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THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
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**THE MISSION OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
IS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND PRESEVERATION
OF THE
GERMAN CULTURAL HERITAGE OF TEXAS**



Einladung

zum 25th Jubiläum

von

GTHS

10. 11. & 12. Oktober 2003

New Braunfels & Comal County

Wir feiern mit
einem interessanten Programm,
guter Musik,
gutem Essen und Trinken
und viel Gemütlichkeit!

You and Your Family
are invited to
Celebrate the
25th Anniversary of
GTHS

on
October 10, 11 & 12, 2003
in
New Braunfels & Comal County

We would like to invite you and your family to join us in celebrating our Silver Anniversary and to share our German heritage with Gemütlichkeit, good music, delicious food & drink, as well as hands-on activities like 9 pin bowling, Schützenverein (Target Shooting), and Cane Pole Fishing (for those young ones and those young at heart).

Tentative Schedule for GTHS Convention

Friday Evening, October 10, 2003

The Conservation Plaza of the New Braunfels Conservation Society will be transformed into a Biergarten. Gemütlichkeit, good Music, delicious food and drink will help set the atmosphere of our gathering. We hope you will join us Friday evening as we begin the Celebration of our Society, our Heritage, and the sharing of these with our Family and Friends.

Saturday, October 11, 2003

After a short welcome and some announcements we will board buses for a short trip to our destinations in Comal County. We are working on arranging numerous activities that you can share with your family including your children, and grandchildren. The final choice maybe hard but we are working on having multiple different activities that you can choose from including: learning how to bowl 9-pin, preserve your Family Cemetery (including locating unmarked graves and cleaning and repairing tombstones), shoot Schützenverein, play skat or 42, and much, much more. Speakers that will teach the activity and tell us interesting trivia about the area of Comal County that we are visiting will highlight each activity. Of course, we will have delicious goodies from the famous Naegelin's Bakery for lunch and breaks.

Our evening meal will be served at the infamous Germania Farmer Verein in Anhalt, Texas. Not only will we have a German "ompah" band for our dancing and listening pleasure but also we hope to teach those that never had the chance this wonderful art of our heritage. Dances will include Garten Waltz, "Put your little foot", Schottische, and Herr Schmidt, just to name a few. Buses will take us back to New Braunfels after our evening is over.

Sunday, October 12, 2003

The morning will begin with an ecumenical German-Texas Church service near the Founder's Oak in beautiful Landa Park. After the service we will hear about Landa Park and Comal Springs. Then we will have our GTHS Business meeting followed by a "Wurst" lunch. Although the Convention will be over with lunch, we would like to suggest that y'all spend the afternoon with your Family and friends enjoying the park and each other.

Remember we cannot preserve our Heritage and pass it on, if we do not share it with our Family. We hope that you will invite your Family members and make it a Family reunion weekend as well as the GTHS Anniversary!

NEW BRAUNFELS ACCOMODATIONS GUIDE

Property Name	Address	Phone	Rooms	Facilities	Notes
BED AND BREAKFAST INNS/HOMES					
Accents of Gruene	1671 FM 306, 78132	800-722-5560 or 606-6773	4	MV	
Acorn Hill Bed & Breakfast	250 School House, 78132	800-525-4618 or 907-2597	6	ADsMV	
Acres of Birds & Blooms Getaway	3410 Purgatory Rd., 78132	877-374-6955 or 907-2182	1		
▲ Aunt Nora's Countryside Inn	120 Naked Indian Trail, 78132	800-687-2887 or 905-3989	5	ADsMV	
Biscuit Hill Bed & Breakfast	717 Colleen Dr., CL, 78133	899-4800	7		
Bretzke Lane Guesthouse	1760 Bretzke Lane, 78132	608-9195	1		
Casitas de Sueno	13098 FM 306, CL, 78133	832-3611	2	MVDs	
Castle Avalon	Hwy. 46 W., P.O. Box 310418, 78131-0418	885-4780	5	ADsMV	
Country Guesthaus Meyer	4742 FM 1863, Fuilverde, 78163	438-2858	1		
Das Amussen Bed/Breakfast & Events Ctr.	360 Millies Lane, 78132	625-5992	3		
Dorella's Kieche Gasthaus	210 E. Garza St.	534-5678 or 625-6894	1		
Gerlich-Wagenfuhrer Bed & Breakfast	P.O. Box 310933, 78131	626-7295	1	MV	
Gruene Apple Bed & Breakfast Inn	1235 Gruene Road	643-1234	14	ACDsMV	
© Gruene Cliff Bed & Breakfast	1111 Gruene Road	627-1600	14	MV	
Gruene Homestead Inn	832 Gruene Road	606-0216	23	DsMV	
© Gruene Mansion Inn	1275 Gruene Road	629-2641	28		
© Gruene Riverside Haven	1491 Edwards Blvd., 78132	625-5823	4		
Historic Kuebler-Waldrup Haus	1620 Hueco Springs Loop, 78132	800-299-8372 or 625-8300	10	ADsMV	
Joyce Abel's Texas House	3207 Hunter Rd., San Marcos 78666	512-392-4060 or 512-353-1080	1		
Karbach Haus B&B Inn	487 W. San Antonio St.	800-972-5941 or 625-2131	6	AMVDs	
© The Lamb's Rest Inn	1385 Edwards Blvd., 78132	888-609-3932 or 609-3932	5	MVDs	
Lillian's Cottage	525 S. Santa Clara	620-7900 or 866-216-5459	1		
Oak Hill Estate	1355 River Road, 78132	625-3170 or 800-774-3170	3		
Old Hunter Road Stagecoach	5441 FM 1102	800-201-2912 or 620-9453	2	AMV	
Miss Milburn's Bed & Breakfast	185 Ferguson St.	620-0060	2		
Prince Solms Inn	295 East San Antonio	800-625-9169 or 625-9169	14	ADsMV	
The Silo Inn	1609 Waterway	643-1791	1	MV	
Texas SunCatcher Inn Bed/Breakfast	1316 W. Coll	609-1062	3	ADsMV	
Weinert House Bed & Breakfast	1207 North Austin, Seguin, 78155	372-0422	4	MV	
CABINS, CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS					
© Abbott's 306 River Outfitter	546 Riverside Path, CL, 78133	964-2625	2	ADsMV	
▲ Bunk Haus & RV Park	18501 FM 306, CL, 78133	888-592-8199	70	MVDs	
▲ Cabins Over Canyon Lake	245 Brenda Lane, CL, 78133	713-520-0950			
Canyon Lake Cabins & Cottages	21400 FM 306, CL, 78133	935-3430	19		
© Gilligan's Island	9360 River Road, 78132	964-2456	34		
© Guadalupe's Best RV Park	16520 S. Access Rd., CL, 78133	800-923-2378	38		
Hill Country RV Resort	131 Ruelke Rd.	625-1919	300	MV	
© KL Ranch Camp	5300 River Road, 78132	625-3038	121	MV	
© Landia RV Park and Campground	565 N. Market	625-1211	97		
© Lazy L&L Campground	11629 River Road, 78132	964-3455	150	MV	
© Mountain Breeze Camp	201 Mountain Breeze Camp Rd., 78132	964-2484	72	AMV	
© O'Henry's Hideaway	8511 River Road, 78132	800-496-4248 or 964-4443	100	ADsMV	
© Rainbow Camp & River Outfitters	8690 River Road, 78132	964-2227	32		
© River Ranch RV Resort	420 Business Loop 35N	624-1820	55	DsMV	
River Road Camp	6365 River Road, 78132	625-5004	72		
© River Valley Cottages & RV Park	14130 River Road, CL, 78133	877-RIO-RAFT or 964-3613	58	DsMV	
Rockfield RV Park	2280 FM 2722, 78132	905-4044	14		
© 2nd Crossing Camp	6515 River Road, 78132	964-2277 or 620-4036	32	MV	
© Whitewater Sports Campground	11860 FM 306, 78132	964-3800		DsMV	

back in 1985, when the GTHS held its annual meeting at New Braunfels, these two stories were in the summer issue of the journal

New Braunfels' German Heritage Dates to 1845

City Founded by Prince Solms

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels established a German colony on the Comal River and named it New Braunfels after Braunfels, Germany, site of his castle on the Lahn River. At the time, San Antonio, 30 miles to the south, was in ruins and Austin, 50 miles north, was half-deserted.

No white man lived in the New Braunfels area at the time of its founding. In fact, cannibalism thrived among the Indians living in this area. Lipon, Tonkawa, Karankowa and Waco Indians were the more permanent inhabitants of the area when the first German settlers arrived by ox carts and wagons on Good Friday, March 21, 1845.

This was the beginning of a mass immigration involving about 6,000 German immigrants.

Prince Carl was appointed commissioner-general for the colony which the Adelsverein

(Association of Noblemen) in Germany proposed to establish. He was an active member of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas and bore the responsibility of making all arrangements for the prospective colony.

Prince Carl landed at Galveston July 1, 1844, and traveled by horseback into many areas of Texas.

Immigrants from Germany began to arrive in the coastal area during the last two months of 1844. But it wasn't until March 15, 1845, that the Prince came to an agreement on land acquisition with the Juan Martin de Veramendi family.

From one of the Veramendi daughters, Maria Antonio Garza, and her husband Rafael E. Garza, Prince Carl purchased 1,265 acres of land at a sum of \$1,111. On Good Friday, March 21, 1845, the first wagons with immigrants

crossed the Guadalupe River.

Originally, the site for the first colony was planned for the Medina River Valley area. Because of delays and other circumstances, the contract for land development in the Medina Valley was negated.

It was this action that caused the Prince to look elsewhere, finding the Comal Springs, which, at the time, were called "fountains."

Several notable persons evolved from the early German immigration of Texas, one of whom was Ferdinand Jakob Lindheimer. Lindheimer has been referred to as the "Father of Texas Botany", having had many species of plants named in his honor by scientific specialists. Lindheimer rode into New Braunfels with Prince Solms in 1844 to inspect the land. He also was editor of the *Neu-Braunfelser Zeitung*, 1852-1872. His home has been restored and is open for public

inspection.

The conservative, ingenious, and hard-working German immigrants began to build the unique community of New Braunfels. In its early days, the community rapidly became an industrial community and industries initiated in the pioneering days still are operating today.

German immigrants played a significant role in the development of Texas as other communities in Texas were founded by off-shoots from the colonization of New Braunfels.

Business and industrial leaders in the metropolitan cities of Austin and San Antonio trace their lineage to the pioneer families of New Braunfels and Comal County.

Today, the citizens of New Braunfels are cognizant of their heritage and are taking steps to insure preservation of historical evidence of its culture, customs and traditions.

New Braunfels and Vicinity

It's a History Buff's Delight

New Braunfels has numerous historical sites, buildings, and homes that appeal to the amateur and professional history buff. There is also an excellent museum, recently renovated and expanded, that has exhibition areas comparable to any museum in the land.

The Sophienburg Museum, which is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., is a must for any visitor to New Braunfels and especially those interested in history.

The exhibits bring to life what the early German immigrants in Texas experienced and how they lived. Furthermore, there are exhibits that indicated the tremendous influence Texas Germans have had over the growth and development of the education system as well as other professional areas.

The museum is on the site which was the meeting place, as well as the seat of government, for the German Immigration Society in New Braunfels. Here the immigrants received their town and acre lots, as well as their rations in 1845.

The original building was torn down in 1888 after a tornado practically demolished it. Prince Carl zu Solms-Braunfels had designated this site for Fort Sophia, which was named after his bride-to-be, Princess Sophia.

The home of one of Texas' unsung heroes has been completely restored and is in itself a museum piece. This restored home is a perfect example of the unique architectural style of construction called "fachwerk."

The Lindheimer Home, located on the Comal River in

downtown New Braunfels, is typical of the ancient fachwerk which German settlers adapted to Texas cedar and limestone.

A framework of handhewn studs and braces for each wall was mortised and pegged together on the ground, then raised into place. Rock or handmade brick filled spaces between the squared timbers.

The home is furnished with some original pieces as well as furniture that was made in New Braunfels at that time. In touring the home, a visitor gets the feeling the Lindheimer just walked outside.

Prince Carl hired Lindheimer as a guide into the frontier wilderness, and he led the colonists to the site of their first settlement, New Braunfels. He was the pioneer who made friends with the Indians and could pass among the Comanche unmolested.

The history books truthfully picture Lindheimer as a romantic and colorful figure whose important contributions to American botany led to international renown among scientists.

He was the first to classify much of the native Texas flora, and over 30 varieties bear his name in their botanical files.

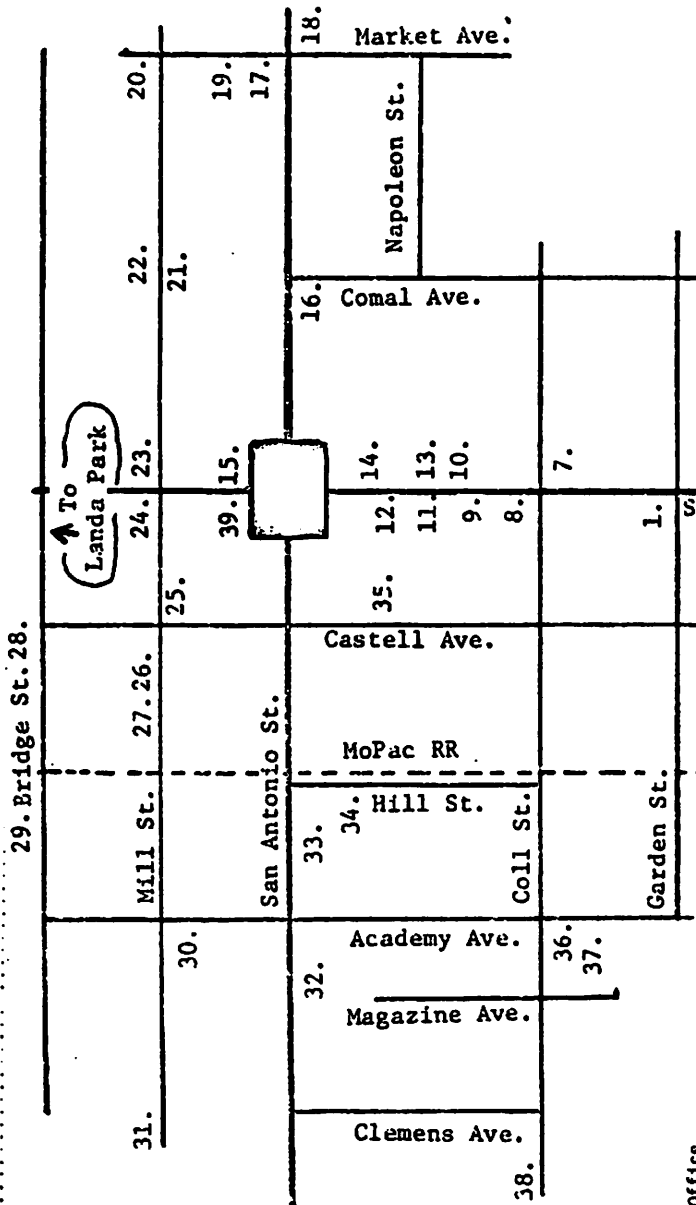
His passion for journalism was intense and he was selected as editor for a German language newspaper in 1852.

Included among the exhibits in the Lindheimer Home are a sword which was a gift of Prince Carl, framed botanical specimens, and a family Bible published in Germany in 1701. The Lindheimer Home is open daily, except for Mondays, from 2-5 p.m., June through August.

Walking Tour Of Historic New Braunfels

1. Civic Center & Chamber of Commerce
S. Seguin at Garden St.
2. Dr. Koester House (1860)
421 S. Seguin
3. Rudolph House (1846)
424 Comal Ave.
4. Ferdinand Lindheimer House (1852)
489 Comal Ave.
5. Heinrich Scholl House (1855)
530 Comal Ave.
6. Joseph Hermann House (1847)
575 Comal Ave.
7. Joseph Faust House (1880s & 1905)
305 S. Seguin
8. First Protestant Church (1845-1875-1955)
S. Seguin at Coll St.
9. Walter Faust House (1904)
240 S. Seguin
10. Heinrich Beventoth House (1850-56)
251 S. Seguin
11. Rennett House (1860-70)
728 S. Seguin
12. Morreau House (1869)
190 S. Seguin
13. Krause Stone (1860s)
173 S. Seguin
14. Stephan Klein House (1846)
131 S. Seguin
15. Comal County Court House (1889)
Main Plaza
16. Semers Pfeuffer House (1910)
170 E. San Antonio St.
17. Prince Solms Inn (Coral Hotel) (1900)
755 E. San Antonio St.
18. Dr. Leide House (1870)
308 E. San Antonio St.
19. Joseph Klein House (1852)
135 N. Market St.
20. Eiband House (1870s)
295 E. Mill St.
21. Fritz Goldbeck House (1870s)
182 E. Hill St.
22. August Dietz House (1866)
197 E. Hill St.
23. New Braunfels City Hall
N. Seguin at Hill St.
24. Joseph Peters House (1850s)
740 N. Canfield St.

25. U. S. Post Office
Castell at W. Hill St.
26. Pfeuffer House (1846)
230 W. Hill St.
27. Gene House (1860s)
256 W. Hill St.
28. S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
(1849-1871-1963)
West Br. Jce St.
29. Phillip Schmidt House (1850s)
354 W. Bridge St.
30. Part of Old New Braunfels Academy
407 W. Hill St.
31. Ulrich House (1846)
554 W. Hill St.
32. H. Gerlich House (1883)
505 W. San Antonio St.
33. John Faust House (1905)
361 W. San Antonio St.
34. F. W. Tietze House (1854)
194 S. Hill St.
35. Hinmann House (1870)
161 S. Castell St.
36. Sophienberg Museum (1933)
Academy & Coll Sts.
37. Distlinger Memorial Library
373 Magazine
38. Von Coll House (1845)
624 W. Coll St.



this also is from the 1985 summer issue of the journal, the year GTHS held its annual meeting at New Braunfels

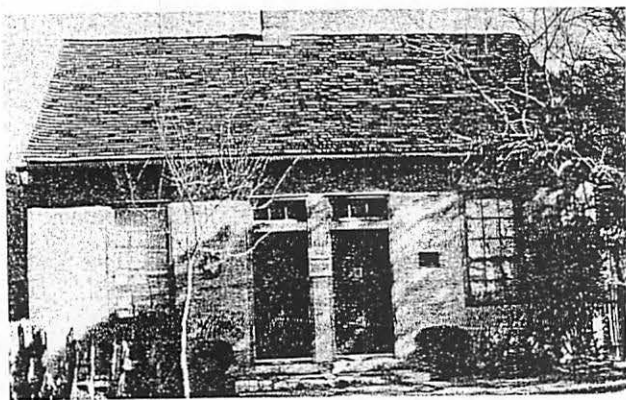
Walking Tour
See homes and buildings built by early settlers of New Braunfels. Of the 39 sites listed here 29 are over 100 years old. The Lindheimer Home and the obvious public buildings are open to the visitor. Other historic structures have been relocated to the Conservation Plaza, 1300 Church Hill Drive. For open hours at the Lindheimer Home and Sophienberg Museum contact the Chamber office (625-2385).

From
San Antonio Interstate 35
From Austin

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THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING
WILL BE IN NEW BRAUNFELS
OCTOBER 10-12

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW BRAUNFELS AND COMAL COUNTY TEXAS



FERDINAND LINDHEIMER HOME, circa 1852

Distributed by:

GREATER NEW BRAUNFELS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The June 22, 1844 issue of the *New Orleans Republican* carried the following news item concerning a mass German immigration project to Texas: "His Serene Highness, the Prince-zu-Solms-Braunfels, near relative of the King of Prussia, with four individuals on his way to Texas, as we hear, whether he repairs for the purpose of inspecting lands which have been sold or granted by the Government of the Country to an emigration's agent or speculator, who has been negotiating in Europe, for the transport of German Emigrants."

Prince Carl of Solms Braunfels landed at Galveston in July, 1844 and traveled on horseback through the territory of Texas to acquire exact knowledge of where best to locate the German immigrants who were to follow in a few months. The Prince met with Rev. Louis Ervendberg in East Texas and invited him to serve as protestant minister for the German immigrants. On July 24 the Prince found Captain John Coffee Hays, who was Commander of a Texas Ranger Company and employed by the Republic of Texas to make surveys on the frontier. "Captain Hays is an honorable and trustworthy man," the Prince reported, "and perhaps the only one from whom accurate information of the mountainous regions can be obtained."

In December of 1844 Prince Carl arranged for a landing port for the immigrants at Indian Point which he named "Carlshafen" which was a site on the Texas coast very near to where Indianola was established in 1849. It wasn't until March 6, 1845 that Prince Carl returned to San Antonio and through Ranger Captain John Coffee Hays became knowledgeable of some available land situated 15 miles above Seguin on the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers.

On March 15 Prince Carl entered into an agreement with Maria Antonia Garza and her husband Rafael E. Garza for 1,265 acres of the Veramendi land at a sum of \$1,111. Of that sum Prince Carl agreed to make an initial payment of \$500 cash with the balance to be paid in 30 days.

On March 18 Prince Carl crossed the Guadalupe at the ford of the military road El Camino Real from

Nacogdoches to San Antonio (now Nacogdoches Street in New Braunfels) with 25 men to inspect the land he had purchased for the first settlement in Texas of the German Emigration Company. That night they camped on the Comal at the foot of present Bridge Street. A snow storm during the night deposited snow in their tents "which could be rolled in the hand, but by noon had melted". He wrote, "Taking this as a good omen, we established our German colony here to which I gave the name New Braunfels."

New Braunfels was founded on March 21, 1845, Good Friday. The first wagons of immigrants crossed the Guadalupe and they were placed in an encampment erected on a bluff overlooking the Comal River. The area is now the site of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

In the Guadalupe River bottom cannibalism thrived in the 1840's and on the nights of May 4 and 5, 1845, Tonkawa Indians consumed the cooked and fried flesh of a Waco Indian. As the Tonkawa squaws returned from the orgy the following morning, they met a number of settlers. The squaws pounded their stomachs and grinningly said that they hoped by eating the warrior's flesh their off-spring would be as brave as the Waco warrior had been.

The founding of New Braunfels, often referred to as the "City of a Prince", had a major impact upon the immediate area as well as opening West Texas to a civilized economy. The many artisans and craftsmen among the 6,000 settlers generated industry and commerce for the entire central Texas area. In addition to economic growth this early colony brought religion, organized public education, and other socioeconomic benefits to the area.

Attracted to the new settlement were William H. Merriweather from Tennessee and John Torrey from Galveston. Both men built mills powered by water on the Comal. J. J. Jahn arrived with the first settlers in 1845, bringing tools to make handmade furniture which developed into a thriving little industry. The Louis Henne Company can be classed as a continuation of the first shop to manufacture handmade tinwear.

School has been held uninterrupted in New Braunfels since the morning of Monday, August 11, 1845. Hermann Seele began teaching the children of the new settlement in both English and German under the elm trees in the grass prairie at the foot of Sophienburg Hill. Religious services were also held under the same elm trees where Seele began teaching the three R's to the children.

The First Protestant Church was established under the laws of the Republic of Texas on October 5, 1845. A large percentage of the new colonists were Catholics, but there was not a priest available immediately. However in 1846 Bishop Odin visited the new colony and secured a site for a church. The first recorded baptism was performed by Bishop Odin January 20, 1847. The Sisters of Divine Providence took over the school in the fall of 1871 and have been in charge since that time.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church is said to be the oldest Lutheran Church in Texas ... built in 1851. The First Methodist congregation was organized in New Braunfels on March 7, 1853 and the First Baptist Church building in New Braunfels was constructed in 1905.

New Braunfels is known for its financial stability due to the many industries established over the years. The tourist business grew considerably during the 1960's and '70's with new motels and new attractions such as Natural Bridge Caverns, Canyon Lake and world famous Wurstfest.

In the '60's the community became aware of the value of its heritage and began extensive projects to preserve the culture brought over from Germany. Landmarks and historical sites are now getting serious attention as evidenced by the revitalization of the Sophienburg Museum, restoration of the Ferdinand Lindheimer Home, the development of Conservation Plaza and the creation of the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture. The old is being preserved but modern local government is bringing the latest in facilities and services to its citizens.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES
by VAN MASSIRER, GTHS PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

Your GTHS Board of Directors has been very busy lately in efforts not only to continue our regular member services but also to add new services. We met in Austin on May 24 for our second quarter meeting, where one of the more significant items on the agenda was filling vacancies on both the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board. Janice Thompson's Membership Committee nominated Carolyn Meiners and Glen Triebes for director positions and several others for the Advisory Board. For a complete listing, see the inside of the front cover of *The Journal*.

An equally important agenda item involved some changes to committee structure as outlined in the by-laws. Terry Smart spearheaded an effort to reduce the number of standing committees from twelve to four: Executive, Membership, Activities, and Budget and Finance. Each board member will be expected to serve on at least one committee.

Teddy Boehm, chair of the Activities Committee, has been working with her group to formulate guidelines for establishing auxiliary organizations around the state. These organizations will be known as Vereins, and each will have representation on the Board of Directors. Nominations for sites for Vereins are in order!

Wing Evans, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, presents very detailed but understandable financial reports at our board meetings. He has also been working with GTHS member Phil Sterzing to put the finishing touches on our new parking lot. In his "spare" time, Wing is making plans for our first Oktoberfest, which is scheduled for September 27 at Richland Hall near Pflugerville. Then in his overtime hours, Wing is seeking bids for interior renovation and painting at headquarters.

Planning for our annual meeting is Connie Krause's responsibility, and she has been working diligently to bring us a new and different kind of program. Please take some extra time to look at the program, and start making plans now to be in New Braunfels in October. It will be German-Texan heritage preservation at its best!

Please note, too, that former board member Chuck Kalteyer is once again directing our annual Operational Fund Drive. I urge you to give due consideration to this solicitation for funds so that we can continue to provide our usual services to the membership, to add new services, and to maintain the historical German Free School building.

All of the other board members and our Executive Director, Julia Germany, also contribute significantly, and some commute several hundred miles at their own expense to attend our meetings. They are all truly dedicated to heritage preservation, and I am honored to work with them.

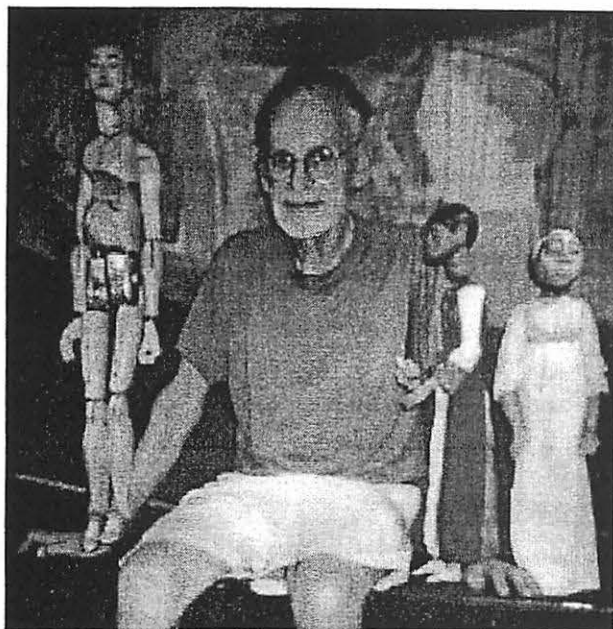
Sincerely,



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
by Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director

Guten Tag, Y'All!

I want to thank all the volunteers and participants who made our 8th Annual Maifest a success. Many GTHS members and directors came out to help us celebrate spring in traditional German fashion. New volunteers **Mary and John Evans** served up delicious sausage and sauerkraut. **Bowie High School German students** wrapped the Maipole, and kids of all ages enjoyed the marionette show performed by local artist **Don Harms**.



Photos of Don Harms (above) and Arlene Burges (right) taken at the 2003 Maifest by GTHS member Logan McNatt.

Many, many thanks go to our Maifest sponsors and underwriters: **Brenham Brewery, Continental Airlines, Barbara and Wing Evans, Carolyn Luersen Harvel, Chuck Kalteyer, Margaret Hitzfeld, Muriel Vaughan, Paul Pressler and Dr Robert Neely.**

Be sure to join us later this year as we celebrate our first **OKTOBERFEST**. This event will take place on **Saturday 27 September at Richland Hall** (near Pflugerville and Manor, Texas). This fundraising event will feature a catered German dinner and live German music. More details in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Speaking of the next issue of the *Journal*, we are very pleased to announce that starting this year, the *Journal* will become a periodical, which means it will be published four times per year. This will also allow us to have corporate sponsors and advertising in the *Journal*, which will help defray the publishing costs. If you are a member and would like to advertise your business in the *Journal* or on our Web site, please contact me.

bis bald,

Julia

IN MEMORIAM ANITA SCHEMEDES KILLEN

Anita Schmedes Killen, long-time GTHS member and former editor of the Schulhaus Reporter for ten years, died May 31, 2003. Anita was a life-long resident of Austin. She was born June 19, 1925, the daughter of Kurt and Meta Schmedes. Anita graduated from Austin High School in 1942, then earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Texas. After studying music in New York, she played viola in the San Antonio, Corpus Christi and New Orleans symphony orchestras, but her true love was the Austin Symphony Orchestra where she played viola and served as personnel manager for many years.

In 1954, Anita and Daniel Killen married. Dan died in 1980, and following his death Anita traveled widely and spent much time with her children and grandchildren. One of her favorite interests was photographing her family and friends around the world. She devoted many years to documenting her family's history and created many keepsakes for family and friends. Anita was historian for Austin's Friendship Force International.

She is survived by her daughter Heather and husband George Ibarra of Harker Heights; by her daughter Carol and husband James Hitzfelder of Austin; by her daughter Lisa Killen of Sierra Madre, California; and by four grandchildren, Daniel Ibarra, Nicholas Hitzfelder, Elisabeth Hitzfelder and James Jennings.

Memorial services for Anita were held in Austin on June 4 at St. David's Episcopal Church. Contributions in Anita's memory may be made to St. David's Church Music Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 315, Austin, Texas 78767, or to Hospice Austin's Christopher House, 4107 Spicewood Springs Road, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78759.



Anita Killen
1925-2003

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK BY RODNEY KOENIG

Summers are the times of family reunions. My own family involves the Koenig, Oeding, Munke, Laux, Albrecht, Suhren, Klaevemann, Joost, Dinklage, Mueller, Greulich, Bolling, Willers, Pauli, Koch and Bruening families. These families came from various parts of Germany, including Oldenburg, Oldenbrok, Mittelort, Jade am Teich, Bloeherde, Eversten, Schulau-Wedel, Rosebeck, Dunkelbeck bei Peine, Elz near Limburg on the Lahn, Lausitz, Mecklenburg, and Schwerin. They came to America as early as the 1840's and as late as the 1880's. The Koenig family came on the SS Trave while the Laux family came on the Barque Strabo. My Klaevemann ancestor came on the Frankfurt while my Albrecht ancestors were on the Andacia. I have been fortunate to travel to Oldenburg, to Oldenbrok, to Elz, to Rosebeck, and to Schulau-Wedel near Hamburg. An item that makes family reunions more interesting is to find pictures of the ship on which your ancestor traveled from Europe to Texas. There are a number of sources available to find pictures of the old ships. Moreover, the books by Chester and Ethel Geue lists the names of ships on which many German immigrants arrived. Furthermore, the state archives near the capital in Austin have passenger lists which give names of passengers, ages of passengers and other interesting data on your immigrant ancestors. Our immigrant ancestors left their mark when they traveled from Germany to Texas.

My German ancestors are buried in various local cemeteries, including Black Jack Springs Cemetery near La Grange, Williams Creek Cemetery outside of Schulenburg, La Grange City Cemetery in La Grange, and Freyburg Methodist Cemetery outside of Schulenburg. Consider contributing to the maintenance funds of the cemetery in which your ancestor is buried. Assist in building or refurbishing a chapel at your family's cemetery as was done with the Black Jack Springs Cemetery!

Why not compile a list of your German ancestors, the names of the ships on which they arrived and the cemeteries in which they are buried. Perhaps an interesting task at your family reunion will be assigning younger family members to find pictures of the ships on which your ancestors arrived or finding maps on the local village in Germany from whence they came. Involving younger family members in this sort of exercise will get them forever hooked on genealogy. I keep a picture of the Limburg Cathedral in my office since my ancestor, Peter Laux, likely saw this cathedral on a regular basis, since he lived only 8 kilometers from Limburg in the little village of Elz.

