = \$4700

\$2,004.28 Total expenses

[1] Expenses for Maifest activities = \$1278.57 [2] Expenses for raffle of Continental Airlines tickets = \$725.71

2002 MAIFEST AIRLINE RAFFLE WINNER



GTHS President Judge Karl Micklitz presents the Continental Airlines tickets to our MAIFEST airline raffle winner and Austin resident, Nora Mullarkey Miller.

The German-Texan Heritage Society sincerely thanks our sponsors and underwriters for their generous support of our 7th annual MAIFEST celebration:

Barbara and Wing Evans

Charles Kalteyer

Dr Meredith McClain

Dr R.A. Neely

Charlene Tiemann

Continental Airlines 



GERMAN FREE SCHOOL HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

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27 APRIL 2002

photos and story by Julia G Germany

The German Free School opened in 1858, offering a bilingual education to Germans and Texans from the local Austin community. In 1881 the building became a private residence for its last teacher, Julius Schutze. Eventually Dr Kelly Stevens purchased the building in 1947 and deeded it to the German-Texan Heritage Society in 1991 upon his death. Dr Stevens recognized the historical significance of the structure and felt that it should once again be a place of public gathering for the purpose of promoting and preserving the German cultural heritage of Texas. Today, the German Free School serves as the headquarters for the GTHS. Our Guild members provide weekly tours, a Thursday Stammtisch (a "speak only German" informal noontime lunch), a monthly speaker series and three cultural events per year: Maifest, German-American Day and a traditional German-Texan Christmas market. We also house here a fantastic research and Pioneer Library.

Three years ago, the Society's executive director, Sherryl Brown, formed a Historical Marker committee chaired by GTHS member Merle Prinz, and including GTHS members Margaret Hitzfeld, Anita Locy Johnson and Sherryl Brown. This committee worked tirelessly over two years researching the material necessary to apply for the Texas Historical Marker. Once the application was accepted by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the committee then worked with the THC on the final text for the marker. (It is really challenging to put that much information on a 27" x 42" plaque!) And they don't come cheap – Anita Johnson and her family graciously donated \$1100 to have the plaque cast. The perseverance of Anita's cousin Jo Peebles Adams ensured we had the plaque here in time for the dedication ceremony. Michael Charles cemented it in our rose garden in front of the two-story addition, where all who visit the German Free School can easily see and appreciate it.

Anita Johnson and Anita Killen, both Schutze descendents, located many descendants of the German Free School's founders, teachers and students and invited them to join us for the dedication ceremony of the historical marker. At one time there were more than 150 students attending the Free School, and many of their families are still in Austin. Some however, like the von Briesens (who are Bickler descendants), came from Minnesota and Canada, and still others came from across the country to celebrate their German-Texan family heritage. In all, nearly 200 people attended the maker dedication ceremony. On the following pages you can see a copy of the ceremony program and the marker, as well as photos from the event.

After the formal dedication ceremony, we all enjoyed a traditional Maibowle and cake. A Maibowle is a German fruit punch made with brandied fruit (we used strawberries) and champagne. Dr Katie Arens of the University of Texas German Department provided the delicious recipe.

Special thanks goes to all the volunteers and underwriters of the GFS Historical Marker Dedication ceremony. In particular, I would like to personally thank Anita Johnson for all her efforts. Anita created and donated the commemorative booklets that were distributed at the event. She provided the sign-in book, descendant nametags, extra chairs and tables. Through her research, she learned of the connection of the Austin Fire Dept to the GFS and invited the honor guard to post the colors. She also arranged for her cousin, Jill Schutze Burnet, to sing the National Anthem and State song. Dr Hubert Heinen donated the commemorative flute glasses and Jo Adams provided the cake, the lovely family heirloom tablecloth and Julius Schutze's silver punch bowl set for the reception. We truly have the best members, and we thank you all for your continued support of your German heritage.

The Austin Fire Department Honor Guard opened the dedication ceremony for our new Texas Historical Marker. Members of the Free School's founding fathers also founded Austin's Hook & Ladder #1.



**German Free School
Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony**

27 April 2002

Master of Ceremony
Judge Karl Micklitz

Welcome from Travis County Historical Commission
Ernestine Thompson, Marker Chair, Travis County Historical
Commission

Posting of the colors, pledge of allegiance to the Texas and U.S. flags
Austin Fire Department Honor Guard

Singing of the National Anthem and *Texas, Our Texas*
Jill Schuetze Burnet

Introduction of distinguished guests

A brief synopsis of the history of the marker topic and reading of the text
Julia Germany

A few words about Wilhelm von Rosenberg
Dale von Rosenberg

A few words about Julius Schutze
Jo Peebles Adams

A few words about Jacob Bickler
Ted von Briesen

How the German Free School became the GTHS Headquarters
Helga von Schweinitz

Leave Your German Mark
Rodney Koenig

Refreshments in the German Free School Garden

Tour of German Free School

Program for the Texas Historical Marker
Dedication Ceremony at the German Free
School, 27 April 2002.



GERMAN FREE SCHOOL

EDUCATION WAS A PRIMARY CONCERN FOR THE NEW GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVED IN TEXAS IN THE 1840s AND 1850s. ALTHOUGH TEXAS DID NOT HAVE A SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION AT THAT TIME, IT DID OFFER SUBSIDIES FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE TUITION SCHOOLS WHO COULD NOT PAY. THE GERMAN-TEXANS ORGANIZED A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS UNDER THIS SYSTEM, PAYING FOR TEACHERS AND BUILDINGS WITH A COMBINATION OF STATE FUNDS, DONATIONS AND TUITION.

IN SEPTEMBER 1857, THE GERMAN-TEXANS IN AUSTIN HELD A PUBLIC MEETING TO ESTABLISH A GERMAN SCHOOL FOR THE CITY. CIVIL ENGINEER WILHELM VON ROSENBERG DONATED LAND AT THIS SITE FOR THE SCHOOL. WITHIN A MONTH, GERMAN-TEXAN VOLUNTEERS BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING. THE FIRST SCHOOL IN AUSTIN CHARTERED BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE, THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OPENED IN 1858 WITH AUGUST WEILBACHER AND JULIUS SCHUTZE AS ITS FIRST TEACHERS.

THE 1857 BUILDING WITH RAMMED EARTH OUTER WALLS CONTAINED TWO CLASSROOMS AND A BASEMENT. ABOUT 1872, A TWO-STORY LIMESTONE SECTION WAS ADDED TO PROVIDE FOUR ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS. JULIUS SCHUTZE RETURNED TO TEACH IN 1880 AND MOVED HIS FAMILY INTO THE SCHOOLHOUSE. THEY CONTINUED TO LIVE IN THE BUILDING AFTER THE SCHOOL CLOSED IN 1881 WITH THE ADVENT OF AUSTIN'S PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. SCHUTZE (d. 1904) PUBLISHED THE *TEXAS VORWAERTS* NEWSPAPER HERE FOR A TIME AND EVENTUALLY GAINED TITLE TO THE PROPERTY.

THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL BUILDING, DAMAGED IN A 1919 FIRE, REMAINED IN USE AS BOTH A SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCE UNTIL 1991, WHEN IT WAS DEEDED TO THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1962

THE BUILDING WAS GIVEN TO GTHS BY DR. KELLY STEVENS

Historical marker located at the German Free School,
507 East 10th Street, Austin, Texas.

SCENES FROM THE GFS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION



GTHS President Judge Karl Micklitz (left) and past GTHS president, Rodney Koenig.



Attendees on the first terrace.

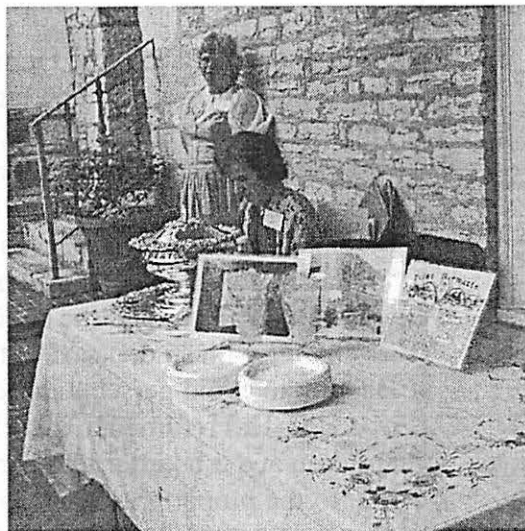


Attendees on the second terrace. GTHS member Phil Sterzing built the temporary stage with materials donated by CALCASIEU LUMBER. The fence was built and installed by GTHS members Wing Evans and Charles Clinger.



LEFT: Miss Nellie Johnson, one of the youngest Schutze descendants, and daughter of Anita and Bryan Johnson, enjoys playing in the garden.

RIGHT: Helga von Schweinitz (standing) and Jo Peebles Adams await the start of the reception. Jo brought her beautiful family heirloom tablecloth and an engraved silver punch bowl set that once belonged to Julius Schutze. These items made for an elegant setting in front of the German Free School.



May 27, 2002

Dear Julia Germany and GTHS Board Members,

Speaking for members of the Edward and Julius Schutze families, we thank you for your generosity and the privilege to hold our family reunion at the German Texas Heritage Society headquarters in Austin on Saturday evening, April 27, 2002.

The German Free School has a special meaning of "home" to our families as it was the Julius Schutze residence for many years after serving the Austin community as a school.

GTHS has an impressive record as caretaker of this historical property. So many improvements have been made since it was inherited from Kelly Stevens in 1991.

The Schutze families especially acknowledge and recognize the Austin members, who volunteer their time and labor, that have contributed so much to this organization's accomplishments.

Gratefully Yours,



Jo Peebles Adams

(Julius Schutze granddaughter)

JULIUS SCHUTZE

"By the end of 1858, the German Free School was flourishing. August Weilbacher and Julius Schutze were its first teachers. Schutze was the main teacher between 1859 and 1864. Between 1858 and 1862, the German Free School always had the highest number of non-paying students of any school in Austin, and was one of the largest schools in Austin. When state funding ended in 1862, in the difficult times of the Civil War, the school continued to operate and provide a free education for needy students. An advertisement for "Julius Schutze's English-German School" in 1864 offered free tuition for "soldiers' children, orphans, and the children of widows..." During this time, the school was true to its charter with students of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. In 1864, Schutze fled to Bastrop to avoid persecution for his Unionist sympathies, but the school continued to operate. (He) returned to the school in 1880 as the head teacher and moved his wife, six children and a boarder into part of the school building. The Schutze family later gained title to the property in 1891. When Schutze died in 1904, his widow Julia and her children continued to reside in the building. In 1910 Julia moved out and sold the property...."

extracts from "The German Free School" brochure printed for the dedication ceremony

RECENT EVENTS AND NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEAF ARTISTS MEET AT GERMAN FREE SCHOOL

Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director, reports that on March 9, 2002, about sixty guests including visitors from ten foreign nations attended a reception held at the German Free School in Austin for deaf artists and art students. This event honored the memory of Dr. Kelly Stevens, a deaf artist, who for many years owned the school and made it his home. He willed the property to the German-Texan Heritage Society.

GHTS NEEDS A GENEALOGY EDITOR

GTHS still is without a genealogy editor. If you know someone who might volunteer for this important position, or if you have an interest, contact the society's Executive Director, Ms. Julia Germany. Toll free telephone 1-866-482-4847. If in Austin, phone 482-0927. Or send an e-mail to GermanTexans@aol.com

THE 1930 U.S. CENSUS FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH

The first library in Texas to acquire the 1930 U.S. Federal Census is the Genealogy Room in the State Archives building at 1201 Brazos Street in Austin.

LATEST GTHS MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director, announced that as of May 11th, 2002, GTHS membership was 994. The membership of the German Free School Guild was 311.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF DIRECTORS AND THE ADVISORY BOARD

GTHS President Karl Micklitz called a special meeting of the Board of Directors for July 13-14 at Waco for a two-day retreat designed to develop ways to increase the society's membership. All members of the Advisory Board were invited to attend and participate.

CHANGE OF BY-LAWS BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its May 11th meeting, the Board of Directors approved two by-laws changes proposed by Karl Micklitz, GTHS President. The following was added to Article 5.3: "The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times annually in Austin, TX on the dates to be selected at the last meeting of the previous year." The second change was addition of a new section L under Article 8.8 creating a Convention Committee of three members of the Board of Directors appointed annually by the GTHS President. This committee "shall be responsible for planning and conducting the society's annual convention." The new section L also provides that the Convention Committee "may enlist additional assistants, preferably from the convention site, to prepare for and assist during the convention."

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

GTHS President Karl Micklitz on May 11th appointed the following as the 2002 Nominating Committee: Rodney Koenig of Houston, Hans Micklitz of San Antonio and Helga von Schweinitz of Austin. The terms of four members of the Board of Directors will expire December 31, 2002. They are Janice Thompson of Houston, Dr. James Feuge of Fredericksburg, and Bette Williams (GTHS Treasurer) and Charles ("Chuck") Kalteyer, both of Austin.

RECENT EVENTS AND NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2002 SÄNGERFEST TO BE HELD AT CORPUS CHRISTI

The Heimatmelodie Choir of the German Society of the Coastal Bend will host the 2002 Annual Sängerfest des Texanischen Gebirgs-Sängerbunden in Corpus Christi, Texas, on October 19, 2002. For further information contact Ingrid Brock, 4317 Patrick Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78413, telephone (361) 852-8751, or e-mail www.cheetah@awesomenet.net

COMMENDATIONS FOR WORK ON MAIFEST

At its May 11th meeting, the GTHS Board of Directors passed resolutions thanking all the individuals and volunteers who made the April 27th dedication of the German Free School historical marker and *Maifest* celebration a success. The Board also expressed its thanks to Charles ("Chuck") Kalteyer for organizing the *Maifest* silent auction and raffle of Continental Airline tickets to Germany, both of which raised funds for GTHS operations.

DONATIONS MADE TO MAIFEST

The following individuals and businesses made cash donations to this year's *Maifest* in Austin: Dr. R.A. Neely of Bellville; Dr. Meredith McClain of Lubbock; Florence Riedel of New Braunfels; the G'Towne Restaurant of Georgetown; Charlene Tiemann, Barbara Evans, "Wing" Evans, and "Chuck" Kalteyer, all of Austin. "Chuck" Kalteyer's contribution was made in memory of recently-deceased GTHS member Howard Barr (see In Memoriam). The following donated supplies or food or drinks and/or sales items: Annette Stachowitz, Margaret Hitzfeld of Round Rock; Hans von Schweinitz, Helga Schweinitz, and "Chuck" Kalteyer, all of Austin; the Brenham Brewery of Brenham; and the Calcasieu Lumber Company of Austin. This list of donors was extracted from the *Maifest* Income/Expense report. Apologies to anyone overlooked by this list !

GERMAN MUSEUM SEEKS INFORMATION ON EMIGRANTS TO TEXAS

Did your immigrant ancestors come from Bavaria or Franconia, Swabia or the Palatinate? If they did, the Centre for Bavarian History in Germany is seeking biographies of emigrants to Texas for an exhibition at five German cities in the Fall 2003. For information about this, see "Exhibition: Emigration out of Bavaria" in the Genealogy Section of this issue of the Journal.

KOTHMANN ADDITION TO THE GTHS LIBRARY

A recent addition to the GTHS Library at the German Free School in Austin is a copy of an 1831 marriage contract made in the Kingdom of Hannover by Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann and Catherin Dorothee Köhler, who emigrated to Texas in 1845 and settled at Art in Mason County in 1856. There is an English translation along with an appendix, maps and references. This was given the library "for Historical and Genealogical research" by John H. Kothmann of Fredericksburg, a Kothmann descendent. Thanks you, Mr. Kothmann!



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

1011 CR 212, GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-5940

EMAIL: wendish@bluebon.net

FAX (979) 366-2805

(979) 366-2441

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society presents the 14th Annual Wendish Fest featuring Chór "Meja" from Bautzen, Germany

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society will host the 14th Annual Wendish Fest on Sunday, September 22, 2002. The event will be held on the grounds of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum and St. Paul Lutheran Church picnic grounds at Serbin, Texas.

The daylong event will begin at St. Paul Church at 8:30 a.m. with English worship service, Bible Class and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. German worship service. The 8:30 worship service will feature Dr. Wilbert J. Sohns, D.D. as guest preacher. Dr. Sohns, currently retired, served as a Parish Pastor from 1959 to 1985. He is a graduate of California Concordia College and Concordia Theological Seminary. In addition to his 26 years as a Parish Pastor, Dr. Sohns has served on numerous Synod committees, as Pastoral Advisor for International Lutheran Laymen's League, and as Circuit Counselor and Director of Congregational Care for the Texas District. Dr. Sohns and his wife, Lyn, presently reside in Gatesville, Texas. The 10:30 service will feature a sermon delivered in German by St. Paul's own Pastor Emeritus Paul Hartfield. Chór "Meja", the event's featured performers, will also sing during both services.

Meal tickets will be available for purchase beginning at 10:45 and the meal will be served from 11:00 to 1:30 p.m. Snack booths open at 2:30 p.m.

Deadline for entries in the annual Coffee Cake Bake-off is 10:30 a.m. and winners will be announced at 12:30 p.m. Demonstrations and activities throughout the day include tours of St. Paul Lutheran Church (12:30 & 1:30 p.m.), noodle-making, sausage stuffing, blacksmithing, children's coloring contest (2:30 p.m.), washer pitching (2:00 p.m. with sign-up by 1:30 sharp), cross cut saw contest (4:30 p.m.), children's train rides, "Klettern Pfosten," corn shucking, and many others. Kovanda's Czech Band will provide live music from 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

One of the special features of the day will be Kornelia Thor from Germany, who will demonstrate her marvelous skill with decorating Wendish Easter eggs, and many of her decorated eggs will be available for sale.

The Chór "Meja" from Bautzen, Germany will provide the featured performance for this year's Fest, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The choir, numbering about 35 members, will be dressed in colorful Wendish costumes and will entertain with traditional Wendish songs.

IN MEMORIAM HELEN LOUISE ZUEHL HEHMSOTH

On March 14, 2002, Helen Louise Zuehl Hehmsoth, a charter member of the GTHS who spoke fluent German, died at San Antonio. She was born at Zuehl, Texas, June 3, 1916, the daughter of Oscar H. Zuehl and Hulda Hartung. Helen graduated from Alamo Heights High School in 1934 and in 1938 married Carl Justus Hehmsoth, a military band director. After living in many states, Helen and her husband retired in San Antonio, where she was an active member of Christ Lutheran Church, participating in the Greeters Guild, Altar Guild, Hope Circle and Quilting Circle. She also was an organizer of the annual Zuehl-Hartung Family Reunion.



Helen's survivors include her daughter Marty Hehmsoth Halstead, her son Carl Hehmsoth, Jr. and his wife Sharon, and her son Henry (Hank) Hehmsoth and his wife Jody, and six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 19, 2002, at Christ Lutheran Church followed by interment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

A donation as a memorial to Helen Hehmsoth was presented to the German-Texan Heritage Society by Dr. and Mrs. Michael F. Koehl of Huntsville.

IN MEMORIAM HOWARD R. BARR

GTHS member, Howard R. Barr, died March 31, 2002, in Austin at age ninety-two. He was born February 15, 1910, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the son of R. Wesley and Myrtle P. Barr. In 1928, he moved to San Antonio with his family and entered the University of Texas at Austin in 1929. After graduation in 1934, Howard remained in Austin, working as an architect. In 1939, he began a private practice, then during WW II he served in the U.S. Navy as an officer. After the war, Howard returned to Austin where he was a partner in a succession of architectural firms whose designs included the LBJ Library in Austin, the medical schools in Houston and San Antonio, and buildings for NASA. In 1978, he retired from practice to become a consultant.



Howard was active in numerous professional associations, served on a variety of state and Austin city boards, and played an important role in community organizations including the Cerebral Palsy Center and the Austin Kiwanis Club. He was an active member of the University United Methodist Church.

Howard is survived by his wife Margaret Pressler Barr of Austin; his son Richard Stuart Barr and wife of Dallas; his son Alan Robert Barr and wife of Austin; two grandchildren; a sister; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held April 3, 2002, at the University United Methodist Church in Austin with interment following at Austin Memorial Cemetery.

**IN MEMORIAM
DOROTHY ELIZABETH DOSS MEYER**

Dorothy Elizabeth Doss Meyer of Victoria, a long-time member of the German-Texan Heritage Society, died March 8, 2002, at the age of ninety-one. Her survivors include her daughter, Marilyn Meyer Logan of Victoria, and her son, Gordon ("Eddie") Meyer of Portland, and eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

**IN MEMORIAM
EDWIN ("ED") MURRAY EAKIN**

Edwin ("Ed") Murray Eakin, owner of the Eakin Press and publisher of many books on the German-Texan heritage, died in Austin, February 20, 2002, at age 74. He was born in 1927, in Falls County, the son of Sidney and Eva Eakin. He graduated at Baylor University then worked for several Texas newspapers, including the El Campo News and the Irving News. Ed became owner of several North Texas newspapers and a Wichita Falls printing company. His Eakin Press was the largest non-academic press in Texas and publica- of Texana was its specialty.



Ed is survived by his wife, Charlene, of Austin; his son, Benjamin Edward Eakin of Portales, New Mexico; his daughter Judith Yvonne Sluiter; his daughter Janis Eakin of Amsterdam, Netherlands; his stepdaughter, Virginia Gayle Messer of Austin; and his stepson, Billy Charles Scott; also by a sister and six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Ed was preceded in death by his son, Michael Eakin. Funeral services were held February 23, 2002, at the First Baptist Church of Austin, with interment following at the Chilton Cemetery in Chilton, his birthplace.

**IN MEMORIAM
FLORENCE RIEDEL**

Florence Riedel, a life-long resident of New Braunfels, died May 4, 2002, at age eighty-one. Florence was a member of GTHS and of the German Free School Guild. She was born at Bracken in Comal County, April 26, 1921, daughter of Frank and Clara Hohmann Kneupper and granddaughter of German immigrants. She spoke German fluently and frequently visited relatives in Germany. After graduating from New Braunfels High School in 1939, she attended the Draughton Business School in San Antonio. Florence was active in a long list of civic organizations including the New Braunfels March and Wandergruppe, German-American Society, American Volkssport Association, International Volkssportverband, and other religious and fraternal societies. Florence was survived by her daughter Gloria and husband Glenn Hitzfelder; her daughter Rose and husband Lyle Anderson; and by two grandsons. Florence's husband David preceded her in death. Funeral services were held May 7, 2002, at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Braunfels with interment following at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery.

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney C. Koenig

As this column is being written, Father's Day, June 16, 2002, is approaching. Those of us who are parents hope to leave our mark through our children. I am proud of my sons, Erik Koenig of La Grange and Jon Todd Koenig of Houston. My father, John H. Koenig, taught me love of my German heritage. I understand the original Father's Day was conceived by Sonora Smart Dodd of Washington State. She conceived the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Her father, William Jackson Smart (some say Henry Jackson Smart), a civil war veteran, was widowed and raised a newborn and five other children by himself on a farm in eastern Washington State. His daughter, Sonora, held the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington in 1910. Thereafter, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day in 1924. Finally, in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson from Texas signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. The individual who initially thought of Father's Day has truly left her mark.

Recently, the Bach Society in Houston held a Bach Vespers at which a new Cantata entitled "The Things We Have (In Memoriam: September 11, 2001)" by Robert Nelson was performed. The hymn text used with this Cantata was composed by Patricia B. Clark and such text used the following words:

"The work of love is in our hand. We do not fail to take a stand, but pass through life and choose, until we leave our mark, for good or ill."

Patricia Clark gave me permission to quote those lines. The words "we leave our mark, for good or ill" are words to live by. We indeed leave our mark and hopefully we will leave our mark for good!

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

The German Texan Heritage Society is a fine organization. Our Board, including the regular Board and the Advisory Board, is having a retreat at Baylor University this summer. We are looking for ways in which we can reinvigorate our membership and increase the membership. We ask you to find one new member. Perhaps your family has a family reunion at which you could recruit new members. Consider recruiting your brother, your sister, your children, your church members and club members. I have always advocated keeping a membership application with me so that when I meet an individual interested in German Texan heritage, I will be able to immediately invite such person to become a member. What better birthday gift or Christmas gift is there than introducing someone to their beloved German Texan heritage? If you have family members who are interested in genealogy, they will be forever thankful if you introduce them to the German Texan Heritage Society. Remember our website and the email for our office. The email is GermanTexans@aol.com. If you have a reunion coming up, email our office for a special reunion application form which will be personalized for your family.

In addition to encouraging increased membership, think of other ways in which you can leave your German mark. Leave a bequest to GTHS in your Will. Designate GTHS as the beneficiary of a portion of your IRA or 401k plan. Deed your home with a reserved life estate to GTHS and get an immediate income tax deduction. Create a scholarship for students who study the German language at your high school or at your college. The ways in which you can leave your German mark are limited only by your imagination. Should you need help in this regard, call Julia Germany at the GTHS office or call Rodney C. Koenig at 713-651-5333. You may desire to email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com. Whatever you do, leave your German mark for good!

German-Texas Heritage Society
Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2001

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted (1)</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue and Support				
Dues	\$ 20,475			
Interest and dividends	18	14,163		
Campaign contributions (designated \$16,192 for lot payments)	42,597			
Gifts (designated \$1100 for marker)	1,773			
Grant (for publication)	4,000			
Events - net of cost \$3,161	7,461			
Sales - net of cost \$2,694	633			
Royalties and miscellaneous	4,427			
Unrealized depreciation in market value investments	-	(1,004)		-
Gross Revenue and Support	<u>81,384</u>	<u>13,159</u>		<u>94,543</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>14,163</u>	<u>(14,163)</u>	-	-
Total Revenue and Support	<u>95,547</u>	<u>(1,004)</u>	-	<u>94,543</u>
 Utilized Grant Funds				
Building renovation and lot project		11,496		
 Expenses				
Publications, including mailing	14,202			
Annual meeting	850			
Fund raising	1,343			
Program events and community outreach	888			
Property and grounds maintenance	8,654			
Salaries and benefits	39,562			
Office and miscellaneous	3,910			
Utilities	4,103			
Insurance	4,315			
Interest	1,981			
Supplies	1,966			
Postage	1,802			
Professional services	900			
Telephone and Internet	1,923			
Bank and credit card charges	1,505			
Depreciation	7,035	-		
Total Expenses	<u>94,939</u>	<u>11,496</u>		<u>106,435</u>
Changes in net assets	608	(12,500)		(11,892)
Net assets, Beginning of Year	<u>142,861</u>	<u>346,860</u>	<u>221,089</u>	<u>710,810</u>
Net assets, Ending of Year	<u>\$ 143,469</u>	<u>\$ 334,360</u>	<u>\$ 221,089</u>	<u>\$ 698,918</u>

(1) Includes unexpended grant funds

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended December 31, 2001

<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</u>	
Cash received from revenue and support, including \$21,292 for specific projects	\$ 95,902
Cash paid for program services and operations	<u>97,562</u>
Cash Used by Operating Activities	(1,660)
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</u>	
Purchases of investment certificates of deposits	(116,275)
Proceeds from redemptions	50,067
Marker purchase	<u>(1,100)</u>
Cash (Used) by Investing Activities	(67,308)
<u>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</u>	
Payments on mortgage	<u>(26,057)</u>
Cash (Used) by Financing Activities	<u>(26,057)</u>
Net Cash (Used)	(95,025)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>163,818</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u>\$ 68,793</u>

Reconciliation of Changes in Net Assets to Cash (Used) by operating Activities:	
Changes in net assets	\$ (11,892)
Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets to cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	7,035
Unrealized (depreciation) in assets	1,004
Changes in assets and liabilities that provided (used) cash:	
Inventory	943
Accounts payable	1,445
Deferred dues	<u>(195)</u>
Net Cash (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>\$ (1,660)</u>

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2001

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	
Unrestricted	\$ 22,888
Temporarily restricted	<u>46,107</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	68,793
Investments - temporarily restricted	
Certificates of deposit	116,400
Securities at market value (cost \$170,870)	171,853
Inventory, at cost	16,038
Land, building and equipment, net of depreciation \$55,865	<u>340,944</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 714,028</u>

Liabilities	
Accounts payable, including withheld payroll taxes	\$ 1,542
Deferred membership dues	3,060
Mortgage payable, secured by lot (Paid Jan 2002)	<u>10,508</u>
Total Liabilities	15,110
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	143,469
Temporarily restricted, including \$49,793 unexpended grant funds	334,660
Permanently restricted	<u>221,089</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>698,918</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 714,028</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT Jan 1 to May 9, 2002

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Total income = \$42,634.50	
Fundraising income	\$21,100.96
Gifts and contributions	\$ 318.61
Investment income	\$ 1,876.23
Dues	\$17,565.00
Other	\$ 1,773.70
Total expenses = \$43,429.85	
Salaries and taxes	\$14,300.70
Administrative	\$ 3,884.31
Building & grounds	\$ 3,417.95
Bldg. & lot renovation	\$ 6,120.55
Fundraising expenses	\$ 2,148.81
Utilities, insurance, etc.	\$ 2,541.72
Journal expenses	\$10,058.02
Other	\$ 957.79
Net loss Jan/ May = \$795.35	

**BUDGETED INCOME & EXPENSES
AVERAGED FOR JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2002**

Average monthly expenses	\$ 6,541.67
Average monthly income	\$ 5,378.17
Average monthly deficit	\$ 1,163.50

The German-Texan Heritage Society sincerely thanks all of you who contributed to our 2001 Annual Operational Fund Drive. It is ONLY through your generous and continued support that the GTHS is able to keep its doors open and able to provide you with quality publications and service.

Your continued support through tax-deductible contributions allows us to continue fulfilling our mission of preserving and promoting the German cultural heritage of Texas. We sincerely appreciate your financial donations and look forward to another successful fund drive in 2002.

