

THE JOURNAL



Volume XXV · Number 4 · Winter, 2003

ISSN 0730-3106 Price: \$5 (members), \$6 (non-members)

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Updated September 2002

FREE MEMBERSHIP !!!

Earlier this year, in our annual Membership Drive, GTHS offered a special new incentive. For recruiting **5 new members** into the Society, members would receive a **free – one year Membership in 2004**. Recruit **100 new members** and receive a **Lifetime Membership!**

In order to earn your free membership, be sure to enter your name in the applicants' information section of the MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM on the line marked: **How Did You Find Us?** If you do not have enough forms, you can use the form in this issue of THE JOURNAL to make copies. Make your own forms front / back, any color will do.

Do your part to help our membership grow – bring in those new members to help preserve our Heritage.

THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
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**THIS YEAR MARKED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**THIS ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL
IS MADE POSSIBLE
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GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT
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SINCE 1896

A black and white illustration of a hand holding a rolled-up document or scroll. The hand is positioned on the right side of the page, with the fingers gripping the edge of the scroll. The scroll is partially unrolled, showing its texture and the way it is tied or sealed. The illustration is detailed, with cross-hatching and fine lines used to create shading and texture on the hand and the scroll.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES
by Van Massirer, GTHS President

Dear Friends of German-Texan Heritage:

Our annual meeting and convention commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of GTHS has come and gone. We are indebted to Convention Chair Connie Krause and husband, Michael, for putting together a wonderful program that was well-received by those in attendance. I heard nothing but positive comments.

One of the announcements made at the business meeting is that the GTHS Board of Directors will most likely consider at its quarterly meeting in November a proposal to increase the annual membership dues. Although we would prefer to avoid an increase, we have little choice in the matter. Unless we experience a "miraculous windfall" before the end of the year, the operational budget will undoubtedly not balance this year. This is not a cause for alarm, but is most definitely a cause for concern.

Just as other organizations have encountered increased costs and decreased contributions, so has GTHS. The Board of Directors has spent considerable time grappling with these problems and has made some progress in cutting expenditures. The recent removal of items from controlled-temperature storage saves \$268 per month. In addition, Executive Director Julia Germany agreed to a reduction in mileage pay from 32 cents to 26 cents. While the Board continues to look for ways to save additional funds without cutting services, we also need your help.

One way you can help is to contribute generously to the annual operational fund drive. Because many members object to telephone solicitations, we discontinued the telethons. That left us with only the operational fund letters that are sent out annually and appeals in the *Journal*.

Another way you can help is by attending the cultural events sponsored by GTHS. These events include Maifest, Oktoberfest, and the annual meeting and convention. While all are designed primarily as heritage preservation events, they must always have a secondary goal of raising much-needed funds. However, it is a numbers game as always, and your presence is needed to meet both of our goals.

You can find other ways to help by reading Rodney Koenig's "Leave Your German Mark" in every issue of the *Journal*. Rodney's page always presents numerous ways to use estate planning to benefit heritage preservation.

Preserving our German-Texan heritage is an important undertaking, and we are grateful to those who have already done so much. Now it is time for all the rest of us to step forward.

Cordially,



IN MEMORIAM LISELOTTE GERTRUD BABIN

Liselotte Gertrud Babin of Houston, a member of the German-Texan Heritage Society many years, died October 30, 2003, at age eighty. Liselotte was born to German parents living in Lithuania at Ubermemel on August 4, 1923. Her father was Ernst Bruno Milkereit, and her mother was Gertrud August Bittens.

Liselotte first met her husband, Robert Babin, in Rosenburg, Germany, and they later married in the United States at Bethesda, Maryland, on August 25, 1955. A few years later they lived at Vidor, Texas, in Orange County, and from 1958 until 1962, Liselotte wrote articles for the local newspaper, The Vidorian. Then the family moved to Houston, where she became an integral part of Houston's German community. From 1979 until July of 2003, Liselotte hosted a radio show known as "Musical Trot With Liselotte," broadcast on Houston's Radio Stations KPFT, KENB and KTEK. And from 1979 until 1996, Liselotte published Deutsche Welt USA, a newspaper for German Americans. In recognition for her service in promoting good relations between Germans and Americans, the President of Germany awarded Liselotte Germany's Distinguished Service Medal.