How will you leave your German mark? Preserve the stories of your family by taking tape recorders to the family reunions and have the older generations tell stories of their German-Texan childhood. Have each family member put together a narrative of some of their memories of their German childhood. Share the genealogy with us by publicizing your family reunions in our Journal and in your local newspapers. Remember German Texas causes in your Will and when you designate beneficiaries of your IRA, 401k plan and in your Will. For assistance in this area, please call Julia Germany in the GTHS office or call Rodney Koenig at 713-651-5333. My email is rkoenig@fulbright.com and Julia's email is GermanTexans@aol.com.

2002 Operational Fund Donors

The German-Texan Heritage Society is very fortunate to have supporters like you! Your continued tax-deductible financial contributions, including matching funds from your employer, makes all the difference in our existence.

Herzlichen Dank to:

Regent (\$2500 and up)

Miriam York Giddings

Dean (\$1000-\$2499)

Esther Miller-Strange, Kerrville

Professor (\$500-\$999)

Bernard "Ben" Buecker, San Antonio

Dr Robert A. Neely, Bellville

Bette Williams, Austin

Schoolmaster (\$150-\$499)

Janell Blue, Alexandria, Va

Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm, Brenham

Mary and Charles Clinger, Austin

Barbara and Wing Evans, Austin

Ursula Heinen, Austin

Charles Kalteyer, Austin

Ruth Hardt and Bill Koehler, Austin

Mary and Rodney Koenig, Houston

Van D Massirer, Crawford

Gunther Noelting, Austin

Thomas E Pawel, San Antonio

Terry L Smart, San Antonio

Anna Thompson, Dublin

Janice and Charles Thompson, Houston

Helen Vodicka, Dallas

Lynne and Wendel Voigt, Pflugerville

Scholar (\$50-\$149)

- Jo Peebles Adams, Houston*
Mr and Mrs Jack C Allen, Richardson
Margaret Barr, Austin
Edith M Betts, College Station
Dr Henry J Boehm Jr, Brenham
Kent L Bohls, Austin
Dr Edith F Bondi PhD, Houston
Ingrid Brock, Corpus Christi
Christa Schwing Broderick, Austin
Doris Kirschke Brown, Deland, Fl
Agnes Wilde Buhl, New Braunfels
Arlene and Richard Burges III, Round Rock
Teresa and Fred Chavez, Copperas Cove
Doris Hermann Cook, Katy
Atha M Dimon, Barker
Rolf Durst, Germany,
Betty and Arlen Edgar, Midland
Felicia G Elliott, Houston
Dieter H Ender, Houston
Kirby D Garner, Bastrop
Cynthia Schmidt Glover, Austin
William S Goldman, Austin
A V Goyne Jr, Arlington
E Ray Grasshoff, Austin
Edna Groeschel, Austin
Clarence Guelker, Austin
Dolores Gully, San Angelo
Werner H Heesche, New Braunfels
Elizabeth Schaller Holland, Waco
Dr Pat and Helgard Hollis, New Braunfels
Jefferson C Howell, Houston
Ron A Hunka, Austin
Marjorie K Hunt, Corpus Christi
Lisa Kahn, Houston
Donald P Kalteyer, San Antonio
Walter Kalteyer, San Antonio
La Verne Dierschke Knezek, Arlington
Marsha and Phil Koeppe, Austin
Kenneth Koether, El Paso
J S Langhart, Universal City
Ingrid Gimm Lansford, Georgetown
Leonard C Larson, Port Arthur
Janice K Lee, Houston
Ethel Pape Loitz, San Antonio
Richard H Maagers, Boerne
Ursula and Jerry Maples, Irving
Helga M Martin, San Antonio
Margarete Saut Masson, Houston
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Bertie Owen, Austin
Mr and Mrs Herbert H Peebles, Houston
Gladys L Pfluger, Pflugerville
Sandra and Edward Pickett, Liberty
Judge and Mrs Paul Pressler, Houston
Christa Rabago, Austin
Alton J Rahe, New Braunfels
Judith and Robert Renker, Temple
Velma R Rice, League City
Donna Mae Rickard, Coulee Dam, Wa
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Ethel and Carl Saur, New Braunfels
Betty A and J E Schmalz, Katy
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Carl W Schumacher Jr, Houston
Robert Schutze, Dallas
Jane Shelton, Hubbard
Jane Weyrich Sims, Houston
Herta Sokobylk, Kerrville
Marcella D Spiller, Austin
Annette Stachowitz, Austin
Lloyd F Stoebner, Cameron
Vivian Froehlich Taylor, Weimar
Charlene and Kenneth Tiemann, Austin
Helga and Hans von Schweinitz, Austin
W M von-Maszewski, Richmind
Albert Weber, Austin
Erich Wendl, Corpus Christi
Walter Wendlandt, Austin
Mona B Wendtland, Shiner
Evangeline L Whorton, Galveston
Douglas Wixon, Austin

Student (\$25-\$49)

A A "Gus" Altgelt, San Antonio
Enid Spill Anderson, Winters
Mr and Mrs Leroy Anderson, Austin
Margaret Baacke, Austin
William E "Bill" Bammel, Jr, Houston
Bruce W Barrick, Austin
Myrtle Bartels, New Braunfels
Jane B Benson, Dallas
Leon H Bertram, Kerrville
Geraldine Weige Breshears, Dallas
Dr Heide M Briggs, Ft Worth
Waldene Brown, Houston
Sherryl Brown, Fredricksburg
Charles Buckner, Friendswood
Madeline and Charles Clanton, San Antonio
Mabel E Backhaus Connally, San Antonio
Ralph L Cook, Sandia
William C Cross, Lakeland, Fl
Dr Richard D Culbertson, Fort Worth
Amelia and Ray Dennis, Austin
Renate Extine, Lawton, Ok
Mary Ann Fortin, Harlingen
Victor O Fritze, Garden Ridge
Mr and Mrs Otto L Fuchs Jr, Carmine
Leland Gersbach, Temple
Ben A Ghusing, Kingsville
Alois J Goertz, San Antonio
Melrose and Edward Goertz, Victoria
Joan Griggs, Houston
Joyce and E J Haas, Houston
Marcella and Glenn Hadelor, Austin
Cora Hartmann, Austin
Karen Ann Haschke, Austin
Mr and Mrs Albert Helpert, Dallas
Billie G Herring, Austin
Herbert C Hertel, Mclean, Va
Margaret Hofmann, Austin
Velma and Albert Holck, Austin
David Holland, Austin
James Hollas, Austin
Victor W Horadam, Mesquite
Ethel H Joerg, Chula, Ga
Betty Schmidt Johnson, Comfort
Evalyn Kruger Jurgens, Austin
Dolores Sonntag Kinsey, San Marcos
Will Klement, Mission
Kenn Knopp, Fredericksburg
Dr and Mrs Michael F Koehl, Huntsville
Barbara Kopplin, Three Rivers

John H Kothmann, Fredericksburg
Dr and Mrs Nicholas W Kramer, Plainview
Elizabeth Lehmann, Brenham
Margery Scholl Marrs, Houston
Dennis Masar, Scotch Plains, Nj
Margarete S and Peter Masson, Houston
Doris R Meller, Georgetown
Fred H Meyer, Hockley
Helen Miller, Waco
Christine H Mills, Manor
Bernice and Gus Mistrot, Houston
Dorothy and Eugene Myska, Rosenberg
Frank Naumann, Oxnard, Ca
Leonard A Neidinger, Houston
Mary Jean Neuse, Gonzales
Janet Durst Nicholls, Paol Alto, Ca
Wayne R Noll, Corpus Christi
Helen Remmert Novosad, Burnet
John J O'malley Jr, Fredericksburg
William J Otto Jr, Austin
Maxine Weiman Owens, Cypress
Leslie Pfeil, Port Lavaca
Shirley and Leo Phillipus, Houston
Emylie Goerlitz Pulliam, Austin
Annie T Raabe, Mesquite
Walter Hoppe Richter, Austin
Dena Rittimann, Marion
Marie Roessing, Austin
Charles Mathias Rohrbach, San Antonio
Joycelyn Rudeloff, San Antonio
Ruth G Sawyer, Georgetown
Jean and Clarence Scheel, Garden Ridge
Rev B C Schmidt, Austin
and Josie and Erben W Schuldt, Beaumont
Mr and Mrs Ivan D Schultz, San Antonio
Marvin Schwausch, Round Rock
Lori A Senseney, San Antonio
John Shaw, Austin
Joseph G Speare, Niceville, Fl
Weldon A Spies, Houston
Shirley and Harvey Spies, Victoria
Vicki Ehlers Watts, Georgetown
Beverly Bales Weaver, Cibolo
Edward L Weeren, Austin
Sophie R and James C Werchan, Austin
Marshal R Wilke, Dallas
Mr and Mrs Wilson Windle, Houston
Evelyn Wolf, Mcclade
Alma Meyer Zeissel, Santa Fe, Nm

2003 Operational Fund

You spoke and we listened!

Traditionally, we held our Operational Fund Drive at the end of the year. Our members said this was too close to the holidays. We agree.

This year, we are kicking off our fund drive in the middle of summer. This way there is no confusion with dues renewal, and we won't be competing with the holiday gift-giving season.

You should receive your donation card and return envelope in the mail soon. Your tax-deductible additional support will go a long way to further promote and preserve the German cultural heritage of Texas. We thank you.

NEWS, RECENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

by the Editor

THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's three-day Annual Meeting will be at New Braunfels on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 10-11-12. Connie Krause is heading a large group of volunteers who are planning a meeting with some new activities designed to revive everyone's interest in our German cultural heritage.

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE GTHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its May meeting, the Board of Directors elected Carolyn Meiners of La Grange and Glen Treibs of Fredericksburg to fill vacancies on the board. These two new directors join John Birkelbach of Bellville who joined the board in February

THE FIRST GTHS OKTOBERFEST

GTHS' first *Oktoberfest* will be celebrated at the historic Richland Hall near Pflugerville and Manor, Texas, on Saturday, September 27th, with a catered German dinner (no sausage and sauerkraut!), live German music and a dance. For more details go to the GTHS web-site at www.gths.net or phone GTHS at the German Free School 1-866-482-4847

THE 2003 MAIFEST

The eighth annual GTHS *Maifest* was held on the grounds of the German Free School in Austin on Saturday, April 26, from 1 until 5:00 p.m. The program included a marionette show and performances by the *Sängerrunde Damen-und-Menschenchor* and the Bowie High School Dancers. A silent auction was held, and the raffle of Continental Airlines tickets to Germany was won by GTHS member, Teddy Boehm, of Brenham. Thanks to all the volunteers that made *Maifest* once again a success. It earned about \$5,000 for GTHS.

GTHS MEMBERSHIP DATA

The Executive Director, Julia Germany, reported to the Board of Directors that GTHS membership on May 24th was 1,247 individuals. This number included 100 new members who joined GTHS late in 2002 and another 81 who have become members since January of this year.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS IN GTHS

Almost one third of new memberships in GTHS since January 2003 have been gift memberships. Why not give a GTHS gift membership the next time you want to honor a birthday, anniversary, or similar occasion?

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD MEMBERSHIP DATA

According to our Executive Director, Julia Germany, the May 2003 membership of the German Free School Guild was 445.

"SIX OTHER FLAGS OVER TEXAS"

The University of Texas at Austin sponsored a free public symposium celebrating the cultural contributions of Germans, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Czechs and Poles to Texas' heritage, March 28 and 29, on the university campus. Thanks to the GTHS representatives who volunteered and made certain German culture was well presented.

GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR, LIZ HICKS

Liz Hicks, our GTHS Genealogy Editor, spoke to the Washington County Genealogical Society, April 7, at Blinn College in Brenham. Liz's presentation was entitled "Little Known Sources for Genealogical Information."

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT C. H. CLAUSS?

GTHS member, Anne Stewart of Las Cruces, New Mexico, is seeking information the artist C. H. Clauss, who in 1888 painted a picture now owned by the Institute of Texan Cultures and entitled "Battle of the Nueces, Aug. 10, 1862." Unfortunately, the institute knows nothing about the painter. If you have any information to share, please write to Ms. Stewart at 11240 Windflyer Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88007-7146 or send an e-mail message to her at mastewart@zianet.com.

TEXAS TECH SPRING BREAK GERMANY RELIEF PROJECT

Dr. Meredith McClain, GTHS member and sponsor of Texas Tech University's relief project, reports that sixteen members of the German Club at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, led by Club President Karla Sutton, spent their March Spring Semester Break in a village near Dresden, Germany, helping to clean up from the terrible flood that struck that area in the fall of last year. The students were in part sponsored by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation in Berlin. They flew to Germany on March 13, and were greeted by the mayor and residents of Bad Schandau, where 90% of the homes had been destroyed by flood waters. They returned to Texas March 22 in time to resume their classes and received special recognition for their services from the German Consul General, Heinar Model.

HERMANN SOEHNE GEMISCHTERCHOR PERFORMANCE

On May 3, the Fredericksburg *Hermann Soehne Gemischterchor*, under the direction of Mark Hierholzer, performed a German Mass by Micheal Hayden, "*Hier Liegt vor Deiner Majestaet*" for the afternoon services held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredericksburg.

BACH CHOIR PERFORMANCE

On Good Friday, April 18, the Bach Choir and Orchestra of Houston, under the direction of Peter Kopp, Guest Director from Dresden, Germany, performed Johann Sebastian Bach's "The Passion According to St. John" at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston. On April 20, the church held a German-language Eucharist Service for Easter, the *Ostermesse*, followed by a reception in the church courtyard attended by Austrian *Generalkonsul* Otmar Kolber, German *Generalkonsul* Thomas Mangartz, and Swiss *Konsul* Alfred Gabriel.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD

This year, 2003, marks the tenth anniversary of the German Free School Guild. The guild was established in Austin with 220 founding members.

DO YOU HAVE ROOTS IN BAVARIA?

The *Texanischer Schuhplattler Verein* is a club devoted to preservation of Bavarian and Tyrolean folk dances, customs and culture. Members meet regularly in Plano. For information you can e-mail the club at TSVALLGAU@TSVALLGAU.ORG or visit their website at www.tsvallgau.org

THE TEXAS STATE SAENGERFEST

The 2003 state-wide festival of German choirs, the *Saengerfest*, was held May 3 and 4 in Houston and hosted by the Houston *Saengerbund*. Many GTHS members were among the performers, and GTHS volunteers manned a booth to distribute information about our society.

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2003 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The second meeting of the 2003 Board of Directors was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin by President Van Massirer. Board members present: John Birkelbach, Teddy Boehm, Ingrid Brock, Wing Evans, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Meredith McClain, Terry Smart, and Janice Thompson. Board members absent: Ben Buecker, James Feuge, and Dan Schoppe. Executor Director Julia Germany also was present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

V. Massirer moved acceptance of the Minutes of the February 6, 2003 meeting with corrections. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

T. Smart moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report of May 23, 2003. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director J. Germany distributed copies of the Executive Director's report which had been sent by e-mail the previous day.

OLD BUSINESS

W. Evans presented an update on improvements to the parking lot adjacent to the German Free School. (1) He has installed a railing on the south side of the building to assist visitors walking to and from the parking lot. (2) Some way to block illegal parking on the GTHS parking lot if needed.

C. Krause (1) distributed a written estimate of expenses for the 2003 Annual Meeting at New Braunfels, and (2) described the tentative program for the meeting. There was discussion of the need to add lectures or talks to the program, as at previous Annual Meetings. T. Boehm moved that C. Krause submit to the Executive Committee by June 24 a revised program with the addition of lectures or talks. Motion approved.

W. Evans presented an update on needed interior repairs of the German Free School, including painting. (1) Approximately \$5,000 from grants is available for this work. (2) The German Free School Guild has taken no action to begin repairs and painting authorized by the Board in February. W. Evans moved that the Guild arrange interior repairs and painting not to exceed \$5,000 to be completed in this sequence (1st) replace and paint door trim (2nd) paint walls. Motion approved.

H. Heinen distributed a lease agreement and fee schedule for rental of the German Free School facilities. H. Heinen moved approval. Discussion pointed out the need to add (1) capacity limits (2) fire code limitations, and (3) GTHS representation at rental functions. Heinen withdrew his motion in order to revise the lease agreement.

W. Evans distributed a written update on the Operational Fund Drive which had been prepared by Chuck Kalteyer, Advisory Board member.

W. Evans reported tentative plans made by Christine Mills for an Oktoberfest (catered dinner and dance) at Richland Hall on September 27, open only to GTHS members, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the German Free School Guild and to honor its founding members. T. Smart moved the Board authorize W. Evans to expend GTHS funds for this event if approved by the President. Motion approved.

Julia Germany recommended new mailing dates for four annual issues of the Journal, one of which will be devoted to the Annual Meeting. Beginning September 2003, new mailing dates will be September 1st, December 1st, March 1st and June 1st. The Board approved these dates by common consent.

Minutes page 2

The September 2003 issue of the Journal will be devoted exclusively to the GTHS Annual Meeting at New Braunfels. T. Smart, Journal Editor, requested that Julia Germany and C. Krause be responsible for the September 1st, 2003 issue. They agreed to take over its preparation.

NEW BUSINESS

H. Heinen reported recent activities of the German Free School Guild.

W. Evans distributed a written report of Maifest expenses and income.

Julia Germany reported that the present tenant of the German Free School apartment will leave in June. W. Evans moved that the Board authorize Julia Germany to rent the apartment. Motion approved.

H. Heinen distributed five proposals for increasing membership and GTHS income. The Board eliminated Proposals #3 and #4. T. Smart moved Proposal #1 (i.e., letters to Lutheran churches) be sent to the Membership Committee. Motion approved. H. Heinen moved Proposal #2 (i.e., fees for ads on GTHS website) be sent to the Budget and Finance Committee. Motion approved. T. Boehm moved Proposal #5 (i.e., guidelines for website links) be sent to the Activities Committee. Motion approved.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee moved approval of its guidelines for establishing GTHS affiliates, with amendments, as shown below. Motion approved.

Local affiliates will be called GTHS Vereins.

Starting with towns, counties, or areas where GTHS has a few members, but where there is no Texas German Society (TGS) chapter, or in a large city where there are several GTHS members, the Executive Director and members of the Activities Committee will contact members in these identified areas and offer to visit and provide a program on German or German/Texan culture or heritage or on issues facing preservation of German heritage and GTHS. Anyone interested will just need to invite a group to meet and we will have a couple of people come and present a program. The purpose will be to attempt to establish a local GTHS Verein to meet on some kind of regular basis – monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, etc. – to develop appreciation for and to preserve our German-Texan Cultural Heritage. This contact or recruitment can also be tied to something else such as the annual meeting, a local genealogy meeting, a family reunion, etc.

If the group elects to form a GTHS Verein, we ask that they (1) all be members of GTHS (2) adopt a mission statement reflecting our GTHS mission statement (3) meet on some sort of regular basis and charge their members local dues that they will set; no extra dues or other monies will be required to be sent to GTHS (4) adopt by-laws which tie the local GTHS Verein to GTHS as an affiliated society for tax number purposes (5) call their chapter whatever they wish as long as GTHS Verein is part of the name: examples Hill Country GTHS Verein, Westphalia GTHS Verein, North Texas GTHS Verein, etc.

As the parent organization, GTHS will offer the local GTHS Vereins (1) a Verein section in the Journal and on our website for reporting club news (2) non-monetary support and advice (3) program ideas and, on occasion, a program (4) use of our tax number for projects they might have (5) a tour of the German Free School building for a field trip (6) help in planning a day field trip to Austin (7) a representative for each GTHS Verein on the Board of Directors

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

H. Heinen, Committee Chair, reported (1) that no more than \$35 per month could be saved by renting a smaller storage space for GTHS books, paintings and other materials now in storage, (2) the committee had no recommendation for reducing the amount of these materials and (3) that Helga von Schweinitz had removed the papers of K. Stevens from storage for safekeeping at her residence. The Board discussed means to reduce the quantity of materials in storage. T. Smart volunteered to investigate the possibility of selling books on the Internet and report to the Executive Committee.

Minutes page 3

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee moved approval of six changes to the By-laws, listed below, which were mailed to the Board of Directors more than thirty days prior to its May 24 meeting. Motion approved.

Replace Article 5.2, paragraph 2, with *Directors shall be elected for four-year terms. Directors shall not serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. Directors who serve two consecutive four-year terms shall be eligible for re-election only after being off the Board at least one year. A Director who fills an unexpired term of two years or less shall be eligible to serve two additional consecutive four-year terms. A Director who fills an unexpired term of more than two years shall be eligible to serve only one additional consecutive four-term term.*

Replace Article 8.7 with *Members of committees shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Chairs of committees shall be appointed by the President. The President may assign committee responsibilities in addition to those listed below in Article 8.8*

Replace Article 8.8A with *The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. All its actions shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.*

Replace Article 5.1 with *The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the corporation. The Board of Directors shall be composed of fifteen elected members and a representative of the German Free School Guild and a representative of each local GTHS affiliate established by the Board of Directors.*

Eliminate the following committees from the list of standing committees in Article 8.8: Editorial Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Education Committee, Genealogy Committee, Publicity Committee, Investment Committee, Nominations Committee and Convention Committee.

Add the following to Article 8.8 as a new standing committee: *Activities Committee: The Activities Committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing social and educational activities including the GTHS Annual Meeting.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

For the committee, Julia Germany reported the expense for renewing publication of "The Brief." Board members considered the cost too great and dropped plans to renew publication.

The Membership Committee nominated Carolyn Meiners of LaGrange and Glen Treibs of Fredericksburg for appointment to the Board of Directors to fill vacancies left by resignations of Karl Micklitz and Frances Copeland. Meiners and Treibs were elected.

The Membership Committee, nominated Sheryl Brown of Fredericksburg, Leatrice Haley of Inez-Victoria, Rodney Koenig of Houston, Christine Mills of Manor, Thomas Pawel of San Antonio, Velma Rice of League City and Helga von Schweinitz of Austin for appointment to the 2003 Advisory Board. All were elected.

V. Massirer, President, announced that Phil Stertzing had declined appointment to the Advisory Board, and that Carolyn Meiners' election to the Board of Directors removed her from the Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

**The next quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors
will be in August at the German Free School in Austin.**

**NEW PLAN BY YOUR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

THE VEREIN IS COMING BACK

by the Editor

Anywhere in Texas our German ancestors settled during the 1800s, they organized *vereins*. The *verein* was a society, association or club. Some communities had a *Schützenverein* (shooting club) or a *Gesangverein* (singing society), some of them still active today. Early German-Texans also had agricultural associations like the *Landwirtschaftlicher Verein* in Austin County, whose members helped one another keep up to date on farming techniques. Some *vereins* were political clubs and others studied the natural sciences. Sometimes a *verein* was organized simply for bringing Germans together to have a good time. Settlers in Gillespie County had a "Society of Good Fellowship" with the impressive German name *Verein für Geselligkeit und zur Beförderung gemeinnütziger Kenntnisse*. Whether Germans got together for marksmanship contests or to sing songs from the homeland or to drink beer and eat sausage, all *vereins* had two things in common. They helped keep alive German customs in Texas, and they provided social occasions that brought Germans together to socialize. The expression "*im verein mit meinen Freunden*" meant "in the company of my friends."

Now the idea of the *verein* is coming back. Your GTHS Board of Directors recently approved plans to organize affiliates to be called "GTHS Vereins" for the purpose of bringing together the German-Texans of a local community and to keep alive the German-Texan heritage in that community.

So how do we begin? And where do we begin?

The plan is to start by organizing a GTHS Verein in those towns or counties having only a few GTHS members. (These will *not* be areas where there is already a Texas German Society "chapter.") Members of the Activities Committee headed by Theodora (Teddy) Boehm of Brenham will contact GTHS members in a town or county and offer to put on a program having to do with German-Texan culture, genealogy, history, etc. All GTHS members in the area will be invited to attend, along with non-members. Hopefully this will bring German-Texans together to get acquainted with one-another, and out of it the group may decide to form a local "GTHS Verein."

If a group forms a new *verein*, they may call it any name they select so long as GTHS Verein is part of the name. For example, a group might decide upon "Wilson County GTHS Verein" or "Amarillo GTHS Verein" or "Piney Woods GTHS Verein." If a new group wants to charge dues, it may and will keep all its dues. No money will be sent to the GTHS. As the parent organization, GTHS will provide space in the Journal and on our web-site for a Verein's news and announcements. The Verein may use GTHS' tax exemption for any projects it may plan. GTHS will give no financial support to a Verein but will offer educational programs and lots of advice and suggestions for German-related activities. And each Verein will have a voting representative on the Board of Directors. All that GTHS will ask of a new Verein is that it shares the GTHS mission and adopts bylaws tying it to GTHS as an affiliate; that the group holds meetings on a regular basis (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly or other); and that the Verein's members belong to GTHS.

What about your area? Would you like to meet others in your community who share your German heritage? Would you like to meet occasionally to socialize? Would you like to learn more about genealogy or German culture or the German background of your town or county?

Let's hope that the idea of establishing GTHS Vereins across Texas will catch on and accomplish what the German *vereins* of the 1800s were able to accomplish. That is, to help keep alive the German heritage in Texas and to provide social occasions bringing German-Texans together. A good slogan for a new GTHS Verein might be the old saying of our German ancestors, "*im verein mit meinen Freunden*."

SAMSTAGSSCHULE IN AUSTIN

Dear Parent,

The Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas and the German-Texan Heritage Society are contemplating starting a *Samstagsschule*, Saturday morning German lessons, this fall. We now know that we have enough qualified instructors and we are assembling materials, but would like to get a sense of what kind of demand there would be for this.

We would offer the German lessons for about 2 hours on Saturday morning for pre-school and elementary school children. We could have lessons on 12 Saturdays in the fall and 12 in the spring of 2004. The cost has not been determined yet, but would probably be about \$150 for a 12-week session. The lessons would be small-group instruction based on an age-appropriate curriculum including songs, games, role-playing, story telling, etc.

If you are interested in the *Samstagsschule* for your child or know of anyone else who might be interested, please reply to this e-mail. We are looking to expand our contact list so any leads would be very welcome. (Please feel free to forward this e-mail).

By the way, we are also wondering if we should offer basic lessons for parents at the same time. If that would interest you, please let us know that as well.

Best,

Kit Belgum

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Kit Belgum, Chair
Department of Germanic Studies
1 University Station C3300
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712-0304

fax: (512) 471-4025
dept. phone: (512) 471-4123
office phone: (512) 232-6352

Germanic Studies: <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/german/main.html>

Documentary: German-Texan Artists Lungkwitz and Petri "Hin nach Texas"

An excellent 45-minute documentary film on Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri was produced by Suenderhauf Produktion of Germany in 2002. It demonstrates in a truly refined way the great contributions made to the cultural development of Texas by well educated German immigrants.

The project was financed with a small grant from German government sources. The documentary is now available in German and received excellent reviews after it was recently premiered at a film festival in Dresden. However, the original production grant from German sources was not large enough to have the documentary also produced in English. For approximately \$5000 - it can be professionally converted to English in Berlin.

The German-Texan Heritage Society has been listed as co-sponsor of the film, although no GTHS money has been spent for it, only members' volunteer hours. If GTHS would get enough donations earmarked to pay for the English edition, certain rights to use it for fundraising and selling copies would be granted by Suenderhauf Produktion. Individuals could also purchase a copy of the video for a price not yet determined.

Here is a short summary of the documentary, which was filmed in Texas as well as on locations in Germany:

The story covers the lives of Hermann Lungkwitz (1813 - 1891) who was born in Halle, Germany, and died in Austin, Texas, and of Richard Petri (1824 - 1857) who was born in Dresden, Germany, and died near Fredericksburg, Texas.

Both painters were educated at the highly acclaimed Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden on which the film elaborates in details.

In the late 1840s they got involved with political unrest and decided to immigrate to Texas. They first farmed near Fredericksburg to make a living. However, they pursued their artistic ambitions at the same time. Lungkwitz painted mainly central Texas landscapes; Petri's specialty was drawing and painting Indians and life on the farm. Although they were not financially very successful with their works of art during their lifetime, their pictures, sketches, and memorabilia are now highly appreciated in major museums, in the Governor's Mansion, the Capitol, in galleries and homes of collectors. They are a unique testimony of their times.

The background of well educated Germans and their contributions and influence on the Texas frontier and the cultural development of the state is a major storyline in the film.

After Petri's death in 1854, Lungkwitz and his family moved to San Antonio, where he worked with Iwonski as a photographer. Later Lungkwitz traveled giving Magic Lantern shows. After the Civil War he moved to Austin and worked for the Land Office as its first photographer. To the very end of his life he painted Central Texas landscapes, including the missions in San Antonio and in Austin scenes along Shoal Creek. He was also active singing in German choirs and producing scenes for performances and festivals.

This documentary film is a great celebration of the lives of immigrants. It also contributes in a distinguished way to carry out the mission of GTHS: Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas.

Donations to help finance the conversion to English can be made to the German-Texan Heritage Society (mention "Lungkwitz account"), a 501 (c)(3) organization.

**GTHS
P.O. Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171**

For additional information call Helga von Schweinitz, (512) 441-2089, or contact the GTHS office at (512) 482-0927.

GENEALOGY SECTION: LIZ HICKS, GENEALOGY EDITOR**GENEALOGY INQUIRES**

If you have information about any of the following genealogy inquiries, please reply to the submitter at the address shown.

Do you have a genealogy inquiry or your own? Send it to Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor, by email at erootrot@usa.net or by mail c/o GTHS at PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171. *We reserve the right to edit queries.*

WITTE, LUDWIG

Dee Osborn, 2361 Willow Loop, Florence, OR 97439, rdosborn@oregonfast.net
John August WITTE born 16 Jan., 1878 Bardenfletz, Oldenburg, Germany, came to Giddings Lee Co., TX in 1901, married Lina LUDWIG Dec. 23, 1905 ; later moved to Robstown, Neuces co., TX. There were members of St. John's Lutheran Church there. How can I go back any farther? Do you have examples of letters to Germany? Any regional addresses in Germany?

Reply: From what I can tell Bardenfletz and Bardenfleth are interchangeable as have same zip code, population (352), both Wesermarsch, Niedersachsen (Oldenburg), Germany. According to "Meyers Orts" Bardenfleth did not have a parish. It was in Elsfleth. Check to see if LDS (Mormans) have filmed records by using www.familysearch.org, click on library, then click on library catalog. Please send me a SASE (business size) with \$.60 postage and I will send map with location of Bardenfleth, addresses and form letters for writing to Civil, Parish, Archives and Genealogical Societies.

GOERING

Judy Talbot email jatalbot@bigfoot.com, P.O. Box 383, Ridgecrest, CA 93556-0383
Family stories have my paternal grandfather, Otto GOERING, jumping ship at a port in Texas sometime before 1919. He settled in Forth Worth area and later moved to Cincinnati, OH where he died ca. 1934. My father, Charles Ray GOERING, was his adopted child. Otto's wife's name was Mary. The name of his second wife was Clara. Can you find him in Texas?

Reply: 1920 Census Tarrant Co., City of Fort Worth, Enumeration Dist.#112 sheet 12 line 41: Sarah C. Hardesty age 75 head of household, R.O. Goering age 40 born Germany, parents born Germany, Roomer, occupation- Carpenter, answered naturalization question as "unknown", Jesse, wife, age 39 born Arkansas, Pearl Simkins age 16 step-daughter, Charles Ray Goering age 2 months, born TX, said Father born Germany and his Mother born Ark. Are you sure Charles was adopted? 1930 Census (Dallas, Dallas County, TX) ED 57-23, page 6A, City of Dallas: Ryan O. Goering age "24" (Obvious census taker error) age at first marriage was 23, no occupation given for Ryan O. He said he was born Texas, but if he was an illegal immigrant he might have lied. He moved around a lot. I did not find him on index to naturalizations for Dallas or Tarrant Cos. I did find Wife, Jessie Goering in Index to Texas Deaths 1903-1940-her date of death was given as Jan. 31, 1927 in Bexar County.

CORNELIUS

Madeline De Long email pharaoh@haysco.net, P.O. Box 129, San Marcos, TX 78667
I'm looking for info. on Bernhard CORNELIUS first voyage (about 1884) to the United States. Bernhard's obit includes a lot of info....a timeline that Bernhard came to America in 1884 with older brother, William. They landed in NYC, but that same year come to Indianola, TX. Also, anyone researching ZERR family from Alsace? Interested in Jean Baptiste ZERR. The ship manifest for Jean Baptiste ZERR (1846) shows the family is from Mittelwihr.