DEAN (\$1000-\$2499)

ESTHER MILLER STRANGE - KERRVILLE, TX

PROFESSOR (\$500-\$999)

DR ROBERT A NEELY - BELLVILLE, TX
HELEN B TRENCKMANN - AUSTIN, TX

SCHOOLMASTER (\$150-\$499)

MR & MRS HOWARD BARR - AUSTIN, TX
THEODORA V BOEHM - BRENHAM, TX
ROBERT B BORGELT - AUSTIN, TX
CHARLES & MARY CLINGER - AUSTIN, TX
EWING & BARBARA EVANS - AUSTIN, TX
EDNA GROESCHEL - AUSTIN, TX
DR HUBERT & URSULA HEINEN - AUSTIN, TX
CHARLES KALTEYER - AUSTIN, TX
RUTH & BILL KOEHLER - AUSTIN, TX
RODNEY & MARY KOENIG - HOUSTON, TX
PHIL & MARSHA KOEPP - AUSTIN, TX

ETHEL PAPE LOITZ - SAN ANTONIO, TX
DR MEREDITH McCLAIN - LUBBOCK, TX
A L MERRITT - SAN ANTONIO, TX
JUDGE KARL M MICKLITZ - BROOKSHIRE, TX
DR TERRY L SMART - SAN ANTONIO, TX
SELLERS J THOMAS JR - HOUSTON, TX
CHARLES & JANICE THOMPSON - HOUSTON, TX
ANNA W THOMPSON - DUBLIN, TX
HELEN VODICKA - DALLAS, TX
BETTE WILLIAMS - AUSTIN, TX

SCHOLAR (\$50-\$149)

BARBARA K ABBOTT - HOUSTON, TX
 JO PEEBLES ADAMS - HOUSTON, TX
 JACK C ALLEN - RICHARDSON, TX
 JANE B BENSON - DALLAS, TX
 DR & MRS JOHN J BIESELE - AUSTIN, TX
 JANELL BLUE - ALEXANDRIA, VA
 MR & MRS KENT BOHLS - AUSTIN, TX
 KENT BOHLS - AUSTIN, TX
 HEIDE SCHNEIDERMAN BRIGGS PhD - FT WORTH, TX
 INGRID BROCK - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
 CHRISTA SCHWING BRODERICK - AUSTIN, TX
 SHERRYL BROWN - FREDERICKSBURG, TX
 ROBERT BRUEGGERHOFF - HOUSTON, TX
 AGNES LEHANN BUHL - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 MR & MRS RICHARD J BURGESS III - ROUND ROCK, TX
 FRED & TERESA CHAVEZ - COPPERAS COVE, TX
 FRANCES HEIMER COPELAND - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 JEAN & ROBERT DURKEE JR - AUSTIN, TX
 FELICIA G ELLIOTT - HOUSTON, TX
 HEINO R ERICHSEN - THE WOODLANDS, TX
 WILBUR & BERNICE FRIESENHAHN - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 MR & MRS KERRY L GAGER - AUSTIN, TX
 KIRBY D GARNER - BASTROP, TX
 JULIA G GERMANY - AUSTIN, TX
 CYNTHIA SCHMIDT GLOVER - AUSTIN, TX
 WILLIAM S GOLDMANN - AUSTIN, TX
 RAY GRASSHOFF - AUSTIN, TX
 CLARENCE GUELKER - AUSTIN, TX
 DOLORES GULLY - SAN ANGELO, TX
 E J & JOYCE HAAS - HOUSTON, TX
 MR & MRS WERNER H HEESCHE - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 MR & MRS PHILLIP F HERRING - AUSTIN, TX
 MARGARET & HERMAN HITZFELD - ROUND ROCK, TX
 ELIZABETH S HOLLAND - WACO, TX
 JAMES HOLLAS - AUSTIN, TX
 DR PAT & HELGARD HOLLIS - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 MR & MRS JESSE E HOLLOWAY - ROCKDALE, TX
 VICTOR HORADAM - DALLAS, TX
 JEFFERSON D HOWELL - HOUSTON, TX
 MARJORIE K HUNT - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
 LOREN F KAHLE JR - AUSTIN, TX
 LISA KAHN - HOUSTON, TX
 ANNA KAHN - HOUSTON, TX
 RON KALTEYER - DALLAS, TX
 INGRID E KOKINDA - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 MR & MRS WILLIAM P KOPPELLMAN - AUSTIN, TX
 PATRICIA A KUENTZ - GOLDEN VALLEY, MN
 IRENE M LANGEHENNIG - KATY, TX
 INGRID G LANSFORD - GEORGETOWN, TX
 MR & MRS LEONARD C LARSON - PORT ARTHUR, TX
 OSBERT LASSBERG JR - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 RENATE LEONARD - SPICEWOOD, TX
 ERNEST E LUDWIG - BATON ROUGE, LA
 HELGA M MARTIN - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 VAN D MASSIRER - CRAWFORD, TX
 MARGARETE S MASSON - HOUSTON, TX
 NELSON T MECKEL - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 CAROLYN MEINERS - LA GRANGE, TX
 JULIA MELLEBRUCH - AUSTIN, TX
 DORIS R MELLOR - GEORGETOWN, TX
 CHRISTINE H MILLS - MANOR, TX
 LEROY F NAGEL - AUSTIN, TX
 MRS JOE W NEAL - AUSTIN, TX
 DR & MRS F MURPHY NELSON - AUSTIN, TX
 GUNTHER NOELTING - AUSTIN, TX
 DORIS OBSTA - VICTORIA, TX
 PAT PARMA - RICHMOND, TX
 PATSY A PATTERSON - HOUSTON, TX
 THOMAS E PAWEL - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 LESLIE A PFEIL - PORT LAVACA, TX
 PAULINE PHILLIPS - YOAKUM, TX
 LEO & SHIRLEY PHILLIPUS - HOUSTON, TX
 CELESTE PRITCHARD - AUSTIN, TX
 MARY HELEN QUINN - AUSTIN, TX
 MARY S QUINN - AUSTIN, TX
 ALTON J RAHE - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 RICHARD A REEDER - BALLINGER, TX
 MR & MRS ROBERT L RENKER - TEMPLE, TX
 DOROTHY J RICHTER - AUSTIN, TX
 DONNA MAE RICKARD - COULEE DAM, WA
 FLORENCE K RIEDEL - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 CLAUD H & DORIS ROHLFS - MEDINA, TX
 BARBARA L RUDD - AMARILLO, TX
 BETTY A SCHMALZ - KATY, TX
 RODNEY D SCHMIDT - AUSTIN, TX
 JOHN SCHNEIDER - AUSTIN, TX
 MARIE GRACE SCHROEDER - SEGUIN, TX
 CARL W SCHUMACHER JR - HOUSTON, TX
 CARROLL & DOROTHEA SCHULZE SHADDOCK -
 HOUSTON, TX
 HERTA SOKOLYK - KERRVILLE, TX
 ANNA MARIE SPEIR - AUSTIN, TX
 MARCELLA D SPILLER - AUSTIN, TX
 ANNETTE STACHOWITZ - AUSTIN, TX
 PHILIP L STERZING - AUSTIN, TX
 JOHN M STOEBNER - TEMPLE, TX
 ALEVA & BOB STUIFBERGEN - AUSTIN, TX
 DR & MRS KENNETH TIEMANN - AUSTIN, TX
 WENDEL G VOIGT - PFLUGERVILLE, TX
 PAUL E VON DONOP - WASHINGTON, DC
 DALE VON ROSENBERG - GEORGETOWN, TX
 HANS & HELGA VON SCHWEINITZ - AUSTIN, TX
 RONALD G WALTHER - AUSTIN, TX
 JEAN KELLY WARNEKE - AUSTIN, TX
 EDWARD L WEEREN - AUSTIN, TX
 FLO & J R WEIERSHAUSEN - AUSTIN, TX
 ERICH WENDEL - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
 MONA B WENDTLAND - SHINER, TX
 LUCY WILKE - AUSTIN, TX
 MARSHAL R WILKE - DALLAS, TX
 WALTER & VELMA WILLIAMS - YOAKUM, TX
 DOUGLAS WIXSON - AUSTIN, TX

STUDENT (\$25-\$49)

DR & MRS CHARLES F ADKINS JR - BEAUMONT, TX
 EMMETT & DOROTHY ALBRECHT - PORT LAVACA, TX
 MR & MRS JACK C ALLEN - RICHARDSON, TX
 MR & MRS LEROY A ANDERSON - AUSTIN, TX
 DORIS ANDERSON - CARTHAGE, TX
 ANITA W AUSTIN - AUSTIN, TX
 MARGARET BAACKE - AUSTIN, TX
 BRUCE W BARRICK - AUSTIN, TX
 MYRTLE BARTELS - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 EDITH B BEAIRD - ABILENE, TX
 FRED BECKERMAN - BRENHAM, TX
 JANE B BENSON - DALLAS, TX
 RACHEL E BESSENT - AUSTIN, TX
 HANS CHRISTIAN BOAS - AUSTIN, TX
 DR EDITH F BONDI - HOUSTON, TX
 HELEN M BOWNS - AUSTIN, TX
 JOAN & BERNIE BURZLAFF - BURLESON, TX
 DORIS BUTLER - AUSTIN, TX
 ETHEL & BARNEY CANION - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 SAM CHRISCO - AUSTIN, TX
 MABLE E CONNALLY - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 MABEL B CONNALLY - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 RALPH L COOK - CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
 WILLIAM C CROSS - LAKELAND, FL
 DR RICHARD D CULBERTSON - FT WORTH, TX
 JULIUS E & RUBY E DE VOS - MASON, TX
 RAY & AMELIA DENNIS - AUSTIN, TX
 AUDREY ANN DERR - COLUMBUS, TX
 MARJORIE MEYER DRAEHN - BRENHAM, TX
 PEGGY DUDERSTADT - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 DR CHRIS EASLEY - AUSTIN, TX
 PETER W ELLIS - AUSTIN, TX
 DIETER H ENDER - HOUSTON, TX
 DR & MRS ERSEK - AUSTIN, TX
 FRAN FLOOD - TEMPLE, TX
 MARION M FREEMAN - HOUSTON, TX
 V O FRITZE - GARDEN RIDGE, TX
 MR & MRS OTTO L FUCHS JR - CARMINE, TX
 BOBBY & DEE FULBRIGHT - HEBBRONVILLE, TX
 MRS CHARLES R GARRETT - AUSTIN, TX
 INGRID GLENNON - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 ROBERT W GLOVER - AUSTIN, TX
 PATSY GOEBEL - CUERO, TX
 THERESA G GOLD - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 HENRY E GRAALFS - AUSTIN, TX
 HELEN & GENE GREEN - HOUSTON, TX
 JOAN GRIGGS - HOUSTON, TX
 MARY GUGGISBERT - VERNON, TX
 GLENN & MARCELLA HADELER - AUSTIN, TX
 DIANE HAIGHT - PFLUGERVILLE, TX
 LOUIS & JOYCINE HANATH - CHAPPEL HILL, TX
 CLAUDIA B HARREL - KINGSVILLE, TX
 LISA J HARRIS - AUSTIN, TX
 JOHN HARTMANN - EL PASO, TX
 DIRK HEINEN - AUSTIN, TX
 HERBERT C HERTEL - McLEAN, VA
 ELIZABETH NITSCHKE HICKS - HOUSTON, TX
 ORA LEE HOFFMAN - POTEET, TX
 DAVID S HOLLAND - AUSTIN, TX
 CHARLENE HURTA - ANGLETON, TX
 ETHEL H JOERG - CHULA, GA

BETTY SCHMIDT JOHNSON - COMFORT, TX
 ABIGAIL JOHNSON - TAYLOR, TX
 EVALYN KRUGER JURGENS - AUSTIN, TX
 MORRIS & CLARICE KLINGEMAN - AUSTIN, TX
 MR & MRS ALLAN C KLOESS - GRAND PRAIRIE, TX
 ROBERT & LA VERNE KNEZEK - ARLINGTON, TX
 RUBY P KNOTSON - FREDERICKSBURG, TX
 DR & MRS MICHAEL F KOEHL - HUNTSVILLE, TX
 MR & MRS JERRY KOEHN - PORT LAVACA, TX
 JOHN H KOTHMANN - FREDERICKSBURG, TX
 ADOLPH A KREMEL - AUSTIN, TX
 BONNIE KUYKENDALL - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 SHARON MAJORS - AUSTIN, TX
 LEWIS & DONA REEVES-MARQUARDT - AUSTIN, TX
 MR & MRS MICHAEL A MATTERN - HOUSTON, TX
 DOUGLAS MEED - ROUND ROCK, TX
 M ELIZABETH METTING - AUSTIN, TX
 FRED H & HEDDA MEYER - HOCKLEY, TX
 DOROTHY E MEYER - VICTORIA, TX
 KARL & LUCY MICKLITZ - BROOKSHIRE, TX
 HELEN J MILLER - WACO, TX
 CHRISTINE MILLS - MANOR, TX
 BERTHA MINOR - AUSTIN, TX
 DOROTHY MYSKA - ROSENBERG, TX
 LEONARD A NEIDINGER - HOUSTON, TX
 MARY JEAN NEUSE - GONZALES, TX
 HELEN NOVOSAD - BURNET, TX
 BERTIE OWEN - AUSTIN, TX
 FRED & JANET OWEN - AUSTIN, TX
 GEORGE & MERVA PANKRATZ - BOERNE, TX
 MIRIAM PARRIS - AUSTIN, TX
 W GASTON PARSONS - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 R R PASEMAN - HOUSTON, TX
 PATSY A PATTERSON - HOUSTON, TX
 ALVERA K PESCHKA - AUSTIN, TX
 DORIS W PHILLIPS - MARBLE FALLS, TX
 LEO & SHIRLEY PHILLIPUS - HOUSTON, TX
 JENEVIEVE PIEL - CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
 DR BARBARA V PINO - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 ERNA POMYKAL - BRENHAM, TX
 KATHLEEN POPE - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 MERLE E PRINZ - GEORGETOWN, TX
 EMYLIE LOU GOERLITZ PULLIAM - AUSTIN, TX
 CHRISTA J RABAGO - AUSTIN, TX
 HELENE REICH - AUSTIN, TX
 KATHLEEN REIMANN - VICTORIA, TX
 BOB & JUDY RENKER - TEMPLE, TX
 E A RIEDEL - CARMINE, TX
 FERDYNE K RITTMANN - MARION, TX
 ARTHUR E RODE - FREDERICKSBURG, TX
 MARIE ROESSING - AUSTIN, TX
 GERHILD B ROGERS - AUSTIN, TX
 CHARLES MATHIAS ROHRBACH - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 ANNA ROSE - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 JOYCELYN H RUDELOFF - SAN ANTONIO, TX
 CARL F. & ETHEL SAUR - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 RUTH G SAWYER - GEORGETOWN, TX
 VIRGINIA DAVIE SCARBOROUGH - RICHMOND, TX
 MINNIE B SCHLORTT - KNIPPA, TX
 DOROTHY SCHMEIDER - NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
 REV B C SCHMIDT - AUSTIN, TX

STUDENT (\$25-\$49) - continued

ERBEN W & JOSIE P SCHULDT - BEAUMONT, TX
IVAN D SCHULTZ - SAN ANTONIO, TX
JOHN F SHAW - AUSTIN, TX
DR MARIE SHULTZ - AUSTIN, TX
MRS SAMUEL E SIMS - HOUSTON, TX
HERTA SOKOLYK - KERRVILLE, TX
SUZANNE SUCHTYA - LAKEWAY, TX
PAUL & GUDRUM SUNDQUIST - SPRING, TX
VIC SWAN - AUSTIN, TX
ERIC & CAROLYN THOMPSON - AUSTIN, TX
ROBERT & VICTORIA THONHOFF - KARNES CITY, TX
BETTY ELIZABETH TRAUOGOTT - SAN ANTONIO, TX
JERALD UECKER - SPRING BRANCH, TX
MR & MRS LESTER A WARREN - ROUND ROCK, TX

MR & MRS MARVIN SCHWAUSCH - ROUND ROCK, TX
LORE A SENSENEY - SAN ANTONIO, TX
VICKI EHLERS WATTS - GEORGETOWN, TX
AL WEBER - AUSTIN, TX
WALTER WENDLANDT - AUSTIN, TX
JAMES C WERCHAN - AUSTIN, TX
MAX J WERKENTHIN - AUSTIN, TX
MARSHAL R WILKE - DALLAS, TX
RONALD WILKINSON - AUSTIN, TX
WILSON WINDLE - HOUSTON, TX
NOBERT H WITTNER - AUSTIN, TX
JOHN & MARGARET YEAMAN - AUSTIN, TX
ALMA M ZEISSEL - SANTA FE, NM
FRED L ZELLNER - FREDERICKSBURG, TX

**THIS IS TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO HOLD LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS
IN GTHS AND TO SAY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !**

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM O. HEATON

ANITA LACY JOHNSON

DR. & MRS. R.A. NEELY

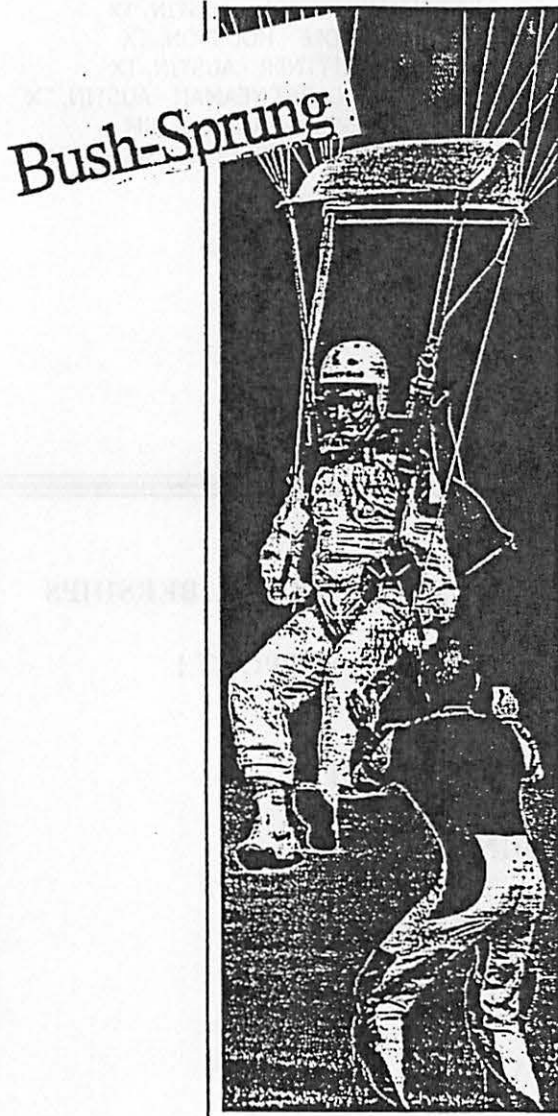
HERTHA L. SCOTT

ANNE STEWART

MRS. HELEN TRENCKMANN

MIRIAM YORK

Rolf Durst of Dettenhausen, Germany, sent this news clip from a German newspaper to his American relation, GTHS member, Nelson Durst, who submitted it to the Journal along with an English translation.



Der frühere US-Präsident George Bush hat den dritten Fallschirmsprung seines Lebens gewagt. Ganz in weiß gekleidet, schwebte Bush, der am Samstag 75 Jahre alt wird, mehrere Minuten zur Erde, bevor er sanft auf dem Rasen der nach ihm benannten George-Bush-Bibliothek in College Station (US-Bundesstaat Texas) landete. Zum ersten Mal war Bush als Soldat im Zweiten Weltkrieg mit dem Fallschirm gesprungen, das zweite Mal im März 1997 im US-Staat Arizona. (Bild: ap)

The former President of the United States, George Bush, parachuted from an airplane for the third time in his life. Dressed in white clothing, Bush, who will be 75 years of age on Saturday, was in the air for more minutes before he landed safely on the grounds of the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station (State of Texas in the U.S.). His first parachute jump was as a soldier during World War II, the second time was in March 1997 in the State of Arizona, U.S.

**Bun there,
done that**

SAN ANTONIO
EXPRESS-NEWS
WEDNESDAY
MAY 16, 2001

When did the hot dog get its start?

Way back in 1400 BC in Babylon, according to Wienerschnitzel, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. By the way, hot dogs sold for a whopping 15 cents back in 1961 when the hot dog chain opened its doors.

The company says the average American eats 60 hot dogs a year — that breaks down to 550 hot dogs eaten every second of the day nationwide.

What is the most requested topping at Wienerschnitzel, which sells more hot dogs than anyone else in the world?

Chili.

And, if you think that once upon a time, there was more to the company's name than there is now, you're right. For the first 17 years, Wienerschnitzel was known as Der Wienerschnitzel. The "Der" was dropped in 1978.

submitted by Rodney Koenig
from the Hermann Sons News, March 2002

New Bern member earns two prestigious awards

LUBBOCK – A 48-year member of Hermann Sons has received two awards in recognition of her work to strengthen the bond between Germany and America.

Meredith McClain, a Texas Tech associate professor of German, traveled to Duesseldorf, Germany, last fall to accept the Lucius Clay medal from the Federation of German-American Clubs. The medal is presented annually to someone who has strengthened the bond between the two countries.

In February of this year she was presented the Cross of the Order of Merit of Germany by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany. The merit recognizes individuals who have demonstrated service in the areas of political, economic, social and intellectual work.

McClain, a member of New Bern Lodge No. 173 since June of 1953, is only the second woman in the world to receive the Lucius Clay medal which was established in 1980, two years after Gen. Lucius Clay died. According to McClain, Gen. Clay saved West Berlin and symbolically saved West Germany with his airlift in 1948.



Meredith McClain

The Georgetown Sun listed some of her many successes in bringing Americans and Germans together. They include teaching East Germans English after reunification in 1990, establishing one of the first American University of German language summer programs for U.S. students in former East Germany, lectures on her studies to many German audiences, and serving as state chair of the Texas Germany Sesquicentennial Committee from 1985-86.

Her recent work about the popular German author Karl May is perhaps her most publicized accomplishment. Although May visited the United

States only once, never stepping foot in the West, he wrote 80 fantasy novels chronicling the adventures of "Old Shatterhand," a German frontiersman and "Winnetou," a Mescalero Apache chieftan, set in the Llano Estacado region which includes Dr. McClain's current home in Lubbock.

Her exhibit on Germans in the Llano Estacado area has recently toured the state and is being prepared for a tour of Germany. She is currently working on a larger exhibit which will include panels on Germans from other areas of Texas.

Dr. McClain says she has fond memories of lodge meetings. "My father, Will Kelly McClain, was a lawyer and politician, so even though we are Scotch-Irish, he was a staunch member of New Bern Lodge. My mother, Rosamond, who just passed away at 93 was about to receive her 60-year pin.

"I remember the look and, especially, the smell of the big, old and very dark lodge building which stood, I think, in an open country field. The men gathered under a shed in the mild months around a keg of beer while the women and children were in the hall with coffee and cake. There

was polka dancing and I got to go around the hall on the shoes of my dad, getting the wonderful

rhythm and his love of dancing infused right into my little whirling feet."

**Dr. Meredith McClain is a GTHS member
and serves on the GTHS Board of Directors**

Germany honors Texas Tech educator

Germany has awarded Meredith McClain, assistant professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, the Cross of the Order of Merit of Germany for her role in creating awareness of Germany's links to Texas, German Consul General in Houston Hanno Von Graevenitz said Sunday.

Von Graevenitz presented the award to McClain, who is from Lubbock, in a special ceremony Friday in Houston.

The official German award is generally given to people who perform a service for Germany. McClain was chosen for her role in "helping Germans to better understand Texas and Texan-Germans to understand their heritage," a statement from the consulate said.

McClain teaches German literature at Texas Tech and is also an expert on the history of the immigration of Germans to Texas. Speaking at the ceremony, McClain explained that although she was not of German ancestry, her parents exposed her as a child to the German culture that thrived in Texas.

Germans first started immigrating to Texas in the early 1800s, fleeing political turbulence, police espionage and harsh economic times in their homeland.

Initially, most of the German immigrants settled in a fragmented belt across southwest Texas, forming entire towns. They later formed clusters in other parts of Texas. A 1990 U.S. census said 2.9 million people in Texas claimed either pure or partial German ancestry.

McClain is an active member of the Austin-based German-Texan Heritage Society, which works to promote awareness of, and to preserve, Texas' German heritage. Among her noted activities is an exhibition she put together that chronicles the German immigration. The collection of original letters, documents and photographs is currently on a tour through Texas and Germany.

McClain participated in the establishment of an English-language summer school in eastern Germany immediately after its reunification with western Germany. In Texas, McClain last year organized a widely attended symposium on German author Karl May, whose adventure stories have been favorites among German children for more than 200 years.

Last year, the Lucius Clay Association bestowed her with the Lucius Clay Medal in recognition of her work in German studies. Both the award and the group are named for the American general who initiated the 1948 Berlin Airlift, an operation that broke through a Soviet blockade to bring food and other supplies to Berliners.

submitted by
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sundquist

from
Houston Chronicle
February 25, 2002

Houston's International Scene

By MAE GHALWASH
Special to the Chronicle

Tech Professor Guest Speaker At Chamber Feed

Dr. Meredith McClain, associate professor of German in the department of classical and modern languages and literatures at Texas Tech University, will be the featured speaker at the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Friday, March 8.

The banquet will begin with a social at 6:30 p.m. at Pioneer Pavilion in Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park.

The theme for this year's banquet is "Education in the Hill Country" with the establishment of a university consortium led by Texas Tech University. Classes will begin at the University Center in May.

Dr. McClain was the recent recipient of the Cross of the Order of Merit of Germany for her service in the areas of political, economic, social and intellectual work. She received the

award in Houston last month from the Consul General of the Republic of Germany.

Last year, Dr. McClain received the Lucius Clay Award, named after the World War II

submitted by
Sherryl Brown

from
Fredericksburg
Standard-Radio Post
March 7, 2002

continued next page →

American commander in Berlin. It is presented to persons who have contributed to strong German American relations.

Her comments Friday will focus on the newly-created relationship with Texas Tech University and the Hill Country and the tremendous potential a campus of higher learning will have on this region.

In addition to the focus on education and the Texas Tech Hill Country University Consortium, the chamber honors several businesses, individuals or organizations for their business success and volunteer spirit.

Each year, the chamber honors the Chamber Man of the Year, Chamber Woman of the Year and Public Servant of the Year. A Community Achievement and Student Community Achievement Award is also given.

In 2001, Ollie Schaetter of Schaetter's Funeral Home was named the Chamber Man of the Year and Donna Mittel of Gästehaus Schmidt Reservation Service was named the Chamber Woman of the Year.

Also, Preferences, Crenwelge Motor Sales, Jenschke Furniture, Fredericksburg Food and Wine Fest, Fritz Broadcasting, Partain Photographs, Becker



Dr. Meredith McClain

Vineyards, Country Peddler Show, Mamacita's Restaurant, Community Education, Hill Country Music, Dooley's, Wonder Haus, Security State Bank and Trust, The Christmas Store, The Birdhaus and the City of Fredericksburg.

Also, Tranquil Pastures Day Spa, Wildseed Farms, Gillespie County Officials, Gästehaus Schmidt, Kleider Schrank, Edward Jones Investments and Behrends Feed and Fertilizer.

The Public Servant Award went to Hill Country Memorial Hospice and Larry Nevels of the Gillespie County Economic Development Commission received the Community Achievement Award.

Kyle Woerner received the Student Community Achievement Award and received a \$500 scholarship funded by the chamber and the Fredericksburg Academic Boosters.

The Public Servant Award is sponsored by Knopp and Metzger and the Student Achievement Award is sponsored by the Fredericksburg Optimist Club.

A silent auction and musical entertainment will also be part of the program.

Businesses who have donated items for the silent auction include Bell Mountain Vineyards, Texas Rock Art, Dodds Nursery, Enchanted Earth, Shearer Publishing, Der Küchen Laden, Comfort Inn, James Fox Photography, The Secret Garden, Granite and Iron Store, Gypsy Wagon, James Avery Craftsman, Cross Mountain Stitchery, Fredericksburg Inn and Suites, Creative Marketing, Horstman and Company, Fredericksburg Carriage Company, Quantum Components and the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

German classes thriving

Recruitment tactics working for teachers

By **KATIE MENZER**
Plano Bureau

Plano Senior High School German teacher Beth Smith is campaigning, and she's not

above using bribery if it will improve her odds for success.

On Valentine's Day, Ms. Smith raffled stuffed animals to non-German language students who would walk in her class and say, "*Küss mich, ich spreche Deutsch.*" In other words, "Kiss me, I speak German."

The tactic is just one the veteran Plano teacher has used during the last quarter-century to draw students into taking German.

"I like people to remember we're around," Ms. Smith said as a group of her students prepared for a German folk dancing practice she organizes after school. A

submitted by
Charles Clinger

from
Dallas Morning News
February 20, 2002

continued next page

continued from previous page

though I'm not sure anyone could forget us with all the noise we make."

German teachers such as Ms. Smith are always working to remind administrators, academic counselors and students that, despite record enrollment in Spanish classes, German is holding its own. And they are not failing, according to officials with the American Association of Teachers of German.

Healthy enrollment

Nationwide, the percentage of students enrolled in German seems to be steady, if not increasing, even with the surge in Spanish.

In 1994, the most recent year for which figures were available, about 6 percent of foreign language students took German, compared with 65 percent for Spanish and 22 percent for French, according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

And, according to preliminary results from a 2000 study, German is increasing in popularity in 10 states.

"The numbers are increasing," said Donna Van Handle, president of the association and a German professor at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. "There are some areas of the country where they can't find German teachers."

Of the about 10,000 foreign language students in Plano schools, 400 study German, 7,500 are in Spanish and 1,900 take French. Latin classes have 360 students.

According to the Texas Education Agency, there were 16,729 Texas students studying German in grades six to 12 last year.

Even though they're a minority, Plano's German students are hard to ignore.

Ms. Smith's students practice German folk dancing twice each week and perform at area events and schools. The students wear traditional German dress as well, with the girls in folk dresses and the boys in lederhosen.

The Plano district has earned a reputation as a German language powerhouse, regularly taking sweepstakes prizes at state competitions. Every inch of spare cupboard space in Ms. Smith's room is filled with trophies from various events, including spelling contests, poetry recitation, puppet shows and one-act plays.

"They are always very well-prepared," said Evelyn Saucier, German teacher at Westwood High in Round Rock, which won the sweepstakes award for large schools at last year's state competition.

Ms. Saucier said Plano is one of Westwood's biggest competitors.

"They have a very good program and have kept it up for years," she said.

Ms. Smith said that reaching beyond vocabulary tests and verb conjugation charts ensures that her students will stick with the language and draw their friends into the classes.

"When they work together in and outside of class, they develop unity and bonding," Ms. Smith said. "They stay in German."

German language is holding strong in schools for many reasons, Dr. Van Handle said.

Program benefits

Some students want to explore a language outside their school's traditional Spanish offerings, and others appreciate the smaller class sizes often found in German departments. Students who speak German also can earn scholarships or enroll in exchange programs that allow them to travel to Europe.

And German culture can be a kid magnet.

"It just sounds really cool to say the Pledge of Allegiance in German," said Plano Senior High School student Peter Daniels, who said he opted for German so he could learn to speak to some of his German relatives. "German students are a different breed, apart from the rest," he said.

Proponents of German classes also point out that knowledge of the language can help students on college entrance exams. After all, English is a Germanic language.

But entrance exams were the last thing on the minds of Ms. Smith's students as they practiced their folk dancing. They are in training for the state German competition this weekend.

"You haven't yodeled at all," Ms. Smith said as she watched her students twirl. "Remember, that will help you during the competition."

**German language classes
continue to draw students**

*"The numbers are increasing.
There are some areas of the
country where they can't find
German teachers."*

Donna Van Handle, American
Association of Teachers of
German president

Texan Playing German Baseball

By Charles Eckert

Michael Eckert of Seguin is in southern Germany playing professional baseball with the Heidenheim Heidekopfe team. He and roommate Aaron Merhoff of Klamath Falls, Oregon, left San Antonio in mid-March and are playing during the season which is completed during October.

Michael and Aaron were in Mason in March for Grandmother Marie Eckert's 90th birthday and then left for Stuttgart, Germany, and on to Heidenheim.

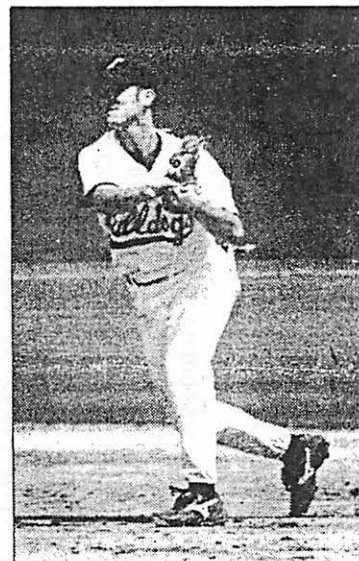
Eckert grew up in Brenham, Texas where he began playing baseball as a child, and graduated from Brenham High School in 1993. His parents, Rev. Charles Eckert served as Lutheran pastor in the area and his mother, Nita Eckert was an English teacher and high school guidance counselor. He played college baseball for two years with the McMurry University Indians of Abilene, Texas, playing for Coach Druggers formerly of Brenham. He completed his college baseball with the Texas Lutheran Bulldogs, Seguin where he played with Aaron Merhoff.

Michael is a graduate of Texas Lutheran where he served as a student baseball coach for one sea-

son, then as assistant baseball coach of the infield for two years. He is currently completing his Master's Degree in exercise science at Southwest Texas in San Marcos.

During the winter Eckert and Merhoff signed up with the Heidekoepfe Firemen since the German league allows two foreigners on each team, both to play and to coach. Aaron Merhoff played two summers with the minor league Phillies teams and received an invitation to play ball in Germany. Eckert pitches three innings a game and plays short-stop. Merhoff plays first base and in the outfield and is considered the team's "power hitter". The team plays in Munich and Regensburg, Bavaria, Tuebingen, Mainz, Saarlouis, Herrenberg, and Mannheim, and later in the season there will be tournaments in France and Sweden. Spring training during March was in Florence, Italy, just over the Alps. Both boys

who are single are enjoying their hitch in Heidenheim on the Wurttemberg-Bavarian border. It is mountainous and a cool climate. They will travel throughout Europe during breaks from playing during the summer.