Liselotte is survived by her husband, Robert; by son Richard Babin and wife Paula; by son Will Babin and wife Kathy; by son Eric Babin and wife Linda; by son Bruce Babin and wife Norma; and by six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Funeral services were held November 3, 2003, at the Earthman Bellaire Chapel with burial following at Houston National Cemetery.

**IN MEMORIAM
WALTER HOPPE RICHTER**

Walter Hoppe Richter was a founding member of the German-Texan Heritage Society in 1978. He died September 8, 2003, at his Austin home. Walter was born September 17, 1916, in the Double Horn community near Marble Falls in Burnet County, a son of Walter Herman Richter and Lenore Hoppe. He grew up on the family homestead settled in the mid 1800s by his immigrant ancestors from Germany. Walter graduated from Marble Falls High School, earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Southwest Texas State University, and in 1942 received the B.J. degree from the University of Texas at Austin. In 1941, he married Dorothy Jean Sample of Stockdale in Wilson County. Walter served with the United States Navy during World War II. After the war, he was owner, editor and publisher of Stockdale's small-town newspaper and worked for a major Austin publishing firm. From 1954 until 1962 Walter was Executive Director of the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation. Elected to the Texas State Senate in 1962, he served during its 1963 and 1965 legislative sessions. Leaving the Senate, Walter began a long career of federal, state, and civic service that spanned more than twenty years and that brought him many awards and honors (for these, see the pages following). Private burial was at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin on September 12, 2003. A public memorial service was held September 21 in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol. Walter was survived by his wife Dorothy Jean Richter of Austin; daughter Robyn Richter of Marble Falls; son Gary Richter and wife Susan Wukasch and their daughter Molly of Georgetown; and nephew Carl Weaver of Fredericksburg.

**IN MEMORIAM
TERRY GILBERT JORDAN**

Terry Gilbert Jordan, a long-time member of the German-Texan Heritage Society, an educator, and the author of numerous books on the German culture in Texas, died of cancer at his Austin home on October 16, 2003, at age sixty-five. Terry was born in Dallas in 1938, the son of Gilbert Jordan, a founding member of the German-Texan Heritage Society and a descendent of one of the German immigrant founders of Fredericksburg. Reared in Dallas, Terry earned the B.A. degree at Southern Methodist University, the M.A. degree at the University of Texas, and the Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin. He subsequently held faculty positions at Arizona State University and the University of North Texas before moving to Austin in 1982, where at the time of his death he was the Walter Prescott Webb Professor of History and Ideas in the Geography Department of the University of Texas. Terry authored and co-authored an impressive list of publications (for these, see pages following). Terry is survived by his wife Bella; his three children, Eric, Tina, and Sonya; three granddaughters, Anna, Madeline, and Olivia; and his sister, Janice Shefelman. A memorial service for Terry was held on October 16 in the Main Building on the University of Texas campus.

from the Austin American-Statesman, September 14, 2003, submitted by Dona Reeves-Marquardt



Walter H. Richter

Walter H. Richter, former Texas state senator, died September 8, 2003, at his Austin home.

Walter Hoppe Richter was born September 17, 1916, in the Double Horn community southeast of Marble Falls, Texas. Four months before Richter's birth, his father, Walter Herman Richter, died accidentally.

Richter and his sister, Esther Marie were raised by their mother, Bertha Lenore Hoppe Richter, and grandfather, George Hoppe, on the family homestead, which had been settled in the mid-1800's by their German immigrant ancestors. The family survived the Great Depression through subsistence farming, cotton picking, perseverance, and frugality.

After graduating from Marble Falls High School in 1934, Richter attended Southwest Texas State Teacher's College (now Texas State University). He became a member of the White Stars, a secret campus political organization (of which Lyndon Johnson was a founding member). Richter was elected editor of the school newspaper and student body president. He received a B. A. in 1938 and an M. A. in 1939. After graduation, Richter organized and ran the journalism department at his alma mater, receiving a B. J. degree from the University of Texas in 1942.

In 1938, Richter met first-year student Dorothy Jean Sample of Stockdale, Texas: "I was a smart alec graduate student at the time and my reaction was Wow!" They were married June 14, 1941.