Reply: "Germans to America" volume 48, page 198 has the following: W. Cornelius age 28, and Bernk (probably abbrev. For Bernhard) age 24, machinist, came on the ship "Rhaetta" from Hamburg and La Havre to NY arriving Feb. 8, 1884. W. G. Cornelius was naturalized

SIMON in Brazoria county. Gregory SIMON was a native of Husseren-Wesserling, Alsace-Lorraine. Their children: Edward, George, Albert, Mary and Carl according to 1880 Brazoria County census. In 1850 census an Albert RIPPE and wife, Dorah RIPPE were living in Trenatra and Gregory Simon's household. What is the connection?

BLUM

Susan Bracken Finn, LELIAFINN@aol.com, 24 Brisbane Way, Irvine, CA 92612
Need help with BLUMS of pre 1910 Corsicana, Navarro County Texas. August BLUM died Aug. 7, 1914 in the Texas State Asylum, Austin, TX. No funeral home or death certificate records found to date. Has anyone done any research with patients in the State Asylum? If he was an "unclaimed" body is there a record of his burial in the Asylum's cemetery? Would like to know if anyone has info. on the Charles BLUM died Oct., 29, 1890 and Louis BLUM died Jan. 27, 1902 Corsicana, Navarro County, TX.

Reply: Try contacting Kathy Smith, MHSM, RHIA, Director, Medical Records, Texas Dept. of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Austin State Hospital, 4110 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78751, www.mhmr.state.tx.us/ashhrs. Check pauper's or other type cemetery for Austin. Check with office at Austin Memorial Park on Hancock Dr. for info. on pauper's cemetery. Also the Austin Genealogical Society is surveying the cemeteries in Travis County-www.AustinTXGenSoc.org.

RABE, SYMMANK

P. Terry, JC3TERTEX@cs.com, 104 North 12th St., McAllen, TX 78501
Looking for descendants of Karl August RABE born 1828 Braunschweig, Germany, married Ernestine SYMMANK 1865, Colorado County, TX. Karl died 1890 in Fayette County, TX. His children: Helene "Lena" b. 1866, Adolph b. 1867, Louis b. 1869, Selma b. 1870, Otto b. 1872, Emilie "Emma" b. 1874, Herman Ernest b. 1876, Bertha b. 1878, Rudolph b. 1880 died young and August b. 1882.

BECKMANN, BRAESICKE

Verna Mc Dowell,vernamae@smnet.net, 166 Jones Crk. Acres Dr., Franklin, NC 28734
I would like to hear from anybody researching the descendants of Leopold BECKMANN b. 1821 Germany and his wife, Emilie BRAESICKE b. 1825 Germany, children: Henrietta married Henry SENS, Auguste married Albert FREITAG; Wilhelmina married Alfred P. PFEIFFER; Emilie married Wilhelm PFEIFFER; Leopold married Bertha KRANCHER; Friederich married Martha FISCHER; Paul married Minna HINTZ.

JUNG, VOELCKER, HAEBERLE, SCHUCHARDT, BARTH

Mary Lou Baldwin, txcookie@felopsis.net, 135 F.M. 1107, Stockdale, TX 78160
Does anyone have any information on Louis Ludwig JUNG born 1828 Nassau, Germany and married 1853 in Fredericksburg, TX? Is anyone researching VOELCKER, HAEBERLE, SCHUCHARDT, BARTH?

KUEHN, JURISCHKA

Mary Kuehn, mkuehn@midsouth.rr.com, 8779 Three Chimneys Dr. W., Germantown, TN 38138
Looking for info. on Adolph KUEHN, born Dec. 27, 1870 Germany, immigrated in 1881 with mother, Marie KUEHN b. 1840. What was her maiden name? When and where did she die? Adolph lived in Gay Hill, Wahsington Co., TX when he married Annie JURISCHKA Nov., 1890. Some of their children were born at Gay Hill, one East Bernard, Ft. Bend, County and the last 5 in Houston, Harris Co., TX. I would like to know port of entry and where they were from in Germany.

SCHUCHARDT, SCHAESLER

Anna Wilkerson, awilkers@earthlink.net, 14223 Langbourne, Houston, TX 77077
I would like info. on Wilhelm (William) SCHUCHARDT who married Anna SCHAESLER 1869 in Bexar Co. He was a U.S. Consul Agent in Piedras Negras. Their children: Louisa, Anna Marie, Carrie, Ernst/Ernest, Franz/Francis, and Julius. Anna Marie married Tom Anderson; Mercedes married Porfirio

in Lavaca County, TX Min. Naturalizations vol.2 p. 89, his declar. Of intent filed Nov. 11, 1888 District Court Minutes. Bernhard Cornelius filed Declaration of Intent, District Court Minutes Book E p. 125, filed Nov. 6, 1888 Jackson County, TX. Also, according to "Historic Matagorda County" The Corneliuses were from Rothensee, Hersfeld, Germany, sons of a George William (English trans.) Cornelius 1797-1867 a government forester , and Sophie Dorothea Heuser Cornelius.

CASSENS, LUEKEN

Cynthia Cassens Le Donne, c.ledonne@netzero.net, 8801 Hammerly #1502, Houston, TX 77080 Looking for CASSENS surname who settled in Waldeck, Fayette County, Texas. The family is John (Johann) and Caroline LUEKEN CASSENS from Dornum, Ostfriesland, Germany. Possible brothers to John were Gerhard (Gerd) and Elizabeth CASSENS.

Reply: Fayette County has two listed in index to naturalizations: (1) Gerhard Cassens Nat. Record 1873-1884 p. 127 Declar. Papers File Box 2, District Court, also County Court vol. 1 p. 13 Co. Court Vault. His grant of citizenship 9-22-1879. (2) John H. Cassens Nat. Record 1873-1884 p. 77, Dec. papers File box 2, Nat. Min. volume 1 page 47. Filed Declar. Of Intent 2-9-1876, was naturalized 6-13-1887. John is on 1900 Fayette County census ED 37-page 3-line 1 age age 58 born 6/1842 Germany. He says he came to US in 1872. Listed with him are his wife, Caroline b. Germany 10/1845 age 54 , Gesine 27, Augusta 23, Gretha 18, Lina 16, and Gustav 14 all born Texas. A Werner Gest is also in this household listed as grandchild born 1898 Texas.

FISCHER, WOLFF, HOLMACK, BENDER, SMITH, LAYAL

Rana Smith email rsmith560@comcast.net, 45 Rose St., Umatilla, FL 32784 Looking for any relatives out there by these surnames: FISCHER, WOLFF, HOLMACK, BENDER, SMITH and LAYAL. Mary Gertrude FISCHER-HOLMACK was born ca. 1875 in Germany, came to US about 1882 according to 1900 census. At that time she was living with her brother, George Henry and his family. Ernest/Ernst WOLFF from Gnesen, Germany circa 1881/1882.

RATHKE, RINDERKNECHT, MEYER, BAECKER/BOECKER

Laura Rinderknecht email lrinderknecht@totalaccess.net, 16600 F.M. 619, Elgin, TX 78621 Do you have any naturalization or immigration indexes at GTHS? Seeking RATHKE of Washington Co., RINDERKNECHT of Austin and Washington Cos. Arrived lated 1800's to Taylor area by 1909. MEYER of Austin Co.>Williamson and Lee Counties. Immigrant Juergen MEYER was baptised in Thomasville, but born in Junkhernhof. BAECKER/BOECKER of Austin Co.>Williamson and Lee Cos.

Reply: No, but Clayton Library in Houston does. Please know that pre 1900 Delcarations of Intent and Naturalizations could be recorded in ANY court of record (Probate Court, Civil Court, District Court). Not all counties kept naturalizations in a separate ledger book.

BECKER, WINHEIM

Sandra Marier email snooks@scattercreek.com Trying to find brother to Veronika BECKER. I was told his name was Frederick WINHEIM. He should be found in Cottle County around 1920.

Reply: 1930 Census of Cottle County, Texas Page 4B ED. 3, Precinct #1: BECKER, Bee age 81 born Germany, came to US in 1869 is naturalized. In her household is "brother" WINHEIM, Frederick age 84 born Germany came to US in 1880 is naturalized. I hope this helps.

BOLLING, BRAND, PETERS and their associates: BAUER, DEPENBROCK, DUMSTRE, HAHL, HOFFMAN, LEGLER, RIPPE, SIMON, TOMFOHRDE

Newton Brand, nbrand@houston.rr.com, 2016 Main #2501, Houston, TX 77002 Researching Charles J. BRAND born 1859 resided 1906 Houston, TX; Heinrich F. BOLLING born ca. 1860 Hannover lived 1887 Houston, TX. Trenatra PETERS born in Germany, 1839, married Gregory

Garcia; Louisa married Bill Sullivan; and Carrie died in Mexico (possibly buried in Toluca, Mexico).

MARTIN, SCHUELER, WEDLER

Dennis Holliday, DENNHOLLID@aol.com, 8266 W. 99th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80021-4041
I would like to find a marriage record for Bertie MARTIN and Amy SCHUELER believe Bert and Amy married between 1910 and 1913 possibly San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Amy Frieda SCHUELER born Nov. 8, 1892 Germany, parents George C. SCHUELER and Bertha WEDLER.

Reply: I found marriage record in Bexar County-Marriage Certificate #32402 Henry Martin to Emmy F. Schuler book 2 p. 304.

NIEMEYER/NIEMEIER, BOHNE

Vicki Ehlers Watts, Vwatts75@aol.com

Looking for date of death and place of burial of Gottlieb NIEMEYER/NIEMEIER somewhere around Washington Co., TX. He died around 1899, full name Christian Ludwig Gottlieb NIEMEYER born 3-28-1857 in Levern, Westfal, Germany married Marie Caroline BOHNE 8-5-1886 Openwehe, Westfal, Germany in St. James Lutheran Church, New Wehdem. He is NOT listed in the cemeteries of Washington Co. book. Other surnames I'm researching: LANGE/ROGGE, NEUMANN/SITZ, LUEDKE/MILLER AND LEBKOWSKY/HEINE/EHLERS.

Reply: Be sure to check surrounding counties of Washington for death records and/or cemeteries.

HERBERGEN, BEASLEY

Norma Lee Mayben, amronlee3@cox.net, 7 Hilliard Circle, Abilene, TX 79601

Seeking info. on Joseph W. HARBERGEN, born 1847 Germany who married Mary Elizabeth WINTERS BEASLEY in Coryell County, TX August 7, 1877. They had one son, Jeffe F. born 1878. Name variations HERBERGER/HARBERGEN/HARBERGER in various records.

WERCHAN

Dave Miller, DLMillerCM@aol.com, 1465 Bobing Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067

I am researching the WERCHAN family, specifically the descendants of Ferdinand WERCHAN (1844-1894), who immigrated from Bremen to NY aboard the ship "Silesia" in 1869, settled first in Bastrop Co. then Williamson Co., and is buried in New Bern Cemetery. Does anyone have any info. on this family?

WOLTERS, MAIBRINK/MAYBRINK, MARKS, BYERLY, HENNINGER

Bill Mc Mahon, wamcm@satx.net, 210 Croesus Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78213

Researching BYERLYS in Jasper Co. early 1830's, WOLTERS in Austin County ca. 1835 and HENNINGERS in Austin (Travis Co.) or thereabouts in 1850's. I would like to hear from anyone who may have info. on these families and/or first name of Louisa MAIBRINK/MAYBRINK'S first husband a Mr. MARKS. She married (2) Jacob WOLTERS. Need info. on her parents as well.

MUTZIGER, ZERR

Wallace Smith, inglewood2@prodigy.net, 4740 Belle Drive, Metairie, LA 70006

Seeking info. on the MUTZIGER family of Medina county, TX. Nicolas MUTZIGER immigrated New Orleans Dec. 26, 1856 proceeded to Medina Co., TX where his older sister, Magdalena had married August ZERR. Another MUTZIGER sister, Josephine allegedly lived in Texas but moved to Wisconsin where a third sister, Mary had settled. After the Civil War, Nicolas sold out and moved to Wisconsin where he homesteaded in 1880.

OSWALT

Claudette Oswald Riffe, criffel@juno.com

Searching for OSWALTS who came from MS in 1870 to Bell Co., TX. Originally they came from Zweibrucken, Germany to Charleston, SC 3-27-1753. . Johann, wife, Catherena, and sons, Michael, Mathias, John and Christopher. Any information appreciated.

LEYDER, KURTZ, SHEAFFER, FRY, STONER, VARNER, WARNER, BRANTHOFFER

Linda Howard, LGHOWARD1325@aol.com, 1325 Poplar Creek Loop, Leighton, AL 35646

Have found a 16x20 family record page of birth, marriage and death names and dates for the family names of LEYDER, KURTZ, SHEAFFER, FRY, STONER, VARNER, WARNER AND BRANTHOFFER. I know that in the 1800's several German families lived in this area then moved to Texas. If anyone can identify these families I will be glad to send the info. to them.

"THE MATHILDA"

Mary Stoffers Hoffman Sanders, mvsanders@juno.com

Where can I get a print of the ships that arrived in Galveston, TX. The ship is named the "Mathilda". Any info. on how to get a print of this ship would be appreciated.

Reply: The ship "The Mathilda" sailed from Bremen in 1846 with 166 immigrants aboard according to "A New Land Beckoned" German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847. I believe this and other ships lists are in the manuscript collection at the Barker History Center at the University of Texas in Austin. I would suggest you write to them and ask if any prints or pictures of "The Mathilda" exist. Also, since ship came to Galveston, you might try writing to the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. "They Came In Ships" by Dr. John P. Colletta has sources for ship information. Check with the reference librarian at your local library.

VOGTSBERGER/FAUTSBERGER, LEISINGER

Catherine Vogtsberger Thommen, P.O. Box 2261, Roseburg, OR, catdan@wizzards.com

Karl and Mary LEISINGER VOGTSBERGER sailed from Bremen, Germany on the ship "The Chemnitz" in 1903. The ship's manifest has their place of residence at Oberseloffarsen, Germany. I would like to know if the VOGTSBERGERS of Wichita Falls, Archer/Wichita Cos., TX are related?

Reply: According to the 1900 census of Archer Co., TX a William Vogtsberger age 45 (born 10/1855) Germany came to US in 1886 and said he was naturalized. You might check for Declaration of Intent and/or Naturalization to see if tells where he was from in Germany. I would also look for an obit as may say where William was born, etc..

submitted by Anne Stewart

I need help locating the archives of the West Texas military Academy of San Antonio founded in 1893. It merged with the San Antonio Military Academy in 1926 and the name was changed to Texas Military Institute. If anyone has information, please contact me at mastewart@zianet.com or phone 505-647-9501 or write to 11240 Windflyer Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88007.

submitted by Joe Burges

The grandson of A.C. Coers is proofing a translation of love letters his grandfather in 1891 wrote to his fiancée, Alma Liesmann of Twin Sisters (Blanco County). A.C. Coers taught school at the Mountain Valley Community (Comal County). He passed across many homesteads including those at Smithson Valley (Comal County) on his way to the Liesmann Ranch at Twin Sisters. In these letters he mentions a number of German-Texan families including Artzt, Becker, Bose, Brehmer, Halbig, Heise, Lenzen, Sauer, Seekatz, Tausch, Wunderlich and others. If you have a family connection, by e-mail you can contact coersj@flinthills.com

June 3, 2003

Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor
German-Texan Heritage Society
c/o P. O. Box 684171
Austin, Texas 78268-4171

Letter from Theresa Gold, former GTHS Genealogy Editor
to Liz Hicks, current GTHS Genealogy Editor
submitted by the Journal Editor

Dear Liz:

In the Spring 2003 issue of The Journal, you list several sources for Confederate service records, including the Texas State Library and the Clayton Library in Houston. I'd like to call to your attention the holdings of the Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Central Library.

Enclosed is a selected bibliography of that department's materials. There is lots more. Note that this library has the microfilm of the Compiled Service Records of Confederate soldiers who served in organizations from the State of Texas (National Archives film M323) and the Index (National Archives film M 227) and also the Compiled Service Records of volunteer Union soldiers who served in organizations from the State of Texas (National Archives film M402). There you may also find a copy of the Texas State Archives records of those who served in local Texas units, including the Texas State Troops. The library also has the "Official Records" (generally cited as OR) and the Supplement to the Official Records and Civil War Unit Histories. There are many more gems there, such as plantation records and many newspapers on microfilm.

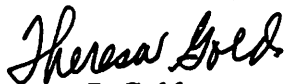
Also enclosed are two pamphlets published by the San Antonio Public Library, which I suggested and then assisted with the publication. One is "German Texan Heritage" and the other is German Genealogy. The Genealogy pamphlet has two orange marks on it. I put those there to help distinguish them when I place an array of pamphlets on a table for "students" in my Elderhostel lectures on "German Influence in San Antonio."

Back to the Confederates. I also enclose a copy of a brochure I published about two years ago on "San Antonio and the Confederacy," which is a guide to historical markers in our city referencing the Confederate times.

Speaking of brochures, have you received a copy of Texas Historical Commission's new brochure on "Civil War Texas"—a pamphlet, not the fold out map from several years ago. It is very well done, as is their previous one on the Chisholm Trail.

I am so glad that GTHS again has a credible Genealogy Editor. Believe me, it is a job that can grow and can grow on you! The section is looking better and better. I only wish that you would publish your personal address so I could mail this to you directly. Experience is that some things get shuffled aside in transferring mail from one to another.

With all best wishes,


Theresa G. Gold
Former Genealogy Editor

PS: The San Antonio Library also has film of ALL U.S. Census, for all years for all states, plus all available indexes for Texas and other selected states and years.

CARL AND LOUISA BREY VOGELSANG FAMILY OF BURTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY.

By Dorothy G. Rothermel

Carl Vogelsang was one of five Vogelsang brothers who immigrated to the United States beginning in 1845 to the Washington, Fayette and Austin counties. The brothers were: August, Louis, Otto, Carl and Paul. Hugo remained in Germany and disappeared while attending school. This information is from a book published in 1868; TEXAS AND TEXANS by Johnson. Carl Vogelsang was born April 11, 1822 in Germany. A record of christening for Carl Wilhelm Vogelsang was found on a microfiche at Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston. It read as follows: Vogelsang, Carl Wilhelm - Parents: Wilhelm Vogelsang and Maria Cathrina Mueller / male/christening/ 7 Jul 1822/ Province, Rheinland, Bessel, Evangelisch/ Central European/Germany. It is assumed to be Carl Vogelsang of Washington Co., because of the close proximity of the month of the birth and the christening being in the same year. He arrived at the port of New Orleans from the port of Bremen on December 12, 1854 at the age of 33 years. In 1863, Carl Vogelsang enlisted in the confederacy and was listed on the muster roll of Capt. James C. Gaither's Company - Round Top Guerrillas. Either before or after his marriage to Louisa Brey, Carl Vogelsang is recorded on the First Immigrant Ancestor list as returning from Rheinland-Bessel in 1870. His death date was given as 1914; validating that this is the Carl Vogelsang of Washington Co.. At the age of 48 years, he married Louisa Brey on February 10, 1870 at Round Top, Fayette County. Louisa Brey was born August 13, 1841 in Victoria, Texas; the daughter of Ferdinand and Maria Anna Krumm Brey. Soon after their marriage, in September of 1870, Carl Vogelsang became an alderman in the first town council of Round Top. Four children were born to them at Round Top, the Nassau Community: [1] Mary Vogelsang; born: December 18, 1870; married Anton Rothermel [2] Adolph Vogelsang, born: November 26, 1872; married Annie Zurcher [3] Norma Vogelsang, born: March 6, 1875; married Dr. J. C. Morris [4] Hugh Edward Vogelsang, born: March 29, 1878; married Alma Seidel.

While living in Round Top, Carl Vogelsang's occupation was listed as a tinsmith on the 1880 census. The family's move to Burton was probably around 1890. Carl Vogelsang, continued his occupation of tinsmith by owning the first tin shop in Burton. Family members have items made in Carl Vogelsang's shop : [1] candlestick holder, [2] salt & pepper shakers [3] and a cake pan. He also made a tin rooster ornament that served as a weather vein on top of the steeple of the Lutheran Church in Warrenton. Carl Vogelsang's daughter, Norma Vogelsang Morriss, was listed in one of the Burton History books as the first milliner for the Steiner and Dallmeyer mercantile. A son, Hugh Vogelsang, was a rural mail carrier in Burton for 44 years, beginning his tenure on October 15, 1904 and retiring on March 31, 1948. Two of Carl Vogelsang's grandsons also were rural mail carriers for Burton: [1] Bailleux Rothermel-October 1, 1913 to January 31, 1920 [2] Carl N. Rothermel- February 2, 1920 to October 31, 1961.

The Brenham Banner Press, in the obituary for Carl Vogelsang on January 6, 1914, wrote that he was a most energetic and prosperous citizen, a splendid neighbor, man and citizen

in every sense of the word and the community in which he lived so long, would miss him and his work. His widow, Louisa Brey Vogelsang, died January 2, 1933 at the age of 92 years. She was the daughter of Ferdinand Brey, who was with the Mier Expedition and was captured and escaped. Ferdinand Brey was one of eight escapees who were lost in the mountains of Mexico forever. [AN EARLY HISTORY OF FAYETTE COUNTY-by Leonie Rummel Weyand and Houston Wade] The Brenham Banner Press in her obituary wrote that Louisa Brey Vogelsang was a dear, good soul, a good Christian woman who was loved by all who knew her. Her reminiscences of early life and her knowledge and experience made her an entertaining person. A great-grandson, remembers her telling him of one of these experiences. Louisa Brey and her family lived in the Victoria/Indianola vicinity. Louisa Brey would walk to a neighbor with her mother, for safety reasons, a distance of several miles, through tall grasses to reach the neighbor's home. This neighbor provide the limited education for her and other children, during the spring.

The family of Carl and Louisa Vogelsang left a very positive mark on the Burton community as well as the generations that have followed them in Washington County.

SCHÜTZENVEREIN COMPETITION

by the Editor

Germans in San Antonio organized their first *Schützenverein* in 1857. As in many early German settlements in Texas, this shooting society became a center of social life and camaraderie for the German community, but it also sponsored regular competitions which members took very seriously. The most important shoot of each year was the "King Shoot" at which the best marksman was proclaimed "King Shot" and held his title for the ensuing year. The runner-up received a medal and the title "Knight Shot." In these competitions, according to Cecilia Steinfeldt's 1978 book, *San Antonio Was* (published by the San Antonio Museum Association), participants used muzzle-loaded weapons they filled with black powder by hand. They fired from a standing position and prone position at a "bull's eye" target 200 yards away. The "bull's eye" was a circle only four and a half inches in diameter. After firing a few rounds as practice, each competitor was allowed ten shots at the target. Under the scoring system used by San Antonio's *Schützenverein*, a perfect score was 250. A score of 230 was considered good, and the highest ever made was 243.

at the GTHS Annual Meeting at New Braunfels in October, the program will include an opportunity for you to visit a local German Schützenverein that is still active

GERMAN FOUNDERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO SCHÜTZENVEREIN from *San Antonio: The Flavor of its Past, 1845-1898* by Donald E. Everett

A list compiled by historian Donald E. Everett of the founding members of the San Antonio *Schützenverein* in 1857 included A. Altmann Jr., Anton Altmann Sr., Felix Altmann, Anton Braden, Anton Hannah, B. Mauermann Sr., Fritz Neumann, R. Newmann (President), Frederick Schmidt (Secretary), Edward Seffel, Stephen Seffel, and William Shetsler,

from "New Braunfels: The First Founders" by Everett Anthony Fey in GTHS Journal, XV, No.3

A List of the 237 First Founders of the City of New Braunfels -- March to July 1845

Blasius Albrecht	Heinrich Heitkamp	Phillip Heinrich Metz	Henriette Schlote
Johann Arnold	Martin Hellmuth	John. O. Meusebach	Leonhard Schmidt
Peter Arnold	Franz Hemmerle	Dr. Emil Meyer	Edward Schmitz
Hermann von Assel	Arnold Henkel	Wilhelm Moeller	Jacob Schmitz
Carl Johann Baldus	Wilhelm Hentge	Christoph Moesgen	Johann Schneider
Alexis von Bauer	Caspar Herber	Germain Moritz	Heinrich Schoener
Johann Christian Beckel	Justus Herber	Ad. Mouret	Johann Schulmeier
Carl Bellmer	Theodore Herber	F. E. Mueller	Johann Heinrich Schulze
Georg Benfer	Heinrich Herbst	Jacob Mueller	Thomas Schwab
Gustav Adolph von Benner	Peter Hernani	Christoph Muenzler	Hermann Seele
Heinrich Bevenroth	Christian Hoff	Daniel Murchison	Carl Heinrich Siebert
Herr Bock	Gustav V. Hoffmann	Ludwig Negedank	E. Siehn
Heinrich Wilhelm Bothmer	Joseph Hoffmann	August Nette	Sylvester Simon
Viktor F. Bracht	Georg Friedrich Holekamp	Ludwig Heinrich Nix	Prince Carl Solms
Chr. Brautigan	Johann Holzapfel	Adam Pelzer	Hermann Robert Sowerby
Johann Jacob Brecher	Wilhelm Holzmann	Gerlach Peter	Christian Spangenberg
Marianne Brecher	Peter Home	Johann Petri	Johann Startz
Johann Heinrich Breilipper	George Humand	Anton Pieper	Jacob Stüger
Heinrich Christian Bremer	Heinrich Imhof	Adolph Pohlmann	Carl Georg Stock
Carl Brockhuisen	Peter Imhof	Ludwig Pook	Peter Stock
Friedrich Bruns	Johann Michael Jahn	Johann Jacob Rahm	Christoph Syring
Katharina Burdorf	Jacob Joehn	Johann Gerlach Reeh	Johann Friedrich Tausch
Peter Burg	Joseph Jung	Heinrich Theodor Reiche	Christian Thiel
Johann Heinrich Burkhardt	Jacob Kaderli	Elenora Reinarz	Georg Thielepape
Daniel Bussmann	Johann L. Kaderli	Johann Wilhelm Reinarz	Carl W. Thomae
Oscar von Claren	Christian Kaiser	Heinrich Reiningger	August Friedrich Tolle
Richard von Cloudt	Johann George Kirchner	Peter Reis	Christoph Tolle
Jean Jacques von Coll	Jacob Klein	Dr. Wilhelm Remer	Georg Friedrich Tolle
Herr Diehl	Joseph Klein	Johann Gabriel Remmler	Georg Ullrich
Valentin Dreiss	Peter Valentin Klein	Julius Rennert	August Utermoehlen
B. Dreyer	Stephan Klein	Wilhelm Reuter	Friedrich Utermoehlen
Andreas Eikel	Johann Andreas Koch	Johann Rieck	Herr Verros
Carl Alexander Elmendorf	Dr. Theodore Koester	Anton Riedel	Julius Voelker
Christian Engel	Wilhelm Kracke	Nikilaus Reidel	Louis Vogel, Sr.
Ernst Ernst	Heinrich Kraft	Conrad Heinrich Roege	Adam Vogt
Jacob Ernst	Lisette Kraft	Heinrich Roser	Ludwig Vogt
Ludwig Cachand Ervendberg	Conrad Kraushaar	Alois Russer	Herr Walz
Gustav van der Fechte	Conrad Kreitz	Christian Rust	Adolph von Wedemeyer
Caspar Feick	Johann Mathias Kreitz	Friedrich Saalmueller	August Heinrich Weinert
Margarethe Feick	Theodor Wilhelm Kuehn	Gabriel Sacherer	Reinhold Weinert
Valentin Fey	Daniel Letsch	Johann George Salzinger	Johann Wengeroth
Gottlieb Theophil Fischer	Ferdinand Lindheimer	Johann Gottfried Salzinger	Georg Wenzel
Carl Fortemps	Edward von Lochhausen	Mathias Sanders	Ignatz Wenzel
George Fritze	Catherina Loeffler	Alexander Sartor	Joseph Wersdoerfer
Ludwig Friedrich Fritze	Christian Loeffler	Carl Sartor	Edward Wessel
Joseph Gacten	Louise Loeffler	Andreas Sauerborn	Wilhelm Wetzal
Katharina Gaesendorfer	Elisabeth Loos	Philipp Heinrich Schaaß	August Jacob Weyel
Theodor Goldbeck	Christoph Philip Luck	Katherine Elisabeth Schade	Johann Jost Weyel
Christian Hanz	Johann Philipp Luck	Carl Schaefer	Theodor Weyel
Herman Hardt	Christoph Luenzel	Heinrich Schaefer	Theodore Wiedenfeld
Johann Christian Hartung	Johann Hubert Lux	Johann Carl Schaefer	Wilhelm Wiedenfeld
Johann Zacharias Hartung	Lisabeth Mangold	Philipp Schaefer	Hermann Wike
Ludwig Hartwig	Franz Marheinike	Margarita Schellhas	Louis Wilke
Eduard von Hartz	Ludwig Martin	Heinrich Schelper	Jacob Peter Winkler
Johann Hassler	Carl Andreas Matern	Johann Schertz	Friedrich von Wrede, Jr.
Johann Friedrich Heidemeyer	Andreas Meixner	Joseph Schertz	Johann Adam Wuest
Jacob Heim	Peter Mergele	Joseph Franciscus Schertz	Nicholas Zink
Valentin Heinemann	Carl Conrad Mertz	Sebastian Schertz	Nicholaus Zuercher, Sr.
Otto Heins	Johann Merz	Friedrich Schlichting	Heinrich Zuschlag
		Carl Schloesser	

ROTHERMEL REUNION AT BURTON

Rothermel descendants came from Abernathy, Early, Ft. Worth, Dallas, Richmond, La Marque, Pasadena, Humble, Houston, Katy, Elgin, Austin, Burton, Carmine and Brenham to attend the 12th Rothermel reunion on Sunday, March 2, 2003 at the American Legion Hall in Burton. Forty-five persons were in attendance. Hosts for the 2003 reunion were William and Joan Rothermel of Brenham and Bill and Laurie Satterfield of Elgin. A catered meal was served. Desserts were provided by those in attendance. Offering the prayer before the meal was James Rothermel of Brenham and his grandsons, Bailleux, Abraham and Nathaniel Rothermel of Katy. Remembered in the prayer, also, was Matthew Rothermel, grandson of James & Dorothy Ann Rothermel, serving in the Marine Corps in Beirut, Lebanon.

Persons attending the reunion are descendants of Andreas and Anna Marie Meier Rothermel. Andreas Rothermel emigrated from Rotenberg, Germany to the Bellville, Austin County, area in 1839. His brother, Anton, came in 1846, arriving at the port of New Orleans. A sister, Franziska Rothermel [age 38], her husband, Johannes Foehner [age 40], and their five children: Bernhardt, Longin, Gertrude, Johanna, Magdalena and Gertrude followed in 1851. Franziska Rothermel Foehner's mother, Magdalena Fellhauer Rothermel [age 60] also emigrated from Rotenberg with the family.

Ancestral families represented at this year's reunion were from the Bernhardt Rothermel and Anton Rothermel families. Also present were Ellen Rothermel Stuart of Dallas and her sister, Sarah Rothermel Duncan from Richmond. Their ancestral family is Frederick Louis Rothermel from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

James Rothermel of Brenham presented an informative history of his home town of Burton. It was interesting to note how many different businesses were in Burton during the 1920 and 1930s to accommodate the residents in and around the community.

Betty Moore of Ft. Worth, presented the translated German church records from Rotenberg for: [1] baptismal record of Andreas Rothermel in 1818 and his brother, Anton, Rothermel in 1816; [2] marriage record for George Joseph Rothermel and Magdalena Fellhauer [3] the Malschenberg church record of the children of Magdalena Rothermel and Stephan Mueller [4] the children of Maria Anna Rothermel and Daniel Bender from the Malsch Family Book; [5] the emigration of Franziska Rothermel and Johannes Foehner and their children.

Other information presented was correspondence received from Walter Rothermel of Ostringen, Germany about the Rothermel Bakery [since 1887] and the Thalsbach Wine Keller, both located in Ostringen.

Attending the reunion for the first time was Dave Moore from Early and Sarah Rothermel Duncan from Richmond. Carl and Eloise Shoemaker Barton from Abernathy traveled over 500 miles to attend the reunion. The youngest member in attendance was Corinne

Poffinbarger of Humble. Her parents are James and Rachel Poffinbarger. James Rothermel of Brenham was the oldest male Rothermel present and Nathalie Rothermel Landua of Burton was the oldest female Rothermel present.