Michael Eckert

Last summer the two boys were "stand-ins" during the filming of the Disney movie, "The Rookie" in the Austin-Round Rock area. Both are in several scenes in the outfield and playing on the team, as well as playings signing on for "tryouts". Both are in the scene with Dennis Quaid as he "signs up". Merhoff signs, then walks off; Eckert is in a Texas Lutheran uniform standing behind Quaid as "The Rookie" signs up.

Michael is the youngest son of Rev. H. Charles and Nita Eckert of Shiner, both graduates of Texas Lutheran University in 1961. Michael is a good friend of Jeremy Fikac of Shiner who pitches for the Padres this year. The boys stay in touch by phone each week.

submitted by H. Charles Eckert

from the Mason County News, May 1, 2002

GTHS member, H. Charles Eckert, and his wife (parents of Michael Eckert in the story above), plan a summer trip to Germany. They also plan to visit the Reverend Robert and Mary Ann Pfennig of New Braunfels. Pfennig arrived in Wittenberg (Martin Luther country) May 2, 2002, to serve three months as pastoral assistant in Wittenberg.

The American Dream

A German immigrant's journey to the United States comes full circle

BY EDWARD SOUTHERLAND
HERALD DEMOCRAT

It started as a mystery, a notation at the bottom of an old christening document. Monika Zauk Markgraf and husband Manfred, of the small German village of Mittweida, were working on a genealogical history of the Zauk family when they saw that attending the ceremony, almost a century before, was B. H. Zauk, from Sherman, Texas, here in North America.

Monika had never heard of any relatives in America, so the pair set out to see what they could find. Manfred wrote a letter to the city of Sherman that fell into the hands of Karen Kaiser of the Sherman Public Library. She recognized the Texas connection.

Kaiser wrote to the German Zauks, sending a variety of material and, most importantly, the name of an American Zauk — Margaret Ann Collins, nee Binkley, whose mother was Clara Matilda Zauk.

Collins' son, William (Bill) Wheat Collins III, took it up from there. "I wrote them back and said 'Yes, we are here, we still exist and we are Collins now.'"

The figure that connected these fourth cousins' separated by a century and an ocean is Bruno Heinrich Zauk; and whose life was, in many ways, a blueprint of the classic American dream.

Zauk was born in Mittweida in 1857 and came to America as a 16-year-old, alone in a new world. He worked for a while in a New York City cigar factory where he learned a trade and in 1878, after stops in Missouri and Kansas, moved to Sherman.

With money saved from his stint in New York, Zauk opened a cigar store and soon business was smoking. He produced the North Texas Belle, and sales of the cigar were so brisk that he soon moved into a two-story building between the Merchant & Planters Bank and the elegant Binkley Hotel on Travis Street.

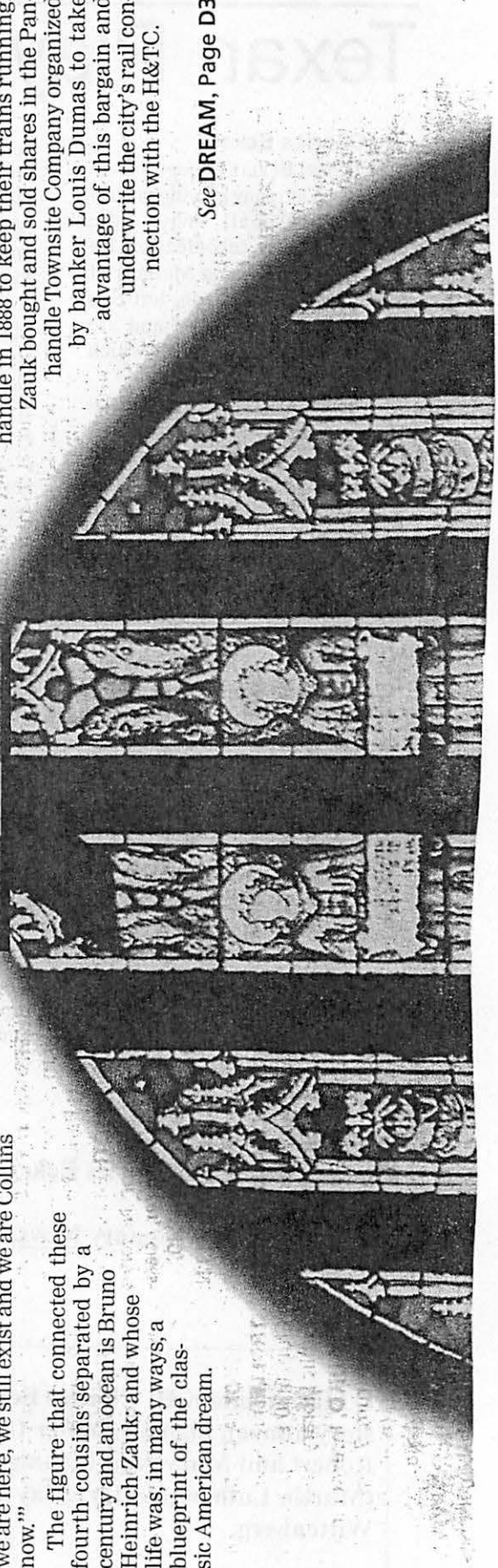
From the tobacco business, Zauk expanded his interests, becoming Sherman's agent for the North German Lloyd Steamship Line and the New York, Baltimore & Galveston Line.

Zauk was a land speculator; buying and selling property in the Indian Territory north of the Red River, and in West Texas along the right-of-way of the Texas & Pacific Railway.

One of Sherman's rail carriers, the Houston & Texas Central, was forced to sell land in the Panhandle in 1888 to keep their trains running.

Zauk bought and sold shares in the Panhandle Townsite Company organized by banker Louis Dumas to take advantage of this bargain and underwrite the city's rail connection with the H&TC.

See DREAM, Page D3



← submitted by W. H. Wackwitz

from the Sherman Herald Democrat, March 29, 2002

DREAM: *comes full circle in Sherman*

from Page D1

In 1902, a block of this land in Moore County became the town of Dumas. Streets named Birge, Binkley, Gunby, Miller, Wheat and Zauk attest to that city's Sherman lineage.

In 1880, he sent for his widowed mother back in Germany and she joined him in Sherman. In 1883, Zauk married Margarethe Hanson, a native of Denmark who had come to Sherman with her two brothers several years earlier. The three-piece Victorian bedroom suite Zauk bought his new bride is the foundation of the exhibits offered at the Museum of American Victorian Furniture in Sherman.

Mrs. Zauk had joined the Presbyterian Church in Sherman, but her daughter, Clara, born in 1889, had become an Episcopalian. When the St. Stephens Episcopal Church started laying plans for a new building around the turn of the last century, Zauk agreed to provide a stained glass window for the north wall of the

sanctuary.

The family sailed for Europe to tour the continent, visit Germany and see to the design and manufacture of the presentation window. In mid-trip, Zauk was called away to Mexico on urgent business involving a gold mine investment.

Successfully resolving the crisis, and with a handsome profit in his pocket, he returned to Germany, gathered his family, who had been staying with relatives, and came home. The window he had commissioned was finished, and shipped to Texas for installation in the church.

The window, with the names of Zauk's father, mother and sister inscribed in the three panels, is one of Sherman's enduring artistic treasures. In a way, it is a tribute to the legions of immigrants from around the world who found a new life in the new world. B. H. Zauk died in 1919.

Zauk's daughter, Clara married James Binkley in the church in 1911, the first mar-

riage illuminated by the light from the Zauk windows. Clara's daughter, Margaret Binkley, married William W. Collins, Jr. and their son Bill, through his correspondence with his German cousins, has brought the story full circle.

For the German relatives, Monika and Manfred, the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany opened the way for their reunification with their Texas relatives. Visiting Sherman and Fort Worth over the last week, they have been to the rodeo, bought a cowboy hat to take home and had their picture made in William Collins' 1976 Cadillac convertible.

The latter request grew out of a fascination with the adventures of J.R. Ewing. Yes, the TV show "Dallas" is an ongoing, prime-time hit these days in Germany and many people's perceptions of the Lone Star State derive, for better or worse, from that show. That being the case, a trip to South Fork Ranch was also high on the visitors' agenda.

← The picture on the opposite page is of Bruno Heinrich Zauk. Below his picture is shown part of the large stained glass window Zauk commissioned for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sherman. The window is a triptych, the sections of which read "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Carl Heinrich Zauk, Mrs. Wilhemine Zauk, Mrs. Augusta Clara Henson."

submitted by Sherryl Brown
from the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, March 20, 2002

Music Festival Singing Praises Of Native Son

Tech Musicians, Vocalists Joining Local Choirs In Paying Tribute To Frank Van Der Stucken

Singers and musicians from Texas Tech University – both faculty and alumni – will join local choirs in celebrating the life of Fredericksburg-born composer Frank van der Stucken and the opening of the Texas Tech Hill Country University Center campus in Fredericksburg at the 2002 Van Der Stucken Music Festival Friday.

The program begins in Fredericksburg High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. and is free with no reserved seating.

Any donations made at the door will go toward developing a music scholarship at the Texas Tech Hill Country University Center.

The Music Department and the Department of German at Texas Tech's Lubbock campus, along with the Fredericksburg High School Choir and the German Heritage Commission of Fredericksburg have ar-

anged a varied program to celebrate the opening of the Texas Tech campus in Fredericksburg.

A special appearance is planned by the Bel Canto Chorus, the Varsity Treble Choir and the Varsity Mixed Choir at Fredericksburg High School, directed by Laurie Jenschke

Friday, March 22
FHS Auditorium
7:30 p.m. -- Free

and accompanied by Brent Ault.

More than 30 singers and musicians from Texas Tech will present an array of music styles and repertoires, in the way that Frank van der Stucken presented his pop or variety festivals. The man for whom the festival is named

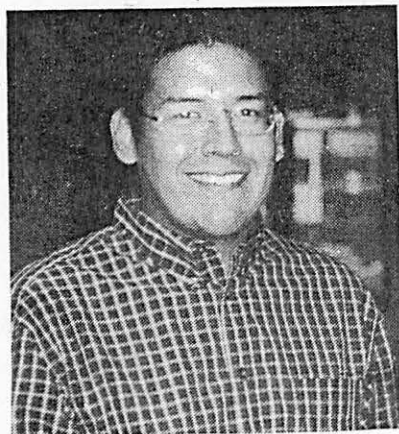
was a late 19th and early 20th century composer who was born in Fredericksburg.

"Van der Stucken would be delighted with the diversity and qualities of music which will be presented by so many seasoned artists at this year's unique concert," the festival's music director Dr. Larry Wolz of Hardin-Simmons University said.

Jazz entertainer and recording artist Carla Hembrecht of San Francisco, a Texas Tech alumnae, and her husband, contemporary jazz pianist and keyboardist Peter Horvath, will perform for the concert.

Also spotlighted will be mezzo-soprano soloist Sue Arnold, a member of the voice faculty at Texas Tech. Her repertoire will also include two songs written by Frank van der Stucken.

Cont. on A4



Festival performers:(left to right) Rodney Montes, Rebecca Babb and Anthony Britten

Music Festival

Cont. from A1

Miss Arnold has been featured in festivals worldwide and has performed with Robert Shaw, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copeland and others. She will sing two Van der Stucken pieces as well as one by Franz Schubert.

The Faculty Jazz Quintet of Texas Tech will also be featured at the concert.

The Texas Tech University String Quartet will present a Franz Schubert feature. In the group are Susan Baer, Alexander Ezerman, Mark Neumann and Paul Sharpe.

Ms. Baer, a violinist, is a freelance artist and teacher based in Lubbock who performs with several regional symphonies and is active as a chamber musician.

Sharpe, professor of double bass, was appointed to the faculty at Tech's School of Music in 1996 and is currently principal bass with the Lubbock Symphony.

Neumann, a Canadian native who studied at the Julliard School in New York, is principal viola with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra.

Ezerman, an artist and teacher of cello, won the MTNA national collegiate competition, the Kingsville International and the Crane School of Music's National New Music competition, along with being a finalist in several others.

Other singers and performers include soprano Rebecca Babb and tenor Rodney Montes, who

will sing pieces by Johann Strauss and Robert Schumann.

Pianists Lora Deahl and William Westney will be featured in two- and four-hand presentations.

Lora Deahl teaches piano and piano literature at Texas Tech, and was named Outstanding Collegiate Teacher of the Year by the Texas Music Teachers Association in 1995.

Pianist William Westney was the top piano prize-winner of the Geneva International Competition and has appeared on European television broadcasts and as a soloist with orchestras in Switzerland, Houston, San Antonio, Connecticut and more.

The Texas Tech Faculty Brass Quintet, with Will Streider and Laura Koning, trumpets; Anthony Brittin, horn; Don Lucas, trombone, and Kevin Wass, tuba, will also perform.

Larry Wolz's special rendition of "God Bless America" will precede a grand finale - Van der Stucken's "The Triumph of Peace", composed to celebrate the end of the Spanish-American War.

The audience will join with the musicians in singing the concluding song, "Now Thank We All Our God".

Dr. Meredith McClain of Texas Tech will talk about Van der Stucken's birth in Freder-

icksburg in 1858, and she will be assisted by her German students as she introduces the artists.

Frank van der Stucken showed his musical promise at an early age and caused his parents, Franzis and Barbara-Sophie Schoenewolf van der Stucken, to make plans for a return to the family's ancestral home in Antwerp, Belgium.

There the young Van der Stucken could learn from European masters. At age 16, his pieces for choir and orchestra were performed and the orchestral ballet he composed was presented in the Antwerp Royal Theatre.

In Leipzig he studied under Edvard Grieg and Carl Reinecke from 1876-78. In 1883, he was sponsored by Franz Liszt in directing the "Symphonic Prologue" he wrote for Heinrich Heine's "William Radcliffe."

He was named musical director of the prestigious Arion Music Society of New York in 1884 and took them on a concert across Europe in 1892. In 1895, he was persuaded by the First Lady, Mrs. William Howard Taft, to become the founding director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

He retired to Germany and died in Hamburg Aug. 19, 1929.

Two German officials were in Fredericksburg for the Van Der Stucken Music Festival. The Honorable Dr. Christoph Eichorn of the German Embassy in Washington, DC, along with Bernard Buecker of San Antonio, the Honorary German Consul for South Texas, and their wives, attended the March 20th program. Bernard ("Ben") Buecker is a member of the GTHS Board of Directors.

from Austin American-Statesman, April 1, 2002
submitted by Charles Kalteyer

Architect had a hand in the design of many Austin buildings

By JANET JACOBS
American-Statesman Staff

When he retired after 43 years in the architecture business, Howard Barr decided to develop some hobbies, so he took classes in watercolor and oil painting at the Lifetime Learning Institute. Shortly, he was serving on the board, and from there he became director, where he served for four years.

"He just went in to take a couple of painting classes," said his son Alan Barr, an Austin architect. "No matter what he's doing, it always seems like he ends up running everything."

Howard Barr, 92, a leader in business, architecture associations and numerous nonprofit and charitable organizations in Austin, died Sunday.

Barr received his architecture degree in 1934 from the University of Texas and began his own Austin practice in 1939.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, and he returned to architecture afterward.

His firm went through numerous partner changes, but Barr was always a

stable force and a mentor to a number of younger architects.

Jay Barnes, who eventually became a partner, was one of his protégés.

"He was a gentleman from the old school," Barnes said.

As an architect, Barr worked on a variety of Austin's "modern" style buildings, including the LBJ Library and the Sid Richardson building at UT and Brackenridge Hospital.

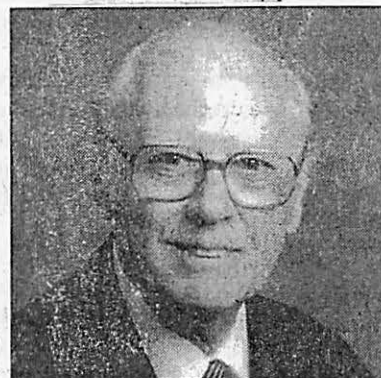
In an interview more than 20 years ago, Barr said people shouldn't consider modern as fantastic, cubist, angular monstrosities. True modern is simple, practical and functional and depends on proportion of line and texture for its beauty, he said.

Among his many titles, he was president of the Austin chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Texas Society of Architects.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret; his sister, Bernice Ragsdale; three sons; and one granddaughter.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at University United Methodist Church.

Howard Barr



Howard Barr was a member of the German-Texan Heritage Society

In 1939, he began the private practice of architecture but, with the U.S. entry into the World War, he became associated with Brown Shipbuilding Co. in the design of the shipyard and the construction of ships in Houston. Commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve in November 1942, he served in active duty for three years and later took inactive duty retirement with the rank of Lt. Commander.

Upon his return to civilian life he reopened his architectural office but shortly joined the firm of Giesecke, Kuehne and Brooks, Max Brooks being his former classmate and close friend. After Mr. Giesecke's death in 1950, the firm of Kuehne, Brooks and Barr was formed and it and its successor firms of Brooks and Barr and Brooks, Barr, Graeber & White (BBGW) became one of Austin's largest and best-known

firms. In addition to serving for five years as consulting architects for the University of Texas System, the firm, either singly or in joint venture with other firms, designed such buildings as the LBJ Library in Austin, the U.S. Embassy office building in Mexico City, the U.S. Labor Department Building in Washington, DC, the U.S. Federal Office and Post Office Building in Austin, the University of Texas Medical Schools in Houston and San Antonio, the Alan Shivers State Office Building in Austin, and research and medical facilities throughout the U.S. and in Panama and Puerto Rico.

One of the firm's most interesting projects was designing the original

complex of buildings for the Lyndon Baines Johnson Space Center (NASA) when even the scientists who were to develop the moon shots did not know what type of building they would need.

In 1972, BBGW merged with Houston architects and engineers to form 3D International and began a period of major planning of buildings and towns in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Emirates. Its most exciting project was the design of a summer palace for the King of Saudi Arabia.

In 1978, he retired from 3D-I and began a private consulting practice. Later he joined his son, Alan's architectural firm, White, Dolce and Barr, as a resident consultant, where he maintained his office until his death. Most of his consulting was pro bono work for his church, charitable organizations, and friends.

from San Antonio Express-News, January 25, 2002
submitted by Frances Heimer Copeland

150th celebration

Castroville's Zion
Evangelical Lutheran
to mark anniversary.

BY KATE HUNGER
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

CASTROVILLE — Generations have marked personal milestones within its walls, but this weekend the celebration will take on a larger scale as members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Castroville celebrate 150 years of worship and tradition.

Plans for the event have been three years in the making, anniversary committee member Erna Day said. A descendant of Franz Justus Wurzbach, one of the church's charter members, Day recalls sitting through German-language services as a child in the 1920s and 1930s. Her German wasn't stellar.

"I finally learned the Lord's Prayer," she chuckled, adding, "I can even remember when the men sat on one side of the church and the ladies on the other."

The church holds a special place in her heart.

"It's just been the center of my whole family's life," said Day, 81.

It's where she was baptized and confirmed — but not where she married. During World War II, she traveled to Boston to wed her fiancé, a doctor who was stationed in New England. They met while working at Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio.

Interest in the sesquicentennial is drawing former members and pastors back to the town, which was settled in 1844 by German-speakers



COURTESY PHOTO

A picture of the original stone building hangs inside Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

from the Alsace region. Many of the settlers in the group were Lutherans who set about founding a church.

They held services in each other's homes with a visiting pastor until they were able to establish the church in 1852 and secure the services of their first pastor, according to a history compiled by church member Myrtle Santleben. The church was Medina County's second, formed about eight years after St. Louis Catholic Church.

The original church, built with rock and timbers culled by members, was completed in 1854. It was demolished in 1939 to make room for the larger yellow brick church.

The making of Zion was typical of the time, said the Rev. Liz Stein, a pastor there from 1983 to 1986 who now leads a church in Missouri City.

"One of the very first things they do is start a church, and as soon as they could, there was a huge push to bring a pastor

from home," said Stein, who is returning to celebrate the anniversary.

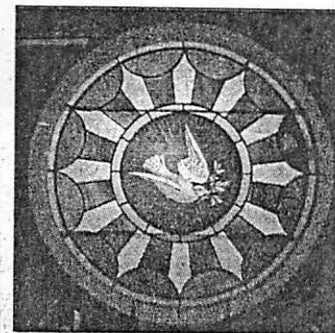
Even as the church celebrates its longevity, Pastor Anne Kolmeier said it is important also to appreciate the present and look to the future.

"God has brought us this far," she said. "We are blessed to have been here for this long."

Learning about their church's past has energized the church's youth. Many bear the names of founders of the church, youth leader Rod Moss said.

"You can kind of see a brightness in their eye," he said. "I

think the awareness of what happened 150 years ago makes these kids proud of being a Zion Lutheran member and an American."



JERRY LARA/STAFF

A stained glass window from the original church, completed in 1854, is on display in the 'new' church.



from the
San Antonio Express-News
April 11, 2002
submitted by Bridget Smart

ROBERT MCLEROY/STAFF

Members of the Kinder Tanzer (German folk dancers) march in the Kindermasken Parade Saturday.

Kids' parade spans generations

BY ROGER CROTEAU
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

NEW BRAUNFELS — Goldilocks sipped porridge with the three bears and nearby a little boy, dressed as a butterfly catcher, chased three young girls dressed as butterflies. It may sound like Halloween, but in New Braunfels, spring is the time when you are most likely to see such scenes on the Plaza.

The Kindermaskenball, a unique and ancient celebration of the city's German heritage, brings hundreds of costumed children to the Main Plaza every spring. Saturday, the tradition renewed itself as the parade moved up San Antonio Street.

"When I was a child, it was a very elaborate parade with 300 or 400 children," said Myra Lee Goff, who literally wrote the book on Kindermaskenball. "Mothers would spend all year making the costumes and planning this very special day."

Goff co-authored the book "Kindermaskenball, Past and Present" in 1995, which features hundreds of photos dating back generations.

The roots of the unusual spring parade are subject to debate. Some locals trace it back

to Druids, who built bonfires on stone altars and danced around them to celebrate the coming spring. Others cite Teutonic customs of days of children's games to welcome springtime.

But all agree Hermann Seele, New Braunfels' first schoolteacher, brought the idea with him from Germany. The city's first Kindermaskenball was either in 1846 or 1856, depending on the source you believe. It quickly became one of the city's largest and most anticipated annual events.

For years the parade would lead to Landa Park for a day of games and a dance that night. Now the marchers head to Folkfest, on the grounds of Conservation Plaza, to enjoy that event and take part in the costume judging.

The event has changed in other ways too.

"Now you see more store-bought costumes, because there are so many more working mothers," Goff said. "They don't have the time to spend making the costumes."

"It's a 155-year-old tradition, and I am glad they are still having it," Goff said. "It reflects the heritage of New Braunfels."

Despite chilly, drizzly weather,

a couple of hundred costumed children, led by the River City Twirlers and a middle school marching band, marched downtown while hundreds of others looked on and cheered.

Betty Taylor had her children, Mitchell, 3, and 9-month-old Sierra, dressed as chicks, a costume their grandmother sewed.

"My sister and I were in it when we were small, so I am trying to keep up the tradition with my kids," Taylor said. "It is a family event and something that is unique to New Braunfels."

Chante Mazy had her children, Hadiyah, 7, and Yali Zada, 4, dressed in traditional German outfits.

"We've been coming for six years," she said. "I wanted to feel that sense of community, like we belong here. That is part of the reason I want to live in New Braunfels. I think it makes us a part of history, taking part in something that people have been doing here for more than a hundred years."

"There is a very rich history to it," said parade chairwoman Jo Beth Oestreich. "The fact that it gets passed from generation to generation enriches the whole concept of the event."

Die Gebirgen

The thoughts on this page are purely subjective, but after 60 years of traveling between New Braunfels and San Antonio on Hwy. 81, and now IH-35, I can not escape looking at the west and remembering **Die Gebirgen** from my youth. So, I have tried to analyze my feelings as I look at that mountain range to the west.

Yes, at times we did drive "up into **Die Gebirgen**" and I was familiar with Honey Creek, Anhalt and Boerne as dad often played for dances there with Herr Louie (Scheel). Of course, our trips to Fredericksburg took us through the same area. Still, however, in the late 1930s and early 1940s, there was always a deep mystery in my mind about what lay in **Die Gebirgen** as I sat, crowded by dad's tuba horn, in the back seat of our 1936 Chevrolet on Hwy. 81.

In 1941, when we moved into the old stone house on Klappenbach Hill, we were actually living on the edge of **Die Gebirgen**. But I never thought of it in that manner. Perhaps, like the various German Fairy Tales that my mother told me, **Die Gebirgen** was somehow akin to the dark woods, the forbidden forests, those areas where you never go after dark. So I avoided thinking of living on the edge of the dark forest there on Klappenbach Hill! I ran downhill into Landa Park instead!

Earlier this year, the answer to my mystery finally came to me! In our trips up and down Hwy. 81, we generally visited our relatives. In those days our relatives consisted mainly of the uncles and aunts of my parents. I began to plot where these uncles, aunts and cousins of my parents lived. There was a definite pattern...about 95% lived along...Hwy. 81! Only one lived in **Die Gebirgen** area!

Mom, Angela nee Wenzel, had 11 maternal Schumann aunts and uncles with 36 cousins who lived mainly in New Braunfels and along Hwy. 81 into Solms where I was born. Next, her 9 Wenzel aunts and uncles also with 36 cousins lived on farms along Hwy. 81 from Solms, through Comal and into Selma!

Here my dad's (Alphonse Fey) family took over. His 10 Fey aunts and uncles with 60 cousins had farms along the same Hwy. 81 from just north of Selma into the outskirts of San Antonio. Finally his 10 Sievers aunts and uncles with 40 more cousins, being "city people", pretty much lived all throughout San Antonio.

Yes, **Die Gebirgen** were a distant place for us. When we had a flat tire on Hwy. 81, we were close to family, we were always *nahe unser heim*. We were not in **Die Gebirgen**, we were safe! I could curl up beside the tuba and go to sleep!

Everett Anthony Fey, jetzt von San Antonio

submitted by **Connie Krause**

AN EXAMPLE OF EARLY SETTLEMENT IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

by Roy J. Betzer

In the early 1830s the "Hill Country" of Texas was still known as the land of the Comanche. At a later date a portion of this area was designated the Fisher-Miller Land Grant, and it is this area with which we will be concerned. The "Hill Country" served the Comanche and several other fringe tribes as a well stocked hunting preserve.

To encourage settlement in Tejas, the government of Mexico had implemented the Impresario Acts, and though the acts were successful in settling the southern and eastern parts of Tejas they failed when it came to settling the "Hill Country" of central Tejas. In 1836 when Tejas became the Republic of Texas a similar set of land acts were tried in another attempt to open the "Hill Country" to settlement, and once again the attempt failed.

However, in the 1840s the method and pattern of settlement on the frontier would change. Settlement would no longer remain an effort of individuals who might band together only long enough to reach a new portion of the frontier, only to split up once there to go off helter skelter on their own to find a site that appealed to their individual taste. Instead the new settlers would be more cohesive – having a common culture, language, or perhaps a common religion or political view. They would stay united as a group – forming first a community with 10 to 20 acre garden plots, and then they would seek out the land for their own individual farms. In the new Republic of Texas, Henri Castro was one of the first "successful" impresarios to use this method in settling his land grant.

Henri would bring a large number of European emigrants from the Alsace region of Europe to settle his land grant, thereby guaranteeing that his settlers would speak a common language and would have similar cultures. Then instead of leaving each person or family to fend for themselves once they were on the frontier, Henri made sure that they were guided to the site he had picked for the settlement, and that they received aid throughout that first year in the form of tools, seed, advice, etc. Henri also required that the immigrants build a village with garden plots, business buildings and a church before allowing them to take up independent agricultural sites. In this way the new settlers had some measure of mutual support, and they could avoid the settlers worst enemy – isolation. Of course the village would also help Henri induce other settlers to build at other sites on his land grant.

After word of Henri's "success" began to circulate, a group of ten rich Germanic noblemen formed an organization that would come to be referred to as the Adelsverein. The purpose of the organization was two fold. First – they the officers of the organization would help to relieve the overpopulation and the civil/social unrest in the Germanic States by encouraging emigration. Second – they would create a series of German colonies in the new Republic of Texas, thereby establishing firmer diplomatic relations and creating new trade outlets.

Although no member of the Adelsverein had viewed any part of Texas other than the populated and settled areas of southern and eastern Texas, the organization in 1844 decided to purchase what they believed to be title to three million acres in the Texas "Hill Country" at a cost of less than 50 cents an acre. A Texan land speculator, Bourgeois, had assured the Adelsverein that he held a legal impresario's grant to the area and that grant allowed him to sell the same to the Adelsverein. The Adelsverein administrators had only a vague idea of what the legal requirements for such a transfer were, but they were willing to accept Bourgeois' word and when Bourgeois' word proved worthless, they would accept the word of Henry Fisher a representative from the Government of Texas. They believed it would be quite easy to transport and settle enough colonists within a given time frame to meet the requirements as they had been explained to them, but this belief was based on conditions in Europe not on conditions on the Texas frontier.

Under the Adelsverein rules of emigration, a single man would pay the organization the equivalent of \$120.00 (American) and a married man would pay the organization the equivalent of \$240.00. Each man or family in return would be provided with passage to Texas and to the settlement site. The Adelsverein also promised to establish supply outlets and a line of credit for the emigrant at those outlets. At the

settlement site the settler would be provided with a town lot, shelter and 15 acres on which to raise the food they would need to sustain the settlement for three years. After three years each single man would receive 160 acres of land and each family unit would receive 320 acres of land. A marvelous offer, but by the time the settlers had reached the first settlement site of New Braunfels, which was not inside the Fisher-Miller Land Grant, the Adelsverein was having financial difficulties. By the time settlers reached the site for the second settlement - Fredericksburg - the Adelsverein was all but bankrupt. The 15 acre garden sites had been reduced to 10 acres, and other than a large storage building there were no shelters; supply outlets had been taken over by local creditors, and in most cases there was no line of credit available for the immigrant at the supply outlets.

What went wrong? The Adelsverein had put together the sum of 200,000 Florins (\$80,000.00 American) for payment on acreage for the settlers (approximately 1/3 of the total acreage of the entire land grant). This amount plus what they would charge each emigrant for transportation and other benefits would (so they thought) be more than enough to complete their project. Once the required number of colonists (6,000) were settled, the Adelsverein would receive the rest of the three million acres for their own use and profit, and that profit would take care of any further costs that the Adelsverein might encounter.

In reality the Adelsverein would need ten times the amount they had raised for capitalization. The reasons for its failure were numerous and varied. The main reasons have already been mentioned. In addition the Adelsverein had not counted on the problems created by the Mexican War, or the problems created by the unseasonable weather in Texas at the time of the first settlers arrival. In addition, the Texas land speculators had not only not explained the reality and terms of the agreement (an outdated impresario grant - the land would have to be repurchased from the State of Texas), but they were also less than truthful in their description of distances, soils, climate and accessibility of the land grant.

In his letters to Germany, Alwin Sorgel enumerated some of the problems with the Adelsverein's plan. He pointed out that it would require 500 wagons to move the luggage of the first 2,500 settlers, and another 100 wagons to transport the women and children (the men would walk), and another 100 wagons would be needed to carry tents and provisions. Moving 700 wagons would require 5,600 oxen (4 yoke of oxen per wagon) and under normal conditions it would require two months to cover the 200 miles distance to the site of New Braunfels. Alwin further points out that the Adelsverein had promised the settlers farm animals - cows, oxen, and horses, and this would require another 3,000 oxen, 3,000 cows, and 1,500 horses. Alwin went on to itemize the cost of this settlement:

700 wagons @ \$80 each	\$ 56,000.00
5,600 draft oxen @ \$20 each	112,000.00
700 drovers for 3 months @ \$30 per drover per month	63,000.00
3,000 oxen for settlers @ \$20 each	60,000.00
3,000 cows @ \$8 each	24,000.00
1,500 horses @ \$20 each	30,000.00
2,500 settlers requiring 6 months provisions @ \$20 each	50,000.00
Total	\$395,000.00

Alwin went on to site that this figure did not include the salaries and supplies for the Adelsverein's employees. He estimated that cost at an additional \$5,000.00.