During World War II, Richter served in the Navy as a supply officer in Ipitanga, Brazil. After the war, he purchased a small-town newspaper, The Stockdale Star, of which he was publisher and editor from 1948 to 1951. From 1950 to 1954, Richter worked for the Steck Publishing Company of Austin, traveling throughout West Texas helping high schools develop yearbooks. In 1954, Richter went to work for Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation, a physical rehabilitation center, serving as Executive Director until 1962.

Elected to the Texas State Senate in 1962, Richter served during the 1963 and 1965 legislative sessions. He sponsored legislation leading to the creation of the Texas Department on Aging.

After leaving the Senate, Richter was appointed by Governor John Connally to lead President Lyndon Johnson's "war on poverty" in Texas as Director of the Texas Office of Economic Opportunity. One year later, Johnson appointed Richter to head the five-state Southwest Region of the OEO.

Subsequently, Richter lectured at the University of Texas School of Social Work on social policy, social change, and the legislative process, while heading the Community Council of Austin and Travis County. Later, Governor Preston Smith appointed Richter director of the newly created State Program on Drug

Abuse.

In 1970-1971, Governor Smith appointed Richter chairman of the Texas delegation to the White House Conference on Children and Youth. President Jimmy Carter appointed Richter to serve on the U. S. Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board, which was charged with making all federal buildings accessible to the handicapped.

Richter also served as co-chairman of the Texas Environmental Coalition, one of the earliest volunteer organizations to work towards protection of the state's environment.

He actively supported and served as statewide president of United Cerebral Palsy of Texas. He served for a decade as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the Texas Social Welfare Association, currently the United Way of Texas.

After years of government service, Richter served as Director of Government Relations ("lobbyist") for the Association of Texas Electric Cooperatives until his "retirement" in 1985 at age 69.

After retirement, Richter, recruited by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, served one year as Deputy Agriculture Commissioner. Richter also served as Chairman of the Travis County Democratic party and co-authored a book of political humor with Chuck Herring: Don't Throw Feathers at Chickens.

Honors include the following: Distinguished Alumnus, Southwest Texas State University; naming at SWTSU The Walter H. Richter Institute of Social Work Research; Public Citizen of the Year, Austin Unit of the National Association of Social Workers; recipient of the first Walter Richter Humanitarian Award of the SWTSU Alumni Association; recipient, Marble Falls Centennial City Father Award; Lifetime Achievement Award, Marble Falls/Horseshoe Bay Chamber of Commerce; Citizen of the Year, Gonzales Chamber of Commerce.

Richter was a member of Lions International for over 60 years and numerous other organizations.

As a lover of people he participated in and organized reunions and gatherings throughout his life. Being a journalist at heart, he continued to write columns and newsletters at every opportunity. His personal papers have been donated to the University of Texas History Center.

Family survivors include a wife, Dorothy Jean Richter of Austin; a daughter, Robyn Richter of Marble Falls; a son, Gary Richter, his wife, Susan Wukasch, and their daughter, Molly Richter, of Georgetown; a nephew, Carl Weaver of Fredericksburg.

Private burial was at the Texas State Cemetery on September 12, 2003.

Memorial gifts may be made (1) to a scholarship fund (account number 6-7646) at the Southwest Texas State School of Social work or (2) to the Walter H. Richter Institute of Social Work Research to support research. The address for both is 601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666. The family also welcomes memorial gifts to a charity of the donor's choosing.

A public memorial service will be held in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol on Sunday, September 21, 2003, at 2:00 p.m.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, Austin, TX 78705 (512) 452-8811. You may view memorials online at www.wcfish.com

WALTER HOPPE RICHTER

WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER

OF THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

from the Austin American-Statesman, September 12, 2003, submitted by Dona Reeves-Marquardt

Chuck Herring LOCAL CONTRIBUTOR

Richter's greatest talent was just being a good person

To meet someone who is truly altruistic, kind-hearted, intelligent, decent and thoughtful is a rare experience. Rarer still is to meet such a person who has had successful, respected careers as a state senator (in Texas, no less), a government official, a community activist and a journalist. But thousands of Central Texans had just that experience with the great Walter Richter, who died this week. Richter was indeed a rare and precious soul, who represented the best in public service, politics and journalism — and in just being human.