Marriages since the last reunion were: [1] Tiffany Lynn Wilson of Monterey, Tenn and Brandon James Heep of Cookeville, Tenn. on August 10, 2002. The parents are: James A. and Barbara Kay Barton Heep [2] Michael David Rothermel of San Diego, California and Jody Fife of Chandler, Arizona on December 7, 2002. The parents are: William and Joan Rothermel of Brenham, Texas.

Births since the last reunion are: [1] Ariana Elizabeth Moore born August 17, 2002 in Brownwood, Texas. The parent is Christina Elizabeth Moore [2] Olivia Flores born September 27, 2002 in Brenham, Texas to Lauren Smith and Jose Flores [3] Leah Danielle Hudler born January 7, 2003 in Plano, Texas. The parents are: Jack and Jeanette Hudler. Conner Mills Duncan born October 8, 2002, Richmond, Texas. The parents are: Karen and William Rothermel Duncan. James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel of Brenham are married the longest - 55 years.

Deaths since the last reunion are: [1] Michael Gerard of Sachse, Texas on July 20, 2002. The ancestral family is Bernhardt and Minnie Price Rothermel. [2] Vernon Jack Swilley of Midlothian, Texas on July 22, 2002. The ancestral family is Bernhardt and Minnie Price Rothermel [3] Lisa Ann Evans of Cypress, Texas on June 29, 2002. The ancestral family is Mike and Johanna Rothermel Smith [4] Charles J. McDonald, Jr. of Tatum, Texas on September 18, 2002. The ancestral family is James M. Gottlieb and Magdalena Rothermel Bartay [5] Thomas Gayle Whiddon of Houston, Texas on September 20, 2002. The ancestral family is Mike and Johanna Rothermel Smith [6] Paul Marion Rothermel, Jr. of Richardson, Texas on October 10, 2002. The ancestral family is Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel. [7] Herschel Mills Duncan, Jr. of Richmond, Texas on August 31, 2002. The ancestral family is Fredrich Louis Rothermel-Pennsylvania.

Family members were asked to remember those who were ill and those who are serving in the military. A monetary contribution will be made to the Mayer Cemetery Association to help defray the cost of maintaining the cemetery grounds.

The hosts for the 2004 reunion will be the family of Raymond and Annie Laurie Rothermel Thaler of Brenham, Ellen Rothermel Stuart of Dallas and Sarah Rothermel Duncan of Richmond.

Submitted by: Dorothy G. Rothermel

Please send announcements of upcoming family reunions or accounts of family reunions that already have been held to the journal editor:

Terry L. Smart
1025 Canterbury Hill
San Antonio, TX 78209

LOW GERMAN (PLATDÜÜTSCH) CONFERENCE & GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

The Manning Heritage Foundation will have the privilege of hosting the 8th Annual International Low German (Plattdüütsch) Conference and Genealogical Workshop at the Hausbarn/Heritage Park at Manning, IA, Oct. 3-5, 2003. A warm welcome will await special guests from Germany and the U.S.

The conference, to be held in conjunction with Oktoberfest, will take place in the spacious new Hausbarn Restaurant and Konferenz Centre currently under construction adjacent to the German Hausbarn at the Heritage Park. The conference will provide both informative and entertaining events.

The program is full of variety, offering Low German dance demonstrations and lessons, music performed by various musicians from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, a Low German church service conducted by Dr. Richard Trost, music by Der Manning Liederkranz, folk dancing, theatre, a variety of genealogy workshops and presentations, and of course, German food, drink, and merriment.

The meeting will be in English and Platt. One main focus will be about the Low German spoken in the Midwest and the renaissance of interest in the language and culture of those who still speak it. A surprisingly large number of children who grew up in the country learned to speak Low German at home before entering kindergarten where they were for the first time exposed to the English language. As a result, many of them now enjoy speaking Low German as their mother tongue, but only learned to read and write in English.

The conference will be of special interest for both, American and German genealogists, Platt speakers, and those who would like to learn more about the charming language of their forefathers. Family researchers with old German script documents will find assistance with interpretation of the documents.

These gatherings have already made great accomplishments in linking the Old with the New World. The first Low German Conference was hosted by the American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society of Davenport, IA in 1995.

A schedule of events with complete details, registration form and fee information, is being finalized and will be available by mid-April. Conference coordinator Dr. Rexanne Struve has been communicating with Glenn Sievers, Dr. Carl Johannsen, Ruth Ohde, Heinz and Michael Olk, Dean Rohweder, Lee Muller, Dr. Joachim Reppmann, Ute Biemüller, and many others who are helping to make the 8th annual conference truly enjoyable and memorable.

To request a schedule of events or additional information contact Dr. Struve via email at crstruve@pionet.net or telephone 712-653-2607 or the Manning Heritage Foundation via email at heritag@pionet.net or telephone 800-292-0252.

BENNACK-BELLINGER FAMILY REUNION SCHEDULED FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

submitted by Catherine Austin (phone 830-278-7280)

A double wedding between Frank Phillip Bennack to Wenona Bellinger and of John Carnot Bellinger to Justine Bennack on March 2, 1897, bonded the families and their descendants together forever.

Family reunions of the relatives have occurred throughout the years, and the latest such gathering will be held at St. Joseph's Hall on Durango Street in San Antonio on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2003, beginning with registration at noon.

This foursome, whose descendants have remained close, have a history that dates to the early 1830s when Georg Bennack was born on March 16, 1834, in Oppenheim, Germany. Bennack immigrated to America in 1851, enlisted in the U.S. Cavalry in Illinois in 1861 and served as a bugler until he was mustered out in San Antonio in 1865.

It was in the River City that Bennack met and married Anna Marie Sievers who had been born in Quihi, a small town in Medina County, on June 25, 1848. Her family moved to San Antonio when she was just a baby, but her father died in a cholera epidemic before Anna Marie was a year old. Later, Anne Marie's mother, Mariana Gulskamp Sievers, married John Bernard Bruggeman and they settled on a farm south of San Antonio.

When Georg was in the Army, his name was spelled several different ways in the records. He was told that he must have a middle initial, so he became Georg H. which later became George. After taking his Oath of Allegiance, George was naturalized as a citizen in San Antonio in 1872. George Bennack had a varied career as city marshal, city market master, policeman, hack driver and as an employee of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He hauled the first mesquite paving blocks with which many of downtown San Antonio streets were constructed.

The Bennacks and Sievers were latecomers to America compared to the Bellingers. Captain Sir Edmund Bellinger of Westmoreland County, England, arrived in the colony of Carolina and settled on James Island in 1674. First appointed by the King as Surveyor General and later Landgrave, Edmund married Sarah Cartwright, also of England, in 1680. Their union produced a long line of Bellingers who were landowners, cattle raisers and plantation owners in the Carolinas.

Four generations later, another Edmund Bellinger and his wife, Anne Leagare Roach, left South Carolina and came to Texas by way of Illinois. Appointed by Sam Houston to be the third Chief Justice of Gonzales County, Edmund settled his family near Gonzales on a grant which later became a part of Caldwell County when that county was formed.

He participated in the Battle of Plum Creek against raiding Indians and during the Civil War was a Union supporter. However, his son William served in the Confederate Army and was killed at the Battle of New Hope, Georgia.

Bennack-Bellinger Reunion...page 2

The couple had ten children, the ninth was Edmund Bellinger who was in the same generation as George and Anna Bennack, previously mentioned. This Edmund, born June 19, 1846, in Gonzales County, married Arminda Ann Hankins, daughter of Eli Skaggs Hankins and Elizabeth Caroline Day, in Caldwell County on March 16, 1870.

After the Bellinger fortunes took a downturn, Edmund and Arminda struggled to make a living on their farm in Prairie Lea. They had nine children, all of whom survived to adulthood-quite unusual for that time. However, Arminda, never in the best of health, died when the ninth child was born.

Because life continued to go badly for Edmund, the baby was cared for in San Antonio by his sister and her husband, Carrie and Dr. Eckerd L. Beaumont. The oldest daughter, Carrie Legare, married William M. Swindell three years after her mother's death. Only 12 years old when their mother died, Wenona kept house and cooked for her father and her six brothers.

Edmund finally gave up farming and moved his family to San Antonio, living with relatives for awhile and working at many jobs such as carpentry and cutting wood. The family's lives improved when he got steady work with the railroad-one of the many connections between the Bennack and Bellinger families.

Many in both families were railroad men. The two families became connected when they lived in the same south side San Antonio neighborhood. George Bennack had established a residency on North Street and the young Bennacks and Bellingers met as members of the Pansy Social Club. They would get together once or twice a month for a dance and eventually Frank Phillip Bennack and Wenona Bellinger began to pair off, as did Frank's sister, Justine Bennack, with Wenona's brother, John Carnot Bellinger.

As members of the next generation married and established homes, they usually stayed within a few blocks of each other. All members of both the Bennack and Bellinger families had musical talent as well. This led to the violin-playing Frank Phillip to remark, at the time he was courting Wenona, that they "should call this part of town the B-flats."

Though the city of San Antonio has not yet re-christened the area with Frank Bennack's suggested name, the River City will be host to a host of his descendants this Labor Day Weekend. If you are a relative and did not receive a family reunion announcement, contact Jo Anne Horne at 210-342-9792 or Carol Anne Koehl at 210-523-5636.

**THE SOPHIENBURG MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES AT NEW BRAUNFELS**

According to The Handbook of Texas, the Sophienburg Museum and Archives in New Braunfels is located on the site where Prince Karl of Solms-Braunfels in 1845 established his headquarters as the *Adelsverein* commissioner in Texas. Local citizens purchased the site in 1926 and later opened a museum which has grown to become a major source for German-Texan history and culture. The Sophienburg's archives include Prince Karl's correspondence, New Braunfels and Comal County government papers, and thousands of photographic negatives for research.



Texanischer Schuhplattler Verein

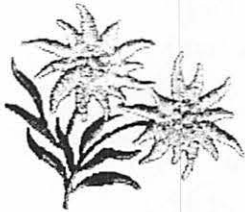
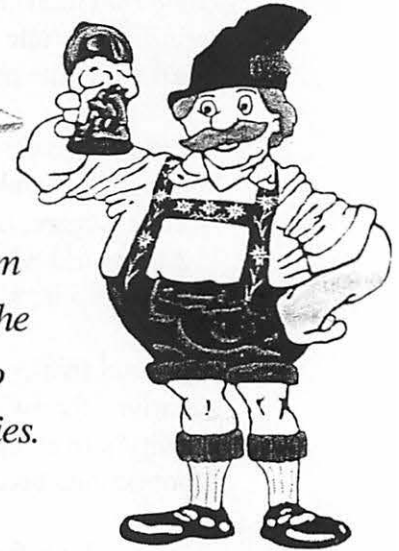


Proudly Representing the City of Fischen and the Allgäu Region in Bavaria

The TEXANISCHER SCHUHPLATTLER VEREIN is a non-profit cultural club made up of volunteers who seek to preserve traditional Bavarian and Tyrolean folk

dances, custom and culture. We are comprised of Performing Members who actively perform and wear the traditional clothing of the region and city the club represents and Supporting Members who come to cheer on the Performing Members and enjoy club activities.

Auf Geh's Allgäu!



Practice:

*We practice every Tuesday at 7:00pm inside of the Bavarian Grill in Plano!
You can email us at tsvallgau@tsvallgau.org for more information or stop by and see what you can do!*



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SPOETZL BREWERY, THE HOME OF SHINER BEERS

adapted by the Editor from a Spoetzl Brewery brochure

A small brewery at Shiner in Lavaca County was established in 1909 by German and Czech immigrants. To satisfy their need for old-world tasting brews, they hired Kosmos Spoetzl, a Bavarian brewmaster, whose traditional family recipe and beer-making expertise are still used in the making of Shiner beers. Under Spoetzl's guidance, the brewery at Shiner began to thrive. Spoetzel became well known throughout Lavaca County, traveling the countryside, greeting people in the taverns and in the cotton fields with a smile and offering ice-cold Shiner beer. Even when Prohibition forced other breweries to close their doors, the Spoetzl Brewery remained in business by producing near beer and ice. (Spoetzl himself may have continued to make authentic old-world brews for his close friends during those Prohibition years.)

The original brewery, eventually enlarged and rebuilt, is today located at 603 East Brewery Street in Shiner. It has been designated a historical landmark by the State of Texas. Its brew house today uses state-of-the-art equipment but boasts of having one of the smallest brew kettles in the entire United States.

Today the Spoetzl Brewery produces several old-world styles of beer. Shiner Bock is the Spoetzl version of the traditional Bavarian bock brew. The Shiner Winter Ale is modeled after Bavarian-style *Dunkelweizen* beer (German for dark wheat beer). Its brewing follows the practice in Germany called *Kräusening*. This involves a primary fermentation, then a blending, then a second, cold fermentation. Another brew is the Shiner Winter Ale which won a silver medal in the 2000 Brewing Industry International Awards. At the 1999 Great American Beer Festival, Shiner's Honey Wheat won a silver medal in competition among American style wheat beers. Honey Wheat is a German *Hefeweizen* unfiltered ale brewed with clover honey, lemon and orange peel. Another beer is Shiner Summer Stock, a blend of German *Hallertau* hops and Czech *Saaz* hops. And last is Shiner Blonde, a Bohemian-style beer.

WINES FROM GERMANY

adapted by the Editor from an H.E.B. Central Market brochure

The name label on a bottle of wine from Germany will indicate the name of the winery and name of the vineyard from which the wine comes. It also will tell you the name of the grape and the level of the grape's ripeness. For example, the label might read *Köster Wolf Albiger Hundskopf Riesling Spätlese*. In this case, the name of the winery is *Köster Wolf* and *Albiger Hundskopf* identifies the vineyard. *Riesling* is the varietal of grape used in the wine-making process and *Spätlese* tells you the level of ripeness. These six German terms are used for the ripeness level of grapes and to indicate the range of wines from dry to sweet.

Kabinett: This is the lightest and least sweet level for German wines

Spätlese: In German this literally means "picked late." It is a ripeness level between Kabinett and Auslese.

Auslese: In German this literally means "picked out." And these grapes were "picked out" for their quality.

Beerenauslese: This is a very sweet dessert wine made from grapes especially selected for their sweetness.

Eiswein: As the name suggests, it's made from late-harvested grapes that are allowed to freeze on the vine, concentrating the sugar.

Trockenbeerenauslese: This is the sweetest and most expensive level of grapes. In German it literally means "dried individual grapes picked out."

“sausage, the dance hall, the polka band aren’t the way we live – they are pieces of culture”

This is an extract from an article by Bill Bishop appearing in the Austin American-Statesman, March 20, 2003, under the title “Polka, progress and the last bohemians in Central Texas”

submitted by Joe and Arlene Burges

At the end of December, a small AM station in New Braunfels cancelled “The German-American Radio Hour,” a Sunday afternoon polka show that had been on the air for 52 years. The end of a radio program isn’t a particularly unusual event, especially a polka show. A Czech music program was cancelled a few years ago. The “Polka Express” program in Houston ended when its DJ and Producer Julius Tupa died last fall. Polka and German oompah music aren’t a big deal these days. Tastes change. Time passes. So it goes. Except...except culture and history matter to cities. A city that feels like nothing special probably sits in a nothing-special place. Austin grew up in the middle of polka country, and that made a difference. Germans, Czechs and Poles settled both sides of Austin. They ate smoke sausage, drank beer, played music and danced in large, plank-floored halls.

Barbecue, beer, live music --- does this sound familiar? Most people who have come to Austin from elsewhere are familiar with the German-built towns west of the city — tourist-trap Fredericksburg, the still-beautiful Mason. But the Bohemian (with a capital B) culture that shaped Austin remains most alive south and east of here: La Grange, Hallettsville, Shiner, Schulenburg.

This is polka music country, and the small radio stations that dot these towns still have regular German and Czech radio shows. Le Roy Matocha records polka shows for six different stations out of his home in Fayetteville. Matocha had his own polka band until 1998 and still plays in some groups. But he says the audience for his music is disappearing. dying, really.

It used to be that towns would have community dances. The screen doors at Bastrop County’s Kovar Hall would open, the Lee Roy Matoca Band would play and everyone would come. Now, Matocha said, dances are more often private. And besides, much of the audience for polka is “dead and buried or in nursing homes or in wheelchairs. Country-western took over,” he says. “You play one polka, and 80 percent of the floor is empty. If you don’t play country-western at a dance, forget it.”

Twenty years ago at the Winchester Picnic, a visitor could sit under a huge pecan tree, eat barbecue and listen to the Polka Dots. Or you could go to where Main Street ended at the railroad tracks in Smithville and polka outdoors to the Lee Roy Matocha Band. As Austin and San Antonio have grown east and Houston has spread west, the polka belt has tightened, squeezed out and been covered over by modern city sameness. There’s only a sliver of turf from La Grange to Hallettsville that is still happily Boehmian. The old painted church in Serbin, built by German immigrants, is kept up, recently being fitted with refurbished stained glass windows. Lee Roy Matocha has a show every day of the week on KVLG (1570 on the AM dial) in La Grange. You can still get fine sausage from people named Zimmerhanzel, Mikeska and Zoch.

The shift from country to city is as mindless as it is relentless. The German American show in New Braunfels was replaced with a canned music program. The station didn’t own a large collection of polka music. That’s because “they gave the old 78s to the baseball guys about 10 years ago for a Little League fund-raiser, so people could throw baseballs and break ‘em” said German-American DJ Roy Haag. The cancelled show is not a problem for Haag. He’s switched to the Net — www.nbgermanmusic.com — and feels he has a bigger audience than ever. The problem, really, is Austin’s. Polka culture shaped the way people met, fell in love, fought. It changed the way Mexican musicians played. It was a reason Austin became what it is.

Now the sausage, the dance hall, the polka band aren’t the way we live, they are pieces of culture we rent. Haag still plays in several polka bands. He says festival sponsors and Austin promoters ask his band to dress in lederhosen, or, as Haag calls them, “those stupid things. We

put those on for tourists. Bands never ever wore German costumes here. Nobody here ever played a saw!" At the Kovar Hall, the bands wore what everyone else wore because polka music wasn't a gimmick or an exercise in camp. Wear little leather pants to some of these places 30 years ago and you might have to fight your way home.

The problem, or rather the situation, is that the mega-cities of Central Texas are becoming strangers to their own regions. They dress their musicians in funny costumes, turn proud ranching towns into antique malls for weekend city shoppers and shatter their history with baseballs. Tastes change. Time passes. Places lose the meaning of what made them special.

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Impressions Of A German Band Concert in Fredericksburg

By Ron Hunka

In addition to the German heritage for which Fredericksburg is well known, I like the easy accessibility of its public events and its vibrant, small-town atmosphere. A couple of years ago, I attended a Fourth of July parade there that brought back memories of parades that I watched, as a small boy, in downtown Temple. Little of the active, small-town life, that once flourished there, remains, but not so in Fredericksburg.

Saturday evening, May 17, my wife, daughter, her husband, and I attended a band concert in Fredericksburg, put on by a group called *Blasmusik Texas*, the All-State German band. I had heard about the concert from an e-mail from Ken Knopp of Fredericksburg that was circulated by the German-Texan Heritage Society.

The band concert was held at the Marktplatz-Pavilion area across the street from the Gillespie County Courthouse. No need to park five or six blocks down the street for the event, one could park right in front of the pavilion on the main street. The band is made up of 45 musicians from around the state. They practice together two or three weekends a year. They were originally organized to represent Texas at a band festival in Germany. That was ten years ago, however, and they are still playing.

The director, Herbert Bilhartz, was at one time director of the U.S. Army Band in Heidelberg. At present, he also directs the Hermann Sons German Band of San Antonio. Some of *Blasmusik Texas*' members come from as far away as El Paso and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. These men and women play very well. The music is, of course, largely German.

One of the numbers that I particularly enjoyed was *Leichte Kavallerie (Light Cavalry Overture)*, a rollicking, military piece written by Franz von Suppe, a nineteenth century Austrian composer, more well known for his career in the opera houses of Vienna, where he was composer, conductor, and singer. The clarinet performances in *Der Klarinettenmuck'l (Clarinet Polka)*, a traditional German piece, were also good. Another number that I enjoyed, *Unter dem Doppeladler (Under the Double Eagle)*, was written by the Austrian composer, Josef Franz Wagner. This piece was published in this country in 1902 and later became well known as a Country and Western favorite. The Austrian double eagle was the symbol of the Hapsburg dynasty. I remember once seeing *Unter dem Doppeladler* included on a CD for sale at the Summer Palace of Franz Josef and Sissi in Bad Ischl, Austria.

It was interesting that the concert audience numbered only about 200 to 250 persons. Most of the folks were senior citizens. I am, by some definitions myself, one of them, but I would say that the majority of these folks were fully vested. During a musical *Armed Forces Salute*, almost every one of the older men got to stand for the song for his respective branch of the service. The navy vets stood for *Anchors Away*, the Army men stood for *As Those Caissons Go Rolling Along*, and so on. One man, I noticed, was able to stand for two service songs. The service salute was a respectful gesture of a type that are not so common these days. In downtown Temple, there used to be a *Veterans' Café*, which was popular when I was growing up. But most men are not veterans these days and there is not much status in being one.

It seems a shame that a fine concert in such a pleasant setting as the Fredericksburg Marktplatz-Pavilion, surrounded by a well-kept lawn and a view of proud old homes, was attended by so few people on a beautiful evening. The high school and young adult attendance was very light, with the notable exception of the girls from Fredericksburg High School German Club who sold pretzels and soft drinks to the crowd. One of them told me that they were raising money for a trip to Fredericksburg's sister city, Siershahn/Montabaur in Germany. Sounds as though the public schools in Fredericksburg have a good German language curriculum also.

Cultural traditions cannot be sustained by the oldest generation of a society alone. Younger people have to be interested as well. Several years ago while visiting San Juan Pueblo in New Mexico, I picked up a brochure written and published by the Pueblo people. The article, that I quickly scanned, lamented the lack of interest of the younger Pueblo in the traditions and customs of the tribe. So I suppose this is something of a common cultural phenomenon. It would seem to be the case with the membership and participation in our German-Texan Heritage Society. The Journal editor, Dr. Smart, wrote an interesting article a few issues back about the membership composition of GTHS on the basis of cities and counties. It would also be interesting to know the age breakdown for our society. However, I do not believe this information is presently collected.

Anyway, if you like traditional German and Austrian band music, you may wish to try to attend one of those relatively infrequent concerts by *Blasmusik Texas* the next time you hear of one. They have a couple of CD's out as well. Also, Fredericksburg is a great place to have dinner on a Saturday night at one of a number of downtown restaurants and take a pleasant stroll on a secure, well-lit main street, the way it used to be.

FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH IN NEW BRAUFELS

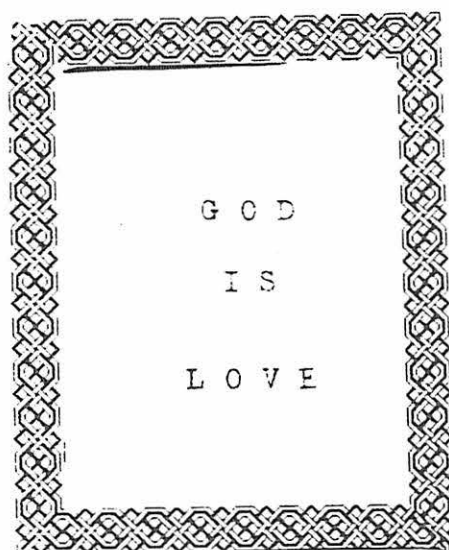
According to Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage, the Reverend Louis Ervendburg held Protestant worship services for the first German colonists to reach the site of New Braunfels in 1845. A congregation was formally organized later, and in 1846 a log church was built. The church building also was used as New Braunfels' first school. Construction of the present stone church began in 1875 and was completed in 1879. The building was enlarged in 1955. It now is the First Protestant United Church of Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL "TICKETS" OF THE 1920s
submitted by Frances Hartman

Back in the 1920s, the Sunday School of St. John Lutheran Church at Meyersville in De Witt County issued "tickets" to boys and girls five to eight years old. One side of the "ticket" to Sunday School had a short verse from the Bible and on the other side was the name of the book and numbers of the Bible chapter and verse.

Each child was to memorize the verse, then could keep the "ticket" as a reward.

Mrs. Frances Hartman of Yorktown sent these two Sunday School "tickets" to the Journal along with an explanation. Thank you, Mrs. Hartman, for sharing this bit of German-Texan culture.



**St. John Lutheran Church
at Meyersville, built 1921.**

**Meyersville is De Witt
County's second oldest Ger-
man community.**

Father Menzel: An Amazing Man

The first Catholic pastor of Saints Peter and Paul's Church in New Braunfels was Father Gottfried Menzel from Fryland in Bohemia. When he arrived in Galveston on Dec. 3rd, 1849, he was met by Bishop Odin who realized that he had finally found a pastor for New Braunfels. Father arrived here on Dec. 30th, and immediately began his duties and also started a parish school in the first months.

Most of what we know of Fr. Menzel comes from his two lengthy 1850 letters that he wrote from New Braunfels to a friend in Europe. They contain a wonderful array of items of interest to us.

Of the local parishioners he writes: "A great number of the faithful have grown more intensively religious by being without a priest for long stretches of time, particularly those who are isolated farmers; these consider the coming of a priest of their church as fortunate. Their ardent devotion at the holy sacrament of the Mass, and their ardent desire for the healing power edifies the priest and reimburses him for the hardships and privations endured on the way to them."

He continues: "From Dec. 30, 1849 to April 20, 1850, I was in New Braunfels and made excursions into the outlying regions. There are in the city and environs about 70 families of our faith. Catholics here, as practically in all the German settlements, constitute about a fourth of the population. The log church here is finished to the point that divine services are conducted in the building. During the winter I also conducted school there with 23 children".

Fr. Menzel then traveled on foot to Fredericksburg being, as he described "the only priest in the entire Western Texas area". It was he who first erected a cross on Cross Mountain near Fredericksburg. Returning to New Braunfels in June, he remained a few weeks and then traveled on to Bastrop and Austin to minister to the Catholics there.

Fr. Menzel had a deep love for the local flora and fauna. In great detail he describes the plants, cacti, flowers, snakes, insects, wild animals and other aspects of nature that he encountered on his treks around the hill country.

Fr. Domenech (who is mentioned on the Oak Tree Monument next to the Church) gives us insight into Menzel's love of nature. "He (Menzel) started out one fine morning, his only baggage being a double pair of spectacles stuck on his nose, a tin box slung from his shoulders and some provisions.

“The first day of his journey, the box was filled with rare plants and his pockets were crammed with mineralogical specimens. His hat was covered with bugs fastened with pins. As he had killed a great many serpents of large dimensions, he knotted them together and coiled them around his body.

“The next day, he killed another rattlesnake, seven or eight feet in length, which he also wound around his body and which served him as a belt. On he went in this most grotesque attire, never for a moment thinking of the picturesque and strange effect he might produce on those who should meet him!

“Never relaxing in his search for some new objects to add to his variegated accoutrements and keeping his eyes continually on the ground, he was marching into the midst of a body of Comanches who were deer hunting at the time! This walking collection of insects, plants and reptiles, which advanced majestically toward them, so terrified them that they fled panic-stricken from it as a supernatural apparition.

“On the third day he had consumed all his provisions and, finding only a little food in the woods, was beginning to feel the cravings of hunger when he saw snakes in a clearing. He proceeded into that direction.

“Some Indians had pitched their camp on the spot but, at the sight of this strange pedestrian, they began to yell and prepared for flight. The good priest quieted them and succeeded in making them understand that he was dying of hunger. The Indians, not daring to offend an unknown divinity, tremblingly placed before him coffee, maize and some mule’s flesh which he ate with great avidity. This meal gave him strength to bring him to Fredericksburg where he arrived on the third day without accident.”

This was but a glimpse of our first Catholic Pastor in New Braunfels. Fr. Menzel returned home in March of 1851, perhaps for his health’s sake. He planned his return trip through New Orleans, Canada, and New York. Back at home, he took a position as Dean at a university in Neustadt, Silesia.

A man of true imagination and curiosity, his spirit and zeal must have been truly missed by our ancestors. His two lengthy letters, mentioned above, will be seen in their entirety in a future book on the history of Saints Peter & Paul Parish.

by Everett A. Fey, Saint Peter & Paul Archives and Museum, New Braunfels, TX

Germanic folk art

The hand-drawn, hand-lettered Frakturs that Ruthanne Kramer Hartung creates in her Reading, Pa., studio are colorful examples of a folk art that German immigrants brought to eastern Pennsylvania in the 18th Century. Ruthanne, raised in the area, says, "I saw examples of it all around, and we had some old family Frakturs." She grew up to be an art teacher, then married and put her career on hold to bring up two sons.

"But I needed a creative outlet," she explains. Once again, old Frakturs caught her eye. She began sketching their motifs and experimenting with their ornate lettering. "I soon decided that this was the perfect thing to do while raising a family," she adds.

Her sons have now grown, and so has her career as a Fraktur artist. She studied Gothic lettering and did research here and in Germany into the origins, history, and development of Fraktur. Today, she conducts workshops in lettering and decoration, and her work is in the permanent collections and interpretive exhibits of several museums.

"My goal," Ruthanne says, "is to help keep Pennsylvania German Fraktur alive and adapt it to our modern world." Her work incorporates traditional colors and decorative elements into her own original designs. But she varies its ancient Gothic lettering slightly. "People today find heavy Gothic letters hard to read," she explains. "So I add a few curving lines that make them look more familiar without changing their essential style."

The origins of Fraktur go back to the religious manuscripts copied and decorated in the monasteries of medieval and (Continued overleaf)

Renaissance Europe. Laboriously reproducing the Bible and other valued works, monks used Gothic letters typified by breaks, or fractures, within the characters. (Thus, each letter consisted of several pen strokes rather than one continuous line as in cursive writing.) The technique became known as *fractura*.

To adorn their manuscripts, the scribes used animals and objects from nature to which their beliefs attributed spiritual meanings. The tulip, for example, represented the Trinity.

Fraktur came to America early in the 18th Century when monastic orders from present-day Germany fled persecution and settled in Pennsylvania, a Quaker colony noted for religious tolerance. They began using Fraktur for copybooks in their schools. In time, other Pennsylvania Germans adopted it and expanded its use to record important events like marriages and births.

Soon, however, Fraktur lost its overtly religious symbols and began to encompass whimsical, brightly colored motifs reflecting daily life. Tulips came to denote love and faith. Birds signified good luck; unicorns, virtue; stars, rebirth; and doves, peace.