The complete cost for settling the land grant would have to include the cost for the Society to send an additional 3,500 settlers to meet the terms of the agreement, and all within an agreed upon time limit. Let us also not forget that these costs did not include the up front cost of the transportation from Europe to Texas, and also the up front cost of the land.

The Fisher-Miller Land Grant was located in a picturesque area of wooded hills, small streams, a few rivers, and it held a variety of wild game. On the down side the topsoil (for the most part) was rocky and thin. The region was semi-arid, not all the streams or rivers ran year around, and rainy years followed by

dry years were cyclical (usually seven years to a cycle). The colonies would be isolated; there were no roads, and all supplies would have to be hauled into the area from San Antonio.

Prince Carl of Solms Braunfels had arrived in Texas on an inspection trip in 1844. He soon realized that the proposed sites for the settlements were too far away from the port of Carlshafen, and he purchased additional land as a halfway stop for the settlers. Prince Carl found a suitable site near the Comal Springs, and he purchased a 1,265 acre site from the Veramendi family. That site would become the first Adelsverein colony and it was named New Braunfels. By this time Prince Carl realized that the Adelsverein's project was under funded, and he tried to get further funding from the Adelsverein's officers in the Germanic States. Instead of money the Adelsverein sent him several boatloads of emigrants in an attempt to meet the time restriction for settlement. With creditors hounding his heels, Prince Carl resigned his position and was replaced by Baron Muesebach. However, not even Muesebach's business acumen and experience could save the Adelsverein's project, but he was able to give some assistance and guidance to the emigrants already in Texas and those who would arrive through the year 1847.

Under Muesebach's leadership the settlement of the Texas Hill Country began in earnest in 1846 with the establishment of the settlement of Fredericksburg (still just outside the Fisher-Miller Land Grant but well inside the "Hill Country" itself). Fredericksburg was located approximately 90 miles northwest of New Braunfels. In April 1846, 120 persons using approximately 20 wagons left New Braunfels for the settlement site, blazing a wilderness road as they went. Due to bad weather it would take sixteen days of hard travel to reach the site chosen for the new colony. The isolation of this first settlement would have meant failure if it had not been for the structure and diverse skills of the group (farmers, merchants, mechanics, carpenters, masons, doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc.), and the mutual support they could provide each other. Their common old world culture, varied skills, and knowledge of diversified farming and animal husbandry would help them survive in the midst of the isolation.

One of the biggest obstacles facing a new settlement is not having a ready market for any excess crops or manufactures. Although Fredericksburg was isolated that first year, it would develop markets for its goods. The settlers established trade with two villages of Comanche Indians in 1847, and that same year the Mormon settlement of Zodiac helped the new immigrant settlers by introducing them to American grain crops and by providing them with access to a mill.

While most of the trade with Comanche would be for deerskins and furs, there was a real windfall in the occasional deerskin filled with bear grease that would be brought in for trade. A deerskin could hold 60 gallons of bear grease and that same bear grease would be worth \$1.00 a gallon in San Antonio. Later in 1848 the U.S. Army would build a post near the settlement of Fredericksburg, and the townspeople expanded their markets and being skilled craftsmen they were in demand to help construct the post's buildings.

In 1848 land near an established town would sell for as little as 75 cents an acre to a high of \$3.00 an acre dependent on soil, water, accessibility, and proximity to the town. A general rule of thumb for planting a first crop to sustain a large family for an entire year called for the planting of 10 to 15 acres of corn (on average an acre would produce 15 bushels). It was estimated that each person would consume one bushel of corn (usually in the form of corn meal) a month, and livestock would consume 50% more than a human. If the farmer had an excess of corn he could, if he could find a buyer, sell his excess corn for 50 cents a bushel or he could use it for barter.

Staples in Fredericksburg in 1848 were selling for the following prices:

Fresh beef	4 cents a pound	Bear meat	2 cents a pound
Lard	6 cents a pound	Fresh butter	37 cents a pound
Ham/Bacon	15 to 25 cents a pound	Eggs	20 to 30 cents a dozen
Chickens	37 to 50 cents each	Flour	10 cents a pound
Coffee	14 cents a pound	Sugar	20 cents a pound
Rice	20 cents a pound	Beans	10 cents a pound
Salt	7 cents a pound	Corn	\$1.50 a bushel

During those first years the Mormon community of Zodiac would supply Fredericksburg and the Post on Barons Creek with lumber, ground meal, furniture and shingles. The Post had been a God Send for the economy of Fredericksburg, although at times the men at the Post could be a true headache for the townspeople. The Post was located two miles east of Fredericksburg. It was built on land (640 acres) rented from a Mr. Townsend who in 1852 would sell the land to a Mr. Twohig, a prosperous resident of San Antonio. Mr. Twohig later that same year would take on a partner in the person of J.J. Wright, the post's doctor. At its height (1850-51) the post would have 20 buildings and a garrison that could for short periods of time number anywhere from 100 to 300 men. The Post would be decommissioned in 1853. For most of its active period, the garrison would hover around a compliment of thirty to eighty military personnel at a given moment, and in the year of 1853 the Post had a garrison of only 14 military personnel. The town of Fredericksburg would fare much better than the Post on Barons Creek. By 1850, with the increase in wagon trains passing through on their way to California, the hard years for Fredericksburg were over and the county's population stood at 1,240 people.

After the U.S. Army left the site on Barons Creek, the site would serve for a few years as a station for freighters. In 1856, when the Army was looking for a home site for its experimental Camel Corps, Mr. Twohig offered to lease the site back to the Army on a five year term at \$50 a month, but the Army chose the site of Camp Verde. During the Civil War the Army of the Confederate States of America would use the site as a recruitment depot and as a HQ for the military government under the command of Captain James Duff. Beginning in 1862 and lasting until the end of the Civil War, the Confederate Government of Texas placed the German settlements in the 'Hill Country' under martial law. Those years were extremely hard on the people of Fredericksburg, and the memory of the abuse and coercion that they suffered at the hands of Cpt. Duff and the Waldrip gang would remain with them for several years.

With the war over, Mr. Twohig leased two of the site's buildings to a Mr. Frischmeyer on a yearly basis, and in 1870 Mr. Twohig sold the acreage with structures to Mr. Braeutigam for \$1,600.00 in gold coin. Mr. Braeutigam would convert the Commander's Quarters into a saloon and general store. He would then dismantle all but one of the remaining buildings using the materials from them to enlarge the building he kept for a family home and to build a dance hall for weekend trade and special occasions. Later he would add a grandstand and three racetracks to the site. At Braeutigam's invitation the first Gillespie County Fair was held on the grounds in 1881.

The town in those early years was no Garden of Eden except by frontier standards. A Mr. Schubert (the name was later revealed to be an alias) and a Mr. Spies ruled the colony like oligarchs, but by 1850 that period was over and a more liberal period of government was established with many of the original settlers being elected to political offices not only on the town level but also on the county and state level.

The town did have a few criminal problems during those first years, including a brief outbreak of teenagers running amuck, but by frontier standards it was a steady and peaceful town. The town had its first lynching in 1860. The lynchee was a former soldier who had served at Fort Martin Scott at the time of the destruction (1850) of Mr. Hunt's store by arson. Most of the Indian problems during the early years resulted from attempts by Indians to steal horses. There were a few casualties on both sides when this involved shots being exchanged. However, wanton acts of violence were not common or numerous until the late 1850s.

For additional information about the settlement of Fredericksburg and the Texas Hill Country, the following are among recommended books: *German Pioneers in Texas* by Don H. Biggers, Fredericksburg Publishing Co., 1983; *Fredericksburg, Texas; The First Fifty Years*, Fredericksburg Publishing Co.; *Pioneers in God's Hills*, Vol. 1, Eakin Press 1960; *The History of the German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861* by Rudolph Leopold Biesele, Eakin Press, 1964; *Texas in 1848* by Viktor Bracht and translated by Charles Franik Schmidt, GTHS, 1991; *An Immigrant Miller Picks Texas; The Letters of Carl Hilmar Guenther* translated by Regina B. Hurst and Walter D. Kamphoefner, Maverick Publishing Co., 2001

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CEMETERY AT MEYERSVILLE

by Elizabeth Haun

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has designated St. John Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville, Texas, as a Historic Texas Cemetery.

The designation, reserved for cemeteries that are at least 50 years old and deemed worthy of preservation for their historic associations, means an Affidavit of Designation for Cemetery Purposes has been issued to the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery and it has been recorded in the DeWitt County Clerk's office.

"The designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of these important cultural resources. Such awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of a cemetery," said Larry Oaks, executive director of THC.

Cemeteries hold valuable historical information. They are often the last reminders of early settlements' historical events, religious beliefs, lifestyles, and genealogy.

"Historic cemeteries serve as directories of early residents and reflect the cultural influences that helped shape our state's communities," said Oaks. "The Historic Texas Cemetery designation program helps bring attention to these community treasures and the importance of their preservation."

Ed Goodman, chairman of the DeWitt County Historical Commission, states, "The DeWitt County Historical Commission is currently working on getting a number of older cemeteries in DeWitt County designated as Historic Texas Cemeteries."

The Historic Texas Cemetery designation was developed to address the destruction of historic cemeteries and the illegal removal of cemetery fixtures.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation.

The dedication of the official Historic Texas Cemetery Medallion and Plaque for the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery in Meyersville was held Saturday, September 8, 2001, at 10:00 A.M. The inscription on the Plaque reads, "St. John Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery. Pastor Christoph Adam Sager established the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and Cemetery at this site in 1851. This is the first Lutheran congregation formed in DeWitt County and one of the oldest in Texas. The cemetery lies on the original acre donated by Christoph and Johanna Thieme and extends onto land acquired in 1880. There are many unmarked graves, the earliest, as documented by church records, is that of Amalia Eckert who died in 1854. The descendants of these German immigrants maintain this burial ground, a chronicle of the settlers of the Meyersville area of DeWitt County."

Meyersville is one of the pioneer German settlements in Texas. Its origins go back to the early 1840s. Meyersville is located in De Witt County south of Cuero, a short distance northeast of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Roads 237 and 3157.

THE MONUMENT AT WALDECK CEMETERY HONORING WILLIAM GUEHRS

On 13 April this year, in a special ceremony, a monument honoring German-born William Guehrs was dedicated at the Waldeck Cemetery, located in Fayette County west of Round Top. Guehrs, a private in the Confederate Army, was one of only four soldiers awarded the CSA Medal of Honor. For his story, see "The Confederate Hero of Waldeck" by Harvey Meiners on page 305 in the Fall 2001 issue of the Journal. For an account of the April 13 ceremony, see the next two pages in this issue of the Journal.

The ceremony honored Guehrs' heroism in battle and also was in commemoration of other Confederate ancestors of the German-Texans of Fayette County, especially the following:

- Ellert Gerhard Albers, Captain
- Gerd Albers, Private
- Johann Aschen, Private
- Ch. Andreas Frenzel, Private
- Heinrich Frosch, Private
- Johann Kirchoff, Private
- Johann Christian Kruse, Private
- Wenzel Matejowsky, Private
- Ricklef Meiners, Third Sergeant
- Christian Schuhmann, Musician
- Gotthelf Friedrich Schuhmann, Musician
- Carl Anton Weber, First Corporal
- Carl Friedrich "Fritz" Weber, Private
- Julius Weishuhn, Fourth Corporal
- Martin Zwernemann, Bugler

William Guehrs monument dedicated by the Waldeck Cemetery Association and Camp #59, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Austin, Texas, April 13, 2002



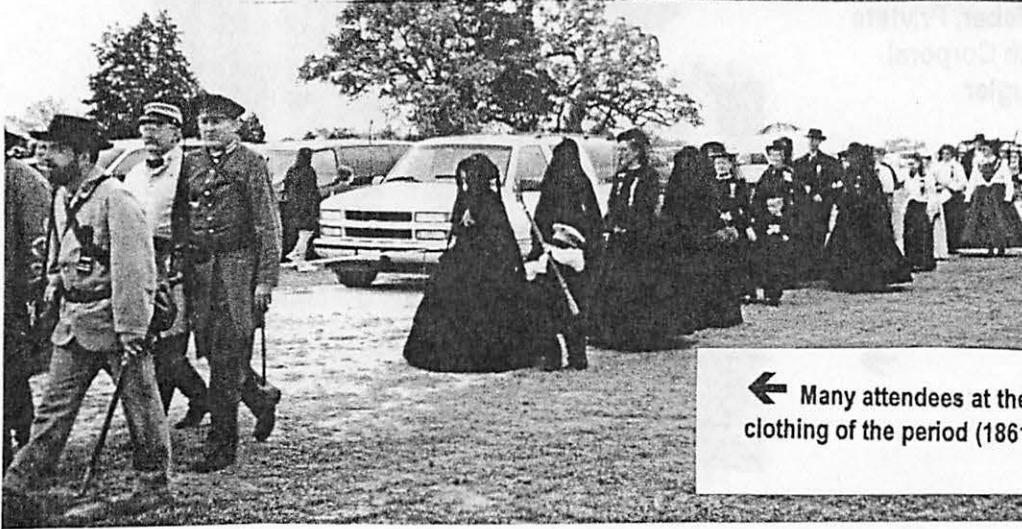
MONUMENT TO GERMAN AMERICANS ERECTED IN MINNESOTA from The Family Tree, April/May 2001

The Hermann Monument in New Ulm, Minnesota, has been recognized by the U.S. Congress as a national symbol to honor the contributions of Americans of German heritage to the United States. The statue of Hermann, a German folk hero, was erected by German-Americans as a German heritage symbol in the New World. According to German legend, it was Hermann who freed the German tribes from foreign domination. A similar statue of Hermann stands in Detmold, Germany.



Speakers at the ceremony (L to R): Steve Lucas, Commander, Texas Division, the SCV; Marilyn Sweeney, Director, Waldeck Cemetery Association; Mike Jones, Louisiana Division, the SCV; Harvey Meiners, Program Coordinator; Deena Dark, President, the UDC; and the Hon. Ron Paul, U.S. House of Representatives

➔ The march to the ceremony by "troops" who participated in the reenactment of the Battle of Calcasieu Pass



← Many attendees at the ceremony wore clothing of the period (1861-1865)

Firing of a cannon of the type used at the ➔ Battle of Calcasieu Pass



CEREMONY HONORS A CONFEDERATE HERO

by Liz Rowden

submitted by Renata Meiners

On April 13, a ceremony was held at the Waldeck Cemetery to honor Private William Guehrs, a Confederate hero who is one of four Confederate Medal of Honor recipients buried in Texas. Until now, Private Guehrs' final resting place has been unmarked, but not forgotten. The wooden cross thought to have originally marked his grave was lost during one of the many grass fires that swept the cemetery during its early days. But thanks to the efforts of a host of volunteers, a monument has been raised in the cemetery to commemorate the courage shown by Private Guehrs and his comrades in arms.

Private Guehrs was born on January 10, 1841, in Province Brandenburg, Germany and emigrated to the Waldeck area as a young man. He was only 20 years old when Civil War broke out between the states. Like many of his friends and neighbors, he volunteered for service in the Confederate Army. On May 6, 1864, Private Guehrs was engaged in the Battle of Calcasieu Pass in Louisiana. During the battle, he was seriously injured. But refusing to leave his post, he fought on from a kneeling position until the battle was successfully concluded. Only then, did he allow himself to be taken from the field. On September 3, 1864, Private Guehrs died at Waldeck from his wounds.

Over 650 people attended the ceremony, which began with an invocation by Reverend Willie Rotter, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of Dixie.

Congressman Ron Paul delivered a keynote address, in which he spoke of how our Constitutional States' Rights are being eroded by the federal government. His speech was well received by those in attendance. Other guest speakers included Commander Steve Lucas of the Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, Harvey Meiners, the program coordinator, Ralph Mueller, President of the Waldeck Cemetery Association, and several others representing groups who participated in planning the dedication ceremony. Fayette County Judge Edward Janecka was also in attendance and proclaimed April 13, 2002, as Private William Guehrs Day in Fayette County.

Semmes Battery, a group of cannoneers from Louisiana, staged a Silent Drill to demonstrate the operation of a 12-pound cannon, which was the type of gun manned by Private Guehrs. Commander H. W. Irby of the Sons of Confederate Veterans then narrated a reenactment of the battle in which Private Guehrs was wounded. During the reenactment, which was performed by the Texas Dixie Grays Artillery, the cannon was fired several times. Glenn Haderler of the Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans stood by during the reenactment holding a riderless horse to represent the fallen hero.

Renata Meiners led the unveiling of 19 new footstones that commemorate veterans buried in the Waldeck Cemetery. Private Guehrs' monument was then unveiled by Mike Jones of the Louisiana Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, who explained how his research into the Battle of Calcasieu Pass resulted in the Medal of Honor being awarded to Private Guehrs. Wilbert Mueller sang Amazing Grace, and the ceremony concluded with a rendition of Echo Taps by Jimmie Fucik and George J. Koudelka.

A barbeque at Cooper Farms followed the ceremony. Attendees were entertained by the La Grange High School German Polka Band, the La Grange High School Folk Dancers, the Monument Hill State Park Dulcimer Players, and the La Grange German Folk Singers.

A booklet providing details about this historic battle and the Confederate veterans buried in Waldeck Cemetery was available for sale at the ceremony. Those interested in obtaining a copy may contact Harvey Meiners at (979) 249-5349.

- NOTE: GTHS members participating in the ceremony honoring German-born William Guehrs included Renata and Harvey Meiners and Glenn Haedler,

THE FUTURE OF GERMAN-TEXAN FOLKLORE: SOME TEXTS AND RESEARCH NOTES

by Brian J. Boeck

This essay is dedicated to the memory of Gilbert J. Jordan in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of his birth. May his example inspire us to document and preserve our German heritage.

Thanks to Gilbert Jordan's book *German Texana* future generations will be able to appreciate the wit and wisdom of German-Texan folklore.¹ The materials collected, edited and translated by Professor Jordan represent a treasure trove for students, teachers, and anyone interested in the oral tradition of Germans in Texas. Over twenty years after its publication, it remains the only substantial compilation of original folklore materials. This article will address the future of German-Texan folklore and suggest some methods of studying and recovering it.

Unfortunately, the time for field research is running out. While folklorists have always been convinced that they are personally witnessing the eleventh hour, lamenting that all will soon be lost, the situation of the German language in Texas does not bode well for long-term research. In many areas the last generation to grow up speaking German at home was born in the 1930s and 1940s. Although there are exceptions, most potential informants are already in their sixties and seventies. In the short-term, a coordinated effort to locate and interview informants could still yield considerable results. (If any teachers or students are interested in doing this I can provide advice).

What is to be done, however, when field research is not a viable option? In the not-so-distant future almost all research on German-Texan topics will be centered in archives and libraries. Now is the time to prepare for the future by training young people to engage with the German heritage. Folklore is a wonderful lens for examining the experience of immigration, adaptation to a new country and encounters with other cultures.

In this article I will illustrate how printed sources can be used to supplement examples of German-Texan folklore collected in the field. In particular, newspapers represent a rich and rewarding source of texts. Richard Dorson, one of the founding fathers of American folklore studies, has stated: "Newspapers and magazines are the main reading fare of modern man, and inevitably some will catch folk materials."² At one time there were German newspapers in the major cities of Texas and dozens of small towns also maintained German papers. A significant number of German-Texan newspapers

are available on microfilm from the University of Texas at Austin. Other institutions (the University of Houston, Southwest Texas State University, Texas Tech University, the San Antonio Public Library, the Sophienburg Archive, the Library of Congress) have one or more German-Texan newspaper available. Given that materials are readily available for consultation (unlike diaries, letters, and other papers that frequently remain in private possession) newspapers can yield a bountiful harvest for the researcher.

Richard Dorson has suggested that "folk items are scattered over miles of print."³ This fact would seem to make searching for new folk materials like looking for needle in a haystack. When approached systematically, however, it becomes fairly easy to limit a search. First it is necessary to briefly analyze how a given newspaper is structured. It takes only a few minutes to figure out the typical layout of the publication. News items are usually divided into three categories: foreign, domestic, and local. Frequently there will also be separate sections for news about Germany and news about Texas. With the exception of the local news category, most news items were recycled from other publications and therefore can be ignored (often these items can be distinguished by the use of a different typeface). Much of the rest of the paper will be made up of advertisements, filler material of general interest, and serial fiction. When these are also excluded from a folklore search, only a small percentage of the newspaper remains to be inspected. Often the same kinds of stories will appear on the same page week after week, making it possible to search areas of the paper that are usually reserved for items of local interest.

It is essential to establish a pattern. This limits fatigue and eliminates unnecessary reading. I have found examples of folklore in various newspapers from the very inception of German publishing in Texas to its final years. The key is largely in knowing where to look. The first place to look is in the parts of the paper devoted to local news and affairs (in some papers this is under the heading *Lokales*, in others *Allerlei*, and in others there is no specific name or a general section devoted to statements from the editor). The second place to search is in sections devoted to letters and submissions received by the newspapers from their readers (often titled *Korrespondenz*, *Eingesandt*, etc.). Many German-Texan newspapers published letters from regular contributors who wrote about everything from births and deaths to how the crops were growing or not growing. These letters often contain proverbs, sayings, interesting descriptions of daily life, and practical advice. The third category consists of individual

reminiscences and historical retrospectives. These can take various forms from recurring weekly columns to short one-time contributions. They tend to surface most frequently around important anniversaries such as the founding date of the newspaper or the town where it was published. They can also be spotted by scanning the sections of the paper in which filler material regularly appears.

Now I would like to turn from where folk items can be found to what kinds of items can be encountered. Proverbs, sayings, recipes, and folk cures occur frequently. Information about the rhythms of daily life also abounds. The activities of various *Vereins* and the celebration of annual festivals are often documented. Less frequently it is possible to encounter written versions of stories in oral circulation. These are usually classified as news, but in their written retelling traces of plot and motivation are often present.

In the second half of this essay, I will provide some examples of texts and demonstrate how German-Texan folklore reflected the cares and concerns of an ethnic group encountering new situations and circumstances. The diverse materials presented below suggest ways in which Germans adapted to their new physical and cultural environment.

Studies of other immigrant groups have demonstrated that not all folk beliefs and practices can be successfully transplanted from one country to another. The authors of a handbook on folklore state: "Sometimes immigrants judge folklore and other culturally based behaviors learned in their homelands to be inferior to or incompatible with those of the host society. When this occurs they frequently discontinue or suppress their native ways or substitute newly acquired alternatives for them."⁴

A case in point is the fate of German weather proverbs. Over the course of centuries Germans had developed various sayings designed to predict weather patterns. Whether or not these were truly of any value in Germany, where they originated, could be debated, but they were poorly suited to the climate in Texas. This point was emphasized in a column by Carl Blumberg, who wrote:

An old Pioneer of New Braunfels, a venerable chap of 80 years, once told the same thing to a newcomer. The latter had once tried to predict the weather here. The old gentleman said to him: "We pioneers have discovered during the long period of our presence here, that would-be prophets of the weather in Texas are either newcomers or just plain fools. In Texas there are nothing but exceptions to all the weather rules."⁵

In this account, the old pioneer voices the accumulated experience of many

years. In admonishing the newcomer, he emphasizes the fact that traditional German wisdom cannot be applied to the new Texas environment. In fact, the final statement becomes a kind of new rule which negates all previous rules.

If the weather failed to remind German Texans where they were, snakes did not. From the moment of their arrival immigrants had to contend with these creatures. Nothing in their previous experience quite prepared them for constant encounters with such venomous adversaries. An 1856 article from the *New Braunfels Zeitung* represents an early printed account of snakebite and remedies for it.

We have just learned that a few weeks ago the five year old son of Herr Kniever was bitten in the hand by a copperhead (Kupferschlange) on the farm of Herr Oscar Friederich of the Horton settlement. The hand immediately began to swell profusely, causing the child great pain. Herr Friederich gave the child about a half pint of whiskey to drink, after which the swelling subsided in less than ten minutes. Then, Herr F. made a somewhat large incision at the place of the bite into which he sprinkled the juice of the crushed roots of the button snake root, which made the pain subside. Early the next day the child was taken to Braunfels to Doctor Remer, who has on many previous occasions healed people who have been bitten by poisonous snakes.⁶

The editor of the paper, the famed botanist Lindheimer, continued by stating that "if a drunk person is bitten by a poisonous snake, it will not harm him, but will make him sober." Here we are obviously dealing with a folk belief. Lindheimer also provided a description of the snake root plant (*Liatris punctata*) and stated the following: "Many Indians constantly keep some of the tuber roots of the *Liatris* with them to use against snake bites." In this particular case the problem, snakebite, has a cross-cultural cure. Whiskey, an Anglo-American product, and the "Button snake root," the English words in the German text suggesting that an Indian custom may have been learned from Americans, are used by German immigrants and described in a German newspaper.

Snake bite remained a problem for Germans and from time to time new cures were advocated. In June 1905 a letter addressed to the *Seguin Zeitung* recommended a different method for dealing with rattlesnake bites.

In each rattlesnake there is a tiny bladder about the size of a Mexican bean that sits upon the intestines. This bladder is filled with a brownish, almost black, liquid. This is the surest antidote to use if bitten. If it is immediately applied to the bite, the patient will suffer neither swelling nor pain. Many Mexicans always carry this liquid with them and kill any rattlesnake they encounter in order to obtain it. Usually they keep a spent bullet cartridge to use as a receptacle for it.⁷

The author then reported that a relative in Mexico had informed him of the cure and that "it is the secret of the Moki Indians and their priests closely guard it." Here the folk belief is passed on as a valuable secret. The very source of danger is purported to contain the necessary cure. While we do not know whether readers began hoarding vials of the black liquid, we can see how folk cures could easily cross cultural boundaries. The newspaper served as a conduit for sharing the remedy.

Folklore often arises out of common everyday fears, situations and concerns. After rattlesnakes, rabid animals rated highest on the list of concerns. While wild animals could to some degree be avoided, rabies threatened to turn friendly animals into deadly foes. Several items in the San Antonio Freie Presse Für Texas published in 1897 provide descriptions of a common "cure" for rabies in rural America.

A local correspondent in the Hill Country west of San Antonio reported on several incidents of animal attacks. He had heard of a common local cure, but was perplexed that he had not encountered anything in print about it:

That brings me to the so-called Madstone, a porous stone that when applied to a bite sucks out the poison. Many in the area swear by it, but I have never read about such a thing in any scientific books. I hear that a man living in Utopia, who represents himself as a doctor, possesses such a stone ... Do you, Herr Editor, know anything about such a curiosity and whether all that is said about it is true? How can a "stone" draw the poison out of a wound 2-3 weeks after the bite?⁸

When a short skeptical response was penned by H. J. Richarz, a retired Army officer, a heated discussion ensued.

The editors of the German paper in La Grange apparently read the exchange and weighed in with an editorial in their newspaper. Though I was unable to locate the original article from La Grange, it is extensively quoted by Richarz. The editors of the La Grange Deutsche Zeitung wrote:

We are not to be counted among the gullible Thomases, but we have on many occasions had the opportunity to be convinced of the healing power of this unusual stone, which incidentally is no stone. We are convinced that Captain Richarz would likewise change his mind if he had the opportunity to see its effects proven before his very eyes. The curious thing about this stone is that it attaches itself (by sucking) so firmly to bite wounds that come from rabid hounds that it can only be removed with considerable effort, while it falls immediately from other bites or cut wounds. We have seen how such a stone remained on a wound for several hours before dropping off. Then it is placed in fresh milk in order to remove the

poison. After a while the stone is again placed on the wound and remains attached for a long time. This process is repeated again and again.⁹

The description of the cure provided here is a textbook case. According to folklorist Kenneth L. Ketner, the madstone serves to facilitate "the patient's release from anxiety."¹⁰ Since transmission of rabies from animal to human takes place in only a small percentage of cases, the reputation of a madstone grows by virtue of the fact that its repeated use reinforces belief in its curative properties. It is interesting to note that madstones were in use in two areas settled by Germans in different parts of Texas.

Captain Richarz decided to visit the owner of the madstone and filed a report to the San Antonio paper. His description rivals many modern accounts in detail and interpretation.

It was wrapped in cloth and had the appearance of a piece of black pliable gum resin that had been boiled in milk or meat broth. It was obviously a cooked and softened piece of a hairball from the stomach of a ruminant.¹¹

His analysis of its popularity is also on the mark.

Just consider how many people in all lands have suffered for years, nay as I myself have personally experienced, suffered their whole lives under the terrifying fear or anxiety that, even if a bite wound is immediately treated by a doctor and it appears very doubtful that the animal had rabies, the dreadful disease can still break out.¹²

In confronting a folk belief, Richarz espoused a decidedly modern attitude: "Until I am convinced through scientific research and analysis of the composition of the *Bezoarstein*, Madstone, or *Heilstein* as it is called, I consider the whole thing a fraud."

These examples indicate that folk beliefs still flourished where modern medicine had not yet made inroads. People sought psychological comfort for problems that could not be solved by doctors. Such cures enabled them to take action and feel they had improved their chances for survival. Just as the problem of physical survival confronted the German settlers, they also encountered problems of cultural survival. I will now briefly examine some folklore dealing with cultural contact.

When the German settlers arrived in Texas they crafted an identity out of both the old and the new. The old could consist of German language, song, and work ethic, the new could represent the hardships of the pioneer period, the experience of participating in American political life, and the transformation of

frontier "wilderness" into a German-American landscape. A few examples of folklore that capture this process are provided below.

The passing on of oral traditions often involves a process of collective memory. One case in particular represents a fascinating case of creative local memory. In a short newspaper history of the town of Cibolo, near San Antonio, I found the following reference:

The house was universally known as the "Burg Humboldt," because it was generally accepted that the famous researcher Alexander von Humboldt [sic] lived there for a long time during his American journey. The house was also used by many immigrants, who did not have a place of their own and used it until they found out where they could settle down.¹³

This little piece of local lore is much more complex than it seems at first glance. The famous German naturalist did in fact travel in the Americas, but he traveled in the first years of the nineteenth century, long before the Cibolo settlement existed, and he never got north of Guanajuato in Mexico or west of Philadelphia in the United States.¹⁴

How then do we interpret this tradition? Could Humboldt have been confused with one of the later German travelers who visited central Texas in the mid-nineteenth century? It is likely that a German researcher did in fact live in the house. On the other hand, Humboldt's name became firmly attached to the site. The discrepancy can perhaps be explained by the dividing line between pre- and post-Civil War migrations. German pioneers were living in that area in the 1840s and 1850s and probably did in fact host a German researcher. When new waves of immigrants appeared in the 1870s and 1880s, someone recalled that a German researcher had lived in that house. Humboldt, whose American travels would have been vaguely known to anyone who attended high school in Germany, became an obvious candidate. As new immigrants arrived at their temporary way-station, they and their neighbors perpetuated the Humboldt version. The story proved to be socially useful: just like "Humboldt", who had once lived there before going on to do bigger and better things, the new immigrants would follow in his footsteps in their new life in America. By the 1920s, when the tradition was recorded and the German culture was in retreat, the story still made sense and was retold in the article.

Other examples retrieved from newspaper articles mirror the kinds of cultural encounters that are also well-documented in Professor Jordan's compendium. These are jokes, stories, and anecdotes that focus on issues of

cultural adaptation and survival. The following two examples are both taken from a series of articles on the German heritage of Guadalupe County written by Carl Blumberg.

Based upon the fact that anecdotes about communication difficulties have surfaced in both Professor Jordan's collection and the Blumberg materials, it is possible that we are dealing with an under-appreciated type of immigrant folklore. Here in particular, the problem of communicating an important message in a foreign language (I have preserved the comical English of the German text) is emphasized:

A pair of young men fresh from Germany had rented a farm for cultivation not far from Cibolo. They bought a pair of oxen: one black and one spotted.