A list of career facts only hints at Richter's greatness: born on a farm near Marble Falls. Attended Southwest Texas State University, where he was student body president and editor of the "Star" (and where he met his wife and lifelong partner in good deeds, Dorothy). Bachelor's and master's degrees. Organized and ran the university's journalism department. Naval officer in World War II. Owned and managed a newspaper. Served in the Texas Senate. Director, Texas Office of Economic Opportunity. Director, Southwest Regional OEO program. Lecturer, University of Texas School of Social Work. Director, Texas Program on Drug Abuse. Chair, Texas Environmental Coalition. Chair, Travis County Democratic Party. President,

United Cerebral Palsy of Texas. And on and on. SWT created and bestowed on Richter the first Walter Richter Humanitarian Award — now given annually for "support of human welfare and love of fellow man." The school also established the Walter Richter Institute of Social Research.

In short, Richter simply loved to help others and devoutly believed in the power of the human word and communication to solve problems and bring people together. (Consulting whiz Kristy Ozmun, who worked with Richter for many years, recalls that he loved words so much that his office was usually stacked high with books and articles; the only place he could find to take an occasional catnap was on the floor under his desk.)

When it became fashionable to vilify "government," Richter was the perfect antidote. Government, he said, is just people trying to help other people; government, properly run, should express the human ideals of love, mutual assistance and cooperation.

Of course, for Richter, government "properly run" meant government by Democrats. He was an old-fashioned, unapologetic, AKC-registered Yellow Dog Democrat. (His Saturday morning breakfast group with Forrest Hill and other local eminences even called itself

the Yellow Dog Democrats.)

Richter made liberal Democrats proud to be liberal Democrats. He was so commonsensical, so rational, so fundamentally decent, that you just felt proud to do anything he did.

Richter didn't countenance political double-speak or the simplistic sound bites that have so often replaced substantive political discourse. He repeatedly skewered the illogic of those Texas politicians who have consistently and irresponsibly avoided creating an equitable system of school finance and modernizing our tax system. At one point, Richter almost ran for governor on a platform called the IT Parade — the Income Tax Parade — simply to stimulate meaningful public discussion of state revenue. Richter mentored countless other Texas leaders. U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett has repeatedly credited Richter with a pivotal role in his own career, and praised both his (and Dorothy's) "integrity, humanity and ability to understand and care so deeply about the difficulties endured by others." Lena Guerrero aptly characterized Richter as "the most modest and self-effacing spiritual giant ever to grace Texas politics."

And as Alfred Stanley recently said, Richter never lost his faith in the people or in the ability of one person to

make a difference.

I once had the great fun of spending many hours with Richter compiling a book on Texas political humor. He knew hundreds of classic old Texas stories. Here's one of his favorites: A candidate for office and his aide were driving through the countryside when they spotted a farmer working in a field. Stopping the car, the candidate introduced himself and explained his platform and asked for the farmer's support. The farmer snarled back, "Listen, you are clearly a low-down, no-good reprobate, you're wasting my time, and I wouldn't vote for you or your platform if you were the last man on Earth. Now go on, get out of here." Climbing back in his car, the candidate told his assistant, "Mark that man down as doubtful."

I expect that if it had been Richter talking to that farmer, he would have told his assistant, "Mark that man down as probable. If we come back tomorrow and listen and talk to him some more, I'll bet we can convince him." And he probably could have.

In some ways Walter Richter exemplified a simpler, kinder era. But he also personified timeless ideals that would serve any of us well, now and forever.

Herring is an Austin attorney who collaborated with Richter on a book.

REMEMBERING TERRY G. JORDAN (1938-2003)

by John H. Kothmann of Fredericksburg

The first time I became acquainted with Terry Jordan was when I acquired his book "German Seed in Texas Soil".

Later in 1972 he and his father, Gilbert, researched and were the primary authors for "Ernst and Lizette Jordan : German Pioneers in Texas". Ernst and Lizette were both Terry's and my ancestors. That same year I went to Terry's home in Denton, Texas to get an autograph. Since I lived in Dallas we continued to visit frequently.