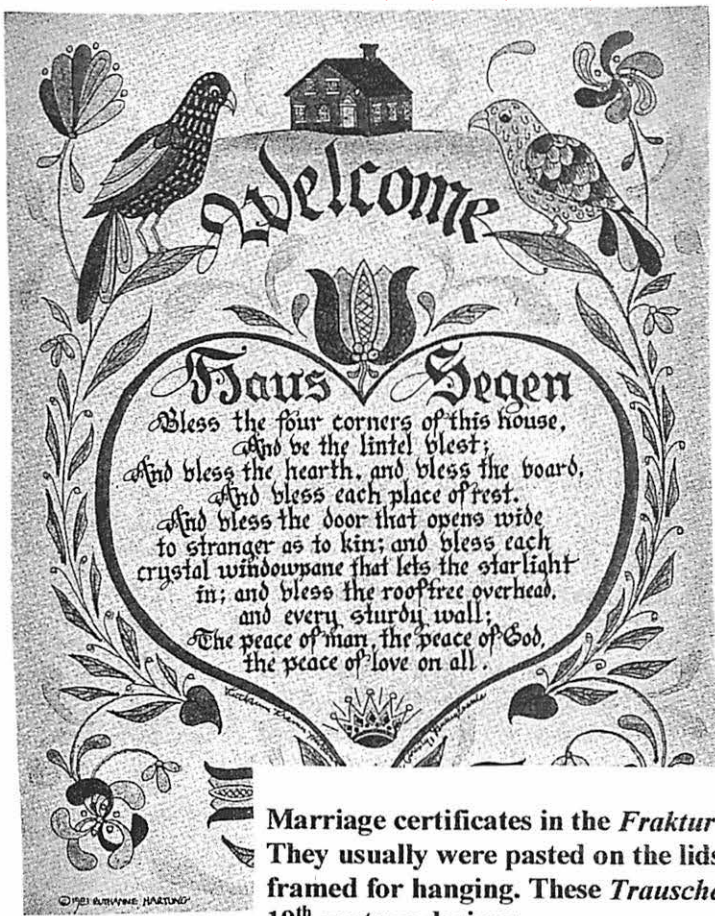
from Colonial Homes, June 1991



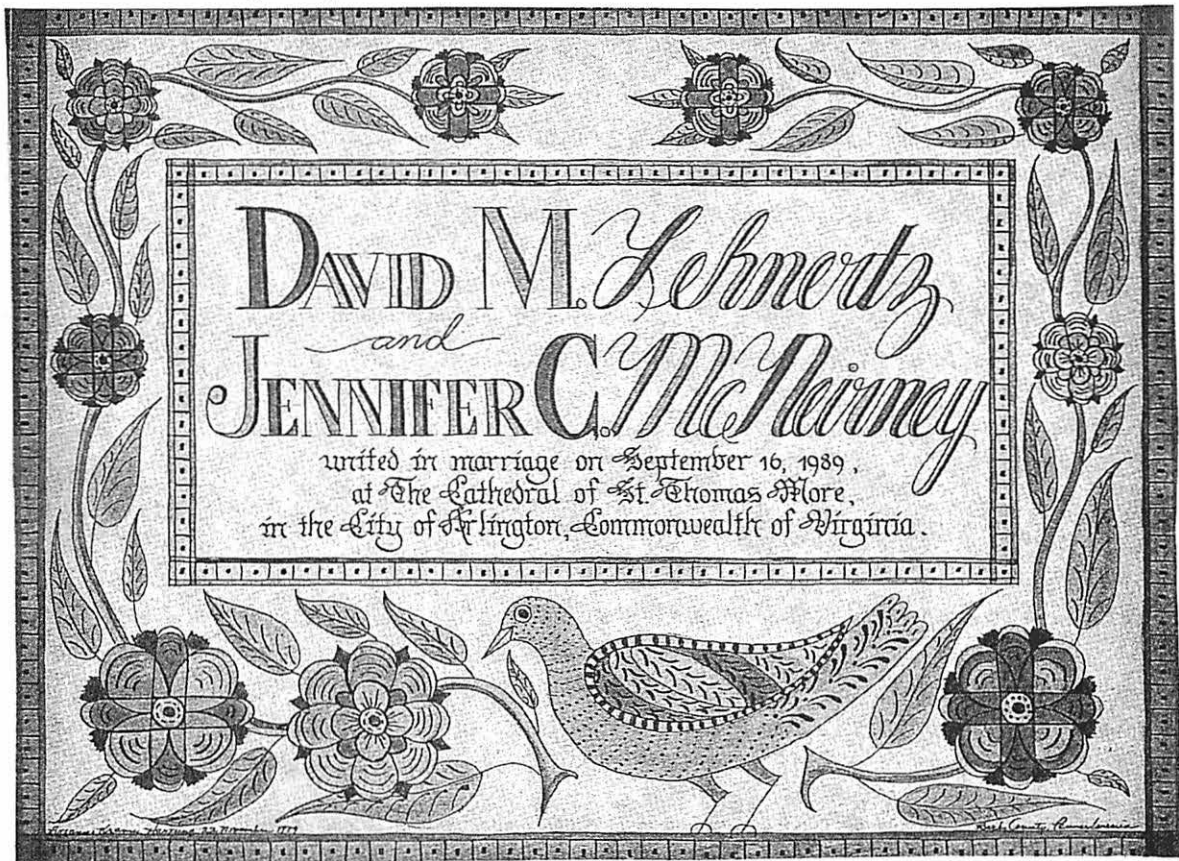
Early German artisans in America created *Vorschriften* or samplers.

Itinerant craftsmen used them as samples of their work to show customers.

At left is Ruthanne Hartung's rendition of an 18th century example.



Marriage certificates in the *Fraktur* style were known as *Trauscheinen*. They usually were pasted on the lids of bridal dowry chests or were framed for hanging. These *Trauscheinen* are the artist's renditions of 19th century designs.



A house blessing (not shown) was known as a *Haus-segen* and often pictured hearts and birds, the symbols for love and good luck. A birth certificate or baptismal certificate (not shown) was known as *Geburts* or *Taufschein*.

How My German Heritage Helped Me As A Prisoner Of War During World War II By Leroy H. Grebe, A GTHS Member

I think perhaps my experience as a WWII Prisoner of War are somewhat different from that of most war captives because of the geographic location where I was captured and because of the circumstances surrounding my captivity. Because of the short two months plus that I was actually under enemy control, my hardships certainly cannot be compared with that of other POWs—many who served under much worse conditions than mine.

Whereas, many comrades were captured en-masse and were placed in compounds designed to house POWs, I was “by my lone self” when apprehended and most of my confinement was alone in small holding cells, in dungeon like cellars, in unsanitary community jails with slave laborers, and civilian criminals, until I finally joined other American POWs in that 16 day walk from Nuremberg to Stalag VIIA in Mooseberg. On that march conditions became more civilized; we slept in farm barns and in public buildings, watched and guarded by well trained German Police Dogs and Wehrmacht Guards.

We also received Red Cross parcels consisting of much needed food, chocolate bars, and cigarettes, the latter two being perfect bartering items for potatoes and eggs from German civilians. I only spent about 9 days “behind the wire” in Stalag VIIA before being liberated on Sunday April 29, 1945.

Back to my story of how my German heritage helped me as a POW begins with my family background. My paternal grandparents both immigrated from Opendorf, Germany in the 1860’s, settled in the Welcome Community in Austin County, and spent their entire lives engaged in farming. My maternal grandparents were both born in America from parents who came from Hanover, Germany in the early 1800’s.

My father and mother, also reared in the Welcome Community, received their schooling from German Lutheran Ministers who served the dual role as teachers during the week and as preachers on Sundays, teaching and preaching only in German and very little English.

Consequently, I grew up in a household where German was the predominant language’ and German customs were inherited and practiced. Adding to my German culture were my studies in High School and College.

The first real appreciation for my heritage came after that unforgettable March 9, 1945, when the B-24 heavy bomber on which I was a crew member collided in mid-air with another over the coast of then Yugoslavia on our return from a combat mission to Graz, Austria. The accident caused our crew to bail out; while the bomber that hit us went down without survivors. My friend and neighbor, Tommy Kamas, of Nelsonville flew in the same formation and saw the collision.

[Note: This article was submitted by Dr. Bob Neely of Bellville, a friend of the author, Judge Grebe, since they graduated in the same class from Bellville High School in 1938.]

I cleared the bomb bays, my chest chute opened, I prayed, and floated earthward, landing in a tree in the mountains overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Here is where my story as a POW begins and how my knowledge of the German Language helped me. You may wonder how after 58 years I still remember all these events. There are things that one never forgets' but I was fortunate carrying this religious book with me in my flying suit. My parents being Christian Scientists had sent this book, "Science and Health," to me which I carried with me on every mission.

When I was taken before German Authorities for interrogation, I saluted, gave my name, Rank, and serial number, and without questioning me, they took my book, examined it and gave it back to me. However, they kept my escape kit and 38 U. S. dollars and issued me a receipt for the money. I still have that receipt and book. After nearly 58 years, the book is very fragile and faded. In the back of my book with its blank pages and a stubby pencil I had in my flight suit, I made entries of the events as a POW as best as I could, being careful not to be seen writing for fear of confiscation, which explains why some of my notes seem to have been written from an awkward position.

The sources of my presentation come from my diary, from an article "Behind the Wire." Which I wrote for our 461st Bomb Group's publication, "The Liberator," last June, from letters I received after the war from the Wehrmacht guard in whose custody I was, and from personal memories.

After landing in a tree and being pretty "shook-up", I unbuckled my chest chute, slid down the tree and hid. After seeing no one and noticing nothing endangering me, I began wandering in the mountain snow trying to figure out my bearings. I spent the night, and the next day, Saturday, secluded in the hills until late that evening when I spotted a wood cutter in the distance gathering firewood. Suspecting he may be a Partisan (our friend) I made contact pointing to the U. S. flag on the sleeve of my flight jacket and offered him a packet of Lucky Strike cigarettes from my escape kit. He grabbed the cigarettes and motioned me to follow him down the mountain path to the village below. He took me to a village residence where I was invited to join the family in their evening meal of hog hocks and cabbage. I ate with them and conversed with head of the household who spoke fluent English. He said that he had been in the United States often before the war, knew the New York area especially well, and that the war was over for me. He told me he could take me over the hills to friendly territory, but such would be rather risky, I offered to compensate him from my escape kit; while we were negotiating, shots (rifle fire) were fired outside the residence, and I knew that I either had been double-crossed or that word had gotten out that he was holding an American flyer. I learned later from a German that you don't trust anybody in that part of Yugoslavia nor do you know whose side they are on!

A detachment of Ustasche soldiers took charge of me; an exchange of "Heil Hitler" took place between the head of the household and the Ustasche soldiers, and I was marched to their headquarters and spent overnight in their custody. I had injured my side landing in the tree, for which I was treated the next day by a German doctor and the interned in a dark jail like room. After my brief appearance before the interrogating German officers, I

was again moved, this time to a local jail where I spent about a week under antiquated and unsanitary conditions.

As my diary states, I was taken to Ottoschat, Yugoslavia on March 16, where according to my entry, "I spent about a week in jail with Partisans and civilians. The food and living conditions were very poor."

The slave laborers were taken out on work details in the morning and brought back and put in Jail at night—many suffering from malnutrition and related diseases making me ever so thankful that my immunization record was current. Next I was taken to Bleni and locked up in a cold cellar.

As my diary states, "The Germans let me out and walk around for a few hours. I am full of fleas and lice." I still remember sitting in the sunshine with the fleas and lice thriving on my fur lined boots and jacket, watching vapor trails our planes were making overhead on their way to the target, and the German guard saying that the Fuehrer had promised a secret weapon, and that they were still going to win the war. The fur lined boots were my only footwear, since I had left my shoes in the plane when I bailed out. It wasn't until later on our march that I traded my boots and a pack of cigarettes to a German for a pair of hob-nailed shoes.

From Bleni, Yugoslavia, I believe I was moved near Zagreb where according to my diary four Luftwaffe men had just brought in two American flyers, and I was told we would leave for Zagreb tomorrow. Good to talk to an American again! One of the boys had some extra dry black bread and a little meat which we ate as a great delicacy.

My next entry continues with "Didn't leave for Zagreb. The fleas and lice are driving me nuts. Had my usual small ration of black bread and margarine and unsweetened tea this morning with thin soup for supper." Another undated (I didn't have a calendar) entry states, "We are on our way to Zagreb alright. Traveled a few kilometers and will have to wait for transportation. The Luftwaffe Officers and men seem to be okay—at least its better to lay beside a brook in the sun than in a cold cellar all night,"

I remember in this area (where ever we were) how backward the people still were. I was told they raised their own wool, wove and dyed, and made their own clothes, raised and processed their own food, and if they had an occupation, I cannot remember what work they did.

Another undated entry states, " Here we are in Zagreb after being strafed a few times by Partisans. Never heard so much hollering by guards since taken prisoner." Our group split in Zagreb; I don't know what happened to the other American POWs. I continued to Nuremberg in custody of one of the Wehrmacht guards, named Georg Boerner. You will hear more of this person later in my article.

The reason for our separation at Zagreb I was told was for safety reasons. The civilian population along our travel route (especially at Regensberg and other aerial target cities

didn't have much use for American flyers; precaution was necessary. We traveled by train, walked some, and even rode on vehicles powered by wood chips while we were still traveling in Yugoslavia.

Traveling by train was about as slow as walking. Flag waving meant there were allied fighters in the area and to run for the nearest tunnel or abandon the train and hit for cover. Our fighter pilots were pretty accurate, usually only knocking out the locomotive and leaving the train stranded until a replacement could be obtained or until the hit locomotive could be patched up. It was on this journey that I noticed a German reading a newspaper with the heading "Der Grosse Schlag in Westen" and telling me the war would soon be over.

My guard, Sgt. Boerner, and I became good friends while traveling together—one I felt at ease while conversing in German. He was a soldier in every respect; professional and doing his duty in accordance with the rules of war. I became especially respectful of Wehrmacht Boerner after he saved my life from young S.S. Troopers in a bomb shelter in Vienna. While we were at the railway depot in Vienna, air raid sirens went off and my guard took me into a nearly bombproof shelter for refuge. While there, four or five Storm Troopers, probably fresh from the front and filled with hatred, entered the shelter and spotted me and demanded that my guard turn me over to them. Understanding German, I knew what they wanted, and I silently prayed with emphasis on that part of the 23rd Psalm as I had done so many times, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." An exchange of words took place with my guard stepping forward, cocking his "burp gun" and saying he had orders to take me to Nuremberg and for them not to come any closer. He backed the S. S. off; I gave thanks to God, and my confidence and respect for Georg Boerner continued to strengthen. I don't remember if we stayed in Nuremberg; I do remember the railway station was not bombed that night.

According to my diary, we arrived in Nuremberg on April 1st. We had to walk from the railway station through the city by bombed out buildings with civilians staring to reach the interrogation center. It was here where my guard Boerner left me and after processing, I was taken to my first prison camp in Nuremberg just in time; the last group of POWs were leaving on that 16 day walk to Stalag VIIA in Mooseberg.

As my April 5th diary entry states, "With the Yanks approaching like they are, we are on another journey—this time by foot to Mooseberg, Germany. They say we will walk about 150 kilometers if the Yanks don't overtake us." On April 6th I write, "I received my first Red Cross parcel, and boy did I eat! Slept in a farmer's barn in Plankstadt, Germany. We had plenty of spuds and ate my first egg in a long time."

On the brighter side of our march was the prevalence of Red Cross parcels. The closer we got to the Swiss border, the more parcels came. With a "kriege burner" (a POW designed miniature burner made of tin cans with a hand cranked blower operating similar to a blacksmith forge) and a Red Cross parcel one could cook up a meal in a jiffy and suffer diarrhea afterwards!

My April 21st entry says, "Our march finally came to a conclusion when we reached Mooseberg, Germany and Stalag VIIA. Two other memoirs from that walk to Mooseberg were the large amounts of metal chaff along the roadways; especially when we were approaching target areas. On our B-24 it was a crewmember's job to throw that silver stuff out to distract radar before entering our final approach to the target. There was plenty of that stuff on the ground. I also recall the signal markings "POW" made from stones and sticks along the route to signal to our fighter pilots not to mistake us for a German convoy.

Remaining entries are from April 21st to 29th stating, "This week was mostly spent sweating out the Americans. We live in tents and with the weather we're usually sleep in water every night. It has been snowing also here every day." From Sunday, April 29th I read, "we just finished cooking breakfast (in our "kriege burner) when we were surprised by shell fire. The shells are whistling around the prison camp. Yes, the American 7th armored division just rolled in. The Kriegeres are going wild with joy. The time is 12:05 PM. The American Flag is flying from the Stalag.

On May 1st I write, "we tasted our first piece of white bread in ages today. Oh boy! Is it good!" "May 2nd to 6th we are waiting for transportation. The weather is bad. We had snow and hail again." May 7th—Well we are off to Landstadt to catch a plane to France. "May 8th, we finally landed in Rheims, France today in a C-47."

"May 10th, "Rode a Red Cross Hospital train from Rheims to Camp Lucky Strike. The food is okay. It was here at Camp Lucky Strike that I ran into a thin hollowed eye Krieger wearing a skull cap whom I recognized as my Bellville neighbor and fellow POW, Billy Jackson. We had quite a reunion!"

"May 11th to May 21st we were processed through Camp Lucky Strike. The food is good. We got clothes, eggnog, and shoes. We left Camp Lucky Strike on Tuesday morning, May 22nd at 01:30 for a Camp near Le Harve. We stayed ½ day and are now on a boat, the USS Sea Owl, and homeward bound. I tasted my first orange in months. We left France at 1900 tonight"

"May 23rd—docked at South Hampton, England to pick up sick and wounded"

"May 24th left England this morning and are homeward bound at last! I met a Kramer boy from Prairie Hill on the ship and also Joe Bruce from Brenham on the same ship."

"May 23rd to June 3rd – we had a good trip and arrived in Boston, Mass. this morning. The weather is cool—we have to wear coats. It's good to see the U. S. again. We had a storm at sea and things got pretty rough. Home at last! I gave thanks to God for blessing and sparing me from the many close calls I had."

This ends my diary in which I recorded many events that I had experienced as a POW. I was shouted at, fussed at, called obscene names, threatened, nearly starved, but never

beaten by my German captors. I think my German heritage helped me a great deal as a POW that I will illustrate in my closing comments.

Shortly after the war, I received letters from Georg Boerner that I answered during our brief corresponding period. I had placed these letters with my war memoirs and re-discovered them when I was gathering materials for my article in last summer's 461 Bomb Group Newsletter. I have these letters, but unless you can read German, they won't mean much to you. Briefly, the first one tells about his capture by the Americans right after we parted in Nuremberg and how he worked as a "Baeumfaeller in der Frankreichs Waelden von frueh bis abend." He also inquired if I had kept in touch with American flyers (mentioned earlier) especially the wounded Officer who was his "Sorgenkind." "But in spite of our dangerous journey through 'Kroaten', 'Aber alles ging so gut das wir Heute unsern Hergott dafür danken Muesten," he also writes. A second letter was written after he was returned to his family in Leipzig. He states that life behind the Iron Curtain was hard and a "packet" from me would be much appreciated. He again wrote about our dangerous journey through "Kroatin", quoting "Wir sind zusammen durch manche Gefahren gegangen, davon Weist due heute noch nichts. Ich habe Euch nie etwas davon Veratendamit Ihr nicht Unruehig werden sollett. Die schlechteste Fart war von agram durch Kroatin. Spater werde ich Dir mal alles ausfuehslich schreiben." Our correspondence after some time discontinued, and we lost track of each other; I never did find out what Sgt. Boerner knew about our trip through Croatia.

War memories just don't go away, and after 56 years I decided to find out whatever became of my friend, Geog Boerner. With the help of German-born Wiltrude Asaf (who is a member of our church), we wrote a letter of inquiry to the Burgomeister (Mayor) of Leipzig, Germany and received a prompt reply stating that Georg died in 1959 and left 3 children. The eldest, a son Roland, resided in Leipzig, and the Mayor included his address. I wrote Roland introducing myself and included a copy of 1 of his father's post-war letters I had. I received his thank you letter and since then we have been corresponding with each other and have even spoken to each other over the phone. I feel that I have renewed a friendship of long ago.

I have some photographs of the son and his family which show how this family has emerged from poverty since the fall of the Iron Curtain. I hope that I have given you in this article instances and examples of how my German heritage helped me as a WWII POW.

I continue to pray, as I so audibly did dangling from a parachute over the blue Adriatic 57 years ago, that our world leaders today will find a way to settle our differences peacefully and not by the horrors of war as many of us have witnessed.



GRUENE, TEXAS

The town of Gruene originally was located several miles north of New Braunfels. According to The Handbook of Texas, German farmers settled there in the 1850s, and in 1878 Henry Gruene, for whom the community was named, opened a general store at a crossing of the Guadalupe River. By 1900, a town had grown up with a dance hall still in operation today. The nineteenth century settlement has been restored and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although individual Germans immigrated to the American colony of Jamestown as early as 1608, and by 1670 German immigrants were present in all 13 of the colonies, the first organized group sailing was on the Concord & arrived on October 6, 1683. These 13 Mennonite families from Krefeld, Germany, established Germantown, Pennsylvania, in response to the call from Quaker leader William Penn, who asked Europeans to come to the new world and participate in the "Holy Experiment" of settlement.

By Dr. Meredith McClain

German Texans

Leaving Their Mark on the Lone Star State

And come they did! During the 19th century almost six million people arrived from that European territory, which in 1871 became the German Reich. When one considers that at the founding of the Reich, about 60 million people were living there, then one-tenth of that population went off to America. This would imply that each family in the area had a member in America or knew a neighbor who was there. More than 50 books on America were published in Germany between 1815 and 1850. The number and availability of personal letters back and forth between America and Germany must have vitalized daily life at a level of participation that we can hardly imagine today.

The First German-Texans

There was one letter from Texas, written by Friedrich Ernst, the first German colonizer in Texas and founder of the town of Industry, which had enormous impact on Germans eager to hear of the great, wide-open land in the sun. Although Ernst arrived in Texas in 1831 ill prepared for the hard life of a pioneer, he grew to love the land. He wrote one particular letter to a friend

in which he praised his new home in glowing terms and added this invitation: "I have a stopping place on my estate for my countrymen until they have selected a league of land. Colonel Austin has recently promised to take care that German arrivals be settled immediately." The friend in Oldenburg, Germany, took the letter to the local newspaper, and thus the glorious report spread like wildfire and opened the way for others to follow.

German immigration to Texas took a unique turn in 1842 when a group of five princes and 16 privileged German noblemen met at Biebrich on the Rhine, near Mainz, and created "The Society for Protection of German Immigrants to Texas." Certainly honorable in its stated purpose, the "Adelsverein" was instrumental in moving 7,000-8,000 emigrants during the next three years into the area of Texas known today as the German Hill Country. That area centers on New Braunfels and Fredericksburg, and includes the surrounding smaller towns that stretch from Mason in the north to San Antonio in the south, the jewel city of the German-Texan belt.

Those beginnings, though, were not without trouble. Aboard the first ship from Germany to sail under the banner of the Adelsverein was a young man from Erndtebrueck named Louis

Martin (image, page 12. Also see related Anna Mebus Martin biography on page 14). The story of his life in Texas is a fascinating saga of success and tragedy that deserves to be better known. Ultimately an important citizen of the Mason area, he influenced relatives and friends from Erndtebrueck to join him. Like so many of his countrymen, Martin was against slavery, and this position often brought trouble. During the Civil War a group of young German settlers from Comfort and the surrounding area were killed by Anglo-Americans as they were trying to leave Texas to join Union troops. Louis Martin's own murder in 1864 in Eagle Pass by American neighbors who then presented themselves to his widow, told her the news, and demanded a fried chicken meal before leaving, points to the brutal intensity of the issue.

Exactly 150 years after the creation of the protection society, W.M. Von-Maszewski published (in German and English translation) the letters of Alwin H. Sörgel, who arrived on the society's 1845 voyage on the *Franziska*. Those letters reveal in detail the human suffering caused by the lack of organization of the Adelsverein, and finally the lack of will to correct the disasters. *A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47* gives Sörgel's detailed, personal insight into the difficulties met by John O. Meusebach, the man who assumed the problems of the settlements. It is to Meusebach's lasting credit that he signed a treaty in 1847 with the surrounding Comanches enabling a long-range period of peaceful settlement and prosperity for generations to come. It is frequently pointed out that this is the only treaty between Native Americans and European Americans never to have been broken.

The First German-Texans on the Last Western Frontier

For hundreds of years the Comanches considered the vast grassland of the Llano Estacado in the Panhandle of Texas to be their holy hunting ground. Hidden camping grounds within Palo Duro Canyon



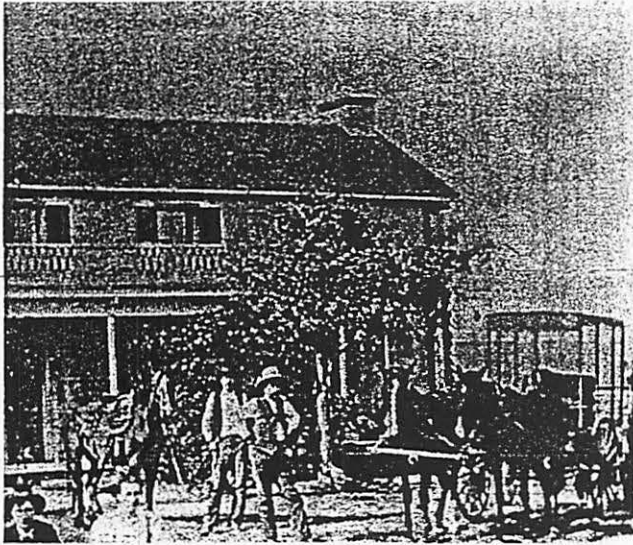
were thought to be sacred safe havens.

But in 1874 as more than 300 Comanche, Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Arapaho lodges were quiet in the early hours, Ranald Mackenzie's cavalry troops descended and put an end to that era. The American government's plan to move the inhabitants off the Llano Estacado in order to open land for white settlement worked, and as the Native Americans were forced into Oklahoma, the first European moved in. He was Heinrich Schmitt, born of humble origins the same year as Texas, 1836, in Bavaria, and died a well-known, highly respected, and wealthy man in Blanco Canyon in 1912.

Hank Smith left Fort Griffin with his wife Elizabeth and their two children in November of 1878, and after a seven-day trip, they pulled into Blanco Canyon in Crosby County where they would spend the rest of their lives. Hank had been a real frontiersman throughout the Wild West before meeting Elizabeth, but as he settled into his two storied, hand-hewn limestone house isolated on the vast Llano Estacado, he grew to love the country. His letters to friends contained lists of

the abundant wildlife there and the crops he had cultivated. He also issued generous invitations to visit and offers to provide hospitality to any person coming up the Mackenzie Trail.

Completely unknown to Hank Smith, a German writer named Karl May, his exact contemporary, created best-selling novels set on the Llano Estacado and featuring a pioneering type much like Hank—the German mountain man Old Shatterhand. The life Hank lived in person in the American West is deeply imbedded in the fantasies of many Germans who read thrillers such as *The Ghost of the Llano Estacado*. Those stories, made into films in the 1960s, live on today in Germany where there are no less than ten summer amphitheatres devoted to the reenactment of May's novels, which are still best sellers. The Karl May Society has more than 2,000 members worldwide. It is only surprising to those who do not know about this German secret to learn that the first International Karl May Symposium to be held in North America took place in Lubbock at Texas



Germans were fascinated with Texas. The photo on page 10 is from one of the Karl May movies filmed in Yugoslavia in the 1960s showing the Frenchman, Pierre Brice, in the role of the Mescalero Apache chief Winnetou, and the American, Lex Barker, playing the German frontiersman, Old Shatterhand. The German writer May is pictured at right, in a costume that he wore to recreate the image of a frontiersman. The real-life Hank Smith, shown above in front of Hacienda Glorieta, the first permanent home on the Texas High Plains, was just the type of man that the Germans were trying to emulate.



Tech University in September 2000. Those who do know understand why the high point of the symposium was a trek to Blanco Canyon to meet the 85-year old granddaughter of Hank Smith, Georgia Mae Smith Ericson, and soak up the spirit of the place.

Whereas Hank Smith was something of an entrepreneurial loner, the second German to influence settlement of the Llano Estacado was the Catholic colonizer, Reverend Joseph Reisdorff (1840-1922). After completing his training at the Catholic Diocese in St. Louis, Missouri, Reisdorff adopted the special vocation of Catholic colonizer and founded settlements at Windthorst (Archer County, Texas 1891) and Rheinland (Knox County, Texas, 1895), before beginning Nazareth (Castro County, near Lubbock) in 1902.

Through advertisements such as the one translated below in German-language newspapers in America, Father Reisdorff made his colony in Nazareth known to German families:


Short directions to the Catholic German colony of Nazareth, in Castro County, Texas: In order to arrive at the newest Catholic Colony, one takes a train from any point in the United States which

goes to Amarillo, Texas. In Amarillo one takes the Pecos Valley train to Hereford, Texas. In Hereford one turns to W.H. Ranzor, our agent, who brings all Catholics seeking land for a small price to Nazareth, and if it be desired, then he will bring them back to Hereford.

The combination of inexpensive, good land, and the promise of a Catholic church and school offered large German-American families the opportunity to better their situation. Two of the earliest families to arrive and take up residence in Nazareth were the Wendelin Litsch family (11 children) from Oklahoma and the Bernard Huseman family (seven children) from Indiana.

By the time of his death in 1922, Father Reisdorff had successfully established Nazareth, founded Umbarger, and created a large German community in Slaton. His successors faced less optimistic times. German-Texan settlers of the Llano Estacado bore enormous hardships in their first years, dealing with the unknown land and the unexpected weather patterns. The unrelenting wind, droughts, extreme heat, and then bitter cold battered the pioneers as they attempted to tame the land and erect

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Elissa, an 1877 square-rigged barque.

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humble shelters.

After the first difficult decades of settlement came the world wars with Germany. American neighbors focused their suspicious attention on the isolated rural German settlements. Local vigilante groups were keen to ferret out anyone considered disloyal, and there was even talk of German spies. Misunderstandings, fears, and hard times sometimes turned rumor to hostility. According to Goose Ramey, a local Dimmitt historian and eye witness of the event,



Aboard the first ship from Germany to sail under the banner of the "Adelsverein" was a young man from Erndtebrueck named Louis Martin. Like so many of his countrymen, Martin was against slavery, and this position often brought trouble.

Armistice Day in 1918 produced one such incident in Nazareth. Few Nazarenes today discuss the fact that their Catholic priest was forced by a citizens' group from Dimmitt on November 11 to step out of the Catholic church, kneel down, and kiss the American flag. For years, though, there was a boycott by area residents of stores in Dimmitt in favor of those in Tulia—despite the fact that they were almost twice the distance away.

By the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan had a firm grip on Texas, and the outbreak of violence by Klan mobs targeting German-Catholic priests was dramatically documented by numerous newspapers. One man in Brenham was beaten for speaking German. The most vicious act on the Llano Estacado was the 1922 beating, then tarring and feathering of Father Keller, Father Reisdorff's successor in Slaton. A similar attack on Father Meiser,

later the same year in the central West Texas town of Olfen, confirmed an alarming pattern. Despite these hardships and unfounded suspicions, German Texans established a foothold on the Texas High Plains, and today, generations later, their families are part of the melting pot of Texan cultures.

Conclusion

The great interest in Texas felt throughout Germany in the 19th century, and the resulting migration, are something of a lost chapter of European history today. In Texas, though, fourth and fifth generation German-Texans are

entering the 21st century with renewed devotion to the documentation of their family stories. In all corners of the state one finds active members of the German-Texan Heritage Society, which is elegantly headquartered in Austin's German Free School Building (see sidebar on page 15). Older classic publications of German-Texan history are being reissued, and new research is producing books, articles, and exhibits that protect endangered details of this history from the ravages of time. These important documents provide evidence of the powerful contributions of these German immigrants to the Lone Star State. ★

Dr. Meredith McClain is associate professor of German and director of the Southwest Center for German Studies at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

MITTENWALD

By Ron Hunka

In talking with my wife's mother about our vacation plans for the German town of Mittenwald, just north of Innsbruck, Austria, she told me about 1941 when she lived in a village in Yugoslavia. About two hundred German soldiers were sent to Betschmen for rest and rehabilitation.

The men arrived in April in the village, which had been selected because it was predominantly German. Their unit had been fighting in Lower Serbia, Greece, and other places south. They showed up with horses and cannons, weary from the war. Some had arms in slings and other evidence of lesser wounds. At this point, most of these young men had been away from home about two years. Local officials were instructed to find places among the villagers for them. Though none of the Serb families were expected to house the soldiers, all of the German households had to take at least one soldier. There being no man in my mother-in-law's farm household, since her father had died before the war, her mother told her that they could take in one soldier. But over the two months that the soldiers were in town, three stayed with the family, though not more than two together.

The expectation of the German army was that the soldiers would stay in a room in the family's house and eat with the family. This was a duty performed without reservation by the villagers. They were *Volksdeutsch*, people of German culture living outside of Germany. The soldiers' horses were also to be accommodated. Since all the households in the village were farms, this was not difficult. The horses were fed some of the hay and water that the other farm animals ate and drank.

Sixty years later, remarkably, my mother-in-law still remembered the names of the three soldiers who stayed with her family and where they were from. The first of them was named Wilhelm Liebert. He, like the other two soldiers who came later, was in his twenties. He was from Sachsen. He was not too outgoing and did not talk too much. From what my mother-in-law said, it would appear that he was suffering from combat fatigue. Sometimes he cried, and once in a depressed, drunken state, he called out for his mother. He was removed early from her village and perhaps sent away for treatment.

The second of the three soldiers was Wilhelm Mann, who was from a suburb of Berlin, Brandenburg. He had been a university student before the war. The third soldier, Roman Riedman, was from the town of Mittenwald, where he had worked on his family farm.

My mother-in-law was 14 years old at the time the soldiers came. There was a hired hand on the farm about the age of the soldiers. His name was Heinrich Hoffman. At this time, Germany had not yet drafted the young Yugoslav men into their army. Later, the family heard that the hired hand was stationed in Wuerzburg and finally that he had been killed in the war. In the evenings and other times of relaxation, he had chatted with the soldiers. My mother-in-law and her younger brothers hung around on the edge of the conversations, as young people do, and listened to what was often talk of family and

things back home. The soldiers showed photos of girlfriends and family. The talk of the world beyond the family's village was interesting and exciting to the young people.