One day these oxen ran away, and one of the young men went around to look for it. He encountered an American who could not understand any German. Our fine German said to him in the English that he had learned: "Heb ju sihn tu ochsen, wan black und wan someim weit und someim black?"¹⁵

On the one hand, a German-Texan audience could identify with the neophytes because such situations continuously arose in everyday encounters. On the other hand, the story is humorous precisely because listeners, or in this case readers, had sufficiently surmounted the language barrier to laugh at the crude mistakes of uninitiated beginners. Adjustment and adaptation make this a German-American story, which would not have been understood by Germans who did not have a subtle appreciation of English.

Another anecdote deals with problems of acclimatization. Here, as in some examples in Professor Jordan's book, issues of race, language, and self-identification surface in a brief folk narrative. Blumberg relates:

I also knew a Negro boy who grew up on our farm and spoke good German, in fact better German than English. Once he said to my father: "Pardon me that I always speak German, it's just that I can make myself better understood that way." It was true and he was not ashamed of this as so many young German boys are.

One time this Negro was at the Galveston Port when a ship with German immigrants landed. Among them was an old, stooped little lady and her husband. The Negro shouted: "Guten Morgen, Mütterchen, I'm glad that you have also come over here!"

The lady stopped and asked: "Oh, can you also speak German?"

"Well, why not?," answered the Negro, "I'm German too."

"But you are so black," exclaimed the lady.

In a joking tone the Negro replied: "Oh yea, here all the people turn black if they've been here long enough, because its so hot."

She got all flustered and called out to here husband: "Old man, we'd better go back to Germany right away, or we'll turn as black as that Negro over there."¹⁶

This story has many layers and levels. The black youth, who grew up speaking German and is proud of his language, is contrasted with many young German boys in Texas. He is fully convinced that he is "German too." The encounter takes place in Galveston, the common meeting point between the new world and the old world. The youth decides to have a little fun with an immigrant woman and her husband by playing upon his ambiguous identity as a person of African descent who speaks German fluently. The resolution of the story revolves around the pre-existing fears of the newcomers that the Texas environment will transform them. In this encounter a German-Texan, who happens to be black, has some fun at the expense of newly arrived immigrants because he understands their stereotypes and fears.

This article has provided only a small sample of the wealth of materials that are still awaiting rediscovery. As we consider the future of German-Texan studies, folklore can provide a useful vehicle for both interpreting our German heritage and introducing it to new generations in an interesting and stimulating manner. Though time is running out for field research, newspapers represent a fruitful area for future inquiry. Having established that there are hopes for a plentiful harvest, we can only lament that, for now, the laborers are few.

¹ Gilbert Jordan, *German Texana* (Burnet, Texas: Eakin Press, 1980).

² Richard M. Dorson, "The Use of Printed Sources," in Richard Dorson, ed., *Folklore and Folklife* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press: 1972) 467.

³ *Ibid*, 467.

⁴ Robert A. Georges and Michael Owen Jones, *Folkloristics: An Introduction* (Bloomington, Indiana University: 1995) 204.

⁵ C. F. Blumberg, "Auf den Fußspuren unserer deutschen Vorfahren," *Seguiner Zeitung*, 27 November 1930.

⁶ *Neu Braunfelser Zeitung*, 6 July 1856. For images of the *Liatris*, consult <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~harms/liatris.html/>.

⁷ *Seguiner Zeitung*, 29 June 1905.

⁸ *Freie Presse*, 1 April 1897.

⁹ *Freie Presse*, 22 July 1897.

¹⁰ *Folkloristics*, 233-234.

¹¹ *Freie Presse*, 22 July 1897.

¹² *Freie Presse*, 22 July 1897.

¹³ "Eine Kurze Geschichte der Entwicklung von Cibolo, Texas," *Seguiner Zeitung*, 9 March 1923.

¹⁴ Helmut de Terra, *Humboldt: The Life and Times of Alexander von Humboldt 1769-1859* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1955).

¹⁵ C. F. Blumberg, "Reise-Beobachtungen," *Seguiner Zeitung*, 16 April 1931.

¹⁶ C. F. Blumberg, "Auf den Fußspuren unserer deutschen Vorfahren," *Seguiner Zeitung*, 13 November 1930.



IN MEMORIAM

GILBERT JOHN JORDAN

by Brian J. Boeck

Gilbert J. Jordan was born near Art Texas in 1902, the youngest son of Daniel and Emilie Jordan. He attended school at Art through the ninth grade and lived the typical rural life in this Texas-German settlement. He attended Mason High School in 1919-1920, then transferred to Cherokee Junior College, where he completed his high school courses and first years of college in 1919-1921. He received his A.B. degree at Southwestern University in 1924 and his M.A. degree at the University of Texas. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1936 by Ohio State University.

He began his professional career by teaching at the Kothmann School in Mason County in 1921-1922. From 1924 to 1930 he was a teacher and high school principal in Carthage, Saratoga, Port Neches and Baytown Texas. Then from 1930 to 1968 he was Professor of German at Southern Methodist University. After his retirement in 1968 he took a similar position at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. After his second retirement he resided in Dallas. During his university career he served as chairman of German and foreign language instruction at SMU. He was awarded the Certificate of Merit, First Class, by the President of the Republic of Germany in 1960 for his contribution to German teaching and scholarship.

He was a founding member of the German-Texan Heritage Society. His books and articles on the German heritage of Texas made a lasting contribution to German-Texan studies. His children, Janice Shefelman and Terry G. Jordan, have also published on the German heritage of Texas.

(Adapted from a biographical sketch written by Professor Jordan for a history of Mason County. Information provided by Mrs. Johnita S. Bohmfalk of Mason, Texas)

submitted by Connie Krause

The School of Sister Felicitas

By Everett A. Fey

One of the shortest-lived religious schools in New Braunfels opened in 1860. A Franciscan nun, Sister Felicitas von Fitz, arrived from "the North" to New Braunfels, supposedly seeking a southern climate "for health reasons". She seems to have lost no time in securing a large house and opening a school for girls.

The school was located on the corner of Seguin Street and Meusebach Street only about four blocks from SS Peter and Paul Church. Sister Felicitas had no official connection with the parish but was here on her own accord. She was helped in the purchase of the above property by Valentin Fey and Johann Joseph Walzem who co-signed the note for her to acquire the house and land. The building was later demolished when the I.G.N. Railroad passed through that area in the early 1900s.

The 1860 Census, taken later that year, labels the house as an "Orphan School" enumerating Sister Felicitas as the "orphan mother" and seems to indicate that the 13 female students, most of them Catholic, were orphans. In truth, they were not orphans as a careful check of the Census reveals that the students were also counted a second time with their families in their own homes elsewhere in the County.

For some reason, the school had problems from the beginning. A religious sister from Germany was to have joined her school staff but this did not happen. Bishop Odin, the Bishop of Texas, must have heard negative reports because he deemed it necessary to send Father D'Asti, O.F.M., of Houston to visit New Braunfels and investigate the Orphanage.

In Father D'Asti's report he wrote: "I visited the Orphanage in New Braunfels and found it really poor. My belief is that Sister Felicitas will never succeed in doing anything worth mentioning as long as she remains there. The people are against her and they will help her to get away but will not help to support her there. I am afraid that she will lose everything, because she still owes \$400.00 for the house. The priest of the place (Father Wendel, O.S.B.) and her creditors (Valentine Fey and Johann Joseph Walzem) were just waiting for her to return home."

At this point, Sister Felicitas must have departed from New Braunfels and gone to Frelsburg. A note states that the pastor there wanted her to start a school in Frelsburg. Another note states that Father D'Asti (her investigator himself) had also requested her to start a school in his own parish in Houston!

Sister Felicitas, however, chose to return to New Braunfels but she lost her home, the school and the property because she could not pay the notes. On March 25, 1862, she finally sold the house and property to a widow, Philippine Peter.

There are a lot of unanswered questions in the above account. It is difficult to judge this event in our local history objectively. While it seems she was successful as a teacher, perhaps her ability to establish rapport in the community was lacking. However, three of the 13 girls in her school soon went on to religious convents and dedicated their own lives as Sisters. Marie Wenzel and Anna Wenzel joined the Ursuline Convent in San Antonio. Katherine Pauly became the first Texan vocation to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria.

These are the names of the 13 female students in her private school as found in the 1860 Census and in further research:

Name	Age	Birthplace	Parents
Anna Merz	14	Nassau	Nicolaus and Marie Merz
Marie Wenzel	11	Prussia*	Georg and Margareta Wenzel
Anna Wenzel	04	Texas	Ignatz and Anna Wenzel
Anna Schmitz	13	Prussia	?Jacob Schmitz (hotel owner)
Katherine Pauly	11	Texas	Fred and Louise Pauly
Margarethe Pauly	06	Texas	Fred and Louise Pauly
Marie Froebel	10	Prussia	unknown
Gertrude Walzem	11	Prussia	Johann J. Walzem
Theresa Stute	10	Texas	unknown
Therese Wenz	08	Bavaria	unknown
Elise Offer	11	Prussia	Herman and Katharina Offer
Marian January	12	Mississippi	H. P. and Mary January
Ana January	10	Mississippi	H. P. and Mary January

*Marie Wenzel was born in New Braunfels

May this short recounting of her story serve as a sign of gratitude for her labors among the youth of New Braunfels in our early years. Her work wove a unique pattern in the quilt of education in our local area.

Everett A. Fey, SS Peter & Paul Archives and Museum

A RECOLLECTION OF FLEEING BETSCHMEN by Ron Hunka

By the beginning of 1944, some of the German descent people in Yugoslavia, the *Donau Schwaben*, were beginning to leave the country anticipating its eventual fall. By October, the evacuation order from the German government came too late to accommodate the removal of all Germans in an orderly manner by rail, as the Russian and Partisan forces approached. Many of the Germans had to resort to fleeing in long convoys of horse and ox-drawn wagons. Some of these columns of wagons were estimated to have strung out for as much as sixty miles, so great was the number of refugees. My wife's mother, Susanna Sorg, later Wagner, was one of those desperate people.

This account is my mother-in-law's recollection of that terrible time for her and her family. About seventy percent of the people in her village of Betschmen in the vicinity of Belgrade were of German descent, and the rest Serbs.

The Sorg family owned a productive farm of over eighty acres. My mother-in-law remembers that, "In our fields, we grew wheat, oats, barley, corn, and our own potatoes." They also had a vineyard, and made wine and schnapps. The family sold what it did not need for money to buy clothes, household items, tools, and to pay taxes.

At 4:00 AM, the morning of October 4th, representatives of the *Buergermeister* went house to house among the German families of the 150-house village rapping on windows and yelling to the people to get out while there was time.

Susanna Sorg was a young woman of eighteen and left with her mother, Eva, and three of her four younger brothers, Johann, Heinrich, and Bernhard. The oldest son, Wilhelm, at sixteen was away, having been drafted into the *Arbeitsdienst* for the German government. At this time during the war, among other things these young men dug bunkers and trenches for protection from air raids. As the oldest child of a somewhat dependent mother, Susie, the only daughter had much of the responsibility for managing the family. The people who were leaving had so little time to evacuate that many of them took very little.

One of the things that the Sorg family took was a clock with a wooden housing with a small, carved horse's head at the top that was the twelfth anniversary present from the father, Wilhelm, to his wife. Three months after the April anniversary in 1936, he had died of an appendicitis. Eva Sorg had a strong emotional attachment to the clock as it was the last thing her husband had given her. Wilhelm Sorg was buried in the town cemetery of Betschmen. When the family fled, they left his grave behind and never saw it again.

The Sorg family also took two of their three horses for their wagon. A third, they gave to a woman named Riess, a refugee with three children, whom they were sheltering in a smaller house on their farm. The other farm animals included two sheep that had contributed wool for the family's clothing. There were several pigs, some that would have been slaughtered for meat in a few weeks, two cows, chickens, ducks, and two family dogs, one a black dachshund that had been a birthday present for Susie the year her father died. When they left their farm, the Sorgs opened all the gates and pens and let the animals go. There was nothing else to do.

The Germans of Betschmen formed a convoy with their wagons and traveled together. At first, the weather was good. As the wagons reached Hungary, the weather turned cold and rainy. It stayed that way into Austria. My mother-in-law recalls that her family's wagon did not have a canvas cover to protect them from the rain, there being no man in her family to handle the duty. When it rained, the family got wet. My mother-in-law also had no coat. The climate was milder where they lived in Yugoslavia than it was in Austria where they were going. The women wore long sweaters at home and had no coats. They seldom left home. In Betschmen, only one man owned a car, and there was little traveling outside one's area in those days.



German refugees fleeing Betschmen in October 1944

Since the wagons were loaded with household goods, the people for the most part did not ride. They walked along beside the wagons. My mother-in-law says that she drove her family's wagon frequently and walked when she was not driving. The trip from Betschmen to Lower Austria took about three weeks of hard traveling. The Sorgs had taken beans, smoked pork, flour, salt, sugar, and coffee for the trip that they consumed along the way. Sometimes, German soldiers who passed gave the refugees rations to eat. Once or twice the army gave each wagon one loaf of dark bread. Another time a social service organization treated the Betschmen refugees to *Eintopf*, a kind of vegetable stew with everything in it.

Near Vienna, the Betschmen group camped for a day in the Vienna Woods, which had been the setting for one of the most famous waltzes by Johann Strauss Jr. However, this occasion was anything but jubilant as people did wash, rested, exhausted from the difficult days of travel, and tried to stay warm.

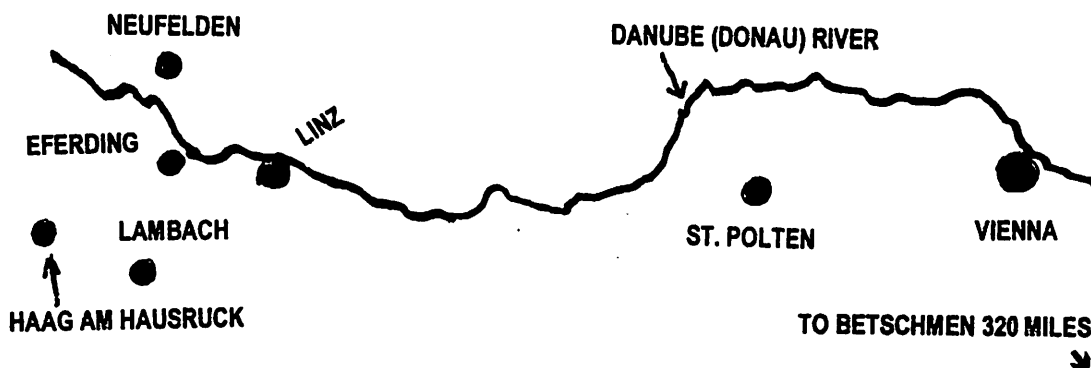
A few days later, the wagons reached Sankt Poelten, the oldest city in Austria, in the state of Lower Austria, today a city of 50,000. The Betschmeners was entering a thousand year old city that traced its origin to an ancient monastery, once regarded as the eastern-most outpost of Christianity.

At this point, the *Buergermeister* took advantage of an opportunity to send some of the children, the sick, and elderly ahead by train, those on whom the trip was most difficult. Four young women, Susie being the youngest and the oldest twenty-two, were put in charge of the group of about eighty persons, including Susie's two youngest brothers, and asked to take the group by train to the small town of Aeistersheim, near Haag am Hausrueck in Upper Austria, a quiet area hopefully out of the way of the war. Before this group departed, an aunt entrusted Susie with her two youngest daughters, one five years old and the other four. It was cold, and the little girls had no shoes. Susie and another woman carried them.

The group to leave by train was taken to the *Bahnhof* in Sankt Poelten. Most of the refugees had little money, but the German government provided the transportation. Each station had a lady official, an *Ueberseherin*, whose job it was to assist refugee groups, who were being evacuated, to board trains and to get to specified destinations. This official called ahead to notify the next station of the pending arrival of each group. Sankt Poelten was about forty miles due west of Vienna. The group's initial destination from there was Linz, on the Danube, over seventy miles away. The train likely followed a route that paralleled present-day Austria's *Autobahn 1* between Vienna and Linz. As Linz and other cities were being bombed by American planes at that time, the trains traveled only at night. During the day the Betschmen refugees spent in Linz, they got off the train and stayed inside a large building.

At Linz, the group changed trains before traveling to Lambach, roughly twenty-five miles southwest of Linz. There had been passenger cars in which to ride from Sankt Poelten to Linz. But the group had only animal cars in which to travel to Lambach. There were no seats, but the cars were clean. The train went on from Lambach to Haag am Hausrueck, even today a town of only 2,100 persons, more than ten miles away, where they got off. The trip, which had taken part of two days, normally would have only taken two or three hours.

When the train arrived in Haag am Hausrueck, the refugees from Betschmen were packed onto wagons by local farmers and taken to a school in nearby Aeistersheim. They were given blankets to put on top of the straw that had been put down on which they were to sleep.



ROUTE OF REFUGEES FROM BETSCHMEN ACROSS NORTHERN AUSTRIA

There was a basement in the school where people washed up and hung clothes to dry. Susie like many of the others had only the clothes that she was wearing. She and the other three young women in charge were given use of a kitchen in a medieval castle nearby, which curiously still had a moat around it, to feed the people in their care. A bakery gave them some day old bread and black flour to make more bread. Their food consisted of the bread, ersatz coffee, jam for the bread, apples, that they were allowed to pick up from the ground, and potatoes. Only the youngest children got any milk. The weather remained rainy and cold. The group stayed in Aeistersheim for two weeks before getting a telephone call from their *Buergermeister* telling them where to meet the wagon train and their families.

The memory of working in that castle came back to my mother-in-law one day some fifty-seven years later, last year, when she visited my wife and me in Austin. I was telling her that I had been reading Wolfgang Samuel's memoir, *German Boy*, about his experiences as a child in Germany during the war fleeing the Russians in a wagon with his family. Susie said that she too had once had to flee the Russians in a wagon. She started to tell me about those days and recalled working in the castle with the moat.

I told Susie that we could probably find a website for Aeistersheim and maybe something about the castle. I knew that Austria has very good web sites from having planned vacations there in the recent past. As it turned out, there was no web site for this small town, but there was one for Haag am Hausruck. We wrote an e-mail query in German, between the two of us, explaining that my mother-in-law had been a refugee in 1944 in Aeistersheim and had worked in a castle. She could not remember the name at that time. We asked if someone could help us identify the castle, which in 1944 had had a moat.

Susie still remembered the name of the castle *Verwalter* or manager, Otto Hausner, and his wife, Luise, who, she recalled, were very friendly and helpful to the refugees from Betschmen.

To Susie's and my delight the next day, we got a response from a gentleman, a city employee in Haag, who worked in "marketing". He wrote that the castle was called *Wasserschloss*, and that made sense. He included a contact name in Aeistersheim and an address. My mother-in-law was duly impressed by the power of the Internet. She had asked several times incredulously, when first told of the response, "You mean someone has already replied from Austria?" It was a quick turnaround for someone who had once traveled from Yugoslavia to Austria in a wagon.

The Betschmen group had been advised by the *Buergermeister* to rejoin their families in Neufelden. Again, they boarded a train and traveled to their next destination, where they spent the night. The rain had turned to heavy snow, and the next day Susie's grandfather arrived to pick up his family members in a borrowed sleigh. From this point, the refugees from Betschmen went their separate ways.

From Neufelden, the Sorgs and others went to nearby Kirchberg ob der Donau, just about twenty-five miles northwest of Linz, to a farm, where they remained for nine months. Susie worked as a maid and helper for a family named Steirl. For the sum of eighteen *Reichsmark* a month, she took care of three children, who were ten and seven years old and a baby 9 months, as well as washing the family's clothes, keeping house, cleaning the barn, and cutting wood with Herr Steirl at the other end of a two person saw.

142 In July 1945, the Sorgs were informed by the American forces that Kirchberg, on the north side of the Danube would very soon become part of the Russian zone of occupation, the Danube being the dividing line. Shortly afterward, they left and crossed to the south side of the river by ferry to the town of Efferding early one morning. Some of the other refugees who had been slower to depart were captured by the Russians.

The Sorg's group traveled back toward Linz, the people holding out some hope that they might still be able to go back to their homes in Yugoslavia since the war was over. But they met people who had attempted unsuccessfully to return with terrible stories about others who had been killed.

Although the people of Betschmen probably did not know it, in November of 1944, the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia had passed an act that called for the property of persons of German nationality, other than those who fought with the National Liberation Army or the Yugoslav Partisans, to be forfeited to the state. The Betschmeners no longer had homes to which to return.

The group with which the Sorgs traveled resettled themselves in Schoenering, which is the second town east of Linz on the Danube. They found a ransacked barracks, which had been part of a prisoner of war camp for Scottish prisoners, who had torn the place down before they left. This group from Betschmen, now about a hundred in number, put the barracks back together to make a shelter for themselves. They now had some shelter but nothing to eat.

By a strange set of circumstances, this group had among its number a young American woman who was able to help them. This young woman named Kathi -- my mother-in-law no longer remembers her last name -- was the daughter of a couple who had left Yugoslavia before the war and had become American citizens. During the summer of 1944, by some means that is not entirely clear she had been able to travel to Yugoslavia to visit her grandparents who lived in a village not too far from Betschmen. This woman, who was married but younger than Susie, had ironically ended up a refugee with the *Donau Schwaben*.

One day shortly after the group arrived at the dilapidated barracks, Kathi, Susie, and another young women went to look for American soldiers. Kathi, apparently with some knowledge of how to get things done, told them that they should only talk to an American officer, not just some GI. The three of them went to a road where some American trucks were passing. They waited until a jeep with a driver and an officer came by. When it did, Kathi called out to them in English. They stopped.

Susie, who did not speak English at the time, could not follow the discussion. However, Kathi told the officer that she was an American and that there were a bunch of refugees with nothing to eat in a dilapidated barracks nearby.

American soldiers came that day to the barracks with a truckload of rations for the people from Betschmen. They returned once a week with food until these people were relocated to another barracks in Linz. Kathi, by the way, was on her way back to the United States a couple of weeks later, a misplaced American, who, by chance, played a critical role in the welfare of this group.

The group remained there for about four or five weeks. Finally, they were told to go to another barracks in Linz, the so-called *Lager 66*, which was in better condition and had heat for the winter.

After going to Linz, the Sorg family sold its wagon and the two horses which had brought them all the way from Yugoslavia, a mother and daughter named Flora and Maltschie, for a trivial sum. It was sad, but there was nothing to feed them. Sometime later in Linz, my mother-in-law says that she saw the two horses attached to a beer wagon stopped in front of an establishment. As the driver was not there, she went over to the horses and called them by name and they perked up at the sound of the old familiar voice. She cried over having seen the family's old horses and the memories they brought back. But at least they were in good condition, she remembered. From their appearance, they were being cared for well.

In 1946, Susanna Sorg married Josef Wagner, who like her was a German whose family had lived in a village in Yugoslavia. He had been a German soldier during the war, and his family had also ended up in Linz.

Joe and Susie had two daughters, Helga and Inge. The Wagners lived in *Lager 66* in Linz for six years until 1952 when they emigrated to the United States. It had been eight years since that early October morning in Betschmen when there was a knocking on the windows and frantic voices in the dark warning the Sorgs to get out.



SUSANNA SORG AND JOSEF WAGNER AT THEIR WEDDING, 1946

Joe Wagner died in 1999, and Susie Wagner lives now in Tupelo, Mississippi with her older daughter, Helga, and her husband. From them, Susie has three grandchildren. Inge's and my daughter is her other grandchild. All four of her brothers are still alive and live in the United States. In the last few years, my wife and I have been fortunate to be able to travel to the part of Austria several times where most of these events took place and to visit some of the Wagner relatives, my wife's aunt and uncle and his family, who stayed in Austria after the war and live in Pasching and Traun near Linz.

Recently, when I was talking to Susie by phone in Mississippi, I asked her what had happened to the clock that her family had carried in the wagon when they left Yugoslavia. "Did you hear it just now?" she asked. So the chimes once heard by a young girl, in a farmhouse in far away, long ago Betschmen in Yugoslavia are still heard today by an older lady in her daughter's house in Tupelo, Mississippi. The memories they bring back ...

**Letter written by Paula Zimmermann Wagner in Blumberg, Germany, July 13, 1945,
submitted by Christa Schwing Broderick**

Editor's Note: This touching letter, vividly describing the horrors of World War II for German civilians, was written in 1945 about two months after the end of the fighting by Paula Zimmermann Wagner, a widow in Germany, to her two children in the United States: Gerhard Wagner and Grete Wagner Schwing. Greta Wagner Schwing passed the letter down to her daughter, GTHS member Christa Schwing Broderick, who translated it into English.

Christa provided a useful identification of individuals mentioned in the letter. The "mother" in the letter is, of course, Paula Wagner, nee Zimmermann. "Dear father" refers to her husband, Leonard Wagner, who died before the war. "Tante Fanny" was Paula's older sister, born ca. 1863, and "Tante Hedwig" was another sister. "Little Christa" was, of course, Paula's first grandchild, Christa Schwing, born in the United States. Paula's mother was Franziska Psotta, so the Psottas mentioned at the letter's end were members of her family. The Schwings also are mentioned. Paula's son-in-law was Kurt Schwing and these were his relatives in Germany.



Stempel: *Stelle Wiesbaden*

Eigenhändige Unterschrift des Inhabers / der Inhaberin
Paula Wagner.

Platz für Beglaubigungsmarke



Name: Wagner, geb. Zimmermann, Paula Vorname:

DRK-Dienstgrad: Helferin

Geburtstag- und ort: 20.2.1882/Grube Gerhard bei Luienthal

Anschrift: Wiesbaden, Moritzstr. 32

Demerk: _____

Alle Behörden, Partei- und Wehrmacht-Dienststellen werden gebeten, den Inhaber/die Inhaberin dieses Ausweises in Ausübung des Rotkreuzdienstes zu unterstützen und ihm/ihr jede Förderung angedeihen zu lassen

Stempel: *Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, Dienststelle der Freistelle, Landesstelle, Wiesbaden*

Wiesbaden, d. 7.12.42
Der Leiter der Personalabteilung, i

Unterschrift des Führers der DRK-Dienststelle
[Signature]

Für Bereitschaften (m): D R K Hauptführer.

Dieser Ausweis gilt als Sanitätschein des DRK.

Photo of Paula Zimmermann Wagner in a German Red Cross (*Deutsches Rotes Kreuz*) uniform and her Red Cross identification card issued at Wiesbaden in 1942, showing her birthday as February 20, 1882, and her Wiesbaden residence at #32 Moritz Street.

Blumberg/Baden, July 13, 1945
Bleiche 2

My dear Children,

After almost 4 years, I can finally write you the first letter. I cannot tell you how happy it makes me, to write to you and tell you everything that I have undergone. Dear Gerd, hopefully you received the telegram that a man from Switzerland sent you. I hope to receive an answer from you through him and I wait now everyday with much longing. This morning, a lady, who also lives here in Blumberg, told me that I could also write a letter to you which her husband would forward to you and you should write me back in the same manner. Isn't that wonderful? Blumberg is just a few kilometers away from Switzerland; if you two could be there, I could see you at the border, just like Mrs. Kadgin always meets her husband. So, please write me at the following address: Dr. Kadgin, Baden/Zurich, Hotel Verena, Switzerland.

Maybe you already received my letters, which I mailed from here in January and March through the Red Cross, and know already that I am no longer living in Wiesbaden, since I no longer have a home there; the whole house burned down with everything that was inside. In October 1944, right on Gretelchen's birthday, my apartment was damaged for the first time from bombings, all the window panes gone, doors broken, but I could still live in it; we all(tenants) of the house slept in the air-raid cellar; I had also brought my Chaiselongue downstairs; it was a horrifying time, every night together with so many other people down there in the cellar; but we made it work and we were happy that we were spared further bombings, i.e. in our neighborhood. However, it got worse with every day, I couldn't use the living room anymore and lived only in the small bedroom and kitchen; I could barely cook for myself since the gas was turned on only for several hours, and when it was turned on, usually there was also an air-raid alarm and we were in the cellar. Then on Nov. 15, 1944, Tante Hedwig wrote me that I should come to her in Freiburg, her house was still intact and up to that point, Freiburg had had no attacks; I ended my volunteer service with the Red Cross at the railroad station (up to that time I volunteered 4 times a week at the railroad station, the work made me so happy, and I was with other people and not always alone) and went to Freiburg to Tante Hedwig and Fanny Fornet. I had already packed many suitcases and boxes in the cellar with linens, silver, porcelain, etc., also my little radio and pictures of you two and father. My landlady had left already in October 1944 to live with her children in the country and also her daughter, who lived above me, had gone; everyone who could leave Wiesbaden left since we waited everyday for a Terror attack.

I was taken in very lovingly in Freiburg, everything was nice and good, until Nov. 27, 1944 when the great Terror attack came there. Tante Hedwig's house was situated very close to the railway station and the main attack raged there. It was absolutely horrible as the bombs fell on us, I cannot describe such a thing for you. We had, however, in the house a wonderful air-raid shelter, it was the best built house in all of Freiburg, and that air-raid shelter saved our lives. The attack began at 8:00 AM and lasted 20 minutes, but

at 11:30AM we had to get out of the house because everything around us was burning and also our house was in danger of burning.