During the mid 1970's his interest was Log Structures. He was conducting a Texas Log Cabin Survey. For this I helped do field research. I was pleasantly surprised when he included my name in his acknowledgments for "Texas Log Buildings : A Folk Architecture".

He encouraged me to continue to pursue my research of Half - Timber Architecture.

Also during this time I went on a field trip with him and his students to various ethnic communities near Denton. Some of these were Lindsay (Cooke County) and Tioga (Grayson County).

During the summers in the late 1970's I went with Terry and his father, Gilbert, on field trips in the lower Texas Hill Country. While Gilbert collected German Texana Terry and I visited old German architectural structures and cemeteries. This included touring, measuring and photographing structures and graves.

In 1981 I had the opportunity to take his course "Ethnic Geography of Texas".

While we were visited in about 1981 he told me that one of his former students had endowed the Walter Prescott Webb Chair in History at U T Austin. He was to be it's first professor. I encouraged him to go.

Between 1983 and 1993 I visited him several times in Austin.

In 1996 he asked me to present a program on "German Half - Timber Construction in 19th Century Texas" to the Pioneer America Society meeting in Austin. The meeting was quite interesting and it was a pleasure presenting the the program.

Later in 2000 at the "Stars of Texas Preservation Awards Luncheon", hosted by the Gillespie County Historical Society, Terry was honored with a "Stars of Texas Award". He truly deserved this award.

It was quite a shock to learn that Terry had cancer.

We visited only once but corresponded by phone and by letters.

Terry you will be missed, not only by your friends, but also by everyone who has an interest in Ethnic Geography!

Books by Terry G. Jordan:

German Seed In Texas Soil - 1966

The European Culture Area : A Systematic Geography - 1973

Texas Log Buildings : A Folk Architecture - 1978

Texas Graveyards : A Cultural Legacy - 1982

American Log Buildings : An Old World Heritage - 1985

Books Co-Authored by Terry G. Jordan

Ernst and Lizette Jordan : German Pioneers in Texas - 1971

Hill Country Folk : The Willmann - Nies - Knolle Family : In Germany and Texas - 1992

The Human Mosaic : A Thematic Introduction To Cultural Geography - 1994

TERRY GILBERT JORDAN 1938-2003

by Dick Stanley in Austin American-Statesman, October 18, 2003 (from Internet)

Even cancer couldn't slow down University of Texas cultural historian and world traveler Terry Jordan for long. The author of more than 25 books and numerous research papers was still going strong, almost 2 ½ years after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, when he died early Thursday at his home in Northwest Austin, a few hours after watching baseball on television. He had celebrated his 65th birthday on Aug. 9. "He said, I'm dying," said his sister, Janice Shefelman of Austin. "He felt it."

His son, Eric Jordan, said his father had "lectured for two hours last Friday to graduate students about what geography meant to him." The elder Jordan, who held the Walter Prescott Webb Chair in History and Ideas in UT's geography department, had added two cultural geography textbooks to his credit this year. He was born in Dallas in 1938, the son of a homemaker and a Southern Methodist University professor of German. A sixth-generation Texan, he was the great-grandson of one of the original settlers of the German hill Country town of Fredericksburg. Jordan grew up in Dallas and attended Southern Methodist, UT and the University of Wisconsin, where he got his doctorate in 1965. After professorships at Arizona State University and the University of North Texas, he came to Austin in 1982 and established an academic reputation for individuality and controversy.

"He didn't go about it the way other geographers had in the past, and that made other geographers leery of him," said his daughter, Tina Jordan. "He was an incredibly inquisitive man. He believed you went out in the field instead of sitting at the desk reading." Her father summed up his philosophy in the introduction to his 1996 book, "The Mountain West, Interpreting the Folk Landscape." "Dirty boots and wet socks go with cultural geography," he wrote, "and I know more about sunburn and sore feet than hemorrhoids."

The Texana shelves in bookstores statewide still sell some of his works, such as "Texas Log Buildings, a Folk Architecture" and "Texas Graveyards, a Cultural Legacy." His longest running work, "The Human Mosaic," published in 1976, is in its ninth edition as a university textbook. "He liked to say that his entire intellectual life was encapsulated in that book," Tina Jordan said.