Riedman talked about his life in Mittenwald. It was quite beautiful there with the mountains towering above the town, he said. He talked about the parades through the town when brass bands from the smaller, neighboring towns had marched through the streets and a large gate with an arch that served as an entrance to the town. The people dressed in *Trachten*, the traditional clothing, which one still sees on special occasions in Austria and Germany. Riedman had lived on a farm with a large family. One could tell he was from a farm from the interest he took in the family's animals and their place. Sometimes, Riedman and Mann carried containers of water to help my mother-in-law wash the stones of the covered walkway that ran around the back of the house. My mother-in-law remembers that the soldiers were polite and nice to the family and helped them when they could.

On Sundays, at the only Gasthaus in the village, *Gasthaus Bauer*, there was music and dancing outside in the open air from 1:00 to 4:00. Many of the girls from the village came to dance with the soldiers. Only the men went inside to drink. My mother-in-law danced with Roman Riedman at the dances. During the time that Riedman and Mann stayed with her family, on her fifteenth birthday, they each gave her a silver 50 dinar Serbian coin. Young people in those days in her village did not get birthday presents, and she hardly knew what to say to thank them. It was beyond her experience. The coins did not remain in her possession long, however, because her mother soon used them for family expenses. She was, after all, a widow with five children to raise, and everything counted.

After the soldiers left Betschmen, some of them wrote to the older girls they had met, but my wife's mother's family never heard anymore of the three men who had stayed with them. But a fifteen year-old girl was left with a German soldier's endearing recollection of a Bavarian town, which Goethe, the greatest German poet, had called a "living picture book", Mittenwald.

from The Lone Star Iconoclast
Crawford Area Visitors Guide
March 19, 2003

German Society Chapter Has Its Roots In Crawford

By CAROL MOULTON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — In 1997, following a German genealogical and heritage conference held in Waco, Van Massirer of Crawford decided it was time to start a local chapter of the Texas German Society.

The Heart of Texas Chapter of the Texas German Society was organized in August 1997, with 25 charter members, and Van Massirer as President.

The society has held meetings in a variety of places over the years, from

churches and community center, to the current meeting place, the Texas Farm Bureau Service Center at 5800 Franklin Avenue in Waco.

"With our membership coming from cities all around Waco, we often hold the meetings in some of the other cities," said Van Massirer. "For instance, in March, the meeting will be held at Canaan Baptist Church outside Crawford on March 28, at 7 p.m., and the April meeting is scheduled to be held in Clifton."

Membership has gone as high as 110, and currently is between 70 and 80 members. The members come from all over Central Texas, including the cities of Crawford, Waco, Valley Mills, Mosheim, McGregor, Clifton, Gatesville, Mart, and Whitney.

The society is based on keeping the heritage of German ancestry alive and genealogical workshops are often held as research tools for members.

Teutonics: In The Land Of Milk And Honey

BY VAN D. MASSIRER
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

PRAIRIE CHAPEL — During the last half of the 19th century and continuing into the first few years of the 20th century, immigrants from the German-speaking areas of Europe began flocking to America in large numbers, seeking political and religious freedom and economic opportunities for themselves and their families.

They were attracted to America in no small measure by friends and relatives who had immigrated earlier and sent back glowing reports, sometimes exaggerated, and by agents who were hired to promote immigration.

Although relatively small numbers of people from these areas had been coming to America's shores since colonial times, it was not until about 1840 that large numbers of Teutonic people began settling in Texas, mainly in the coastal areas and the hill country.

Later, immigrants began a push across the state, and by the late 1800s, settlements began to spring up in central Texas. One of those settlements was in northwestern McLennan County, approximately 10-miles west of the small town of Crawford. That settlement later became known as the Prairie Chapel Community, and due to the somewhat unusual religious leanings of many of the immigrants, the area has also been referred to as "the land of milk and honey."

What set the immigrants in Prairie Chapel apart from their Lutheran and Catholic counterparts in most other areas of Texas was their Baptist faith.

While some came from Germany, most notably the Engelbrecht family, many of them came from the provinces of Bukovina and Galicia in the far-eastern reaches of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Prior to their arrival in Texas, many of this latter group had already been converted to the Baptist faith by

Ferdinand Massier, a missionary in Bukovina and Galicia. Although the immigrants met at first for worship in local homes and in a school house, it was



AGRICULTURE HERITAGE — Mary and Van Massirer help keep the tradition of an agriculture heritage alive in Prairie Chapel and have won championships in hay and grasslands competitions on a local, state, and national level for over 20 years, as seen by the wall of plaques behind them at their ranch home. — Staff Photo By Carol Moulton

only natural that they desired to establish a Baptist church in their new homeland.

Meeting in the home of Heinrich Engelbrecht, the church was organized on Oct. 25, 1891.

Engelbrecht was a beekeeper, and when the meeting participants noted the abundance of milk and honey on the table, it was decided to name the new church Canaan Baptist, hence the land of milk and honey.

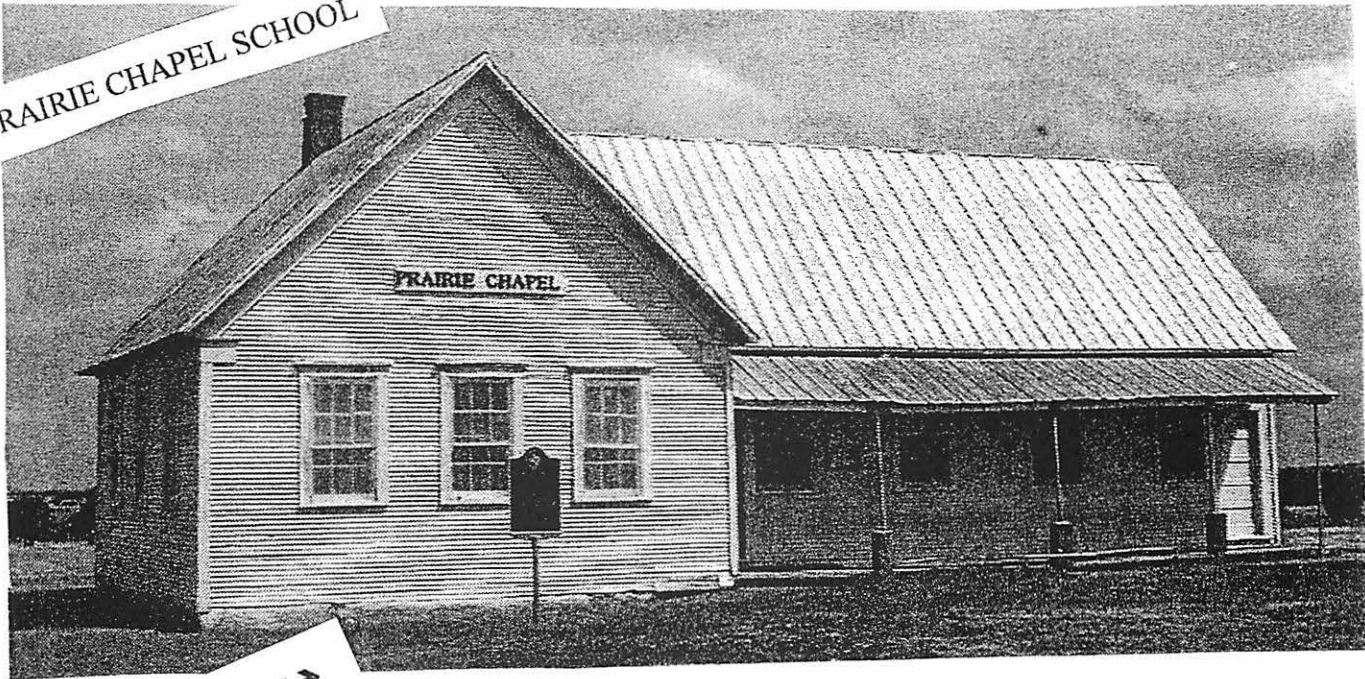
The new church registered 47 charter members with the surnames Althof, Charowecs, Engelbrecht, Fischer, Gerber, Goerz, Goettmann, Groth, Held, Hodel, Klass, Mack, Massier, Porth, Rabbe, Rueckrich, Schanz and Selzer.

The newly-formed congregation continued to meet in homes and in the

school house, which stood where the present cemetery is located. In the spring of 1894, the congregation decided to erect a church building, and a 30 by 50-foot wooden structure costing \$800 was built on land donated by Engelbrecht.

The congregation continued to flourish, reaching well over 100 members in later years. German surnames added include Apel, Bekkelund, Bieber, Bietendorf, Blum, Bohne, Buck, Buth, Dreyer, Freyer, Gauer, Heichert, Hintze, Hoeffner, Hoehn, Hoppe, Jaeckle, Koch, Kratzel, Krempin, Kuber, Lander, Landes, Landfried, Lengefeld, Lorenz, Luning, Massirer, Mattlage, Norgang, Rost, Sadowe, Schandler, Schaub, Schleichert, Spross, Treder, Weber, Wendeborn, Weschke, Wehmeyer and Westerfeld.

PRAIRIE CHAPEL SCHOOL



NOW →

THEN →



PRAIRIE CHAPEL SCHOOL — Once the learning center for all the children of the Prairie Chapel community, it is currently being considered for a museum in honor of the early days of settlement.

Most members of the early congregation took their religion very seriously, upheld the doctrines of their faith, and expected all other members to do the same. Since the first members were not many years removed from their Lutheran or Catholic upbringing, they occasionally struggled with the more restrictive standards embodied in their new faith.

The church records, recently translated from the original German to English, reflect these struggles in the numerous instances where members were disciplined, or in some cases even removed from the church rolls for conduct that the congregation deemed unacceptable.

The use of alcoholic beverages and dancing were strictly forbidden, and even being in places where those things occurred could bring on charges against a member. Minutes of the early business meetings attest to the fact that numerous people occasionally strayed from the straight and narrow path.

The church at first had no cemetery and burials were made in the Sadler Cemetery, located approximately one mile northwest of the church. The Canaan Cemetery was organized in 1894. The first burial was that of Karl Groth, a well-digger who was killed while inspecting the delayed detonation of a dynamite charge in a well. His grave is unmarked.

The earliest marked grave in the cemetery is that of Franz Massierer, who died in 1900. Franz was a descendant of a Massierer family (surname spellings are those used at the time) that immigrated from Germany to Austria in 1785.

In 1892, Franz, his wife Margaretha Loess, and six of their seven children immigrated from Galicia to the Prairie Chapel Community. While still in Galicia, Franz had been converted to the Baptist faith in 1884, so he quickly attempted to associate himself with the Canaan congregation when he arrived in Texas. Due to delays with obtaining his letter of membership from Galicia, he was not officially added to the Canaan rolls until 1894.

Just as the immigrants were serious about their religion, they were equally serious about education. Prior to the German immigrants' arrival, a school had been established in 1879 by the Irish people who were sparsely settled in the area.

The first school was a one-room building located about a quarter mile south of the present building. Due to some problems with the adjacent Osage School District, the Prairie Chapel School was moved to where the church cemetery is now located. In 1908, a new one-room building was built on the present site on what is now Prairie Chapel Road.

According to some of the older school alumni who still live in the community, the original building had floors that were constructed with narrow spaces between the boards to allow dirt to fall through. Both Marvin Engelbrecht and Carl Westerfield remember this kind of floor construction allowing some unwanted natural air conditioning in winter.

In 1913, a second room was added to accommodate the ever-increasing number of students, and in 1926, a third room was added — 1913 was also the first year for the state to provide books.

At its peak, some 70 students were enrolled in eight grades and studying reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, history and geography. All classes were conducted in English, requiring the early German-speaking students to learn a second language. With few exceptions, their immigrant parents recognized the need to learn the new language and were supportive of the learning process.

In the early days, students walked to school, some walking over four miles one-way. In wet and cold weather, shoes were removed and dried near the wood stove that provided heat for the building.

School buses did not appear until 1929 when Len Weiss built a bus body on a Model A Ford and for \$65 per month transported students to and from school.

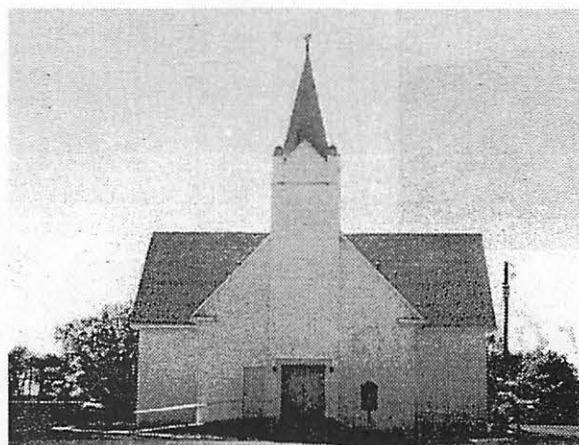
Lunches consisted of homemade bread or a biscuit, sausage, syrup, jelly, and an occasional hard-boiled egg, cookie, cake or fruit that was in season, all carried in a one-gallon syrup bucket. To have a lunch pail made from a washed out Red Top grease bucket or a Rex Jelly bucket was the height of luxury and the envy of other students.

Students in the early days were no different from present-day students in that they occasionally created a little mischief and got into trouble.

Marvin Matlage remembers one particular incident where students decided that instead of coming back in when the bell signaled the end of recess, they would make a run for Rainey's Creek, about a half mile north of the school. Their punishment was two weeks of no recesses.

Other forms of punishment, such as for disruptive behavior, might range from whippings to standing for indefinite periods of time about 18 inches from a wall with hands outstretched and two fingers touching the wall.

Although the school year usually began around the first of October, many students had to skip the first week or two of school in order to help their parents harvest the cotton crop. The school year ended in early May with all-day festivities on the last day of school that included barbecue, ballgames, and socializing by both parents and students.



Canaan Baptist Church

177. Coryell City Road, Crawford, (254) 486-2298

Although cotton was the main cash crop grown by the new immigrants, most of the land that they bought or rented was still in native sod when they arrived. Breaking up the sod and clearing the land of trees, stumps and rocks was a major undertaking.

Grazing lands had to be fenced to confine cattle along with the horses and mules used to pull farm implements. While most of the immigrants had owned no real estate or perhaps just a few acres in their native land, their well-known industrious and frugality helped them get started with a minimum of hardships and failures with much larger acreages in their new land.

Progress was slow at first, with World War I prompting a significant amount of anti-German sentiment, but things began to change in the 1920s and 1930s. Roads that had been little more than buggy trails were widened and graveled. Bridges were built over Rainey's and Bluff Creeks, and automobiles and tractors began to appear.

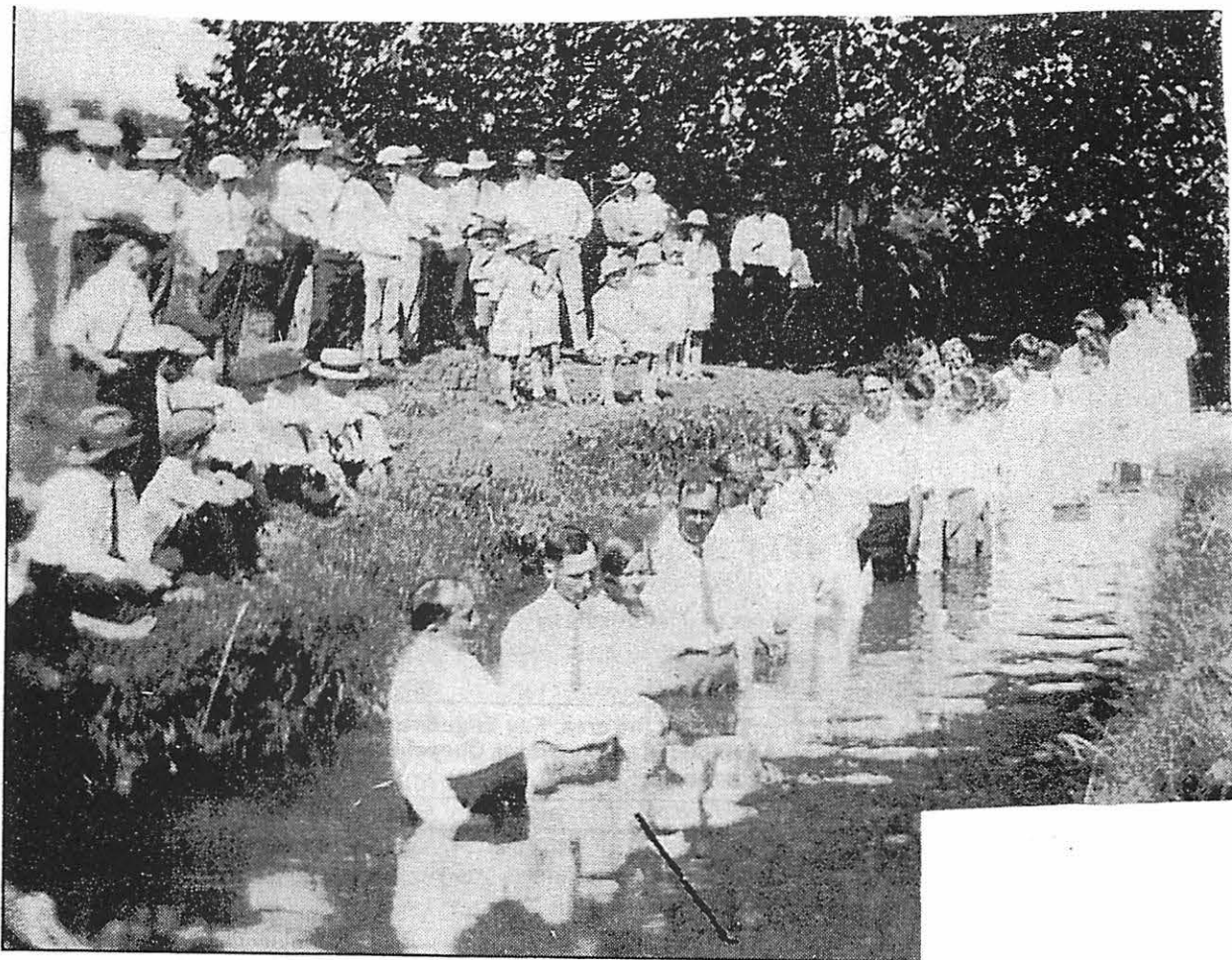
New and larger houses were built, some with carbide lights or Delco plants to provide improved lighting. Many families had telephones, and few grumbled about the party lines. Radios appeared, along with the accompanying windchargers, wind-powered generators that kept the batteries charged to power the radios. The immigrants were deservedly proud of what they had accomplished in a relatively short time.

In the late thirties, electricity became available and replaced kerosene lamps with a bulb that provided significantly more light than several lamps and provided refrigeration to replace the shroud-wrapped water coolers that had been used to preserve food.

After finishing eight years of schooling at Prairie Chapel, some students were transferring to Crawford to continue their education. Then in 1939, the Prairie Chapel School closed and consolidated with Crawford.

Life was "wunderbar" (wonderful), but then war clouds began to appear again, and World War II brought another round of anti-German sentiment.

Worship services in the German language, which had been limited earlier to once or twice a month at Canaan, were totally eliminated. Although some families continued to speak German in private, they never did it in public for fear of being associated with the Nazi movement in Germany.



Group baptism of members from the German Baptist congregation in the Prairie Hill Community performed in a nearby creek about 1928 by the Reverend C.C. Laborn

Following the conclusion of the war, the general situation began to improve for the descendants of the immigrant families who were now beginning to think of themselves as Americans.

Two wars and a strong desire to assimilate into the American culture took a heavy toll on their German identity. Although there was some limited German spoken occasionally, the younger generation, for the most part, rejected it.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in preserving ethnic heritage, and the descendants of the original German immigrants to Prairie Chapel are no exception to this.

The Canaan Church continues its ties to other German Baptist congregations in the U.S. and Canada, maintains its buildings in pristine condition, employs a full-time pastor and uses a perpetual care arrangement for its cemetery.

In addition, the newly formed Prairie Chapel School Association seeks to renovate the old school building and provide a museum to display school artifacts used by the children of German and Austrian immigrants.

And now and then, one can still hear a few words of

German spoken, raising hopes for those who want to preserve a proud heritage!

Emphasis on the German Baptists does not belittle the important presence of the Lutheran and Catholic immigrants. Their surnames include, among others, Gohlke, Manske, Mueller, Pietzsch, Pomerence, Rohloff and Willmann. The German immigrants — Baptist, Lutheran, and Catholic — have made important contributions to Central Texas life in the last 100 years.

Appreciation goes to the following individuals, all descendants of the original immigrants, who graciously consented to interviews and provided much of the information in the article: Marvin Engelbrecht, Minnie Weber Gauer, Jerry Gauer, Kay Engelbrecht Kimbrough, Agnes Gohlke Massirer, Armen Weiss, and Carl Westerfield.

THE GERMANS OF BUKOVINA

Many of the Germans who settled the Prairie Hill Community near Crawford, Texas, were immigrants from Bukovina, as mentioned in the newspaper article written by GTHS President, Van Massirer (see previous page). Bukovina was a thickly wooded region located in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, now divided between Romania and Ukraine, and was the source of three rivers that flowed to the Black Sea, including the Dniester. It was a multi-ethnic area of Germans, Poles, Romanians, Ukrainians, and others. Originally the region was known as Land of Beech trees and in German its name became *Buchenland*; in Polish, *Bukowina*; in Romanian, *Bucovina*; and in Ukrainian *Bukovyna*.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BUKOVINA

Bukovina, on the eastern slopes of the Carpathian mountains, was once the heart of the Romanian Principality of Moldavia, with the city of Suceava being made its capital in 1388. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Painted Monasteries of Arbora, Dragomirna, Humor, Moldovita, Putna, Sucevita, and Voronet were constructed under the patronage of Stefan the Great and his son Petru Rares. With their famous exterior frescoes, these monasteries remain some of the greatest cultural treasures of Romania, today.

Along with the rest of Romania, Bukovina fell under the control of the Ottoman Turks. It remained in Turkish control until it was occupied by the Russians, in 1769, then by the Austrians, in 1774. With the Treaty of Constantinople in 1775, control of Bukovina was given to the Austrian Empire. Administered as a district of the province of Galicia between 1786-1849, Bukovina was granted the status of a separate crown land and duchy in 1849. When the Austrian Empire was reorganized into the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary, in the Compromise of 1867, Bukovina, like Galicia, remained under Austrian administration, while the neighboring province of Transylvania was placed under Hungarian rule.

During World War I, Bukovina became a battlefield between Austrian and Russian troops. Although the Russians were finally driven out in 1917, Austria would lose Bukovina with the war, ceding the province to Romania in the Treaty of St. Germain.

On June 28, 1940, northern Bukovina was occupied by troops from the Soviet Union. It would change hands again during the course of World War II, but this half of Bukovina ended back in Soviet hands, and is today the Chernivetska oblast of Ukraine. Southern Bukovina is now part of Suceava county, Romania.

IMMIGRATION TO BUKOVINA

Bukovina covers an area of 10,422 square kilometers. In the 1775 census of this province, its population was only about 60,000. To encourage the development of this sparsely-settled land, the Austrian emperors subsidized the immigration of colonists to Bukovina. After the end of these official immigration programs, colonists would continue to arrive at their own expense. As a result, by the census of 1910, the population of Bukovina had risen to over 800,000.

People of many different ethnic groups took part in this immigration, including Armenians, Hungarians, Jews, Poles, Romanians and Ukrainians (at this time, generally referred to as *Ruthenians*). German colonists came from three distinct areas: Swabians and Palatines, from what is now Baden-Wurttemberg and Rheinland-Pfaltz, in southwest Germany; German Bohemians, from the Bohemian Forest (*Bohmerwald*), now in the Czech Republic; and Zipsers, from the Zips mountains, now Spis county, Slovakia.

EMIGRATION FROM BUKOVINA

As the population of Bukovina expanded, so did the pressures for emigration. Farmers with large families could no longer divide their homesteads among their children, and industry in Bukovina had never grown to the extent it had elsewhere in the Austrian Empire. Land agents in the New World further enticed them with free homestead land.

The first wave of Bukovina German emigration took place in the 1880's, with groups going to Ellis, Kansas, Lewis County, Washington, Saskatchewan, Canada, and Rio Negro, Brazil. A second wave of emigration to the Americas took place in the years preceding and following World War I. Many of these emigrants would join those who preceded them, and others found industrial employment in New York City.

World War II would provide the major impetus for the Bukovina Germans to leave their homeland. After the Soviet Union annexed northern Bukovina in 1940 - while the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was still in effect - an agreement between the Soviet Union and Germany, and a similar agreement between Romania and Germany, allowed the ethnic Germans of Bukovina to voluntarily leave for Germany. Nearly all Bukovina Germans, some 95,000 people, accepted the terms of this resettlement (*umsiedlung*) to the Reich. In 1945, many of these, who were sent to German-occupied land in Poland or Czechoslovakia, would find them-

selves refugees again, fleeing from the advancing Red Army.

The fate of these Bukovina Germans was determined by their location at the end of the war. Many would settle in West Germany and Austria (with some emigrating to the United States, Canada, and elsewhere), others in East Germany. Some were forced to return to Romania, from where they were finally granted permission to emigrate again to Germany over the following decades. Only a very small minority of Bukovina Germans remain in Romania or Ukraine, today.

In 1886, Bukovina German families began to settle in Ellis, Kansas. While the descendants of these settlers continue to compose a large percentage of the town's population, over the decades the younger generations would begin to lose their understanding of where this homeland was, and what their ancestors had experienced there. In December of 1988, a committee of interested individuals formed the Bukovina Society of the Americas to promote recognition of the immigrants from Bukovina and encourage historical research of their heritage.

The Bukovina Society Headquarters-Museum, located in the former First Congregational Church building, in Ellis, maintains a collection of artifacts from Bukovina emigrants, along with a small library of books. An archive of additional material is also located at the Center for Ethnic Studies at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. The Bukovina Society conducts a meeting each year with cultural and historical activities of international interest. Information can be gained by writing to:

Bukovina Society of the Americas
P.O. Box 81
Ellis, KS 67637-0081

The Bukovina Society can be found on the World Wide Web at a site

<http://members.aol.com/LJensen/bukovina.html>

created and updated by society member Larry Jensen. He can be contacted by e-mail at

LJensen@aol.com

BUKOVINA SOCIETY



Read about the society's Bukovinafest on next page →

The emblem used by the Bukovina Society of the Americas and other Bukovina organizations worldwide was the coat of arms of our ancestral homeland. It was awarded in 1862 by Emperor Franz Joseph I to the duchy of Buchenland (Bukovina). It depicts an Aurochs, the extinct wild ox of Europe, from which today's cattle are probably descended. The head of the Aurochs is surrounded by three golden stars.

BUKOVINA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS

BUKOVINAFEST 2003

Ellis and Hays, Kansas
September 18-21, 2003

submitted by Van Massirer

THE PROGRAM

Thursday, September 18, Tours of churches and historical sites in Ellis County

- 1:30 p.m. Departure from Vagabond Best Western Motel, Hays
6:30 Early Bird Social --- cash bar & buffet at Vagabond Restaurant, Hays

Friday, September 19, Bukovina Society Headquarters, Ellis

- 8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
New exhibits -- museum and computer room open under direction of Werner Zoglauer
- 9:30 Welcome -- Oren Windholz (Hays, KS)
200 years Fürstenthal -- Rebecca Hageman (Wichita, KS)
Break
- 10:30 Schwarzthal History, tour and research -- Doug Reckmann (Portland, OR)
- 11:20 Group lunch - general meeting of members and interested Bukovinians
- 1:00 p.m. *Umsiedlung, Flucht und Vertreibung*: World War II Population transfer of the Bukovina-Germans -- Michael Augustin (Leonberg, Germany), Dr. Sophie A. Welisch (Congers, NY) & Werner Zoglauer (Naperville, IL).
- I. Causes
 - II. Process
 - III. Camp Life
 - IV. Flight
 - V. Postwar Assimilation
 - VI. Panel discussion; question-and-answer period

Friday, September 19, Knights of Columbus Hall, Ellis

- 6:30 p.m. Social and light buffet
- 7:30 Halt the Hun: Anti-German Hysteria During World War I -- Dr. William D. Keel (Lawrence, KS)
- 8:00 Mixer -- Joe Erbert (Ellis, KS) and friends

Saturday, September 20, Ellis County Fair Grounds, Hays

Note: a program brochure of all events and times will be given on entry to the Fair Grounds for the many cultural events and presentations. Free Admission.

- 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies of Midwest Deutsche Oktoberfest
Schnitzelbank – Dr. William D. Keel
- 11:00 Continuous Polka Music, German food booths, genealogy/book room and craft booths
- 1:00 p.m. Apple Strudel demonstration --Irene Zerfas (Hays, KS) and friends
- 2:00 Wheat threshing demonstration with antique equipment
- 3:00 Fashion show featuring the attire of early day Bukovinians and other German pioneers.
- 11:00 Closing

Sunday, September 21, Ellis County Fair Grounds, Hays

- 10:00 a.m. Polka Mass
- 11:00 Continuation of booths and Oktoberfest activities, concluding with a polka jam session featuring all the bands of the fest and area musicians.
- 1:00-3 p.m. Cultural presentations, lectures & traditions of the Volga Germans.
- 6:00 Closing

Send to: **Bukovina Society, P O Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637**

Please reserve space for me for the following

- _____ Thursday, September 18th Tour _____ Early bird social and buffet (dutch treat)
- _____ Friday, September 19th lunch (\$5.00) _____ Social (cash bar), buffet (\$5.00) and mixer

Name _____ Address _____

Programs and presentations are free and open to everyone due to the generous donation of time, travel and expense by the presenters and by grants from the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Kansas Council for the Humanities. The only fees are for meals.

for more information, contact the Bukovina Society of the Americas at LJensen@aol.com or contact GTHS President Van Massirer at vmassirer@yahoo.com

Racing Against Time

UT professor strives to document dying German dialect

By Lori Slaughenhaupt
Daily Texan Staff

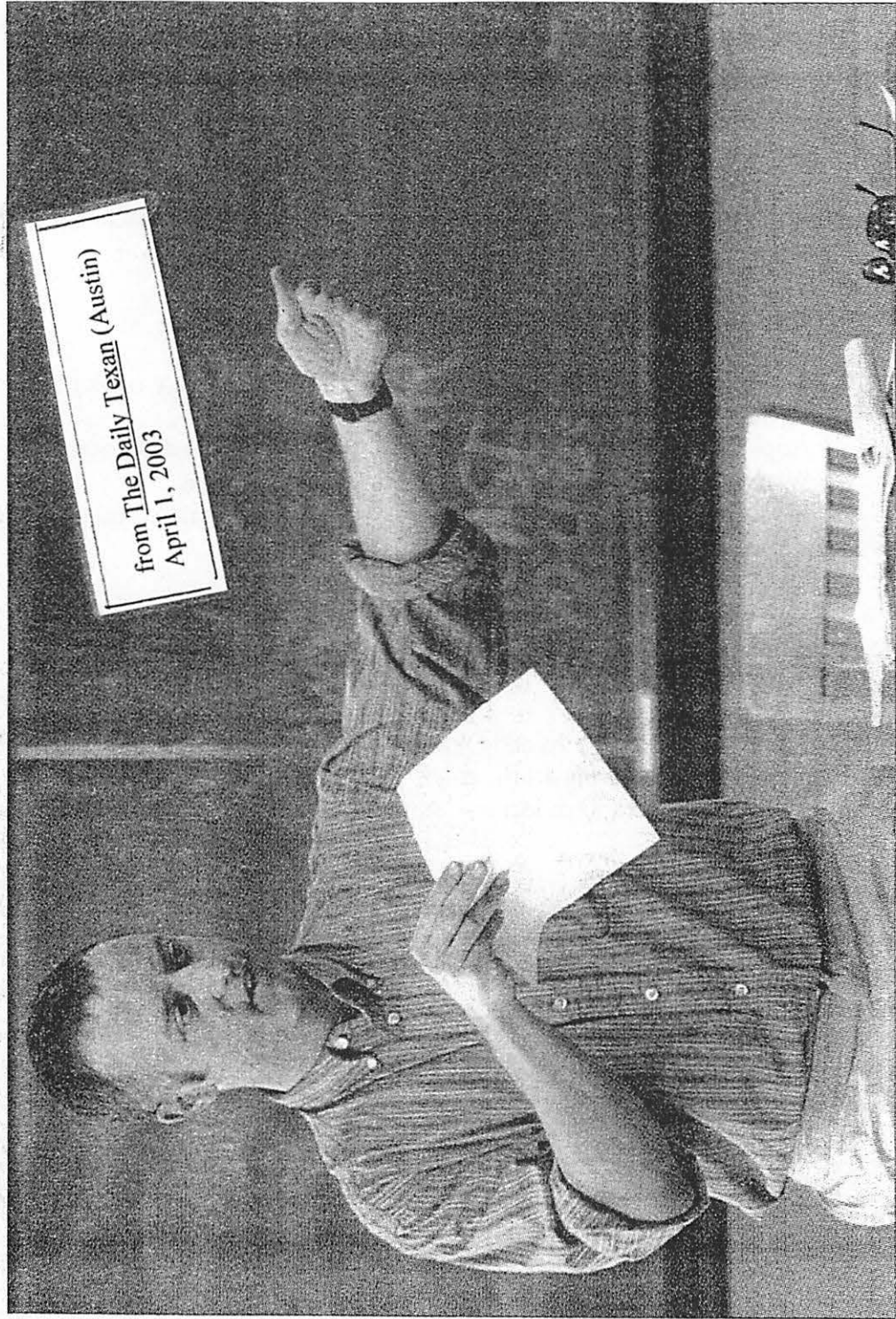
It all began when he was eating at a restaurant in Fredericksburg, Texas.