II. As we came out to the street, everything all around us was burning and we ran with the little bit that we could carry to a little park that was close by and there we sat in the basement of a little castle which stood in the park until the next morning and then we searched for a place to stay since the apartment of Tante Hedwig had been totally destroyed by the bombs. After 5 days we could get out of Freiburg and 8 days after that we landed here in Blumberg, where Fanny had already 2 years ago rented this small country house from an acquaintance. She had lived here often in order to have an alternative in case something were to happen. We could still get our suitcases out of Freiburg with much care and work. I could not return to Wiesbaden since all the railroads had been disturbed because of the bombings and also travel was too dangerous because of low-flying aircraft. I cannot describe to you everything that we had to endure. Only my thoughts of you, my dear children, kept my courage up and also the wish to see you once more in my lifetime. I almost died of longing for you. Just at the same time of Tante Hedwig's birthday, Jan. 29, 1945, the letter came from Grete telling of the birth of their sweet little daughter. I had already received earlier her letter saying that she expected a little child in the spring. The letter was forwarded to me from Wiesbaden. I was totally ecstatic to now be a grandmother. Oh, if only our dear father had been allowed to live to know that he had a grandchild. I am happy that he did not have to live through all the horrors of this war. On Feb. 2, 1945, there was a terror attack on Wiesbaden. We heard about it the other day on the radio and on Feb. 16 I also received a report from Mrs. Ohlpart, that our house and thereby my apartment was consumed by fire, burning petrol cans caused everything to be on fire, nothing could be saved, only the things that were in the cellar did not burn, but more than likely much has been stolen already because who is there to protect those things; I did however write to Ohlparts that they should take my belongings with them when they got their things but since then I have not heard a thing. The postal service didn't function anymore and then we heard there was fighting near Gross-Gerau where the Ohlparts lived. Since March(1945) we did not receive any communications from any relative. Here in our little house, we are 6 women: Tante Hedwig, Fanny Fornet, Johanna Fornet – Harald's wife -, she delivered a son 7 weeks ago, and on April 18, 1945 Kaete and Annerose Rahfeld also came here from Vienna. These poor ones have lost everything. Kaete does not know where Bruno, her husband, nor Walter, her son, are. Fanny's husband was in Kassel but where he is now we do not know and the same thing for Harald. Kurt Rahfeld is still in Freiburg. – I now own only what I have in my 2 suitcases, a few dresses, some underwear and 3 pairs of shoes, nothing else. Hats, absolutely none left. I do not receive my pension anymore since Neunkirchen has been totally destroyed and who should be there to pay the money. – Deubert's house in Essen is also totally destroyed, they are currently living in Brambauer near Dortmund. Zirklers live (since their house in Kassel was destroyed 2 years ago) in Laubenthal in a little house with Helga and her little daughter Petra. Uncle Heinrich had been sending me 100.- Mark every month since October 1942. In January 1945 was the last time I received any money from him, since then no mail has made it through; I still have

III. about 1200 Mark here, also in Wiesbaden there are about 600 Mark in the bank, but how shall I get to that money since at the present I cannot travel to Wiesbaden. I also do not know where I shall live; all my friends have lost all their property and I do not know what has become of them. My only hope now lies with you my children, and you two certainly won't leave your mother in the lurch. Please write me immediately, how you think the future should unfold. Hopefully I can come to you, since I would like to live with my children once again and not be alone. If it is at all possible, Grete should send me a sweet picture of little Christa in the next letter so that I can see my little grandchild. – My health has been good so far, only my heart often gives me trouble, but only when I overdo physical labor, since we do all the work ourselves; our water gives out often and then we must bring water from a farmhouse which isn't too far away, but it is uphill to us. The village of Blumberg is ½ hr. from our house and all the food must be purchased there. Even though we do not get much, we still have to bring up here milk and bread daily. Oh, if only one could get everything again. We have absolutely no soap. I don't know how I should wash my laundry, I still have a little bit of bar soap to wash myself; I still have a very little bit of tea which you sent me a while ago; I am saving it in case I become ill and would need it; I also have a little powdered cocoa left. In Wiesbaden I still had preserved so many jars of jelly, marmelade, vegetable ; now that is all lost and here we have nothing, we eat dry bread most of the time. We get a little butter now and then. I always thanked our Lord that you two did not have to experience this life. As long as I was in Wiesbaden, I had everything I needed, but here the world is closed off with wooden planks. But on the one hand it is good that I am here because otherwise I could not contact you through Switzerland. Shortly before the Armistice, fighting occurred here in Blumberg. We actually had to leave our little house and were quartered in a villa where the owners had fled. Our little house was located too close to the armoured tank barricade where possibly a skirmish could have occurred. It turned out differently. Nothing happened to our little house, but the villa, where we lived in the basement, received heavy artillery fire; the three nights on which the shootings occurred were horrible; we did not think we could get out alive. Then the French came and occupied Blumberg. Every corner was inspected in the houses and all our personal belongings. After 10 days we were finally allowed back into our houses, but what a sight! Everything was turned upside down, the closets cleaned out, plundered, it was a miracle that they did not break into my suitcases; the soldiers (Black ones) stole a lot from Tante Hedwig and Fanny Fernet, fur coats, jewelry, shoes etc.; but we will try to make the best of all that, we are happy that the war is over. Once again the sun will shine for us. Now we have everything back in its place and we are living as best we can. I sleep in the same room as Tante Hedwig -

IV. we eat in the vestibule next to our living room, the others sleep on the first floor in the 3 bedrooms which is also where the bathroom is. Hopefully we will have heat in the winter, but where will we get coal. It is very cold here. Blumberg is at 700 Meters elevation. This past winter we had a lot of snow – you must forgive me, that I write everything out of order, but I keep remembering something else I need to tell you. – Now still some news about Grete's in-laws; Schwing's house in Bremen is completely burned and they have only the furniture which they took with them a while ago to Hoya. The niece of Kurt's father offered them 3 rooms in her house, there they live more quietly

than in Bremen. Father Schwing drove always to Bremen to his place of work. Hans was still a dentist in a military hospital, last known place in Lettland. If he returned to Germany on time, I do not know. He married a professor's daughter from Munich (the father however has been long dead). I like Hilda's looks from her picture. Schwings also were greatly happy with the news that a grandchild has come; also Uncle Heinrich and Aunt Paula Zirkler were very happy with the news. Uncle Richard died on Nov. 8, 1944 in Wernigerode. In 1943 all of us siblings were still together for Tante Fanny's 80th Birthday. Those were such nice days. Uncle Richard suffered a lot in the last few years. He wrote shortly before his death that he wished he could see me again, but I could not go there since travel was forbidden and also too dangerous; there was a lot of aircraft there as well as in Bremen. Yesterday, we were told by a man who had returned from Hamburg where he had met Ernst Path, that their house is still standing in Bremen. Jutta gave birth to her 3rd child 6 weeks ago. It is a boy. Jutta however is not feeling well. Renate has also married well, has 3 children, also in Bremen. Friedel Knochenhauer has been with the children for a whole year in Wernigerode, where Wolf now is, I do not know, maybe also in Wernigerode. The Emil Psottas have also lost everything in Neunkirchen. Guess who I met here in Blumberg? Mr. and Mrs, Guenther from Homburg. They had been evacuated over here. Mrs. Guenther is still here with her two small daughters, he is in the Saar Region in order to see the state of affairs there. They had been living in Metz up to now. They are familiar with Ueckingen. The youngest daughter of Merchant Schaefer lived in our house. Merchant Schaefer had his store on the market place (linens, undergarments and sewing goods). His daughter was married to a Dr. Engineer. – Oh, how much I could still tell you but I must end this letter now. Hopefully this letter will be delivered to you and please, please write me immediately. You two cannot imagine what a longing I have for you. Hopefully you are both well; please, dear Gerd, share this letter with Grete, I cannot write this all again; I will write Grete next; I hope that you two get together often and write me your news in detail. Here, everybody sends greetings, we talk about you so often and I always have to show my pictures of you which I have with me; now and then I reread the last letter I received from you and find renewed courage and know that your thoughts have been with me as mine were with you.

I send you greetings and kiss you both in faithful love, Your faithful Mother

P.S. Do you not still live in your beautiful home?

Side of page writing:

Page 3 – The entire Moritz Street in Wiesbaden burned

- In Wiesbaden, after the terror attack, 50,000 people were homeless.

Page 1 - Please forgive my handwriting, I can barely write, my hand trembles so,
Hopefully you can read everything.

The German letter from which the translation above was made begins
on the next page →

Blumberg/Baden, den 13. Juli 1945
Bleiche 2

Meine lieben Kinder!

Nach fast 4 Jahren kann ich Euch heute den ersten Brief schreiben, ich kann Euch gar nicht sagen, wie ich mich darüber freue, Euch mal alles zu schreiben, was ich bis heute erlebt habe. Hoffentlich hast Du, lieber Gerd, das Telegramm erhalten, das ein Herr aus der Schweiz Dir sandte. Durch ihn hoffe ich auch, nun Antwort von Euch zu bekommen und warte nun jeden Tag sehr sehnsüchtig darauf. Heute morgen sagte mir seine Frau, die auch hier in Blumberg lebt, daß ich auch Briefe an Euch schreiben könnte, die ihr Mann dann weiter an Euch befördern will und Ihr sollt auch auf diese Weise an mich schreiben. Ist das nicht wunderschön? Blumberg ist nur ein paar Kilometer von der Schweiz entfernt; wenn Ihr dort sein könntet, könnte ich Euch an der Grenze sehen, wie Frau Kadgin immer ihren Mann trifft. Also schreibt bitte an folgende Adresse: Dr. KADGIN, BADEN/ZÜRICH, HOTEL VERENA; SCHWEIZ.

Vielleicht habt Ihr meine Briefe, die ich im Januar und März von hier an Euch sandte, durch das Rote Kreuz noch bekommen und wußtet schon, daß ich nicht mehr in Wiesbaden bin, denn dort habe ich kein Heim mehr; das ganze Haus ist verbrannt mit allem, was darin war. Im Oktober 1944 gerade an Gretelchens Geburtstag wurde meine Wohnung zum ersten Mal durch Bomben beschädigt, alle Fensterscheiben heraus, Türen kaputt, man konnte aber noch darin wohnen; wir schliefen aber alle vom Haus im Luftschuttkeller; ich hatte mir meine Chaiselongue auch hingestellt; es war eine schreckliche Zeit, jede Nacht da unten in dem Keller mit soviel(en) Menschen zusammen; aber es ging und wir waren zufrieden, daß wir weiter von Bomben verschont blieben, d.h. in unserer Nähe. Es wurde aber mit jedem Tag schlimmer, das Wohnzimmer konnte ich nicht mehr benutzen und hauste nur in dem kleinen Schlafzimmer und Küche; kochen konnte ich mir kaum, da das Gas nur stundenweise brannte, u(nd) wenn es brannte, war gerade Fliegeralarm und wir waren im Keller. Da schrieb mir am 15. November 1944 Tante Hedwig, ich sollte doch zu ihr nach Freiburg kommen, ihre Wohnung sei noch ganz und Freiburg hatte bis dahin auch noch keinen Angriff; und ich gab meinen Dienst beim Roten Kreuz am Bahnhof auf, bis dahin war ich 4x in der Woche am Bahnhof, der Dienst machte mir soviel Freude, und ich war unter Menschen und nicht immer allein und fuhr nach Freiburg zu Tante Hedwig und Fanny Fornet. Ich hatte schon vorher viele Koffer und Kisten in meinem Keller verpackt, mit Wäsche, Silber Porzellan usw, auch mein kleines Radio und Bilder von Euch und Vater. Meine Hauswirtin war auch schon im Oktober 1944 zu ihren Kindern aufs Land, und auch die Tochter, die über mir wohnte; alles was aus Wiesbaden konnte weggehen, reiste ab, da man jeden Tag auf einen Terrorangriff wartete.

In Freiburg wurde ich sehr lieb aufgenommen, alles war gut und schön, bis am 27. November 1944 der große Terrorangriff dort kam. Die Wohnung von Tante Hedwig lag ganz in der Nähe des Bahnhofs und dort wütete der Hauptangriff. Es war einfach grauenhaft, wie die Bomben auf uns herabgelten, ich kann Euch sowas nicht beschreiben. Wir hatten aber in dem Haus einen wunderbaren Luftschuttkeller, das Haus war das bestgebaute Haus von ganz Freiburg, und der Luftschuttkeller rettete uns all(en) das Leben. Die Sache fing um 8 Uhr an und dauerte 20 Minuten, um ½ 12 mußten wir aber aus dem Haus heraus, da es überall brannte und auch für das Haus Brandgefahr bestand.

① Als wir auf die Straße kamen, brannten alle Häuser rings um uns, und wir liefen mit unserem bißchen, was wir gerade tragen konnten in einen kl(einen) Park, der in der Nähe war und dort saßen wir im Keller des kleinen Schloßes, das dort im Park stand, bis zum Morgen und dann suchten wir uns ein Unterkommen, denn die Wohnung von Tante Hedwig war durch die Bomben völlig zerstört. Nach 5 Tagen konnten wir aus Freiburg heraus und weiteren 8 Tagen

landeten wir hier in Blumberg, wo Fanny schon vor 2 Jahren dieses kl(eine) Landhaus von einer Bekannten gemietet hatte und auch fast immer hier wohnte, um eine Ausweiche zu haben, falls mal was passierte. Unsere Koffer konnten wir in Freiburg noch mit viel Mühe und Arbeit herausholen. Nach Wiesbaden konnte ich nun nicht mehr zurück, da die Bahnstrecken alle durch Bombenabwürfe zertört waren, dann war das Reisen auch zu gefährlich durch die Tiefflieger. Ich kann Euch das alles gar nicht beschreiben, was wir hier mitmachen mußten. Nur der Gedanke an Euch, meine lieben Kinder, hielt mich noch aufrecht und der Wunsch, Euch noch einmal im Leben wiederzusehen. Ich bin bald vergangen vor Sehnsucht nach Euch. Gerade an Tante Hedwigs Geburtstag, also am 29. Januar 1945 kam die Nachricht von Grete, daß ihnen ein kleines Töchterchen geboren sei, vorher hatte ich ja schon die Nachricht, daß sie im Frühjahr ein Kindchen erwartete. Der Brief wurde mir von Wiesbaden nachgesandt.. Ich war ganz außer mir vor Freude, nun auch Großmutter zu sein. Ach, wenn das unser lieber Vater hätte erleben dürfen, ein Enkelkind zu haben. Froh bin ich, daß er all die Schrecken dieses Krieges nicht hat erleben brauchen. Am 2. Februar 1945 war nun der Terrorangriff auf Wiesbaden, wir hörten es den anderen Tag durch das Radio u(nd) am 16. Februar bekam ich von Frau Ohlpart auch Nachricht, daß unser Haus und somit auch meine Wohnung ein Raub der Flammen wurde, Brandkanister haben alles in Brand gesetzt, es konnte nichts gerettet werden, nur im Keller die Sachen sind nicht verbrannt; aber sicher ist dann nun vieles gestohlen worden, denn wer soll darauf aufpassen; ich hatte zwar an Ohlparts geschrieben, sie sollen meine Sachen auch mitnehmen, wenn sie ihre Sachen holten Ich habe nachher weiter nichts mehr gehört. Keine Post ging mehr, dann fanden dort, wo Ohlparts wohnten bei Groß-Gerau Kämpfe statt. Seit März (1945) hörten wir von keinem Verwandten mehr was. Hier in unserem Häuschen sind wir zu 6 Frauen: Tante Hedwig, Fanny Fornet, Johanna Fornet - Frau von Harald - , die vor 7 Wochen einen Sohn bekommen hat, und am 18. April (1945) kamen noch von Wien Käte und Annerose Rahfeld - aus Wien - hier an. Die Armen haben nun auch alles verloren. Käte weiß nicht, wo Bruno, ihr Mann, und Walter, ihr Sohn, ist. Fannys Mann ist in Kassel, wo er jetzt ist, wissen wir nicht, und wo Harald sich befindet, ebenfalls nicht. Kurt Rahfeld ist noch in Freiburg. - - Ich besitze nun nichts mehr, als was ich in meinen 2 Koffern hatte, einige Kleider, etwas Wäsche und 3 Paar Schuhe. Hüte überhaupt nicht mehr. Pension bekomme ich auch keine mehr, denn Neunkirchen ist ganz zerstört, und wer soll nun das Geld zahlen. - Deuberts Haus in Essen ist auch ganz zerstört, sie wohnten zuletzt in Br. bei Dortmund. Zirklers wohnen, seit ihr Haus vor 2 Jahren in Kassel zerstört wurde, in Laubenthal im Häuschen mit Helga und ihrem Töchterchen Petra. Onkel Heinrich schickte mir seit Oktober 1942 jeden Monat 100 .- M.(ark) . Im Januar 1945 bekam ich das letzte Geld von ihm, dann kam keine Post mehr durch; ich habe noch (III.) etwa 1200 M. hier, auch in Wiesbaden auf der Bank sind noch etwa 600 M., aber wie soll ich an die herankommen, denn nach Wiesb(aden) kann ich vorläufig nicht reisen. Ich weiß ja auch nicht, wo ich wohnen soll; alle meine Freunde haben ihr Hab und Gut verloren und ich weiß jetzt nichts mehr von ihnen. Meine einzige Hoffnung seid nun Ihr, meine lieben Kinder, und Ihr läßt Eure alte Mutter sicher nicht im Stich. Bitte schreibt mir gleich, wie Ihr denkt, wie alles werden soll. Hoffentlich kann ich mal zu Euch, denn ich möchte doch noch einmal mit meinen Kindern zusammenleben dürfen und nicht mehr allein sein. Wenn es irgend möglich ist, soll Grete mir doch ein Bildchen der kleinen Christa in ihren Brief legen, damit ich doch mein Enkelkindchen mal sehen kann.- Gesundheitlich geht es mir ja soweit gut, nur mein Herz macht mir öfter zu schaffen, aber nur wenn ich mich körperlich anstrengen muß, denn alle Arbeit machen wir allein; oft versagt unser Wasser, dann muß das Wasser von einem Bauernhaus, das nicht weit von uns liegt, geholt werden, aber es geht den Berg hinauf zu uns; der Ort Blumberg liegt eine ½ Stunde von unserem Haus entfernt und alle Lebensmittel müssen herangeschafft werden.

Wenn wir auch nicht viel bekommen, so muß doch jeden Tag Milch und Brot herauf geschafft werden. Ach, könnte man doch mal wieder alles bekommen. Seife haben wir überhaupt keine Ich weiß nicht, wie ich meine Wäsche waschen soll, ein bißchen Toilettenseife habe ich noch für mich zu waschen; von dem Tee, den Ihr mir seinerzeit geschickt habt, habe ich noch ein ganz klein bißchen hier; das hebe ich auf, wenn ich mal krank würde und welchen bräuchte; auch etwas Kakao habe ich noch. In Wiesbaden hatte ich noch so viele Gläser Gelee, Marmelade, Gemüse eingeweckt; nun ist alles verloren gegangen und hier hatten wir nichts, wir essen meistens trockenes Brot. Butter bekommen wir ab und zu ein bißchen. Ich danke nur immer unserem Herrgott, daß Ihr dieses Leben nicht habt brauchen mitzumachen. Solange ich in Wiesbaden war, hatte ich auch immer noch alles, aber hier ist die Welt mit Brettern zugenagelt. Aber es ist nun doch gut, daß ich hier bin, denn sonst könnte ich Euch durch die Schweiz nicht erreichen. Hier in Blumberg fanden kurz vor Friedensschluß auch Kämpfe statt. Wir mußten sogar unser Häuschen verlassen und wurden in eine Villa einquartiert, wo die Besitzer geflüchtet waren. Unser Häuschen lag zu nah an der Panzersperre, wo vielleicht ein Kampf hätte stattfinden können. Es kam aber anders, unserem Häuschen passierte nichts, aber die Villa, wo wir im Keller wohnten, wurde stark beschossen; die 3 Nächte, wo die Beschießung stattfand, waren entsetzlich; wir dachten, nicht mehr lebend herauszukommen. Dann kamen die Franzosen und besetzten Blumberg, es wurde jeder Winkel in den Häusern untersucht und alle unsere Sachen. Nach 10 Tagen durften wir wieder in unser Häuschen, aber wie sah es aus! Alles war durcheinander, die Schränke ausgeräumt, geplündert, wie ein Wunder haben sie meine Koffer nicht aufgebrochen; von Tante Hedwig und Fanny Fornet haben die Soldaten (Schwarze) viel gestohlen, Pelzmäntel, Schmuck, Schuhe usw; aber das wollen wir alles verschmerzen, wir sind froh, daß der Krieg nun vorbei ist. Einmal wird ja die Sonne auch mal wieder für uns scheinen. Nun haben wir alles wieder in Ordnung und leben so gut wir können. Ich schlafe mit Tante Hedwig im Zimmer - IV - neben unserem Wohnzimmer, auf der Diele wird gegessen, die anderen schlafen in der 1. Etage in den 3 Schlafzimmern, wo auch das Badezimmer liegt. Hoffentlich können wir im Winter die Heizung brennen, aber wo kommen die Kohlen her. Hier ist es sehr kalt, Blumberg liegt 700 Meter hoch, diesen Winter hatten wir sehr viel Schnee.- Ihr müßt verzeihen, daß ich alles so durcheinander schreibe, aber immer fällt mir noch was ein, was ich Euch erzählen muß. - Nun noch etwas von Gretes Schwiegereltern: Schwings Haus ist in Bremen ausgebrannt, und sie haben nur noch die Möbel, die sie seinerzeit mit nach Hoya genommen haben, die Nichte von Kurts Vater hat ihnen in der Wohnung 3 Zimmer zur Verfügung gestellt, dort wohnen sie ruhiger als in Bremen. Vater Schwing fuhr immer nach Bremen zu seinem Dienst. Hans war noch immer als Zahnarzt in einem Lazarett, zuletzt in Lettland. Ob er noch nach Deutschland kam, weiß ich nicht, er ist mit einer Professorentochter aus München verheiratet, der Vater ist aber schon lange tot. Hilde gefällt mir nach dem Bild sehr gut. Schwings haben sich über die Nachricht, daß ein Enkelkind da ist, auch riesig gefreut; auch Onkel Heinrich und Tante Paula Zirkler waren riesig froh über die Nachricht. Onkel Richard ist am 8. November 1944 in Wernigerode gestorben, 1943 waren wir Geschwister noch alle an Tante Fannys 80. Geburtstag zusammen, es waren sehr schöne Tage. Onkel Richard war die letzten Jahre schon sehr leidend, er schrieb noch kurz vor seinem Tod, er möchte mich doch gerne noch mal sehen, aber ich konnte nicht hinfahren, da das Reisen verboten war und auch zu gefährlich; dort waren die Flieger auch sehr viel ebenso in Bremen. Gestern erfuhren wir durch einen Herrn, der aus Hamburg zurückkam und dort mit Ernst Path zusammen war, daß ihr Haus in Bremen noch steht, Jutta vor 6 Wochen ihr 3. Kind bekam, nochmal 1 Junge, es geht Jutta aber nicht sehr gut. Renate ist auch sehr gut verheiratet, hat schon 3 Kinder, ebenfalls in Bremen.

Friedel Knochenhauer ist mit den Kindern 1 ganzes Jahr in Wernigerode, wo Wolf nun ist, weiß ich nicht, vielleicht auch jetzt in Wernigerode. Emil Psottas haben in Neunkirchen auch alles verloren. Wen, glaubt Ihr, wen ich hier in Blumberg traf: Herr und Frau Günther aus Homburg. Sie waren nach hier evakuiert. Frau Günther ist mit den 2 Töchterchen noch hier, er ist ins Saargebiet, um zu sehen, wie es da ist, sie waren zuletzt in Metz, sie kennen auch Ückingen, in unserem Haus wohnte die jüngste Tochter von dem Kaufmann Schäfer - auf dem Marktplatz (Wäsche- und Nähartikel), sie war mit einem Dr.-Ing. verheiratet.-- Ach, was hätte ich Euch noch soviel zu erzählen, aber nun werde ich Schluß machen. Hoffentlich kommt der Brief auch richtig in Eure Hände und bitte, bitte schreibt mir sofort, Ihr glaubt ja nicht, was für eine Sehnsucht ich nach Euch habe. Hoffentlich seid Ihr alle auch gesund; bitte, lieber Gerd, übermittle den Brief auch an Grete, ich kann nicht alles nochmal schreiben; nächstens schreibe ich auch an Grete; hoffentlich kommt Ihr öfter zusammen und schreibt mir auch von Euch auch ausführlich. Hier lassen Euch alle herzlichst grüßen, wir sprechen so oft von Euch, und ich muß immer die Bildchen von Euch, die ich bei mir habe, zeigen; ab und zu las ich die letzten Briefe von Euch und schöpfte wieder Mut und wußte, Ihr ward mit Euren Gedanken auch bei mir wie ich bei Euch.

Es grüßt und küßt Euch in treuer Liebe Eure tr.(eue) Mutter

(Daneben:) Wohnt Ihr nicht mehr in Eurem schönen Haus?

Auf Seite III.: - Die ganze Moritzstraße ist in Wiesbaden verbrannt.

- In Wiesbaden waren nach dem Terrorangriff 50.000 Menschen obdachlos.

Auf Seite I.: Verzeiht meine Schrift, ich kann kaum schreiben, meine Hand zitterte so, hoffentlich könnt Ihr alles lesen.



Paula Zimmermann Wagner (at far right) in Germany, 1943, with her sisters and brother. From left to right: Meta (Paula's twin sister), Fanny (age 80), Hedwig, Richard Zimmermann, and Paula.

submitted by Dr. Robert A. Neely

from The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1916, Vol. XX, pp.28-34

THE GERMAN SETTLERS OF MILLHEIM BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

ADALBERT REGENBRECHT

[The earliest German immigrants in Texas located in what is now Austin County. Friedrich Ernst and Charles Fordtran settled in 1831 where Industry now is. The families of Marcus Amsler, Ludwig Anton Sigmund von Roeder and Robert J. and Louis Kleberg settled in 1834 where Cat Spring now is. The reports these families sent to their former homes caused others to follow. Some of the experiences of these pioneers are recounted in THE QUARTERLY, I, 297-302; II, 170-73 and 227-32.

Millheim was an offshoot of the settlement at Cat Spring.

The present article was prepared in response to a request of The Editors. It is printed as written, for the author died (March 29, 1916) very soon after it had been completed. He was in his eighty-fifth year, and, perhaps, the last survivor in Austin County of *die Lateiner*, those cultured, genial spirits who found it much easier to cultivate music and song and literature than corn and cotton. *Ubi libertas, ibi patria.*]

After the year 1848 several thousand highly educated Germans emigrated from Germany for various reasons, but immigrated to the United States from love of freedom. Not all of them went to the Northern States, but quite a number went to Austin County and other parts of Texas. My father was a professor of jurisprudence and was elected rector magnificus of the University of Breslau. As a young man he volunteered in the war of 1813 to 1815 and was decorated for bravery in the battle of Kulm with the iron cross and a Russian order. He was wealthy. In the year 1848 I was seventeen years old and a schoolboy. Therefore, I did not participate in the revolution, but took a lively interest in it. Reading the constitutions of the free countries I preferred the constitution of the United States. After having studied jurisprudence for several years and after the deaths of my parents I emigrated in company with a Texan farmer, who had married a second cousin of mine and returned

with his wife to his farm in Austin County. We went in a sailing vessel to New Orleans and arrived there in January, 1856. Thence we went in a steamboat to Galveston, thence in another steamboat to Houston, thence in an ambulance drawn by mules to the farm of said farmer. In April I moved to Millheim, where I boarded with E. G. Maetze and later with Dr. H. Nagel. In January, 1857, I bought a farm in Millheim. In June, 1857, I made a trip on horseback with five farmers, who wanted to inspect their lands in the Miller and Fisher grant in Llano County. We had a hack for our baggage, because we camped at night and for dinner. We went through La Grange, Bastrop, Austin, Burnet County to Castell and Leiningen on the Llano River. There I separated from them, who went directly to their homes, and rode alone to Fredericksburg, San Antonio and New Braunfels, at which place the 4th of July was celebrated. There I listened to the songs of a singing society. Thence I went back to Millheim. I carried no arms, because there was no danger of an attack by Indians then in that part of Western Texas. Catspring and Millheim are adjoining. The first German immigrants arrived in Catspring in 1834 and in Millheim at least ten years later. In 1856 the hardships of pioneer life had gone. In these settlements were blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, brickmasons, a cabinet maker, a saddler, a tanner, and a tinner. The ordinary farm laborer received free board and fifty cents per day. The teamster received fifty or seventy-five cents per hundred pounds for freight to or from Houston. The farmers of Millheim lived in frame dwelling houses, but some of the pioneer settlers lived still in block houses. The farms of the pioneer settlers were located where water and wood was handy, even where the soil was poor. Those who came later settled in their neighborhood, but most on the East of the old settlement on the black lands South of Millcreek. The Bernard Prairie extending from the Brazos to the Colorado and from Catspring to Brazoria County was a ranch free for cattle and horses. Therefore, many settlers were cattle and horse raisers. Some raised sheep, but with no success on account of depredation by wolves. Corn bread, bacon, molasses and coffee, occasional fish and venison, were the principal food of the pioneers. In 1856 the settlers had better vegetable gardens and orchards and more milk, butter and cheese. There were more stores. Most farmers had wells or cisterns. There was a singing society in Millheim. In 1856 the farmers of Millheim at Catspring formed the Agricultural Society of Austin County at Catspring, which still exists, in which the book farmers of Millheim and the practical farmers of Catspring exchanged their knowledge. In Millheim was one of the best elementary schools of Texas, conducted

by E. G. Maetze for more than twenty-five years. Many of his pupils became prominent, for instance, Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Wm. D. Cleveland, of Houston, and Hugo Becker, wholesale merchants, W. A. Trenckmann, editor of *Das Wochenblatt* and State representative, and Wm. Hagemann, internal revenue officer. All Germans of Millheim were Democrats, but, as the Democratic Party in the Southern States was for slavery, many Germans did not join said party. In the first election in which I participated I voted against secession. Ninety-nine votes were cast against secession, eight for secession at the Millheim-Catspring box. Nearly every one voted. According to my opinion the State of Texas had no better right to secede on account of slavery than the State of Utah on account of polygamy; slavery and polygamy being wrong. Nevertheless, I admit that the slaveholders were a noble class of people. Physically perfectly unfit for military service and opposed to the war, I succeeded in avoiding the service except that, although exempt as justice of the peace, I was compelled to go to the camp of instruction near Houston. After some weeks I was discharged by a writ of habeas corpus. The perfectly blind son of my neighbor Constant was carried to the same camp and detained there until his father succeeded in liberating him. Many Union men of our neighborhood enlisted in the Confederate Army because they believed it to be their duty. After the war I was probably the first justice of the peace in Texas in whose court a freedman recovered the wages for his labor from his former master. After the war I was appointed director of public schools and assessor and collector of taxes and elected four times county commissioner. After the Democratic Party had declared that the freedmen be protected by law I joined the party. Six German settlers of the small settlement of Millheim were former students at German universities, namely: E. G. Maetze, Dr. Nagel, Lawyer E. Kloss, Referendarius F. Engelking, Meisterlin and myself. Besides them lived there quite a number of highly educated Germans, for instance, Lieutenant Constant, Professor F. A. Trenckmann, Wilms, E. Kleberg, Robert and Alex. Kloss.

E. G. Maetze was born at Glogau in the Province Silesia of the Kingdom of Prussia on the 12th day of September, 1817. His father was the secretary of a Prussian general. In consequence of the war the family became poor. His wife kept a private boarding house with such success that her son could be educated in the gymnasium of Glogau and later in the university of Breslau. After graduation he was appointed rector of the town school of Bernstadt. In 1848 he was elected a representative to the Prussian National Assembly. He joined the demo-

cratic wing of the Assembly. The royal government usurped arbitrary power. Therefore, the Assembly resolved that no taxes should be paid to the government. The resolution was not executed, because the people were tired of the frequent political disturbances and wanted peace and the government was supported by the army. The representatives who voted for said resolution, were prosecuted. E. G. Maetze escaped to Texas. He went to New Ulm and worked for a farmer. Hunting a horse in the Bernard Prairie he met F. Engelking, who invited him to become a tutor of his children. Maetze accepted the proposal and a short time afterwards he established the first school at Millheim with six pupils at forty dollars per pupil in the first year. He bought a piece of land, on which he built a dwelling and outhouses, so that his wife and his two children could come to Texas and have a home. The number of pupils grew from year to year, not only from the neighborhood but also from distant places. He taught school at Millheim more than twenty-fives years. He was a great speaker. His voice was euphonic, his gestures dignified, his speech logical. He joined the Democratic Party, but was opposed to secession. As his party was for secession, he did not vote. He submitted to the will of the people and became a loyal Confederate citizen. His son enlisted in Sibley's Brigade. In 1856 he was elected county commissioner, later senator and later county school superintendent. The Senate elected him its president pro tempore. The Democratic Executive Committee engaged him to make speeches in Fayette County to influence the Germans to join the Democratic Party. He was successful. He died on the 12th day of October, 1891, at the age of seventy-four years one month, highly respected by everybody.

A. F. Trenckmann, the son of a farmer, was born in Wefendishen near Magdeburg in the Kingdom of Prussia on the 7th day of July, 1809. He attended an elementary school and later a normal school, in which he graduated. As his means were insufficient, he had to supplement them in private teaching. Afterwards he established a private school in Magdeburg which became so popular that five hundred pupils attended the school at the same time. He was so prominent that in 1848 he was appointed as a member of a delegation to go to the King of Prussia and ask for political reforms. A. F. Trenckmann was progressive, but opposed to uproar and rebellion. In 1844 began a movement against pietiszmus among the Protestants and against ultramontanizmus among the Roman Catholics, trying to harmonize belief and science. The Protestant movement originated in Magdeburg, the home of A. F. Trenckmann; the Catholic movement in Breslau, where my father and some others formed the sect of the "Christian Catholics," eliminating popery. A. F.

Trenckmann sympathized with the Protestant movement. After the reaction of the religious and political reforms was successful, he emigrated in 1853, first to Colorado County, but in 1858 he bought a farm and gin in Millheim. He voted against secession, but obeyed the laws of the de facto government of the Confederate States and did not object to the enlistment of two sons in the Confederate Army at the beginning of the war; one of them was killed in battle. He was a good speaker and popular. He died in 1883. W. A. Trenckmann, his youngest son, is still living. He represented Austin County in the legislature some years ago and is editor and proprietor of one of the best German newspapers of Texas since many years.

[In preparing to write this article, Mr. Regenbrecht asked Hon. Charles Nagel for a sketch of his father, Dr. Herman Nagel. Before receiving it he died. It is, however, added below.]