Terry Gilbert Jordan

Terry Gilbert Jordan, an author, scholar, and educator beloved by his family and his many students and colleagues died on October 16, 2003, from pancreatic cancer. He was 65.

Terry was the longtime Walter Prescott Webb professor of History and Ideas in the geography department at the University of Texas; before that he spent many years as chairman of the geography department at the University of North Texas in Denton.

At the time of his death he had completed field research in 65 countries, exploring topics as diverse as the origins of livestock ranching, folk architecture, burial customs, forest colonization, agricultural practices, and village life. As one of the most published and cited cultural geogra-

phers of his generation, he brought out one lauded book after another; along the way he won numerous professional and teaching awards and served as president of the Association of American Geographers.

Born and raised in Dallas, Terry was a sixth-generation Texan and proud of it. His keen intellect was nurtured by both his mother, Vera ("Bebbie"), a quintessential Southern matriarch from the deep East Texas town of Elysian Fields, and his father, Gilbert, a mild-mannered soul who rebelled at a young age against his hill country ranching roots to become a professor. Terry inherited both his mother's Celtic feistiness and his father's scholarly bent, a combination that served him well. He grew up in University Park, in the shadow of SMU, and received his B.A. there in 1960, and then went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Texas and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.

Terry embarked on adventures whenever he could, floating 2000 kilometers down the Lena River in Siberia with his wife, Bella; visiting the Taj Mahal by moonlight; picnicking on the rocks at Stonehenge. His children remember playing tag amidst the ruins of Crete, hoping to glimpse the Minotaur. Terry relished many things: playing with his dogs, devouring plates of black-eyed peas and sausage, beating his family at croquet (he was fiercely competitive and excelled at most games).

He was a passionate genealogist, following delicate family threads back through the generations, patiently scanning census rolls, checking church records, and tramping through graveyards. If he had not been a professor, he would have been a stonemason; he loved piecing together walkways and retaining walls, and used to have freshly-quarried limestone delivered by the ton.

Terry is survived by his wife, Bella; his children, Tina, Sonya, and Eric; former wife and mother of his children, Marlis Anderson Jordan; his granddaughters, Madeleine, Anna Belle, and Olivia; his son-in-law, Ted Hindenlang; daughter-in-law, Shannon Jordan; and his sister, Janice Shefelman. All are grieving, and all will miss him deeply: for his easy, congenial company, for his legendary wit (like many Texans, he could tell a good joke, and an even better story), and especially for his kindness and generosity.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday in the UT Main ("Tower") Building, Room 212, at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to UT Austin Dept. of Geography and sent to the Dept. of Geography, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station, A 3100, Austin, Texas 78712.

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK BY RODNEY KOENIG

This is being written just as we are approaching the annual meeting in New Braunfels. Our program will have a number of interesting topics and venues, including a Schuetzen Verein and Skat lessons, 9-pin bowling and touring of various farms and ranch, cemetery preservation and tour of Fischer, Texas, family homestead preservation, heirloom and Lindheimer Gardens, as well as Tatting and crocheting classes. It appears that our society is in good hands and presenting a fine convention under the able leadership of Van Massirer and Connie Krause.

Since the last issue of the Journal, I am saddened to report the death of my mother, Elva Oeding Koenig (September 14, 1912-August 29, 2003), who had almost attained the age of 91 years. She was a daughter of Paul and Margaret Munke Oeding, married to John H. Koenig and the mother of Rear Admiral J. Weldon Koenig and Rodney C. Koenig. She had grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was active in her church, having been church organist for almost four decades. She was president of the Frauen Verein at her church and served as an election judge for many, many years. She brought home a number of blue ribbons from the Fayette County Fair. She is buried at Black Jack Springs Cemetery southwest of La Grange.

She loved her German heritage. Her native language in Texas was German and she continued to speak German and English up to the time of her death. She grew up in the Freyburg area northwest of Schulenburg. She lived all of her married life at O'Quinn, Black Jack, southwest of La Grange, Texas. Her German roots came from Schulau-Wedel near Hamburg and from Elz near Limburg on the Lahn River. Her first German ancestors came to Texas in 1845 with the Adelsverein. She spent her last Christmas with Mary and me in Houston. She played Christmas carols on our piano and she led a sing along on Christmas Eve. She loved taking care of her animals, she baked homemade bread for most of her life, tended her garden, her livestock and was always willing to help at her church and with her family and neighbors. She was a wonderful mother, spouse, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother and neighbor. She was loved by her family and community and will be sorely missed. She left her German mark through her music, her cooking, her children and grandchildren.