During lunch, Hans Boas, an assistant professor of Germanic Studies at the University, overheard a conversation that he quickly found would impact his life.

"People were sitting next to me speaking German, and I thought, 'Hey, what's going on?'" said Boas, who is from Göttingen, Germany. "When I got back to Austin, I went to the library, and there was all this stuff on Texas-German [dialect] from research done in the '50s and '60s."

After reading the research, Boas found that English, Spanish and German were once the primary languages spoken in Texas. He decided to research the dying Texas-German dialect before it was gone forever.

"What struck me about Texas-German was that after reading descriptions from the '50s and '60s, I realized that all of the sudden, it's different," Boas said. "In just 40 years, the sounds, grammar and word use has changed."



David Finky/Daily Texan Staff

Hans Boas, an assistant professor of Germanic studies, teaches class Thursday. Boas founded the Texas German Dialect Project in September 2001 after receiving a grant from the dean of liberal arts. The project's goal is to document the dialect from interviews with remaining fluent speakers.

viewing process is often tedious, but that he has learned a lot. "I transcribe and translate the interviews onto this program on the computer called [English Language and Nonproliferation Program]," Slocum said. "The program allows you to annotate the wave files from these interviews and see the annotation and the translation."

"I think this is essentially a kind of a once-in-a-lifetime chance to do something like this, and I think it's a very worthwhile thing to do."

Jarrod Slocum, student technician for the Department of Germanic Studies

Interviews are translated and transcribed in two-minute time segments by participants such as Slocum, and are then put into a "for review" folder that is later assessed by a native German speaker to ensure accuracy. With each interview divided into about 20 segments, the transcribing and translating process can consume about one to two hours of time, but documentation of the interviews is important, Slocum said.

"I think this is essentially kind of a once-in-a-lifetime chance to do something like this, and I think it's a very worthwhile thing to do," Slocum said.

Alton Rahe, 71, was raised in a German community in Texas. As a child, he and his friends spoke German fluently until they went to school, he said. "We ran around bowling alleys and had fun and always spoke in German," Rahe said. "We would

laughingly say that if my parents didn't want us to understand what they were talking about, they'd speak English because we as children were only speaking German. Germans settled in much of Central Texas after the 1840s. It was then that the Adelsverein, the Society of Noblemen — was organized in what is now Germany and encouraged thousands to go to Texas.

Known only as the "Verrein" in Texas, the group secured land for German immigrants in Texas under a constitution formed March 25, 1844. The constitution promised "to protect the emigrants on their long journey and in their new home, and to employ every means to secure for them a new home across the seas."

Rahe's family, who are all German immigrants, kept up with the German language for generations. Rahe said that Texas German is going away largely because of the incorporation of American culture into families.

"My parents pretty much kept up with [German] all these years — everybody's come from Germany," Rahe said. "I'm full-blooded German, and, therefore, the opportunity of German continuing has been better than had we married into some other Czech family or whatever. If you end up getting married to someone who isn't German, the odds of the German culture continuing in your family aren't very good."

The American culture, which especially began to become incorporated after World War I in the 1920s and 1930s, is the reason Texas-German has not been passed to future generations, Boas said. The introduction of English-only laws after the world wars made it even more difficult for the German culture — especially the language — to be passed on.

"Because of the war situation, everything German was bad," Boas said. "Parents didn't want to pass on the language to their children because they would have a disadvantage over English-speaking students; they would be the minority and laughed at."

A little of the anti-German sentiment in Texas extends through today, Boas said. Many parents did not teach their children German, so the knowledge of the Texas-German dialect is contained only in the older generation who still speak it on occasion.

"Parents didn't want to pass on the language to their children because they would have a disadvantage over English-speaking students; they would be the minority and laughed at."

Hans Boas, assistant professor of Germanic studies

"A lot of Texas Germans still feel to some degree stigmatized or that it's not cool to speak German," Boas said. "In combination with social, political and economic developments, the English language is the predominant language. Many don't speak German anymore because business, religious, education and legal systems all are in English. German is no longer necessary to get along in life."

The English-speaking culture was practically imposed on the German Americans, as they were not allowed to speak German in public or in school, so many settlers succumbed to the transition of a German culture to an American culture, Rahe said. "To me at the time, it was a real

effort for everybody to be part of the melting pot," Rahe said. "If you lived in America, you're going to speak English and live the American way and not insist on carrying your ancestors' ways into your life — and you did this unconsciously. At the time, we were all desperately working to become more American, and of course, the two world wars didn't help the German issue at all."

Though German traditions were slowly being forced out of the communities because of the anti-German war sentiments, a few German traditions have recently been reinstated into Texas communities such as in New Braunfels.

"We have a lot of ethnic celebrations nowadays that would never have taken place 50 to 60 years ago, like New Braunfels' Wurstfest," Rahe said. "I don't think that organization would have ever gotten off the ground if somebody had suggested that after the second world war."

Besides striving to document the Texas-German dialect before it's gone, Boas also thinks it is important to educate people about the large German cultural background in Texas.

"I find that hardly anybody here realizes that much of Texas was settled by German immigrants," Boas said. "I think one of the most important missions of the University is to combine research with teaching and community outreach."

The Texas German Dialect Project combines all three aspects. "Texas has this rich history of culture in terms of language and up until World War I, Texas was trilingual," Boas said. "What makes Texas so unique is that it is much more open toward cultures that are different. You don't see that in other states."

Crowds enjoy Saengerfest at Concordia

If Saturday afternoon's turnout is any indication, the Fruehling Saengerfest will be returning to Bellville for many years to come.

The event, co-sponsored by the Bellville Lions Club and the Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society, brought a large crowd to Concordia Hall Saturday for an afternoon of German songs, featuring the Houston Liederkrantz and Houston Saengerbund.

The event was free to the public and those attending could also purchase a barbecue meal, desserts and refreshments.

Also performing was Janis Pless, a member of the Sealy High School German Club and choir and the Bellville High School polka band as led by BHS Band Director John Pritchett.

Lion Ian Bader served as master of ceremonies for the event, which also featured a barbecue meal, and the Rev. Milroy Gregor of St. John Lutheran Church gave a prayer in both English and German.

Austin County Judge Carolyn Bilski gave the greetings from the county and noted that the majority of those in attendance were from outside Austin County.

Bilski said, "You talk about economic development, this is it. These people will go back home and tell others what a great time they had here and more will come."

The Houston Liederkrantz was formed in 1924 with the older Germans and recent immigrants forming a male chorus. By the 1930s a mixed choir existed.

The Liederkrantz was formed for social and recreational activities through involvement and participation in German language, music, art and culture.

In 1993, the "Shanty-Chor" was formed and it sings sea shanties in Low German, High German and English.

The Houston Saengerbund (Singing Society) was one of the all-male singing organizations was founded in 1883 which provided the opportunity to sing songs in German.

In 1937, the club officially began admitting women as members. The Saengerbund continues to perform at activities throughout the area.

The Texas German Society was founded in 1983. Its purpose is to preserve and promote the German heritage, culture, and language.

At this time there are 21 chapters in Texas.

The Bluebonnet Chapter organized in July 2002 and meets on Wednesday at 7 p.m. of every other month at the Hill Center in Sealy.

The club currently has 51 members. The Lions Club of Bellville was chartered on Nov. 20, 1940. Currently there are 111 members in the club which meets on the first and third Thursday of every month at noon at Concordia Hall.

The club has remodelled and restored Concordia Hall and is continuing to upgrade its facilities.

submitted by Rodney Koenig
from Bellville Times, May 1, 2003



HOUSTON SAENGERBUND - - The Houston Saengerbund was among the two German groups that performed Saturday afternoon at the Saengerfest at Bellville's Concordia Hall. The event was co-sponsored by the Bellville Lions Club and the Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society.



ALL TOGETHER NOW - - Members of the Houston Liederkrantz perform during the Fruehling Saengerfest Saturday afternoon at Bellville's Concordia Hall. The German festival was co-sponsored by the Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society and the Bellville Lions Club (see story Page 6).

THE NEW YORK TIMES

from Austin American-Statesman, April 21, 2003

Fredericksburg marks its German heritage

FREDERICKSBURG

The way to see the fires was to climb up onto the rickety wooden grandstand. It was built for shouting at racehorses, but there were no racehorses on the night before Easter, only people dressed as rabbits, settlers, Indians and wildflowers.

They were the main characters in a performance to teach the children that they are the descendants of Germans, inheritors of a peculiar and fading kind of Texas heritage. But the real stars were the fires, the 30-foot conflagration on the race-track field and the smaller barrel fires on the hillsides.

"This pageant is something we need to keep up that German tradition, because we're losing some of it," said Dorman Schmidt, an organizer of the Fredericksburg

Easter Fires Pageant, which has been held almost every year since 1947.

The fires commemorate the ones said to have been set more than 150 years ago by the Comanches to signify their

acceptance of a peace treaty with German immigrants.

People say that on the night before Easter in 1847, the original fires scared German children, who did not understand that the flames signified peace.

Fredericksburg Journal

from the New York Times
April 20, 2003

In a Small Texas Town, They Keep the Easter Fires Burning

By MICHAEL BRICK



FREDERICKSBURG, Tex., April 20 — The way to see the fires was to

climb up onto the rickety wooden grandstand. It was built for shouting at racehorses, but there were no racehorses on the night before Easter, only people dressed as rabbits, settlers, Indians and wildflowers.

They were the principal characters in a performance put on to teach the children of Fredericksburg that they are the descendants of Germans, inheritors of a peculiar and fading kind of Texas heritage. But the real stars were the fires, the 30-foot-tall conflagration right out on the racetrack field and the smaller barrel fires visible on the hillsides.

"This pageant is something we need to keep up that German tradition, because we're losing some of it," said Dorman Schmidt, an organizer of the Fredericksburg Easter Fires Pageant, which has been held just about every year since 1947.

The fires commemorate the ones said to have been set more than 150 years ago by the Comanches to signify their acceptance of a peace treaty with German immigrants.

People here tell their children that on the night before Easter in 1847, the original fires scared German children, who did not understand that the flames signified peace. Legend also has it that German mothers calmed those children by telling them the fires were set by a rabbit who was boiling eggs for an Easter celebration.

The fires may have another root as well. A handbook published by the Texas Historical Society points out that the people of northwestern Germany — ancestors of some of today's Fredericksburg residents — lighted Easter fires on the hills for centuries. The practice might even have started as a pre-Christian celebration of spring.

Be that as it may, the tradition is inextricably linked to this area's German-Texan history.

Along roads all around the state, there are still plenty of shops selling kolache, a German pastry, and meat markets with more sauerbraten than barbecue. The Marketplatz in the center of Fredericksburg features the Vereins Kirche museum of local history. Maifest is next month, and every year there is a traditional German Christmas celebration, Zweite Weihnachten.

This town of about 9,000 people, 70 miles west of San Antonio, is teetering on the cusp between authentic ethnicity and commercial preciousness.

"The old mom-and-pop stores are turning into tourist attractions," said Troy Ottmers, 47, an oil salesman who has been a participant in the pageant since childhood and a principal organizer since 1980. "We've got a little more corporate, I guess you could say. We've lost a little bit of the hometown flavor."

All day Saturday, Main Street was lined with cars, about half of them sport utility vehicles, and the streets were crowded with people who had come for the offerings of the furniture and bric-a-brac vendors who have taken over nearly every storefront here.

"The city fathers have done an incredible job of promoting this place," said Doris Williams, a volunteer police officer who strolls the main street to offer tourists directions and control crowds. Her fellow officer Betty Jo Cubbison said that "a lot of the old-timers are leaving us, and that's sad to see."

There is an H.E.B. supermarket here now, a Blockbuster video store and a business called Hot Spot Tanning.

At Romantiques, a place of plush carpets and high ceilings, fountains

and statues are sold. A four-foot metal crucifix can be had for \$1,250, and a carved wooden squirrel costs \$19.50.

Randy and Lisa Larson of Dallas shopped at the store today, but they also planned to visit Comfort, a town about 20 miles south of here.

Fredericksburg, Mrs. Larson said, is "a nice little hill country town" that "seems like it's getting discovered."

Mr. Larson complimented her choice of phrase and added that he hoped Comfort was "less 'discovered.'"

"There'll be less new stuff made to look like it's old," he said.

Among the last of the old businesses on Main Street is Dooley's 5-10 & 25¢ Store, which opened in 1923. The place sells socks, cowboy hats, brooms, underwear, notepads, nails, toilet fixtures, flea collars, bathmats, high chairs, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, signs that say "Chicken Xing," sewing kits, Texas flags, spray adhesive, Raggedy Ann

Holding on to a
German-Texan
tradition in a
changing world.



Photographs by Kelly West for The New York Times

As the Easter fires raged in Fredericksburg, Tex., on Saturday night, residents dressed as bunnies stirred eggs in buckets of dye.



Two other residents, George Weber and Polly Zenner, got into costume for the Easter pageant, a tradition since 1947.

dolls and rain gauges.

Tim Dooley, grandson of the store's founder, says Dooley's now banks on novelty appeal to tourists "because you don't see variety stores all the time."

Fredericksburg, he said, is losing its small-town feel because outsiders have moved here seeking precisely that aspect of the place.

"People who move here, who have not lived here all their life, come to —" he said, and then paused to answer his cellphone. He continued: "As soon as they get here, they want us to close the door. They don't want anybody else to come."

Even the pageant has started to change, gradually. It is held at the racetrack now, because the H.E.B. store stands on its original site. The fuel for the bonfire consists mostly of peach tree clippings, not tires. And the Indian characters no longer portray the sacrifice of a young woman, a scene that used to be shown in a historical tableau.

Still the fires burn, and as they lighted the hill country on Saturday night, the grandstand was filled with applause. The boys and girls in their costumes danced to "Fraulein" and "Here Comes Peter Cottontail."

As far as attracting outsiders is concerned, "the main events in Fredericksburg were the county fair, the Easter Fires and the Fourth of July," Mr. Ottmers, the pageant organizer, said, speaking of his youth. Now, he said, having a town full of tourists is "an every-weekend occurrence. It's gotten to be every day."

Ho, ho, no! America's Santa invasion irks Austrians

Austin American-Statesman ♦ Friday, December 12 2002

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

VIENNA, Austria — There's an unwelcome guest at Vienna's famous Christmas market these days, lurking among stalls that sell hot punch and kitschy baubles, handing out sweets to guileless children, casting his bulky shadow over the crib that depicts the birth of Jesus.

His name is Santa Claus, but to a growing number of resentful Austrians, he might as well be Mickey Mouse or the Marlboro man.

Santa has become the latest symbol of the ineluctable creep of American popular culture and commerce around the world. In Austria, birthplace of the hymn "Silent Night" and other beloved Christmas traditions, the rotund gent in the red suit is provoking a Yuletide backlash.

"When I see people dressed up as Santa, I wonder what they're thinking," said Horst Strauss, as he gestured to stroller-pushing dads and footloose teenagers, all wearing red Santa hats. "This is the guy who comes down the

chimney and gives American children their presents."

Strauss said he thinks Austrians should celebrate their own symbol of Christmas, the Christkind, or Christ-child, who, like Santa, also comes noiselessly to leave gifts under the tree on Christmas Eve.

He and other Austrians have started an organization, called the Pro-Christkind Association, which is determined to prevent the secular Santa from muscling aside their venerated religious figure.

continued →

"It's more to protect the Christkind than to attack Santa Claus," said Strauss, 24, a pilot for Austrian Airlines.

One might think otherwise, judging from the stickers he and fellow campaigners were handing to visitors and shopkeepers out at the market. They depict the lovable father of Christmas, with a red line drawn across him, under the slogan, "We believe in the Christkind."

In Innsbruck, the Tyrolean capital where the movement began, the stickers have popped up in store windows. Campaigners there are asking merchants to show their support by banishing Santa and his reindeer from their windows, in favor of images of the Christkind and angels.

Members of the group said the Santa Claus phenomenon exploded in the past three years. They attribute it to globalization, which brings Christmas television shows and movies to Austria, as well as to worldwide holiday marketing campaigns by American corporations.

The same trends turned Halloween, once observed here only as a day to remember the dead, into a major commercial holiday.

"Santa Claus has been used by

commercial interests to generate consumption at Christmas," said Philipp Tengg, a former seminarian, who helped start the Pro-Christkind Association and is its chief spokesman.

Tengg said the modern likeness of Santa is a creation of the Coca-Cola Co., which uses the figure, conveniently dressed in Coke's red-and-white corporate colors, to sell its product in winter. Santa, it seems, is viewed here as another example of the corrosive global reach of

American multinationals.

The critics are not comforted by the fact that Santa's provenance is European. He is derived from St. Nicholas, a revered Catholic saint who still gives gifts to well-behaved children in Austria on Dec. 6.

The cult of St. Nicholas ebbed in Protestant parts of Europe after the Reformation, with the exception of Holland, which clung to the legend in the form of a kindly figure called Sinterklass. The Dutch brought him to

the New World, where the English-speaking population adopted him as Santa Claus.

While it is true that Coca-Cola popularized the red-suited Santa in a 1930s ad campaign, the original image of a man with twinkling eyes and white beard was drawn in 1862 for Harper's Weekly by Thomas Nast, a noted caricaturist, who was a German immigrant. Germany has its own version of the gift-giver, known as Weihnachtsman, or Christmas man.

"We sent him to America, and now America is sending him back to Europe," said Erich Leitenberger, a spokesman for the Catholic archdiocese of Vienna.

Although less than a fifth of Austrians attend Mass each week, Leitenberger said he was not worried that Santa would eclipse the Christ-child.

"I believe that in the minds of children, the Christkind occupies the highest level, while Santa Claus is a sort of helper," he said.

submitted by Julia Germany

FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEW BRAUNFELS

According to Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage, the first Mass for the German Catholic colonists at New Braunfels was held outdoors by a visiting bishop in 1846. A log cabin was built as a church in 1847 and later used as a school building. The cornerstone of the present limestone church was laid in the Summer of 1871 and the church was named for Saints Peter and Paul. It was enlarged in 1963.

THE ZINKENBURG AT NEW BRAUNFELS

According to The Handbook of Texas, the Zinkenburg was a fortress-stockade built by the first German colonists who reached the site of New Braunfels in 1845. It was located on a steep bluff on the east bank of Comal Creek where Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church today stands. The pioneer settlers set up tents within the walls of the pallisade and called it Zinkenburg for Nicholaus Zink, a Bavarian engineer, who supervised construction.

THE GTHS ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE AT NEW BRAUNFELS, OCTOBER 10-12

A rolling piece of history

The traditional bowling game of ninepin hasn't changed much.

BY VINCENT T. DAVIS
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

In 1940, 8-year-old Moe Schwab was a whiz at setting pins for ninepin bowlers at the Solms Bowling Alley across from his house in New Braunfels.

Before the ball returned to the bowler, Schwab already had set up the remaining pins. He was paid 35 cents for a night's work.

Sixty-three years later, pin-setters are paid much more, but not much else about the game has changed.

"The pins are still set by hand by kids," Schwab said, "just like when my dad bowled."

Schwab, president of Team Texas USA ninepin bowling, is one of many bowlers in Bexar, Guadalupe and Comal counties who continue playing this time-honored sport.

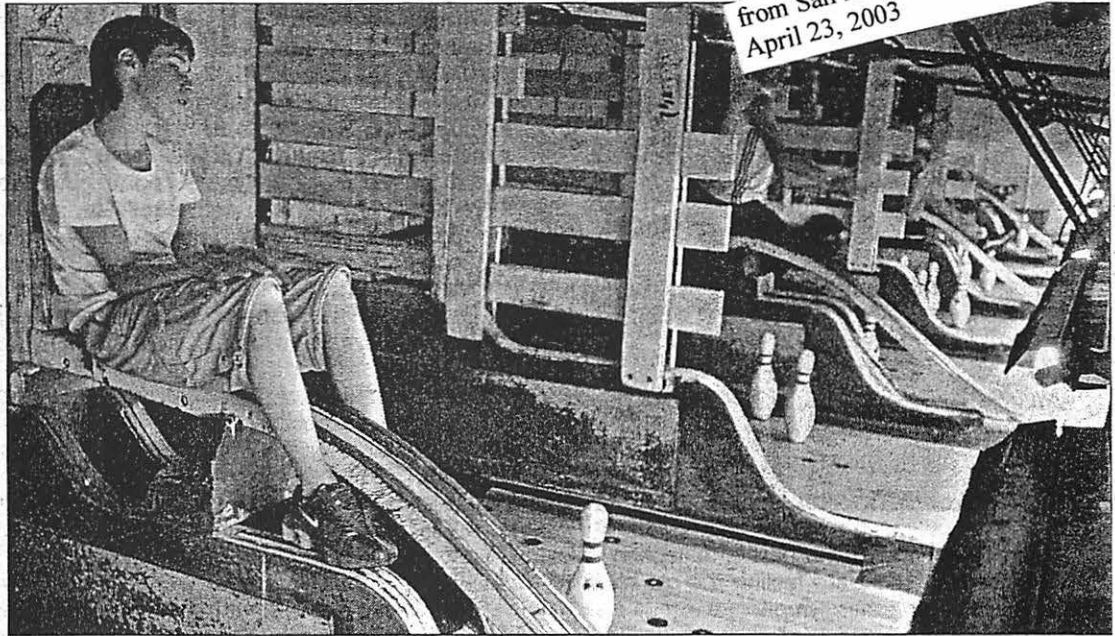
Ninepin is a bowling game resembling tenpins, but played without the headpin. Legend says the Dutch brought an early version of the sport to North America in the 1700s, but it also was highly popular with the German settlers who came to the Hill Country in the 1840s.

The sport expanded from small, dimly lit taverns in the 1870s to separate bowling alleys, including ones established at the start of the 20th century in the Tri-County area and in San Antonio.

The Hill Country is one of the last places where ninepin bowling still can be played, and 16 clubs remain in the Tri-County area. According to the "Handbook of Texas," ninepin bowling has disappeared from the rest of the United States.

Besides the number of pins, there are other differences.

As opposed to the triangle setting for tenpin bowling, nine-



from San Antonio Express-News
April 23, 2003

KAREN L. SHAW/STAFF

Youngsters, including 11-year-old Katie Koriath (left), send back the balls and reset the pins for ninepin bowling at the Freiheit Club in New Braunfels.

pins are set in a diamond formation.

A strike in ninepin is awarded nine points instead of 10 unless the center pin, marked with a red top, is standing, which earns 12 points. The captain picks six members who get two rolls per frame.

Tenpin bowling, in fact, arose from ninepin bowling. Ninepin was banned in the Northern states in the 1840s because of gambling associated with the sport. A 10th pin was added to bypass the law.

"Ninepin bowling derived from German bowling," said Jerry Graham, member of the Cibolo Bowling Club.

The Cibolo organization, now located on North Main Street near Buffalo Trail, was founded in 1898 and still has plenty of players. Seventy of the 200 members listed on the rolls are active.

The club features bowling on Saturday and Sunday, including upcoming tournaments for old-timers (50 and older) and pot bowling for men, ladies and mixed teams.

"We think the game is more exciting than tenpin bowling because it's more family-oriented," Graham said.

Members of the Freiheit Club on FM 1101 in New Braunfels likely would agree with Graham's assessment.

On a recent Tuesday night, old friends welcomed Schwab with traditional German greetings as the sound of pins thundered in the background.

Players say ninepin is a bit more old-fashioned than its tenpin cousin.

Unlike tenpin bowling alleys, the scoreboards at a ninepin venue don't flash and buzzers don't blare.

And when a food order came up during Schwab's visit, the call wasn't blasted across an intercom. It came courtesy of a strong shout from 70-year-old Gladys Dreibrodt, the lone cook at the lanes.

Dreibrodt first took up bowling in nearby Zorn after some urging by her husband. She has been a member of the club for 30 years, and her daughter, Lois, 50, is the club's secretary.

At the end of the orange-and-white lanes, the legs of teens tucked above the gutter dangled after each ball was rolled. Just as generations before them have done, young pin-setters placed pins like clockwork, then climbed back to their perch above the lanes.

Jackie Kraft, 69, remembers when the clubs were thick with clouds of cigarette smoke and scores were kept on blackboards.

"It's changed quite a bit," Kraft said, watching bowlers with his friend Schwab.

Vern Taft, 73, a late bloomer, picked the game up six years ago after years of watching his daughters bowl. Now each Tuesday, the retired law enforcement officer joins them and his son-in-law, Donald Stange, 42, president of the Freiheit Club.

Stange said he's seen an increase in membership recently.

"It happens to be on an upswing now. It's a team sport; you sink or swim as a team," Stange said.

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John O. Meusebach Inducted Into Texas Trail Of Fame

John O. Meusebach has been inducted into the Texas Trail of Fame, located in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District. Meusebach was a German immigrant who was the founder of Fredericksburg and later Castell and Lenington in Llano County.

Meusebach came to Texas in 1843 and negotiated, wrote and signed the famous Meusebach-Comanche Treaty of 1847 that opened up more than three million acres beyond the San Saba River for colonization. In 1851, he was elected a state senator for Comal, Bexar and Medina counties.

Ceremonies commemorating the induction took place in the Fort Worth Stockyards Nation Historic District and a marker was placed in Meusebach's honor. Other inductees included Lady Bird Johnson, Judge Roy Bean, M. L. Leddy, Tex Ritter, Calamity Jane, Jim Courtright, Wild Bill Hickok, Clayton Moore, Jay Silverheels, Ripley Arnold, and Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross.

The Texas Trail of Fame is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to honoring individuals who have made a contribution to the western heritage and western way of life. To date there have been 84 individuals inducted into the Texas Trail of Fame. For more information you can access their website at www.texastrailoffame.org

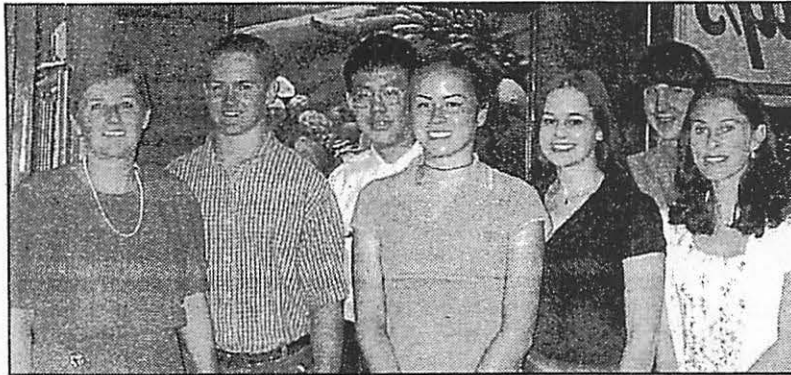


submitted by
Joe Burges
from Mason
County News,
February 19, 2003

Patsy Marschall Stewart, great-granddaughter of John O. Meusebach and Ben Tomacara, descendant of Comanche Chief Quannah Parker.

from Round Rock Leader, April 24, 2003

Westwood Student wins trip to Germany



From left: Sandi Mays, Scott Smith, John Sheu, Erika Hetherington, Kirsten Gudmundson, Corwyn Ritchie and Sandra Megan

Every year, the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) sponsors a testing program for American high school students where they compete for a scholarship for a four-week, all expense paid trip to Germany.

Erika Hetherington, a sophomore at Westwood, was chosen as one of the 46 students nationwide to win the scholarship to Germany.

"I'm so excited to receive this

award. The German taught in schools must be different from the German spoken by young people, and I would like to hear it and learn to speak German more naturally," she said.

Erika and other trip winners are due to leave for Germany in late June and return in July. While in Germany, the participants will live with families, attend classes at a German secondary school, and

take part in excursions of cultural and historical interest. To honor the students from the South Texas region who scored 90 percent or better, the AATG hosted a dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Austin. Sandi Mays, who is chairperson of the AATG committee, presented medals and prizes to the semi-finalists.

Evelyn Saucier, German teacher at WHS said, "The opportunity to study abroad has profoundly influenced the students I have had. It has not only improved their language skills, but has added a new dimension to their understanding of other nations and cultures."

The AATG was founded in 1926 and is the only national organization representing German teachers at all levels of instruction. They are dedicated to the advancement and improvement of the teaching of language, literature and culture of German-speaking countries. To learn more, contact Evelyn Saucier, 428-3917 (Westwood).

By TRAVIS E. POLING
 EXPRESS-NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

from San Antonio Express-News
 November 14, 2002

Brewing first draft of history

Thirst for alcohol forged economic ventures in South Texas

South Texas had pure water, grain, wagons to import hops and a growing cadre of thirsty citizens.

Mix in German immigrants during the mid-1800s, and a brewing industry was sparked, becoming an important industry in San Antonio for 150 years.

Texas brewing began as a cottage industry with brewer Julius Rennert in New Braunfels and Charles Degen in San Antonio.

It later became a backbone of the region's economy, with big breweries employing thousands. But that industry since has returned to its simpler roots.

Between 1996 and 2000, nearly 1,000 people lost their jobs as the Lone Star Brewery and then the Pearl Brewery closed.

But brewpubs and a historic brewery east of the city are keeping a remnant of Texas' brewing tradition alive.

It's been a remarkable evolution. Fred Mosebach, a reporter for the San Antonio Express, recounted in a 1930s article that "beer brewing is a time-honored industry of San Antonio that has maintained a payroll to supply the sinews for trade and commerce as a contributing share to the prosperity this city has always known.

"There is no institution in San Antonio which has provided more employment than the breweries," Mosebach wrote.

San Antonio's economy once revolved around pecans, garment factories and brewing beer.

By some accounts, the making of beer was the first industry established in San Antonio when William A. Menger and Charles Degen opened a brewery next to the Alamo in 1855.

Bier here

The early Mexican settlers of the region likely drank a corn-based brew, letting wild yeasts convert the sugars in the grain to alcohol. It usually was made for special occasions and drunk quickly because it spoiled in the heat.

As Rennert's trade grew, other breweries popped up in New Braunfels in the 1850s and 1860s operated by John Schneider, Richard and August Weinert, Charles Dambmann, Karl Geunther and Mathias Esser.

Little is known about any of these breweries, said John Rightmire, a collector of bottles and brewing memorabilia in New Braunfels. Thanks to violence in saloons, more is known about drinking establishments from the newspapers than about the breweries.

"People get murdered in saloons," Rightmire said. "There's been trouble associated with alcohol since an hour after it was invented, but not many stories about breweries survived."

In Castroville, Louis Huth may have operated a brewery in the general store of George Haass as long ago as the late 1840s, according to Holt's research. Huth moved to San Antonio in 1863.

In Fredericksburg, Frederick Probst began brewing around 1857 and another brewery started in the basement of the Nimitz Hotel about 1860.

Many breweries disappeared during the Civil War, when ingredients such as hops were harder to come by because of Union blockades. Rightmire said Dambmann's brewing equipment was confiscated in 1863 to make saltpeter in Landa Park for gunpowder used in the Civil War.

But Menger's Western Brewery, with Charles Degen as brewer, thrived until Menger's death in 1878. The beer, fermented and stored in cold tunnels below what is now the much-expanded Menger Hotel, sold for 50 cents a gallon.

Degen, whose fame had grown throughout the Southwest as thirsty travelers sampled his wares at the Menger Hotel, started his own brewery on Blum Street in 1879. Shortly after it opened it was Texas' largest brewery and operated until 1915.