DR. HERMANN NAGEL.—Born in Pritzwalk, Mark Brandenburg, Germany; attended the usual schools, and afterwards the Universities of Jena, Wurzburg, and graduated in medicine at the University of Berlin. Married Friedricka Litzmann, a daughter of a Lutheran clergyman; practiced his profession for a brief period, but in 1847 he and his wife sailed for New Orleans, where they arrived after the usual journey of many weeks, to continue it to the interior of Texas. They settled in Colorado County, about twelve miles from Columbus, on the St. Bernardo. The first intention was to abandon the profession, and to devote himself to the small farm which he had acquired. Very soon, however, the demand for medical aid was such that he returned to the practice of medicine, which profession he followed throughout his life. About 1855 he moved to Millheim, in Austin County, and again acquired a small farm, which was cultivated in the manner then in vogue, without, however, surrendering the professional pursuit. Life under these conditions no doubt answered every expectation and hope that had been entertained, until the breaking out of the Civil War, when conditions were naturally rendered difficult by the fact that Dr. Nagel sided with the Union cause.

In spite of the admitted need of medical men, and in spite of the very universal consideration with which he was treated, he concluded, in November, 1863, that it was no longer safe for him to remain at home. Leaving his wife and two children, he took his older son Charles with him, determined to make his way to Mexico. After many weeks of doubt and difficulty, they succeeded in crossing the border; from there made their way to Monterey; then to Matamoras, and from there by sail ship to New York, from which point they came to St. Louis. Landing here with fourteen dollars left, Dr. Nagel again established him-

self in his profession, and in the course of a few years had a comfortable income from his practice. After one year his wife (the two remaining children having in the meantime died), joined him, she having also come by way of Mexico and New York.

In 1872 Dr. Nagel visited Berlin, for the first time after leaving his native country, and while his son heard lectures in law, he spent another year in hearing lectures in medicine at this great University. Returning in 1873 he again practiced his profession, until the time of his death, in 1889.

While he was a man of very strong convictions, he took practically no part in public affairs, beyond exercising his rights as a voter. Although he had suffered his share of misfortune during the Civil War, he never entertained the remotest grievance against the Southern people. It was his opinion that the South thought itself right; that it had made a good fight; that happily the Union had been preserved, and that the energy of all citizens of the United States should be bent towards cementing all forces for the maintenance of that Union hereafter. How sincere he was in this feeling can perhaps be best exemplified by the simple statement that he voted for Samuel J. Tilden, and afterwards for Grover Cleveland, for President of the United States.

EDITOR'S CORRECTION AND APOLOGY

This is to correct an error in the last issue of the Journal.

The Spring issue included an article by GTHS member Martha Liehsel about the 50th anniversary of the special friendship between two cities, Arlington and Bad Königshofen in Germany. Ms. Liehsel entitled her article "Fifty Years of Friendship." Unfortunately, the title in the journal came out "Fifth Years of Friendship" instead of "Fifty."

I apologize to Ms. Liehsel and the folks in Arlington for this really bad error. Arlington and Bad Königshofen are justly proud of their FIFTY (not five) years of friendship. There are very few Sister City relationships that have been in existence that long. I hope this correction helps to set things right.

Terry L. Smart, GTHS Journal Editor

“UNSERE PIONIERS” (OUR PIONEERS)
 a poem by Silvia Schmitter Eisenhauer (1936)
 submitted by Lydia Eisenhauer Biegert

Note: This poem was published in October of 1936 in New Braunfels' German language newspaper, the Zeitung. It was written by the grandmother of GTHS member Lydia Eisenhauer Biegert, who translated the poem into English in January of 2002.

Unsere Pioniere

Am Comal bei Braunfels
 Der schönen deutschen Stadt
 Liegt mancher begraben,
 Der Deutschland verlassen hat.

Es zog sie nach Texas
 Im jetzigen Vaterland,
 Zum Guadalup', zum Brazos
 Auch bis zum Rio Grand'.

Sie rodeten und pflanzten
 Im Sand und schwarzen Land,
 Wo Kaktus und Klapperschlangen
 Man in der Regel fand.

Aber auch was zum Jagen
 Gab's damals in dem Land,
 Die Büffel, Hirsch' und Tauben,
 Rebhühner am Wasserstrand.

Sie sorgten auch fürs geistliche,
 Nicht nur fürs tägliche Brot,
 Und halfen einander mit edlem Mut
 In Freude, Leid und Not.

Das waren gefährliche Zeiten,
 Wo noch der rote Mann
 Des Weissen Rindvieh und Pferde
 Mitnahm, wo er sie fand.

Es gab viel Waisen und Witwen,
 Doch tapfer hielten sie stand,
 Sonst wären weniger schöne Städte,
 Farmen und Leute im Land.

Lasst Dank Dem und Ehre geben,
 Der alles so gütig gelenkt,
 Und stolz unsre Ahnen erheben,
 An die heut' ein jeder denkt.

Frau Silvia Eisenhauer
 Neu Braunfelzer Zeitung
 Oktober 1936

Our Pioneers

At Braunfels on the Comal
 The lovely German town
 Lie buried many
 Who left Germany.

They were drawn to Texas
 In the present fatherland,
 To the Guadalup', to the Brazos
 Also up to the Rio Grand'.

They prepared the soil and planted
 In sandy and black land,
 Where cactus and rattlesnakes
 Were usually found.

But also something to hunt
 Was once found in the land,
 The buffalo, deer and doves
 Partridges on the water shore.

They also provided for spiritual,
 Not only for their daily bread,
 And helped each other with noble courage
 In joy, sorrow and danger.

Those were dangerous times
 Where still the red man
 Stole the white horned cattle and horses
 Wherever he found them.

There were many orphans and widows,
 But bravely they held their place,
 Otherwise there would be fewer lovely towns,
 Farms and people in the land.

Let us thank Him and give honor
 To Him who has ordered everything so well,
 And proudly extol our ancestors
 Of whom we each think today.

Mrs. Silvia Eisenhauer
 Neu Braunfelzer Zeitung
 October 1936

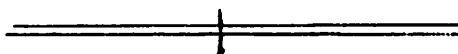
“HENRY’S JOURNAL”
from the Victoria Advocate, June 21, 2001

by Henry Wolff, Jr.

- My big travel thrill as a child was going around the traffic circle in Waco.
When my family would travel from West Texas to visit relatives, I always looked forward to going around the circle although I don't think my cautious driving father felt the way that I did about it.
- I still make an effort to go around the circle when I'm in Waco.
- While driving in France on vacation, I thought about Waco since the French believe strongly in traffic circles, or roundabouts. One can find circles most everywhere, at virtually all highway and rural road intersections except on the autoroutes, the super freeway toll system that makes driving a pleasure in France.
- Highway departments in the United States could learn a lot from the French when it comes to highways, the well marked autoroutes being among the best highways that I have ever driven on.
- The previously mentioned and well marked traffic circles are also prevalent in the cities, towns and villages where highways intersect and they make it easy to find your way in or out of town. Yielding to traffic in the circle, one simply follows the signs and it appeared to me to be a much safer way of moving traffic than our stop and go intersections.
I really enjoyed driving in France, except for congested Paris where the multi-lane freeways are simply not enough to handle the traffic during peak periods and that seemed to be all the time to me. The only drivers being able to proceed at anything near a reasonable speed were motorcyclists who use the stripes between the cars as their roadways, dodging car mirrors as they proceed and making me wonder if they all have a death wish.
- I must admit that the only apprehension I had about touring France and Germany by automobile was what it would be like to drive there, not so much the traffic but how it would be to get used to a different system and signage. It doesn't take long to learn when you are in the middle of traffic, one of the first words you get used to in France is the word sortie for exit, and in Germany it is ausfahrt.
- This reminds me of something Victoria photographer Richard Korczynski mentioned after a trip to Germany and other places in Europe last year about seeing the German exit signs and at first thinking there sure did seem to be a lot of ways to go the town of ausfahrt.
- One thing we quickly learned is that if you miss an exit in Germany, the punishment is that it may be 15 or 20 miles before you can find another.
- We found the free German autobahn, although great highways, to be considerably more congested, and especially with truck traffic, than the French toll roads. The traffic in France seemed to pretty well follow the speed limits and be more orderly, the unlimited speed in the left lane of the German autobahn being something that I had to get used to while attempting to pass trucks and other slow moving vehicles in the slower lanes.
In France, if you are driving too slowly in the left lane, oncoming drivers will blink their lights. In Germany, they just leave them on and you can see them coming upon you at 90

or a hundred miles an hour from behind, usually an Audi, BMW or a Mercedes, sometimes even a wannabe in a Volkswagen.

- There are lots of very small cars in Europe, with gas at \$4 and more a gallon it is understandable, and our rented medium-sized Citroen was somewhere in between so we spent a lot of time dodging in and out of the fast lane.
- My advice to the uninitiated planning to drive in France or Germany, take a good navigator with you. Without Linda beside me, I might still be looking for an exit on the autobahn.
- Be going around in circles in France.



**HISTORICAL MARKER:
THE SITE OF DR. FERDINAND HERFF'S SAN ANTONIO HOME
submitted by Theresa Gold**

Note: A historical marker erected in 2000 on the south side of the building at 414 Navarro Street in San Antonio marks the site of the home of noted German immigrant physician Dr. Ferdinand Ludwig Herff. This is the text for the historical marker:

Ferdinand Ludwig Von Herff (1820-1912) was the son of Christian and Eleanora (Von Meusebach) Herff, prominent citizens of Darmstadt, Germany. The younger Von Herff studied in Giessen, Bonn and Berlin, graduating with a medical degree in 1843. He served as a surgeon in the Hessian army, achieving recognition in plastic surgery, cataract extraction and the tuberculosis treatment. In 1847 he joined a group known as the Die Vierziger (The Forty), who founded an idealistic commune in Texas called Bettina (near present Castell). The utopian enterprise failed within a year, and Von Herff returned to Germany, where he was pressed into military service during the German Revolution. He married Mathilde Klingerhoeffler (1823-1910) in 1849, and they were on the way back to Texas by year's end. The couple dropped the title "Von" from their name when they became American citizens. They lived briefly in New Braunfels, then settled in San Antonio in 1850. Active in city, cultural and medical affairs, Herff was a city alderman from 1850 to 1851. He helped form the Bexar County Medical Society and was a charter member of the Texas Medical Association in 1853. In 1855 he built a home on this site. Herff served as city health officer in 1860. Although he was a Confederate Army surgeon during the Civil War, his Union sympathies were known. In 1869, he was instrumental in founding San Antonio's first infirmary, operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Herff served on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in 1880 and continued his general medical practice until 1908, performing his last surgery at age 87. He died in his home on the river in 1912.

In his book, The German Texans, Glen Lich credited Dr. Herff with being the first surgeon in the United States to perform a hysterectomy and the first in Texas to perform cataract surgery. According to Lich, Dr. Herff also performed plastic surgery, sought cures for tuberculosis, and made his San Antonio home a center for advanced research in pathology and surgery.

Petri and Lungkwitz Star in Documentary

GTHS Helps with Cultural Project
Report by Helga von Schweinitz

When Richard Petri (1824 - 1857) and his brother-in-law Hermann Lungkwitz (1813 - 1891) moved from Saxony to Texas in 1851, they must have been dreaming of future fame and success in their established profession as artists. After all, they had been trained at the acclaimed Royal Academy of Arts in Dresden and had won awards and recognition back home. It had been the political situation in Germany and their involvement in the fight for democracy that had made them decide to dare a new beginning in America. They brought along four female members of the family, including Lungkwitz's mother, who was almost seventy years old.

Folks on the western frontier did not have a lot of money to spend on oil paintings and pencil sketches in those days. So the two artists bought a farm near Fredericksburg to make a living. Petri drowned in 1857 near the farm, Lungkwitz later moved to San Antonio, became a portrait photographer, gave magic lantern shows and, in his final years, worked in the Texas Land Office in Austin. Although they never became rich and famous, over the years their work became ever more appreciated by Texans interested in art and history, Lungkwitz for his role as early Texan landscape painter, Petri mainly for his drawings of Indians and his documentation of life on the farm in his days.

Fast forward to 1996 when my husband, Hans, and I had a house guest from Dresden, Karl Knietzsch, a friend of a friend. He is a journalist, always in search of new topics. Suffering through the hot days of August with margaritas and sitting for hours in the swimming pool, I found time to tell him about the German -Texans, including those artists from Dresden, and I supplied him with books and other reference material. In the months to come Knietzsch not only published several articles on various German-Texans and the two artists, he also wrote a prize-winning film script for a documentary on the two. That was picked up by Heidrun Suenderhauf, a successful producer and director of several documentaries on musicians and artists.

Her company, Suenderhauf Produktion, obtained a grant from a German television station to go to Texas to do research for an educational video on the artists from Dresden. In the fall of 1998, Karl Knietzsch with Heidrun and David Suenderhauf spent three weeks in Central Texas locating the art works and documents, sorting out what would be interesting, meeting with dozens of people and fine-tuning the script. Since the grant was small, Hans and I home-hosted them, let them use our cars and helped with research. The board of directors of the German-Texan Heritage Society was quite enthusiastic about the project and let me mention GTHS as co-sponsor of the project as long as - of course - no expenses were involved. Some GTHS members helped out in various ways.

However, just before the crew was scheduled to do the final filming, the TV company had a change of budget priorities and cancelled the rest of the grant. It took until the spring of 2002 to find another small grant from the government of Saxony. Again the team - this time consisting of Heidrun, David and assistant John Smith - spent three weeks as our guests, and I found myself very involved with every aspect of the adventure.

These were tightly scheduled days with filming not only the many objects of interest but also interviewing their owners, mostly descendents of Lungkwitz. It was very uplifting to

discover that by now many paintings and sketches are in the best of Texas museums, archives and galleries, some having been purchased at prices hovering around \$100 000. By mentioning the support in spirit from GTHS, I gained access (though not always fee free) to the institutional locations where we had to film like in Austin the Governor's Mansion, the Capitol, the Land Office, the Center for American History, the Austin History Center, the Texas Memorial Museum, the State Archives; in San Antonio the Witte Museum, the San Antonio Public Library, The Alamo (the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library), the Institute of Texan Cultures, Jack Judson's Magic Lantern Museum, Guenther's Pioneer Flour Mill, Harry Half's Gallery, the Beethoven Maennerchor; in Houston the Bayou Bend Collection in the Museum of Fine Arts; in Dallas the Valley House Gallery; in Fredericksburg the Gillespie County Historical Society and the Pioneer Museum; in New Braunfels the Sophienburg Museum and Archives. In most places we were allowed to film interviews with their very knowledgeable experts.

The support and welcome we received of the many private owners of paintings and memorabilia were overwhelming and often left the German film crew speechless. We had barbeque dinners, elegant tea settings, invitations to family reunions and heard many a story that can't even be told in public.

Had there been more time, meaning more money to pay the camera crew and for leasing of the equipment and the nights in cheap motels when away from Austin, much more could have been included. Since the giving of the grant and the arrival of the film crew were just days apart, we had little time for long term planning. So little time, so much to shoot.

It will be a great one-hour educational film not only on these two Texan painters who immigrated from Germany, but also on their struggles and way life over here and - this is special - on their background in Germany including scenes filmed in Dresden, Halle and Bremerhaven. Their story resembles those of many German immigrants to Texas.

The original version of the documentary will be in German with all the interviews of Texans translated into German. It is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2003. Then comes the English edition which is naturally of greater interest to viewers on this side of the Atlantic. Some money has been budgeted for this in the original request for the grant, however, to do a good job, to have it dubbed professionally, additional funds have to be found somewhere - most likely not in Germany. Descendants of Lungkwitz have contributed some money already, but more is needed. If you know of a source, even if it is your own bank account, let me know (512-441-2089) or contact the GTHS office. GTHS will get a free German and English copy to use for educational programs.

The working title of the documentary is "Hin nach Texas" (Off to Texas). It is a great vehicle to tell the story of German-Texan immigrants and their influence on Texas.



1857 Sketch by Petri: Lungkwitz comforting one of his twins. Tx Memorial Museum. Copied from "German Artist on the Texas Frontier" by Wm. W. Newcomb, Jr.

"HENRY'S JOURNAL"
from the Victoria Advocate, May 29, 2002
by Henry Wolff, Jr.

submitted by Theresa Gold

Wednesday, May 29th, 2002

It was hot and it was dry on Sunday in the old chigger and rattlesnake infested Jonischkies Cemetery.

Vytis Ciubrinskas was getting a good idea what Texas was like for the group of Lithuanian immigrants that had settled in the area about four miles south of Yorktown in the 1850s. He is in the United States as a Fulbright Research Associate studying how immigrants from the Baltic Sea country had assimilated into their new communities.

In and around Yorktown, established in 1846 between the port of Indianola and San Antonio, the newly arrived Lithuanians were integrated in the surrounding area with German immigrants and it was only in more recent times that some of their descendants have become aware of their Lithuanian ancestry.

One of the descendants is Patsy Hand of Victoria who discovered that her Lundschen family was Lithuanian.

It was Hand, along with Beverly Kerlick Bruns of Yorktown and others, who have researched their families and were instrumental in getting an official state historical marker in 1995 on State Highway 119 south of Yorktown commemorating the "Lithuanians in Texas." As far as is known, this was the only such grouping of Lithuanian immigrants in Texas.

Lithuanians mainly immigrated from their homeland as individuals or small family groups though there are congregated Lithuanians in other states, such as Illinois and Wisconsin, among those being studied by Ciubrinskas.

In his research, he has been studying how the immigrant families formed identities in their new country.

An associate professor in the Department of Theory of History and Cultural History, Center for Social Anthropology and Ethnology at Vilnius University in Vilnius, Lithuania, his work as a Fulbright Research Associate is through the Department of Anthropology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Ciubrinskas has also been working with the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago.

He visited the Yorktown area on Sunday with Hand, Bruns and Alvin Stanchos, all who have Lithuanian ancestry. After a tour of the Jonischkies Cemetery 2.6 miles off Highway 119, where a number of Lithuanians are buried, he visited the Lutheran Cemetery at Yorktown where Stanchos' ancestors are buried.

The Jonischkies family cemetery is located on property once owned by John and Maria Kerlicks Jonischkies.

"Back in 1968 when I started my quest for my roots," Hand says, "My grandmother Agnes Lundschen Rabenaldt said her parents, Robert and Emma Schuenemann Lundschen, could not speak the same language. She said her father spoke Lithuanian, though he was born American."

When Hand found the tombstone for her great-great grandfather George Lundschen in the cemetery "with all the other funny names that were not German," she knew there was more to be learned about her family's heritage. Ackminiszken Kreis Heidekrug was engraved as the birthplace on his tombstone and she traced the name to Lithuania.

Lundschen was born in 1829, immigrated in 1854 and died in 1903.

There had been some Lithuanian influence in the area along Smith Creek as early as 1852, the first believed to own land there having been David and Dora Scholze Stanchos.

Other than for Lunschen, Jonischkies, Kerlich (Kerlichs), Stanchos and Scholze, others believed to be Lithuanian surnames in the area include Mertine, Praetz, Raguzus, Lobs, Schonn, Thrump, Gelssus, Lempke, Mosteit, Range, Schulz, Waitschies, Lenkeit, Jutzas, Mosteit, Junker and Guddatis.

First emerging as a sovereign state in 1219, Lithuania has experienced a varied history over the years, often being under the dominance of others including Germany and the Soviet Union, gaining its freedom from the latter just 12 years ago.

Some of the markers of the Lithuanians in the Jonischkies Cemetery are inscribed with birthplaces being in Deutschland or Prussia, so it is easy to understand how recent generation descendants had no idea their ancestors were Lithuanian until further research placed them as being from within Lithuania.

There are many today who can trace their ancestry to the Lithuanian immigrants of DeWitt County.

A column on the Lithuanians in DeWitt County from when the historical marker was dedicated in 1995 appears in "Henry's Journal, Historically Speaking," a 203-page collection of Henry's columns available at the Advocate or by mail from Henry's Journal, P.O. Box 1518, Victoria, TX. 77902. Hardbacks are \$27.50, softbacks \$17.50, which includes the sales tax. Add \$2.50 per book P&H on mail orders.

BOOK REVIEW: MARIA VON BLÜCHER'S CORPUS CHRISTI: LETTERS FROM THE SOUTH TEXAS FRONTIER, 1849-1879, Bruce S. Cheesman, Editor published by Texas A&M University Press, March 2002
292 pages, illustrated, hard cover price \$29.95, ISBN 1-58544-135-X

reviewed by Charles Patrick, GTHS Book Review Editor

This is a fascinating book that contains more than 200 letters from Maria von Blücher's personal correspondence to her parents in Germany from 1849 to 1879. Maria was considered a "belle" of her native Berlin when she married Felix von Blücher in 1849 when he returned to Germany after participating in the early colonization efforts of the Adelsverein in the mid 1840's in Texas. (Felix was the interpreter for the Meusebach expedition and thus helped to negotiate the Peace Treaty of 1847 between the Comanche Indians and the first German settlers in Texas. He signed that treaty as well.) Instead of rejoining the German settlements in the state, Felix and his new bride, Maria, decided in 1849 to settle in the recently established port of Corpus Christi on the South Texas coast where he later became a prominent surveyor and land speculator.

This book is told entirely from the perspective of letters that Maria wrote to her parents, Carl and Auguste Imme, well-to-do residents of Berlin. The book also contains a very informative foreword by Thomas H. Kreneck and an introduction and epilogue by the editor, Mr. Cheeseman, an independent consultant in history, archives, and cultural resources. Mr. Cheeseman also has included extensive footnoting for each chapter. The English version of the original German letters, part of the extensive von Blücher papers housed at the Bell Library in Corpus Christi, are from translations made by Ernst Nolda and Willy Witzel in the early 1950's.

Maria von Blücher's letters are highly informative reading for anyone who is interested in learning about the daily life of a woman and her family in nineteenth-century Texas, particularly from a German perspective. It is immediately clear from Maria's early letters that Texas was a raw and somewhat unforgiving place to raise a family. Luckily for the von Blücher family, Maria's parents were wealthy enough to send on a regular basis trunks filled with most of the items that she requested in so many of the letters she sent back home. These items included clothes, food, utensils, sheet music, and a host of other goodies that most average Texans could only dream of back then. (Maria was an accomplished pianist and the couple brought a piano with them when they first arrived in Corpus Christi in 1849!) In this way, the von Blüchers must be viewed as a rather privileged family. Maria's comments about the misery brought on by the American Civil War in South Texas are particularly revealing. Despite her constant complaining about her husband, Felix, who gradually seems to have abandoned his family as the years went by, the general comments and observations that Maria makes in her letters are very enlightening for today's reader. Though he was encouraged to do so, Felix von Blücher unfortunately never wrote his memoirs, a definite loss to Texas history.

Maria von Blücher's correspondence can also be viewed as one of the earliest examples of writing produced by a woman who wrote in the German language in Texas. It is interesting to note that Felix von Blücher's involvement in the negotiation of the German-Indian Peace Treaty of 1847, probably helped to save the life of the German traveler and writer Friedrich Schlecht when he stumbled into a Comanche camp west of San Antonio in 1848. Schlecht later returned to this state with his family, and his granddaughter Clara Matthaei became one of the prominent women writers who published in the German language in Texas in the early twentieth century.

Maria von Blücher's edited correspondence is a book well worth reading and rereading, and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the story of the German experience in Texas.

Editor's note: As Charles Patrick rightly observes in his book review above, Maria's husband did gradually abandon his family. According to the Handbook of Texas, during the Civil War, he was away from his family, serving as a Confederate engineer and artillery officer. After the war, he left for Mexico to work as a military engineer. When he returned to Texas, he practiced law but gave that up in the 1870's to become a consulting engineer for a railroad, a job that took him away from home. In 1875, he was appointed a deputy county surveyor and spent time far away from wife and children surveying Spanish land grants in Zapata County on the Mexican border. Felix died in February 1879. Maria and children survived him.

NOAK REUNION

submitted by Dorothy Noak Rothermel

The annual Noak Family Reunion was held Sunday, March 17th, 2002 at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall with 113 members of the Peter August and Johanna Wilhelmine Mitzschetling Noack (Noak) family in attendance. Those who served as hosts for the Paul Noak Family were: Dorothy and Tom Rothermel, Ernest and Frances Menn, Franklin and Evelyn Menn, all of Brenham; Kirby and Velorie Dippel of Houston and Lamar and Waldine Cason of Austin.

Before the catered noon meal was served, David Noak of La Grange offered the blessing.

After the meal, the business meeting was called to order by David Noak, Diana Kallus of Victoria read the minutes and Lanette Williams of Carmine gave the treasurer's report from the previous year and a report of this year's expenditures. Diana Kallus has served the family as secretary for eighteen years and asked not to have her name put in nomination for the coming year. Ira Nell Mc Coy of La Grange was elected to the position of secretary for 2003. Six births were reported since the last reunion; six marriages; and one death.

Ancestral families represented at the reunion this year were from: the Gustav Noak Family, Marie Noak Weigelt Family, Paul Noak Family, and the Herman P. Greif Family. Unable to attend, but it was noted that Viola Noak Franke of Hondo is the only living grandchild of Peter and Wilhelmine Noack. A letter was read by Lanette Williams from Leander Richter of Bellville, sending his regrets that he was unable to attend due to illness and his wishes for a successful reunion.

The youngest person in attendance was Austin Raney Brown, born December 3, 2001. His parents are Jeff and Jamie Brown of Alvin. Most recently married and in attendance were Matt and Celia Kovar of La Grange. The longest-living female present was Irene Noak of La Grange, and the longest-living male was Nelson Noak of La Grange. The couple married the longest was Nelson and Irene Noak of La Grange.

The only death since the last reunion was Mary Kuhn Jaster of Houston on November 24, 2001. A moment of silent prayer was offered for her and her family.

Traveling the farthest to the reunion this year was Ron and Helen Greif of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The host family for the next reunion will be the Marie Noak Weigelt family.

Several door prizes were awarded. David Noak adjourned the meeting and closed with the Lord's Prayer recited in German.

ROTHERMEL REUNION

submitted by Dorothy Noak Rothermel

Descendants of Andreas and Anna Marie Meier Rothermel met for their annual family reunion on March 3, 2002 at the American Legion Hall in Burton. Fifty-two persons were in attendance. Persons in attendance came from Brenham, Katy, Elgin, Humble, San Antonio, Carmine, Pasadena, La Marque, Fort Worth, Midlothian, and Abernathy, and Bulverde. Hosts for the 2002 reunion were the Otto L. and Carolyn Rothermel Fuchs, Jr. family: Otto and Carolyn Rothermel Fuchs, Bruce and Carobeth Fuchs Bockhorn and Mark and Becky Fuchs Kuecker. A catered meal was served. Desserts were provided by those in attendance. Bryan Rothermel offered the prayer before the dinner.

Attending the reunion for the first time was Donald and Debbie Rothermel, their children: Bailleux, Abraham and Nathaniel of Katy. They had previously resided in Palmer, Alaska. Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel is the ancestral family. Also visiting for the first time were Jim and Martha Guethle of Bulverde. Carl and Eloise Shoemaker Barton of Abernathy traveled over 500 miles to attend the reunion. Bernhardt Rothermel is the ancestral family. Marriages since the last reunion were: Michael Bryan and Mary Ellen Howell Rothermel on June 18, 2001. They reside in San Antonio. Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel is the ancestral family. John and Amanda Raye Swilley Perkins married on June 19, 2001. Gregory Brian and Rebecca Michelle Moore Ashley married on February 14, 2002 in May, Brown County, Texas. The Bernhardt Rothermel is the ancestral family.

Corinne Elyse Poffinbarger of Humble was the youngest member present. Her parents are Jimmy and Rachel Poffinbarger. Ryan Dillon Rothermel was the only baby born since the last reunion. He was born on November 20, 2001 in Hurst. His parents are Todd and Kimberly Rothermel, who are presently residing in Gatar, Saudi Arabia. Corinne and Ryan's ancestral family is the Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel family.

James Rothermel of Brenham was the oldest male Rothermel in attendance. The Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel is the ancestral family. Eloise Shoemaker Barton of Abernathy was the oldest female Rothermel descendant present. The Bernhardt Rothermel is the ancestral family. James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel of Brenham were married the longest - 54 years. Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel is the ancestral family. Cora Rothermel Green of Carrollton died on August 4, 2001. Her death occurred three days before her 92nd birthday. Bernhardt Rothermel family is her ancestral family.

Displays of family history, descendancy charts, photographs and memorabilia were available for everyone to become familiar with the history of Andreas and Anna Marie Meier Rothermel family. Of special interest was a beverage pitcher Bill Hudler of La Marque had on display. Anton Rothermel, brother of Andreas Rothermel, had brought the pitcher back on one of his many trips to Germany.

JOHN (JOHANN) BERING AND DESCENDENTS by Heather Bering

Note: This appeared in the Spring 2002 sale catalog for Bering's Hardware of Houston and San Antonio.

The Bering's family history dates back to 1846 in Hofgeismar, Germany, 115 miles northeast of Frankfurt and 115 miles south of Bremen. John Bering supported his wife, Anna, and their eleven children as a cabinet maker. But John had bigger plans. So on August 13th of that year, the family boarded a passenger ship called *Friedrich* and set sail from Bremen to America.

Narrowly escaping the ravages of a torrential, three day storm near Cuba, the Berings landed in Galveston on October 24th. John's intentions were to settle on a land grant near what is now Llano, Texas. But with no available schooner to take them to the departure point at Indianola, they headed for the young city of Houston on a steamship called *Sparta*.

Even that short trip up Buffalo Bayou took four long days after the ship ran aground on a sand bar at Morgan's Point. By now the determined Bering family had set their sights on the Texas Hill Country where so many Germans settled. As fate would have it, the only oxen to be found could not understand John's German commands and they wouldn't budge from their Houston home.

Three years later, John died of yellow fever, leaving his oldest son, August, to support the family. Along with his brother, Conrad Bering, he founded Houston's very first lumber yard under the name A. Bering and Bro. The company was eventually divided with Conrad taking over the sash and door business under the name Bering Manufacturing Company.

Conrad's son, August C. Bering, Sr., continued to run the company until it was closed in 1942, when much of the country's lumber manufacturing business was frozen due to the national war effort. Earlier in 1940, his son August C. Bering, Jr., founded Bering Lumber Co., a wholesale lumber yard. His son, A.C. Bering III, expanded the business with new product categories that would mark the beginning of a Texas institution. For generations, Bering's has represented one of the most unique retail concepts anywhere. An incredible mixture of quality products, from hard-to-find hardware to exquisite gifts. Everything for the kitchen and the yard, even gourmet coffee and customized stationery. Today Bering's has three locations in Houston and San Antonio. The business is now operated under the guidance of brothers Norman and August C. Bering IV.

EISENHAUER GET-TOGETHER submitted by Lydia Eisenhauer Biegert

Thirty descendants of Paul and Anna Eisenhauer met in Kirby on 9 March 2002 for a Kaffee Klatch, Gemütlichkeit and to identify old family pictures. Most of the objectives were achieved. There were plenty of coffee and other "goodies". Many old stories were re-told accompanied by laughter and tears. Some cousins were surprised to learn that their off-spring were living thirty miles from each other twelve hundred miles away in Utah. Quite a few "unknown" ancestors were identified; however, there are still many unidentified photographs.

continued on next page →

Paul and Anna Gemblar Eisenhauer and their five children arrived in Texas on 7 June 1846 as part of Castro's colony. Because of Indian troubles and a severe drouth they moved back east to the Salado Creek in Bexar County in 1849. It was there that their other six children were born and reared. Descendants of five of those branches from as far away as Arkansas came to meet and reminisce.

As a memento of the occasion the attendees were presented copies of a poem written by the wife of the youngest Eisenhauer immigrant. Philipp Eisenhauer was only two years old when he arrived in Texas with his parents. Ninety years later, in October 1936, his widow's poem, "Unsere Pioniere", was published in the Neu Braunfelser Zeitung.

On the following day, 10 March, the Eisenhauer cousins continued their journey down memory lane by attending the Bexar County Rural School Reunion. Since many of the Eisenhauers were farmers in eastern Bexar County, the cousins attended three room country schools in Kirby, Serna and W.W.White. Stories were told of walking miles to school along dusty roads, of teachers wearing guns to class, of rattlesnakes and baseball games. All agreed that we received the best basic education in the state and that it served us well. We also bemoaned the fact that those days are gone and our descendants will never know them.


JOHN DURST b. 1799 IN DETTENHAUSEN

submitted by Nelson Durst

Ein Auswandererschicksal

Durch Zufall erhielt ich über einen Stuttgarter Familienforscher die Ablichtung einer Broschüre, die herausgegeben wurde anlässlich des 1. Treffens der Familie Durst in Barons Creek/Fredericksburg (Texas), das am 31. August 1941 stattfand. In dieser Broschüre wird das Schicksal von John Durst, geb. am 24. Februar 1799 in Dettenhausen, Oberamt Tübingen, Königreich Württemberg—Deutschland und seiner Ehefrau

Christina Margarete Durst geb. Binder, geb. am 4. November 1801, ebenfalls in Dettenhausen, geschildert. Hier nun der aus dem Englischen übersetzte Bericht: Zum 1. Mal trifft sich heute die Familie Durst. Wir denken dabei an unseren Vorfahren John Durst und an seine Frau Margarete Durst geb. Binder und an ihre sieben Kinder, die in der Pionierzeit nach Texas kamen.



There was an article in a Stuttgart Family paper (1970) about a brochure which described the first Durst family reunion held at Barons Creek near Fredericksburg (Texas) on August 31, 1941. That brochure told the story of John Durst, born on February 24, 1799 in Dettenhausen, Province of Tübingen, Kingdom of Württemberg, Germany, and his wife Christina Margarete Durst, maiden name Binder, born on November 4, 1801, also in Dettenhausen.

The report written in English is of John Durst and his wife Margarete Durst, maiden name Binder, who with their seven children emigrated to Texas in pioneer times (1846).

PROGENITORS OF THE GERLACH (CARLOCK) FAMILY

by Kay Gunn

Note: This letter was received in response to an article by Merle E. Prinz entitled "The Poor Palatines" on page 57 in the Spring 2002 issue of the Journal.

Dear Friends,

In reading the article, "The Poor Palatines," Part 2 of 2, in the Spring 2002 issue, I smiled as I came to the names of the "listmasters," among whom appeared for Elizabeth Town, John Christopher Gerlach [a.k.a., Carlock] and the later mention of the Schoharie area, mention of Gerlachs Dorf, and the Stone Arabia patent of 1723, north of the Mohawk River. It isn't often in a genealogist's lifetime that one encounters parts of the same genealogical history told from two different perspectives respecting one's own family. I have been granted that joy.

I inherited from my aunt, Alice Gaskell (dec'd.), a volume entitled, History of the Carlock Family and Adventures of Pioneer Americans, compiled and privately published by Marion Pomeroy Carlock, Los Angeles, California, 1929. Ironically, the volume was purchased by my aunt for the collateral Kimbrough family information that it contained, without at the time having an overriding interest in the Carlock family other than as an interesting sideline. My maternal grandmother and Alice's mother was nee Katherine Isabelle Kimbrough, daughter of William Bradley Duke Kimbrough, son of Jacob Carlock Kimbrough, son of Rev. Marmaduke Kimbrough and his 3rd wife, Eunice, daughter of Hanchrist (Johan Christian) Carlock of Middle Fork Holston River, Augusta County, Virginia.

In later years, when my own genealogical interests deepened, this segment of our Carlock story was seen to parallel that told in your article. As offered by Marion Pomeroy Carlock on pp. 30-34:

The first shipment of Palatines to America was in 1708 on the sailing ship "Lyon." There were fifty-two who accompanied Lord Lovelace, Colonial Governor of New York. In the fall of 1709, three thousand more Palatines were assembled by Rev. Kockerthal at St. Catherine's, London, where they lived in a great tent camp under the supervision of the Board of Trade. Their names, occupation and religion were carefully recorded. In this group were Conrad Gerlach (Carlock), his wife, two sons and two daughters. (Later in New Jersey, we find three sons: Peter, George and Nickolas). Johann Christian Gerlach (Garlock-Carlock) in some manner reached America at about the same time. Traditions says that, being anxious to go with this great shipment of exiles, he secreted himself in a hogshhead aboard ship until the ship made sea and that he came over with French Huguenots, landing at Ft. Lee, New Jersey. Both Conrad and Johann first settled at Livingston Manor on the Hudson in New York. We know that Conrad Carlock was born in 1660 because he gave his age in 1709 as forty-nine years. The birth year of Johann Christian Carlock (New York) was 1669 because in the records of St. Catherine's in 1709 he gave his age as forty years. Conrad finally drifted down the Hudson to Ft. Lee, now Bergen County, New Jersey, where he raised his family and Johann went to the Schoharie-Mohawk Valley, New York, where he was the leader and one of twenty-seven head men to get an Indian title to 12,700 acres of land known as the "Stone Arabia" patent. Johann also raised a family among them being Judge Elias Carlock and Theobald (also known as Theodore) Carlock. While it is true that many of these Palatines became dissatisfied with conditions in New York, it is known that Conrad after reaching New Jersey resided there the remainder of his natural life. Many of the New York, New Jersey and Ohio Carlocks are descended from Conrad Carlock.

Johann Christian Carlock (Garlock), the supposed brother of Conrad, never left the Mohawk Valley. His son Theobald with others builded (sic) canoes and paddled their way down the Susquehanna river into Pennsylvania and we find him finally in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 1737. Johann Christian Garlock is the progenitor of most of the Carlocks and Garlocks of New York.

Leaping forward some sentences, we come to that portion dealing with my direct line in further quote from the records of Mr. Carlock:

David Carlock, supposed brother of Johann Christian of New York and Conrad of New Jersey, emigrated with others across southern Pennsylvania into western Virginia. How long he remained in Pennsylvania is unknown but the writer believes between ten and twenty years. German, French, Dutch and Swiss refugees took up lands in Pennsylvania and Virginia and held back the redmen. The governors of these states encourages this to protect their people to the east. After a time - because of their thrift - their neighbors became jealous of them and made conditions so unpleasant for those who lived in Pennsylvania that they decided to answer the appeal of the Governor of Virginia for settlers in the Shenandoah Valley. It was the opportunity they had longed for and they took itIt is believed that they crossed the Potomac into the unknown in the year 1732.....

....The official records and history of the Virginia Carlocks show that Theobald Carlock, son of the New York "Johann Christian" had a son John, born in 1737 in the Shenandoah Valley. In 1749 Theobald is found with his uncle David Carlock in Augusta County. From the fact that nothing more is heard of him or his descendants, it is believed that either they were killed by Indians or the name ran out. David Carlock of Augusta County, Virginia, is the progenitor of practically all Carlocks in America, Canada and Mexico with the exception of those in New Jersey, New York, Indiana and a few in Ohio. David, found in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1741, was the father of Hanchrist which name when anglicized means "John Christian" although he seldom went by his anglicized name. For over one hundred years he has borne such traditional names as: Hawkins, Hoemdkis, Hunkrist, Hancriff, Hanrist, Dorcas, Houkis and Christian. Bishop Asbury, head of Methodism in America in 1800, in his famous Journals calls him: "Father Carlock, a German." Research work by the author and the very best genealogists of the land has shown that they are all one and the same man. Hanchrist Carlock served in the armies of Washington during the Revolution for seven long years. He had a very large family and his children were: Lemuel (who was killed by Indians), Catherine (who married John Koon), Abraham, Isaac, Eunice (who was the third wife of Rev. Duke Kimbrough of Tennessee), Moses, Mary "Polly" (who married David Jackson and took her mother, Sarah Whitman Carlock, with her to Sangamon County, Illinois), Jacob and Job.

Tradition says that Hanchrist Carlock was twice married. His first wife was Susan Witmer of the well known family of Witmers of Lancaster County, Pa. To this union were born Lemuel and Catherine. It is thought that Susan was killed by Indians about the year 1760. For his second wife Hanchrist took the beautiful Sarah Whitman, daughter of Charles and Sarah Whitman of Augusta County, Virginia. Beginning with Abraham all of the succeeding children were the result of this union.....

Although there are many interesting stories involving Hanchrist, not the least of them is the verified fact that he was, along with his brothers Conrad and Frederick Carlock, working with George Washington in road construction in Augusta County, sometime between 1750-1775. They left their names as, "Geo. Washington" and "H. Carlock" carved close together on the west wall of the Natural Bridge in Virginia. It is a pleasure to me to know that David Carlock made his way to colonial American and with his son, Hanchrist, followed their fate south into Virginia to become Germanic Southerners, Hanchrist fighting under General Washington at Valley Forge.

WE NEED A GENEALOGY EDITOR !

GTHS still is without a genealogy editor. If you know of someone qualified to fill this important volunteer position, or if you yourself have an interest, contact the society's Executive Director, Julia Germany, in Austin. Phone toll free 1-866-482-4847. Of if in Austin, dial 482-0927. Or send an e-mail message to GermanTexans@aol.com.

FROM HOUSTON CHRONICLE, AUGUST 2, 2001

submitted by Rodney Koenig

Genealogy programs good place to start mapping out family tree

By **ELISE GUNST**
Special to the Chronicle

THERE are those who can tell you when their great-great-grandparents came to this country and what boat they came in on.

I am not one of those people. I've visited genealogy programs, but have not used one to plant my family tree.

I approached Family Tree Maker and Generations Family Tree as a neophyte in the genealogical jungle. An advanced genealogist might have a different experience with these programs.

► **FAMILY TREE MAKER, Version 8, Deluxe 35-CD set — \$80, Broderbund**

I started my family odyssey with Family Tree Maker, clinging to its perky promise of being "easiest and most complete resource for building your family tree."

Thirty-five CDs seemed pretty complete, if not easy.

I started with the Data Entry Wizard, filling in fields with my name and those of my parents and grandparents. I didn't know the exact year of my grandparents' birth, so I guessed. Entering this basic data created a rudimentary family tree — a sapling, if you will. I clicked on the puzzle piece icon on the toolbar to go to the FamilyFinder Center, where I ran an Internet search for matches on any of the members of

my family I had in my family seedling.

FamilyFinder coughed up a string of matches for some family members. It exhibited a particular fondness for my grandmother's name, Charlotte Butler, who either possessed a supernatural ability to rove the country or was in most cases not my grandmother. First appeared "World Family Tree" matches. World Family Trees are records of families that have been contributed by family tree researchers and then compiled into volumes. Clicking on each family tree match led to the Genealogy.com Web site, where I was offered the opportunity to purchase the CD with the World Family Tree of which Charlotte Butler might be a branch.

Despite the welter of information contained on the 35 CDs accompanying Family Tree Maker, few contained information relevant to my family. The most useful was the Social Security Death Index, which contained all the dead relatives in my tree who had Social Security numbers. From there, I gained accurate birth and death dates, and the place each died.

I found nothing in the marriage records, because I needed to know not only the state, but the county in which the marriage took place.

European immigrant ancestors were equally elusive, though I was surprised to track my father's Danish mother in an Iowa census record from 1910, only because I knew her full name. None of the many members of the immigrant Danish clan showed up on the passenger lists or naturalization records that came with Family Tree Maker.

The lesson in this is that unless you have some information to begin with, you won't get very far in tracking down your ancestors — especially if you're not willing to spring for additional CDs on a gamble that they might contain useful information. What you will get from Family Tree Maker and its online resource is leads to pursue in the library or other public records.

► **GENERATIONS FAMILY TREE: LIBERTY EDITION — \$50, Sierra Home**

Generations Family Tree isn't quite as simple to get around as Family Tree Maker. The main menu takes the user to each of the seven program areas — one for entering data onto data cards, resembling index cards, one for making charts, one for research, one for images, and several for different spots on the Internet. Each selection opens a separate application, which I found awkward to manipulate.

Generations has essentially the same information as Family Tree Maker, and although Generations Family Tree: Liberty Edition comes with 21 CDs, it appears that one can get the same stuff free from the Generations Web site — The Social Security Death Index, Confederate Generals, the Titanic passenger list. I don't know about you, but I didn't have a lot of Confederate generals in my family, and all the immigrants managed to skip the Titanic. The information is interesting but not necessarily relevant.

Separate from the busyness of the Generations program, it will do some nice things. Users can organize their family trees in almost any graphical configuration, just by dragging and dropping family members, family branches or whole generations. Talk about omnipotence. Treemakers can also drop video, audio or images into their trees, so no one will forget the sound of Muffin's meow or Grandfather's speech at the Lions Club. Whole generations can live on into eternity.



HEINRICH WILHELM KOTHMANN (d.1822) AND DESCENDENTS

by John H. Kothmann

Note: John H. Kothmann of Fredericksburg, a founding member of the GTHS, recently presented the GTHS Library in Austin a copy of the German language marriage contract involving one his ancestors who emigrated to Texas in 1845 along with an English translation of the document, an appendix, maps and bibliography. This gift is for historical and genealogical research. Printed below is the appendix, offering genealogical information about Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann and his descendents.

[H.C.K.] Heinrich Conrad Kothmann - Interimswirt (Interim Landlord) and Stiefvater des Brautigams (Stepfather of the Groom). Acquired this title upon the death of his eldest brother Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann (died 1822). At this time he married, the widow of his eldest brother, Johanne Sophie Wolters Kothmann.

[H.W.K.] Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann (born 1816) - Son of Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann and Johanne Sophie Wolters Kothmann. He received the Wedelheine property when he married at the age of 25.

[I.K.P.K.] Ilse Katherine Pahlmann Kothmann (born March 10, 1810) in Hillerse, Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. She was the second wife of Heinrich Conrad Kothmann marrying him June 22, 1832. Ilse was the mother of the children designated as 3ten Ehe (third marriage).

Grotische - On May 1, 1798 the Estates of Wedesbüttel and Martinsbüttel were transferred to Major Heinrich August Friedrich Grote by the Royal Electoral Chief District Magistrate Wilhelm Heinrich Grote, zu Bederkesa, in a Settlement of Succession. Bederkesa lies Northeast of Bremen. Martinsbüttel is part of Wedesbüttel.

1st Ehe (1st Marriage) - Children of Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann (died 1822) and Johanne Sophie Wolters Kothmann.:

Sophie Dorothee Kothmann Marwede (1813 - ?)

Heinrich Wilhelm Kothmann (1816 - ?)

2tre Ehe (2nd Marriage) -Children of Heinrich Conrad Kothmann and Johanne Sophie Wolters Kothmann (died 1831).

Henriette (Henriette Sophie) Kothmann Cordes (1824? - 1857?)

Heinrich Wilhelm (Johann Heinrich William) Kothmann (1825 - 1910)

3ten Ehe (3rd Marriage) - Children of Heinrich Conrad Kothmann (died 1881) and Ilse Katherine Pahlmann Kothmann (died 1905).

Elsie Catharine (Ilse Katherine) Kothmann, Jones, Keyser (1832 - 1895)

Heinrich Friedrich Kothmann (1835 - 1915)

Carl Diederich (Karl Diedrich) Kothmann 1837 - 1914)

Dorothee Kothmann (1839? - died)

Caroline (Maria Caroline) Kothmann (1840 - 1845)

Maria Dorothee Kothmann Knolle (1842 - 1902)

Born in Texas

Karl Kothmann (1846 - 1870)

continued on next page

William Kothmann (1850 - 1935)

Caroline Kothmann Knolle, Lagle (1852 - 1942)

1 Austrian Florin (Gulden) = \$0.40 (1846)

1 Reichsthaler = \$1.00 (1846) = 24 Gute Groschen (g.g.)

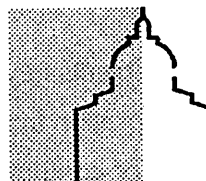
EXHIBITION: "EMIGRATION OUT OF BAVARIA"
organized by the Centre for Bavarian History
Department of the Bavarian Ministry of Science, Research and Art
Augsburg, Germany

Note: GTHS received a letter announcing that the Centre for Bavarian History is preparing an exhibition about emigration out of Bavaria to North America. It will be shown from Autumn 2003 in five locations in Bavaria and the Palatinate and in one of the emigration harbors (like Bremen, Bremerhaven or Hamburg), and it is the Centre's intention to show the exhibition in the United States.

The Centre is seeking biographies and other materials for the exhibition from the descendents of German immigrants to Texas from Bavaria. See the letter below.

Bayerisches Staatsministerium
für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst

Haus der Bayerischen Geschichte
Postfach 10 17 51, 86007 Augsburg



Haus der
Bayerischen
Geschichte

German Texan Heritage Society

POB 684 171
Austin, TX 78768
U.S.A.

About 80 percent of the Bavarian emigrants went to North America. Therefore our exhibition will concentrate geographically on the US and Canada. The emigrants came from all regions of Bavaria. Franconia, Swabia, Upper and Lower Bavaria shall be considered as well as the Palatinate. The main interest is focussed on the 19th and 20th century with few restrospectives in earlier history.

Beneath the outstanding fortunes of famous people like Levi Strauss and Simon Ochs the Centre for Bavarian History will exemplify the fates of the normal emigrants. We

want to compare their social, economical and political conditions in the new American homeland with their familiar Bavarian circumstances. An analysis will show why people are leaving their country and are looking for a new home especially in North America. We want to investigate how the impression of America in Europe was created and how it corresponded to reality.

To arrange a vivid exhibition we are looking for biographies of emigrants, which have been passed down in detail. Some of these biographies will be treated as prototypes in the exhibition. Apart from that we are searching for exhibits on loan like passports, baggage and clothing taken from Bavaria or created in the US according to examples from Bavaria, souvenirs of all kind (religious, family-heirlooms), ship bells, cartoons showing characteristics of German or Bavarian immigrants, handicraft tools, various items depicting motives of the old homeland or illustrating themes of emigration or immigration, books (such as dictionaries, geographical guides, guidebooks in general), calendars, posters, photographs, paintings, graphics, maps and street-maps, flags, advertising products, naturalization documents, letters, arms, uniforms, botanical and zoological objects, musical instruments, costumes and so on. The connection with Bavaria and the emigration is always the focus of interest. Concerning those potential loan objects that would be the ideal addition to those objects from Bavaria that will be shown in the exhibition.

If you have any such objects in your possession and would consider a temporary loan for our exhibition "Emigration from Bavaria to North America", also if you have any other information, comment or contribution for this exhibition please contact Centre for Bavarian History.

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Bayerische Landesausstellung 2002: „Kaiser Heinrich II.“
Bamberg, Domplatz, 9. Juli bis 20. Oktober 2002
Wanderausstellung 2000 – 2002: „In Bayern angekommen ...“
Die Integration der Flüchtlinge und Vertriebenen in Bayern nach 1945
Bayerische Landesausstellung 2002/2003: „Das Rätsel Grünewald“
Aschaffenburg, Schloss Johannisburg, 30.11.2002 bis 28.2.2003

GENEALOGY BOOKS

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF HESSE: ROMAN TIMES TO 1900 by Dan C. Heinemeier **promotional review by the publisher**

Discover the history of Hesse through this exhaustive, one-volume analysis of how people lived, died, struggled and triumphed over the centuries. This book is the only source you'll ever need to understand the background of immigrants that came from any of the Hessian territories (Hesse-Kassel, Nassau, Hanau, Darmstadt, etc., as well as neighboring areas such as Waldeck). It provides a detailed understanding of how the various (and so often highly confusing) Hessian principalities were founded, merged or evolved into more modern forms. Even without Hessian roots, students, historians and genealogists alike will find this book of great interest.

The book opens by discussing the early German tribes that shaped the land and its boundaries through their conflicts with the Roman Empire. Hesse for centuries rested on the shifting fault lines between Roman and German civilizations. It goes on to provide details on how the Hessian economies evolved during the early and latter Middle Ages: what people wore and ate, how they lived, how they built houses, etc. Additional rich details are given about life on the land: marriage, inheritance, prosperity, and poverty.

This comprehensive social history examines the influence on local communities of all-too-frequent military campaigns and ever-changing socio-economic conditions. There is a unique discussion of the experiences of rank and file Hessian soldiers in the American Revolution: how they were mustered in, trained, and shipped overseas, and the important roles they played in the British campaigns.

Heinemeier's detailed discussion of agricultural conditions, peasant class distinctions, crop yields and related factors is also most helpful. Chapters include the Napoleonic Era reforms, famine and economic dislocation on the land, and the Industrial Revolution, all of which helped set the stage for mass migration during the 19th century.

A final chapter discusses Hessian migration patterns and experiences, providing a good explanation of why people came to the United States in such large numbers. Drawing extensively upon German records and source documents, this 380-page book is fully indexed and includes annotated endnotes. The historical maps and illustrations help illuminate the text.

On balance, this is a fascinating and highly acclaimed history that belongs in the library of anyone interested in European social history. For those whose ancestry includes Hessian forebears, the book is a must-read reference they will turn to time and again.

A Social History of Hesse, Roman Times to 1900

\$29.95 + \$5.00 shipping

©2002 by Dan C. Heinemeier

380pp., 8.5 x 11, paperback, perfect bound. Fully indexed, illustrated with over 35 figures and 16 maps.

ISBN 0-9671822-1-2

LCCN 2002102746

NOTE: According to the bio provided by the publisher, the author, Dan Heinemeier has been a genealogist for over 20 years and serves currently as secretary to the German-American Heritage Society of Washington, DC and active in other societies devoted to genealogy and German heritage. He also has for sale A History of Brunswick.

GENEALOGY BOOKS

THE ABCs OF GERMAN-AMERICAN MIGRATION: ANNOTATED GUIDE TO GERMAN-AMERICAN MIGRATION RECORDS by Charles R. Haller

Reviewed by H. Prinz
from *Infoblatt*, Summer 2001, Vol. 6, No. 3, p.5

This small (100 pages) volume provides a wealth of guidance to those seeking help in understanding their ancestral German-American migration records. The book is neatly divided to help one locate information and sources available to the family historian.

An overview of the basic migration data for each century from the 17th to the 20th sets the framework. Helpful comments are made for understanding each century. For example, for the 17th century, Haller states "Before 1683, apparently the majority of these (migrations) were random migrations of isolated individuals or small families. After 1683, migration became more and more a group effort." A table shows a number of examples of group migration to America. In the 18th century he states "After about 1740, the redemption system became prominent and roughly half of all later German immigrants were brought to America by this system.

Haller also deals with the many discrepancies in reporting numbers of immigrants from Germany. One such complication is counting those who migrated to America, and returned to Germany often on business or social trips. "For instance, U.S. beer king Adolphus Busch (1839-'1913), a native from Germany, returned to Germany more than twenty times between the years 1869 and 1913.

A listing of the German states over those centuries includes a brief sketch of issues which require attention from the genealogist whose relative may have migrated from that area in a particular time period. However, the largest part of the book is devoted to "A Guide to Emigration Publications." The appendix including this list of publications is impressive and covers three-fourths of the book. This reviewer found over a half dozen references that may be helpful to his family history alone.

The publisher is Money Tree Imprints, PO Box 15262, Ashville, NC 28813. ISBN 0-9703748-0-1.

JOHN KARBACH AND DESCENDENTS

submitted by John H. Kothmann

NOTE: *GTHS member John H. Kothmann discovered a newspaper clipping with photo from a January 24, 1930 newspaper (probably a San Antonio paper) covering the death of John Karbach of Seguin. Mr. Kothman submitted this clipping in hopes it might contain information of use to genealogists researching the Karbach Family and/or these related families: Egnew, Fischer, Lambrecht, Mumme, Rausch, Vordenbaum, Weiss, and Weiser.*

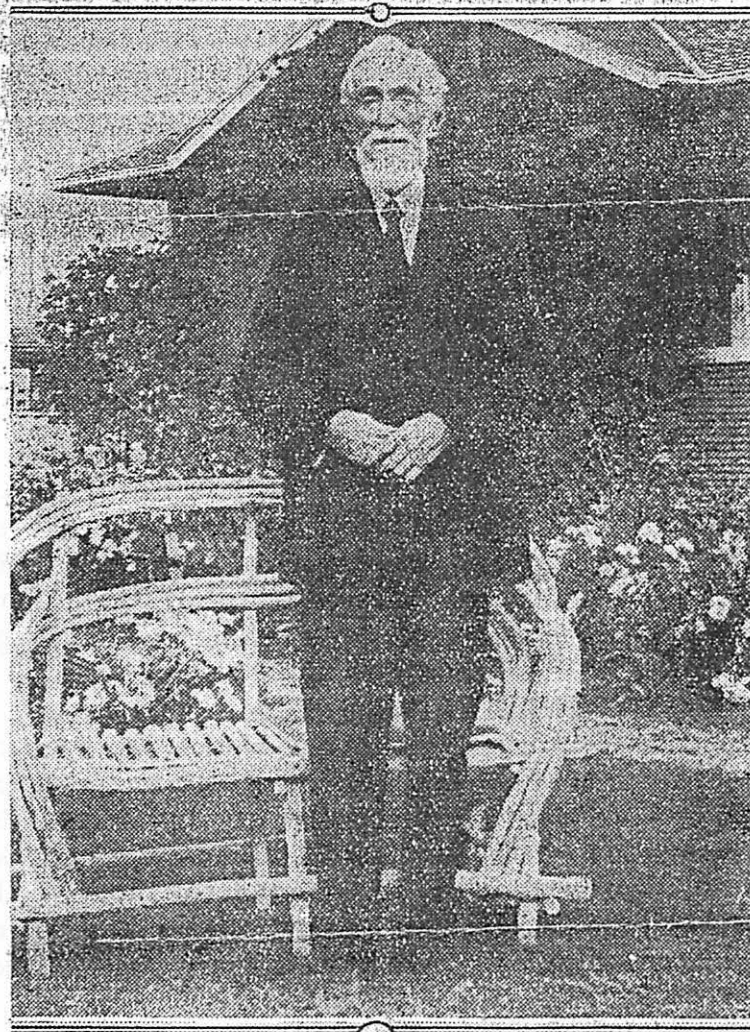
"Seguin, Tex., Jan. 23. – John Karbach, one of the last of the old German settlers who came to this section in the forties, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H.F. Lambrecht, in Seguin Tuesday morning. John Karbach was a native of Germany, the son of David Karbach and wife who was Caroline Mewe, and was a few months over 89 years at the

time of his death. In 1846, at the age of five, he came to America with his parents, landing at Indianola and making the trip overland to New Braunfels, where the family settled. Here he lived, devoting many years to the management of his large land holdings. He was a devoted church worker, the Methodist Church at New Braunfels bearing the name Karbach Memorial Church. In later year he came to make his home with his daughter in Seguin where he was a faithful member of the First Methodist Church. The body was taken to New Braunfels Tuesday and interment was made Thursday afternoon in Comaltown Cemetery with services at the Methodist Church by Revs. C.W. Rylander of Seguin and J.H. Willman of New Braunfels. The following daughters survive: Mrs. Emma Mumme, San Antonio; Mrs. Clara Vordenbaum, Schertz; Mrs. Walter Egnew, Corpus Christi; Mrs. Anna Rausch, San Antonio; Mrs. J.J. Weiser, San Antonio; Miss Cora Karbach, San Antonio; Mrs. Dan Fischer, Schertz; Mrs. H.F. Lambrecht, Seguin; and Mrs. Walter Weiss, San Antonio. "

JANUARY 24, 1930.

San

John Karbach Dies at Seguin



GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES

KAHN & GRAFF

Solomon Kahn was born at Bischofsheim, Germany, and died in the Fort Worth/Dallas area in 1914. He was Jewish. Solomon married Anna Graff, and they had ten children. Solomon and his family were living in the Fort Worth/Dallas area as early as 1889. A descendant of Solomon asks if you have any information about Solomon Kahn, please send an e-mail to *KAHN DAVIS @ AOL . COM*

FERTIG

Mary Fertig wrote "*My husband's grandparents were Germans from Prussia. They came through El Paso (Texas) in 1899. Their last residence was in Lumaha, Mexico. How would I find out more information on them? What might be the port in Mexico where they landed?*" If you have information about the Fertig Family, or if you can give Mrs. Fertig suggestions about how to get started searching for information, she asks you to please send an e-mail message to *mthrmay@coffey.com*

OTTO

Ms. S. McClenny of Amarillo is seeking information about Will (Wilhelm or William) Otto and his wife Mattie. Their children included Annie Bell Otto and Tucker Cobb Otto. Tucker was born at Lockhart. The Otto Family spoke German and English. Ms. McClenny wrote that a picture of Will Otto hung in the rotunda of the Texas State Capitol in the late 1940s or 1950s. Will was a trail driver and herded cattle along the Chisholm Trail. She has found descriptions of him as "*having a dark black handlebar mustache and black hair.*" If you can provide any information about the Otto Family, please contact

Mrs. S. McClenny

2306 S. Bowie

Amarillo, TX 78109

e-mail *SMcCLENNY @ WebTV. net*

RENNAKER

Sharon Rennaker Speights wrote "*We are researching our genealogy for our 97th Rennaker Reunion this summer. Do you have any members with roots to Rennaker, Renaker, Renikar, Reinecker, Reneker?*" If you know of any family ties with the various spellings of Rennaker, please respond to Ms. Speights by e-mail at *Stspeights@aol.com*

DESSAU (IN TRAVIS COUNTY)

Lesley Lisso Koster is a GTHS member who lives in Florida. She is seeking any sort of information about the town of Dessau in Travis County on Farm-to-Market Road 685 southwest of Pflugerville and about German families who settled there. Ms. Koster already has traced the Ludecke and Lisso families from the Dessau area back to Germany. Now she is trying to do the same for these families: **Wieland, Goerlitz, Grosskopf, Moritz, Hennig, Thiele, Kruger (or Krueger), Blumentritt, Nauert, Nehring and Kano.** Also she would like to know if you have any information about St. John's Lutheran Church at

contact fellow GTHS member Lesley by e-mail at JKKSTRJR@AOL.COM or by fax at 904/737-0736 or by phone at 904/730-7942.

KING WILLIAM AREA (SAN ANTONIO)

One of GTHS's founding members, Maria Watson Pfeiffer, is seeking photos of the King William Neighborhood in San Antonio. If you have photos or know where she can locate photos, please let Ms. Pfeiffer know:

Maria Watson Pfeiffer
213 Washington Street
San Antonio, TX 78204-1336
Phone 210/222-1586

NAVE

Gordon Nave is seeking information about his German grandfather, Dr. Samuel F. Nave, a physician, born 1857(?). His wife was Emma Dawson. Both Dr. Nave and his wife died in 1922 and were buried at the Kenedy Cemetery in Kenedy (Karnes County). Their children were (1)son Charles Nave born 1883 who married Lois Magee (2)daughter Elizabeth Nave Goff of San Antonio (3)son Charles Nave (4)daughter Nanie Nave (4)son Sam F. Nave born 1902 Gordon Nave of Georgetown (Williamson County) and wife Lois Magree. Residences for Dr. Nave include three counties: Williamson, Lavaca and Karnes. Gordon Nave asks if you know anything about the origin of the family name Nave. Was the name perhaps changed when they immigrated to Texas? Has anyone come across this name (Nave) in Germany? If you can offer any information, please contact Gordon Nave by e-mail at JaniceAndGordon@aol.com.

LIBRARIES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

The first library in Texas to acquire copies of the *1930 U.S. Federal Census* is the Genealogy Room in the States Archives Building at Austin. This is located at 1201 Brazos Street on the east side of the State Capitol grounds. The Genealogy Room is open to the public for research five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The phone is 512/463-5480.

Many genealogists consider the Clayton Genealogy Library, a branch of the Houston Public Library, to be one of the finest research centers in the U. S. for family history. The Clayton Library is in two buildings located a few blocks east of South Main Street in Houston at 5300 Caroline. It is open to the public six days a week. The hours for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday the Clayton is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The phone is 832/393-2600.

→→→ REMINDER

**HAVE YOU PRE-REGISTERED FOR
THE ANNUAL CONVENTION?**

IF YOU HAVEN'T,

NOW IS THE TIME !!!

USE THE REGISTRATION FORM

ON

PAGE ONE

☺ be there !

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Fax: (512) 482-0636

E-mail: GermanTexans@aol.com

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

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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.

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Send: Announcements, articles, conference info, meeting and reunion dates, genealogical inquiries, news and any other German heritage event information for reprint, and manuscripts for publication to:

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