By the mid-1870s, there were more than a dozen breweries op-

The next wave of settlers, the Texians, were largely from Tennessee and probably preferred a crock of whiskey that could be made in home distilleries.

In the eastern states, English settlers and their descendants were making ales in the early 1800s. But a rash of German immigration in the mid-1800s scattered German brewing methods — and the tradition of lagers, which ferment slower and at colder temperatures than ales — to Texas and the nation.

When the Germans arrived in Texas, they found no beer to their liking and began making their own, said Jeff Holt, a home brewer in Fredericksburg who has researched the history of Texas beer for his Web site Texasbreweries.com.

"You can sort of follow the German population through the breweries," Holt said.

Census records of German settlers in Texas show that few were listed as brewers when they first arrived. But 10 years later, stonemasons, shoemakers and farmers began to show up on the books as brewers.

There is some evidence that Julius Rennert, a shoemaker who was among New Braunfels' first settlers, built his brewery on the banks of the Comal River about the same time as Menger — perhaps as early as 1847. Carol Stein, who owns a house on the site, said a few crocks and bottles remained on the basement's flagstone floor.

erating in San Antonio and surrounding Hill Country towns. But few survived beyond the death of the founding brewer, and more breweries were destined to fall as the area was linked to the goods of the nation by more than the slow freight wagons.

In 1881, the International Great Northern Railroad, which later became the Missouri Pacific, linked San Antonio and Austin. The railroad helped create large brewing companies such as Anheuser-Busch, Miller, Pabst, Stroh and Schlitz.

Julius Rennert, like many brewers of the time, felt the pressure of the railroad. By the time the rail link was complete, he became one of Texas' first distributors of beer shipped from the Anheuser-Busch breweries in St. Louis. Rennert eventually stopped selling his local beer altogether.

Adolphus Busch already had made inroads with the brewers of the area, and his company was probably the first beer on the trains to South Texas, said Char Miller, chairman of Trinity University's history department.

With the train came other goods, and an economic boom followed. More people meant more beer was needed.

But the rail also meant that local breweries willing to make the investment also could send their beer off to other cities. The precursors to the Lone Star and Pearl breweries were born.

Busch started the Lone Star Brewing Co. in 1884. Anheuser-Busch bought the Alamo Brewing Co. in 1895 and merged it with Lone Star. The Lone Star building Busch had built for the brewery on Jones Avenue in 1904 still stands as the San Antonio Museum of Art.

As Lone Star and Alamo Brewing grew, a group of citizens formed the San Antonio Brewing Association and purchased the plant on the site of what later became the Pearl Brewery. Otto Koehler became its first manager, introducing Pearl beer in 1886. The brewery expanded and was among the largest breweries in Texas by 1916.

The dry years

Degen brewed on Blum Street almost until his death in 1912, missing the beginning of Prohibition — and never getting a chance to carry out his plan for such an eventuality.

"If Prohibition comes, Germans in this state will have to form a trust and drink up all the water," Degen was reported to have said.

Prohibition came to Texas in 1918 and became national policy in 1920. It meant the death of many breweries, but some managed to stay in business by other means until the ban was lifted in 1933.

Koehler's wife, Emma, took over as CEO of the San Antonio Brewing Association after her husband died in 1914. She is credited with rescuing the company during Prohibition, taking

advantage of the plant's capabilities to make ice, run a creamery and bottle soft drinks.

One minute past midnight on Sept. 15, 1933, the company was ready for the revelry that marked the end of the Prohibition era. Twenty-five boxcars and more than 100 trucks left the brewery grounds "down a street lined with cheering supporters," the company history recounts.

The New Braunfels Brewing Co., now the site of the New Braunfels Smokehouse meat processing plant, had tried to hold on to life during Prohibition making Busto beer. Signs proclaimed to consumers: "There is no beer near here, but there is near beer here."

But federal agents shut down the brewery in 1925 when they discovered the "near beer" had too much alcohol in it. The brewery didn't live to see Prohibition's repeal.

Modern industry

The success of Pearl beer continued and the company name officially was changed to Pearl Brewing Co. in 1952. In 1961, the



The San Antonio Museum of Art occupies the building that once was the Lone Star Brewing Company founded by Adolphus Busch.

firm bought the then-well-known Goetz Brewing Co. of St. Joseph, Mo., and began making Country Club Malt Liquor and the low-alcohol Goetz Pale Near Beer.

Further industry consolidation boosted San Antonio operations with more beers, the opening of an aluminum can recycling center and a can manufacturing plant.

Pabst Brewing acquired Pearl in 1985. Pabst eventually shut down its famous Milwaukee plant and moved its corporate headquarters to San Antonio.

The Lone Star Brewery reopened after Prohibition as Champion Brewing Co. at a new plant making Sabinas beer, which later became Champion beer.

It wasn't until 1940 that brewer Peter Kreil from Munich created the formula for the first beer to actually be called Lone Star beer. In 1949, under the leadership of Harry Jersig, Lone Star went public. By 1960, the brewery had 651 employees and

by 1965, annual sales exceeded 1 million barrels.

Olympia Brewing Co. of Washington bought Lone Star in 1976, and it changed hands again in 1983 when Wisconsin's G. Heileman bought Olympia.

Detroit-based Stroh then bought Heileman and closed the San Antonio brewery in 1996, signaling the end of San Antonio as a major brewing town. Pabst bought most of the Stroh brands, including Lone Star, in 1999 and began brewing Lone Star at the Pearl plant to great fanfare.

A year later, Pabst's holding company, S&P Co. of California, decided to shut down the Pearl plant, laying off more than 300 workers.

The new generation

San Antonio is still the headquarters of Pabst, the fourth largest brewing company in the country, but the manufacturing jobs are gone. Only administrative offices remain. All the breweries have been sold and the giant Miller Brewing Co. makes the dozens of Pabst-owned beer brands under contract.

San Antonio also is home to the Gambrinus Co., importer of Mexican beers such as Corona and Negra Modelo as well as Canadian Moosehead lager. Gambrinus owns the now-famous Spoetzel Brewery in Shiner and Pete's Brewing Co. Pete's beers are contract-brewed by Miller.

Microbreweries such as Frio Brewing Co. and the Yellow Rose Brewing Co. have come and gone in the last decade. Regionally, only Real Ale Brewing Co. in Blanco remains. It's building a larger plant to keep up with demand from Austin and San Antonio.

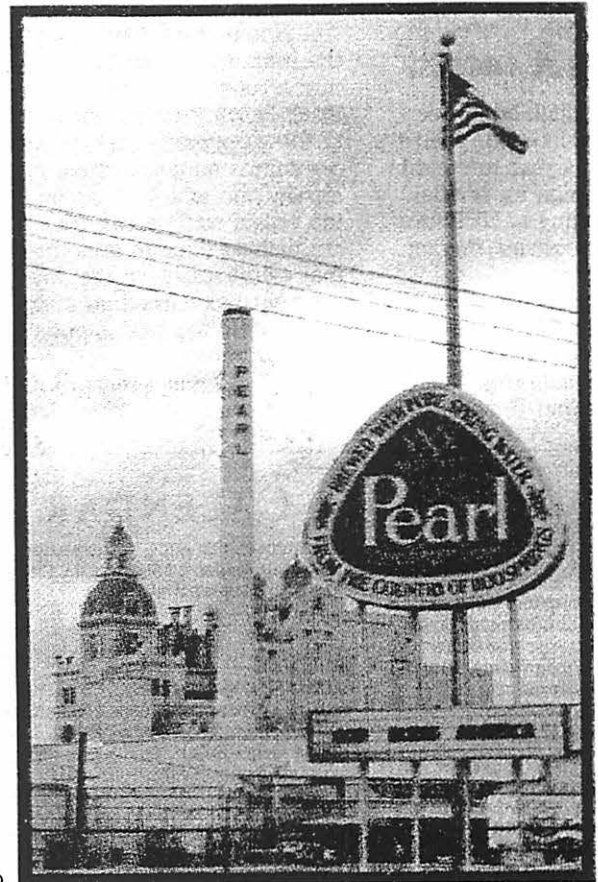
But brewpubs with beer brewed and served on site are keeping a 150-year-old South Texas tradition alive at places like Blue Star Brewing Co. in San Antonio, Faust Brewing Co. in New Braunfels, Fredericksburg Brewing Co. in its namesake town and the new Dodging Duck Brewhaus in Boerne.

The Pearl Brewery still stands as a tribute to the once great brewing industry, though the brewing equipment will be sold off in January by new owners Silver Ventures.

San Antonio-based Silver Ventures will transform the Pearl plant on the banks of the San Antonio River, but exact plans for the property have not been revealed.

Preserving the history of Pearl will be a key to the development, Silver Ventures Managing Director Ken Halliday said, because "so much of the brewery is the story of San Antonio."

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The historic Pearl Brewery has been shut down since April 2001

A Cowboy in Lederhosen

by Dr. Meredith McClain from *Texas Heritage*,
Summer 2002, published by The Texas
Historical Foundation

"When I was in San Antonio in the 1980s, I visited a rare currency shop near the Alamo, next door to the Menger Hotel. In looking at 'red backs' of the Republic of Texas, I noticed that one had the image of a cowboy roping a steer. Upon closer inspection, it appeared that the man had on lederhosen, buckled at the knee and was sporting a Tyrolean hat. The horse didn't look exactly like a quarter horse, and the steer looked a bit strange too, but I was quite sure that the cowboy was either a German immigrant or was born to a German immigrant family.

In 1984 when committees were forming all over the state

in preparation for the 1986 Sesquicentennial, this image of the German Texan on a bill of the Republic seemed especially meaningful to represent the large and important German population of the state present right from the beginning. The list of soldiers who died at the Alamo reveals, for example, some who were born in Germany. "Da waren Deutsche auch dabei," which means 'There were Germans there too' became the phrase to accompany a Texas-Germany Committee logo of the roping Bavarian riding over the state's official Sesquicentennial flag.

Just as swiftly as the logo came into being, so spread its popularity. The Texas-Germany Committee logo (ended up) on many items including stationery, business cards, and....of course, commemorative biersteins."

from *Texas Heritage*, Summer 2002
published by the Texas Historical Foundation
submitted by Theresa Gold

Anna Mebus Martin



Anna Martin and her sons; image from the Southwest Collections, Texas Tech University

America's First Woman Bank Founder and President

Galveston was the port of entry in 1858 for Anna Henriette Mebus and her family when they arrived in Texas from Germany. The Texas frontier must have seemed strange and untamed for this refined teenage girl, who with her family settled in Hedwigs Hill on the Llano River. For though they had enjoyed great wealth in Germany, it is said that the family might have been fleeing the shame of financial ruin when her father's business failed, and they immigrated to Texas. One year after her arrival, at the age of 16, Anna married her merchant cousin Karl Martin (relative of Louis Martin, see image on page 12), and together they farmed and ran a small store.

Following a long illness, her husband died in 1879, leaving Anna penniless and with two adolescent sons. Starting with \$150 that she borrowed and a determination to succeed, Anna took over the operation of A. Martin & Sons. Thought to be one of the first general merchandise stores in the area, it was reputed that during the late 1880s, Martin's business sold more barbed wire than any other in the

region, and it was one of the first to have a telephone and electricity. In fact, a mere two years after her husband's death, Martin had a large, completely paid for inventory. This successful mercantile enterprise allowed Martin to build a home near the store, purchase several automobiles, and eventually open The Commercial Bank of Mason in July of 1901. She served as president of that institution, and along with her sons, the family operated the bank until 1958.

Martin's business sense was legendary. She learned the cattle industry—who wanted to buy and who wanted to sell—and also became an accomplished wool buyer as well. In a time and place that was the domain of men, Anna Mebus Martin was a woman who through struggle over adversity came to embody the enterprising spirit of her adopted home.

Anna Mebus Martin died in 1925 at the age of 81 and is buried in the family cemetery at Hedwigs Hill, near the spot where her success as a businesswoman began.



FOOTPRINTS OF FAYETTE

submitted by Rodney Koenig

German Settlers In Fayette County Part 1

Editor's Note: *Footprints of Fayette* is a column on Fayette County history, written by members of the Fayette County Historical Commission, that will appear on a regular basis in *The Fayette County Record*.

by Bob Heinsohn

The German settlements of south central Texas, including Fayette County, were promoted by Fredrich Ernst and Charles Fordran, who settled in Austin's Colony. Ernst founded the town of Industry in 1838. Responding to their favorable letters about Texas, hundreds of German immigrants seeking personal, political and religious liberties came to Austin's Colony, spilling over into eastern Fayette County before it was organized. Some of the early German families who arrived in the Industry/Cat Spring area included Ludwig von Roeder, F.W. Grassmeyer, Karl and

Marcus Amsler, Robert and Louis Kleberg, Jacob Wolters and Joseph Biegel, who founded Biegel's Settlement in Fayette County in 1832. The town of Biegel, which was the first German settlement in the county and the second in the state, was not laid out until several years later. The first German landowner in Fayette County was F.W. Grassmeyer, who was granted a league of land in 1831, one fourth of which was in Fayette County.

Some of the early German settlers fought in the battle for Texas

Independence in 1836. They included Joseph Ehlinger, Christian Wertzner, Joseph Biegel, F.W. Grassmeyer and others. They believed in having their freedoms, so were willing to fight for their new homeland.

By 1837, houses were beginning to be built on the eastern bank of the Colorado River on John H. Moore's

property, which would become the City of La Grange. When a group of German immigrants, who wanted to settle in Bexar County, could not cross the river due to high water, Moore offered them lots in the city. They accepted, so from that time the German character has been preserved in the city.

In 1842, the Adelsverein or Society for the Protection of German Immigrants, was organized by a group of German noblemen. A representative of the society, Count Boos-Waldeck, bought the W. H. Jack League in eastern Fayette County in 1843. His plantation was named Nassau. A settlement grew up around the plantation.

The earliest settlers who came with the Adelsverein arrived in the port of Indianola. Several thousand were headed for New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. However, due to bad weather, sickness and a lack of food, many died. Also, the Adelsverein was almost bankrupt. Other immigrants who arrived later in Galveston heard about the situation and changed their plans, many choosing to settle in Fayette County

Part Two

One of the most prominent immigrants who settled near La Grange was Heinrich L. Kreische. The 600 acres of land that he bought on the Bluff overlooked the growing town of La Grange and the Colorado River. Being a skilled stonemason, he not only built his three-story home, but also the third courthouse in La Grange, the jail, several businesses and homes, and a brewery near his home that he and his family operated. By the 1870s, his brewery was the third largest in the state. He also operated a ferry across the river, so his beer could be sold in local saloons, including his own. He and his wife had six children, none of whom ever married.

The German immigrants of Fayette County were mainly Lutheran. La Grange, Biegel, Round Top and Ruttersville were predominantly settled by German Lutherans.

The most successful effort of the early Lutherans to establish a congregation was in Round Top, where Rev. A. Neuthard taught school from 1861-1873 and preached for 40 years. There were some German Catholics, mostly from Westphalia, who settled in the Ross Prairie and

Live Oak Hill and the High Hill areas.

Since Germans love to sing and dance, they organized a number of singing societies in the county.

They also founded several bands, including the Schumann Band from Waldeck, the Albers Band, and later Blumes and the Lindemann Band. They organized shooting clubs called "Schuetzenverein" and the "Turnverein," which promoted comradeship and physical fitness. Fraternal organizations were popular in German communities. After the Sons of Herman organization was founded in 1860, there were eight lodges in Fayette County, most of them over 100 years old.

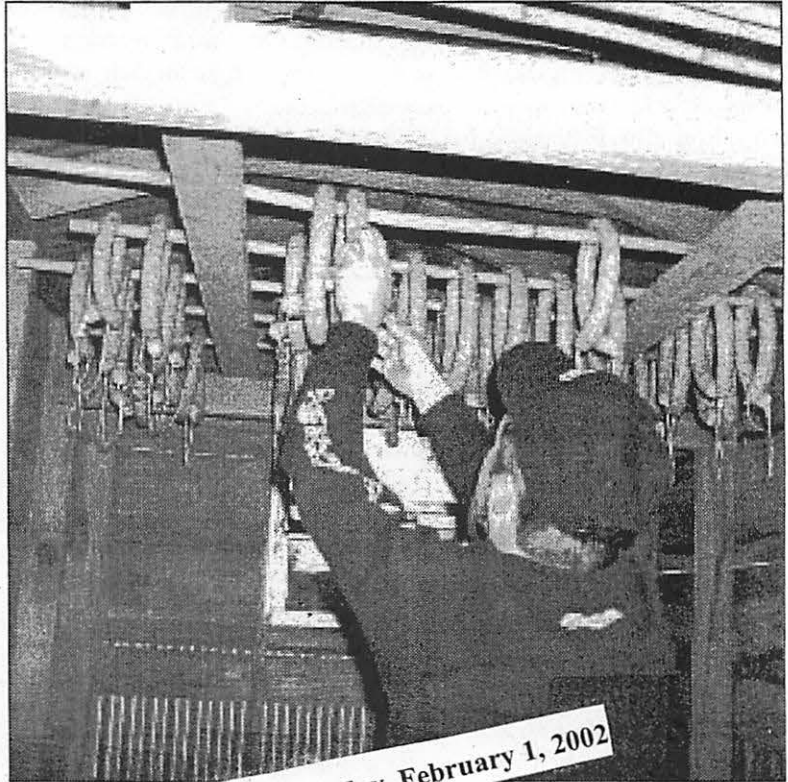
Germans have contributed much to the growth and development of Fayette County.

Their efficient methods of farming have helped with the economy.

German Sausage Making Still Alive And Well In Fayette County



Many folks in Fayette County still make homemade sausage and the Nelson Noak Sr. family of La Grange is one of them. Carrying on the tradition from their ancestors, they follow the sausage making procedure and recipes handed down through the generations. Of course, with modern technology, some of the work is made a lot easier. Shown above right stuffing and tying the sausage are members of the Noak family, David, left, and Mary, Sherry and Wayne Noak. In the picture below, Dave Noak is hanging sausage in the smokehouse, where it will smoke long enough to be put in the freezer as fresh sausage or to smoke dry to be used for sandwiches.



THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD Friday, February 1, 2002

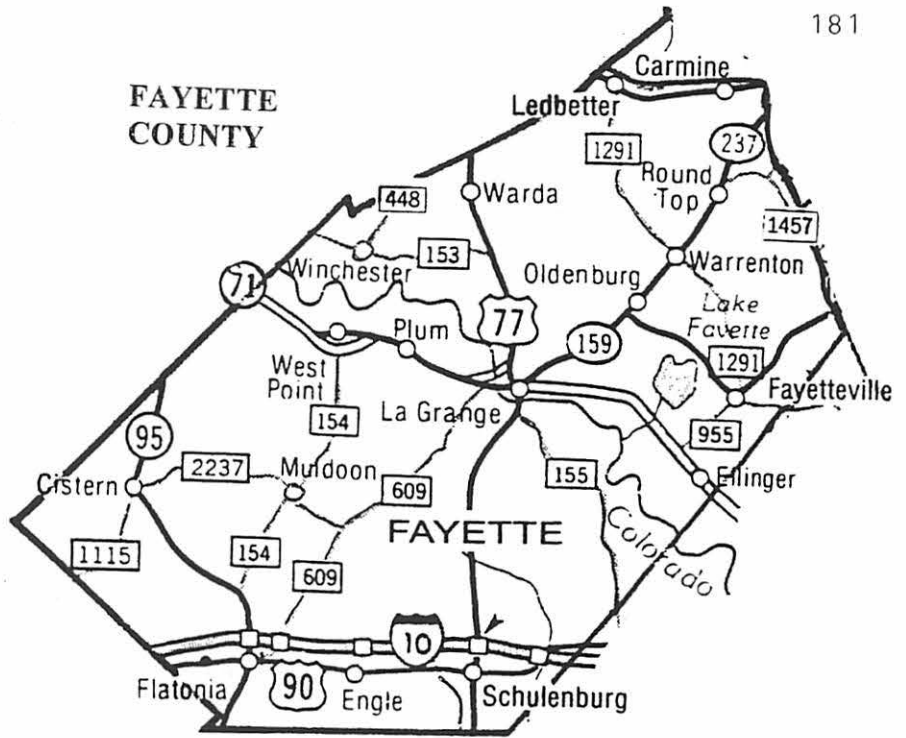
contributed by Rodney Koenig

Besides farmers, there were tradesmen, craftsmen, merchants, physicians, lawyers, ministers, teachers and city and county officials.

There were also Germans in Fayette County who were elected to the State Legislature, such as A.E. Falke, J.C. Speckels, and Robert Zapp.

The German language is still being taught in our schools as a foreign language credit. La Grange has a German Sister City and a chapter of the Texas German Society.

The German influence can still be seen throughout the county in architectural styles, road signs, business names and festivals.



GERMAN-TEXAN

Lone Star State's tales of a flying pioneer are varied, cloudy

More than 35 years ago in Fredericksburg, I heard the story of a man in Luckenbach who predated the Wright brothers (in flight) by many years. This was prior to the invention of the internal combustion engine, and he used a wind-up motor, which he thought he could rewind in flight. Though this proved impossible, he is supposed to have made a much higher and longer first flight than the Wright brothers. He is said to have flown over the trees in Luckenbach, but without continual power, this first flight didn't lead to recognition in the history of flight. Can you find any additional information?

— The Rev. Samuel Heitkamp

Should our state claim "First in flight" on our license plates? Probably not, unless you're counting paleo-turkey vultures. Non-Texan aviation historians tend to ignore the tale, while compatriots handle it warily.

The man you're thinking of was undoubtedly Jacob Friedrich Brodbeck, but whether he actually made the first powered flight is up in the air.

The many variants of his story give it the fishy scent of folklore. For instance: The flight happened "in a field about three miles east of Luckenbach" (Handbook of Texas). Or was it "a meadow north of San Antonio" (plaque text for a Brodbeck bust)? The year was either 1865 or 1868; the date, Sept. 20 or Aug. 7 or is thought to have gone unrecorded — a remarkable circumstance for such a history-making achievement. In his native German, Brodbeck might have been called a *Luftmensch* — literally an



PAULA ALLEN

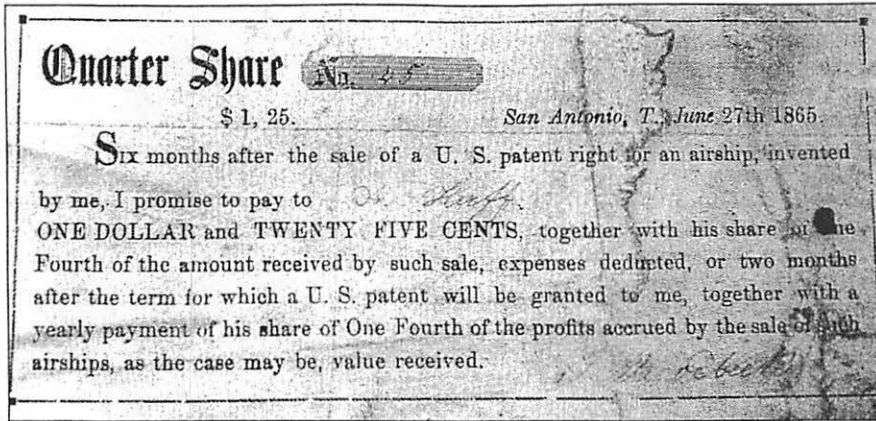
"air man," but in the sense of a dreamer who builds his castles in the woolly clouds. Born in 1821, he emigrated from Germany in 1846. Trained as a teacher at home, he resumed his profession as schoolmaster of Fredericksburg's Vereins Kirche. Mathematics was his forte, and he became Gillespie County surveyor and district school su-

pervisor. With all this work and a family that swelled to 12 children, Brodbeck should have had his hands full. But no: "He spent all his energy inventing an airplane which could be driven by human force through the air," said his son Hilmar, quoted by Roger Bilstein in "Aviation in Texas" (1985, Texas Monthly Press).

Before the elder Brodbeck looked skyward for inspiration, his eyes were on the clock. Back in the Old Country, the amateur inventor gained familiarity with springs and other moving parts while tinkering with the idea of a self-winding clock. He put some of what he had learned to use during the Civil War, when he started building spring-powered model gliders that were the hit of Texas fairs, says Bilstein.

From there, Brodbeck made the leap toward building a full-size craft that could support manned flight. In a prospectus reprinted in the Galveston Tri-Weekly News, Brodbeck says he

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE →



JOHN DAVENPORT/STAFF

This is a one-quarter share certificate issued by Jacob Brodbeck used to construct a flying machine that allegedly flew for about 10 seconds in San Pedro Park.

has constructed the model for "a machine which imitates the flight of birds but being constructed like a ship." Unfortunately, he says, "The construction of a large Air-Ship requires more means than I possess." Brodbeck proposes to "call on the aid of my fellow men who will (all benefit) by the result of my invention." He did so by appealing to investors, thought to have included Dr. Ferdinand Herff of San Antonio.

The version of the first-flight story set here takes place in San Pedro Park, where Brodbeck is thought by some to have gathered potential backers to watch a demonstration. In his description, the craft contained a compartment for the "aeronaut," moveable wings, "hand cranks," a mysterious "power-producing engine" and a "propeller screw" to keep the craft afloat in case of emergency water landings.

Because of Brodbeck's success with spring-driven models, Bilstein says, the assumption has been made that his full-size version used a similar power source, apparently to be cranked up by the pilot. The detail about flying at the height of treetops may be explained away as a trick of perspective, with even a short hop into the air appearing higher than a view of distant trees.

No plans of Brodbeck's invention have survived, and there is little documentation of his investment scheme. Investors, thought to have been present "never mentioned the event in their diaries," notes Bilstein. The airship is supposed to have been destroyed in the crash landing, says the Handbook, after which his local investors "refused to put up the money for a second attempt." Brodbeck went on the road, as far away as Michigan,

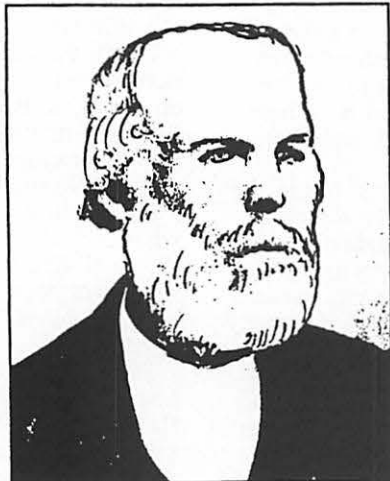
looking for new backers, but the inventor "failed to persuade his audiences." He came home to his ranch near Luckenbach, where he lived until his death in 1910.

When Brodbeck's story is set in San Pedro Park, he is supposed to have taken off from the undeveloped Palisades (a bluff now on the north side of Ashby) into the park, which was "already a gathering place for important events," says Rick Grimm, author of "San Pedro Springs: A Scrapbook" (2001, self-published). A bust of the alleged aviation pioneer was supposed to be installed in the park, but staff at the city's Parks and Recreation Department recall that while a "clay or plaster bust" was unveiled in a 1983 ceremony involving Brodbeck descendants, no permanent bust was ever installed. The model was displayed in Market Square as part of a fund-raising effort, co-sponsored by an aviation museum, to finance casting in bronze. But even Brodbeck's bust was a bust. "Apparently, no money was ever forthcoming from the museum, or they did not pursue the project," says Kelly Irwin, a spokeswoman for the parks department.

Brodbeck's feat remains similarly cloudy. His aviation achievements are "shrouded in doubt," says the Handbook. To Bilstein, the story of the giant clockwork bird that flew are "appealing but not very convincing."

Send questions on local history to Paula Allen, *Insight*, San Antonio Express-News, Box 2171, San Antonio, Texas, 78297-2171, or e-mail letters@express-news.net.

from San Antonio Express-News, June 8, 2003



Jacob Brodbeck

According to The German Texans by Glen Lich, Brodbeck launched models of his flying machine at Luckenbach and at Fredericksburg between 1846 and 1862, and the unsuccessful last test was in 1865, although Lich does not say that test was at San Antonio's San Pedro Park.

McNeil graduate reflects on culture, stereotypes while studying in Berlin

If I talk about Round Rock, I try to give equally accurate pictures. While biking to Bremen a few weeks ago, I described Round Rock to a friend. I told him it was named *Runder Stein* (the literal translation of Round Rock) and described The Round Rock and Brushy Creek and told the history of the Chisholm Trail. I acted out the story of Sam Bass (which of course did nothing to dissolve the cowboy-stereotype of Texas) and talked about Lone Star Bakery, marching bands,

The 3rd of October was a national holiday in Germany. It is the *Tag der deutschen Einheit* or "Day of German Unification."

The Brandenburg Gate, arguably Berlin's most recognizable landmark was unveiled that evening. For two years prior it had been draped in enormous advertisement sheets while undergoing massive restoration. There's was a giant party at the Gate — music, lights and loads of people.

Amidst this typical festival scene, one stand caught my eye as unusual, amusing and ironic, given the current tense German-American relations: the Western booth. A bright red, white and blue flag hung from the wooden hut, listing among the other "western" selections for sale was a "Texas Steak." A wagon wheel leaned against the booth, which was shaped like a covered-wagon and painted with western scenes: cowboys, horses, cacti and a man wearing a sombrero. A few bails of pale yellow hay were scattered in front.

Stereotypes of Texas are reinforced by such representations and passionately believed by many. Once it becomes known that Texas is your homeland, you will be eternally identified with cowboys, deserts and now George W. Bush.

The blatant labeling of an

entire country or state with crude or broad stereotypes is disturbingly common on both sides of the Atlantic. During my past five years of travel between Round Rock, Chicago and Berlin, this was ironically the most frustrating similarity

between the three cities I call "home." Much of the time the labels are harmless: everyone in Texas owns a horse; everyone in Chicago loves "da Bulls"; everyone in Germany eats bratwurst and drinks beer.

Other labels are more dangerous: everyone in Texas owns a gun and supports the death penalty; Chicago is so crime-filled you can't walk around the streets at night (I get this in Berlin all the time); Germany is full of Neo-Nazis just waiting for a chance to reclaim power. All of the previous statements are absurdly false, and any native of Round Rock, Chicago or Berlin would be appalled that such stereotypes are alive and kicking.



Julie Dawson

high school football, August heat, bluebonnets and duck ponds. In vain I attempted to describe how spread out American cities developed, how far away grocery stores can be when compared to the German norm, and the

from Round Rock Leader
November 7, 2002

submitted by
Arlene & Joe Burges

excepts from a story by Julie Dawson

photo by Matt Archer

recent burst of urban sprawl chains in Round Rock and elsewhere in the States. I told him that someday we could go biking through the Texas Hill Country and visit the German settlements of New Braunfels and Fredricksburg.

For at least a year however, I'll be here in Berlin, unraveling the threadwork of this inimitable metropolis and hoping to erase stereotypes that are neither here nor there.

Julie Dawson attended Brushy Creek Elementary School, Chisholm Trail Middle School and graduated from McNeil High School and Northwestern University. She is currently living in Berlin doing ethnomusicological research on Turkish Jazz with a Fulbright grant. Contact her at juliegdawson@hotmail.com.

MISSION AND GOALS OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
from the 1996 Statement

THE G.T.H.S. MISSION

MISSION: The mission of the German-Texan Heritage Society is to promote awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas.

EDUCATION GOALS

GOAL: To educate and inform members and the public about all aspects of German cultural heritage in Texas through programs and publications.

GOAL: To collect and maintain a library of books and periodicals relating to German-Texans

GOAL: To collect and disseminate genealogical information relating to the German-speaking immigrants to Texas and their descendants

MEMBERSHIP GOAL

GOAL: To promote membership growth and foster the retention of members

PRESERVATION GOAL

GOAL: To preserve the German Free School as the headquarters of the German-Texan heritage Society and as a locus for German culture in Texas

FINANCIAL GOAL

GOAL: To establish and maintain the financial resources to carry out the goals of the organization

GOVERNANCE GOAL

GOAL: To assure continuance of the German-Texan Heritage Society by instituting policies and procedures to achieve stability and long-term growth

**THE G.T.H.S. WAS FOUNDED IN 1978. THIS YEAR MARKS OUR 25TH
ANNIVERSARY. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING AT
NEW BRAUNFELS IN OCTOBER TO CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE.**

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Material sent for *The Journal* will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted articles must be typed, single spaced, on 8.5x11 white paper, with a margin of no less than .75 inches on all sides. No faxes please. Editor is not responsible for errors or misinformation.

WHERE TO SEND WHAT

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

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All translated manuscripts must be accompanied by the German text. The Editor has the right and the responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS bylaws. Deadlines will be followed as

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