A different event occurred on September 25, 2003, when Charles Koenig, my uncle and the brother of my late father, John Koenig, turned 100 years of age. Uncle Charlie was the guest of honor at a Koenig family reunion at my brother's home this Fall. Uncle Charlie's goal is to reach age 109. With Charlie's good disposition and sharp mind, we are all pulling for him.

There are numerous ways in which you can leave your German mark. Consider modifying your Will to leave 10% of your estate to GTHS. Consider changing a life insurance beneficiary designation to do the same. Consider changing an IRA to designate a portion of your IRA to GTHS. Encourage your children to take German courses and history courses on Germans in Texas. Preserve old letters and diaries which document your family's German-Texan heritage.

For help in any of these areas, please call Rodney Koenig at 713-651-5333 or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com. Additionally, you may receive assistance from Julia Germany at the office of GTHS in Austin.

RECENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

by the Editor

THANK YOU, GERMANIA INSURANCE!

In August, GTHS Vice President Teddy Boehm of Brenham announced that Germania Insurance had contributed \$4,000 to the society to support publication of our Journal. Last year Germania also gave \$4,000 to GTHS. For many years, Germania Insurance has been a good friend and supporter of GTHS as well as a generous financial donor. Thank you, Germania!

GERMANIA INSURANCE

This firm was founded as Germania Insurance Mutual Aid Association in 1896 by a group of German-Texans to provide low-cost property insurance to Texas farmers and rural residents. It incorporated in 1897 with Otto Rau of Perry as President, E.W. Hander of Waco as Vice President, and L.A. Niebuhr of Bartlett as Secretary. In the 1980s, its name officially changed to Germania Farm Mutual Insurance Association, but German-Texans all over the state know the firm as Germania.

AUGUST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The third quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors was August 9 at the German Free School in Austin. The unapproved draft of the minutes of that meeting are included in this issue of the Journal.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING AT THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

The unapproved draft minutes of the society's 2003 business meeting at New Braunfels are included in this issue of the Journal.

NEW MEMBERS JOINED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN AUGUST

Two new directors joined the Board of Directors at its August meeting to fill vacancies created by recent resignations. The new directors are Carolyn Meiners of La Grange and Glen Treibs of Fredericksburg.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AT THE OCTOBER ANNUAL MEETING

At the GTHS Annual Meeting at New Braunfels in October, Theodora (Teddy) Boehm of Brenham, Ewing (Wing) Evans of Austin, and Van Massirer of Crawford were elected to four-year terms on the Board of Directors beginning in January 2004. Each of the three is completing a term on the board that expires in December 2003, and each is eligible to serve one additional term.

SATURDAY WORK DAY FOR THE GTHS OFFICERS

The Board of Directors at its August meeting decided to move more than 150 boxes of books, papers, and other items from a storage facility in Austin back to the German Free School as one way to cut GTHS annual expenses by more than \$3,000. The four GTHS officers along with the Executive Director donated all of Saturday, August 16th and completed this money-saving move.

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE GTHS JOURNAL

This year, for the first time, GTHS members received a special Fall issue of the journal devoted to the 2003 Annual Meeting held at New Braunfels. Connie Krause of New Braunfels, assisted by GTHS Executive Director Julia Germany, was responsible for this special issue and for the many hours of work that went into it. Thank you, Connie and Julia!

TEDDY BOEHM RECEIVES AWARD

In October, GTHS Vice President Teddy Boehm was named the "Outstanding Alumnus" of Blinn College. This was the first time any former student had been selected for this honor. Teddy received her award at ceremonies held in Brenham on October 10. Congratulations, Teddy!

MEREDITH McCLAIN TO SPEAK AT TGS MEETING

Dr. Meredith McClain of Lubbock, a member of the GTHS Board of Directors, announced in August that she has accepted an invitation from the Texas German Society to be a speaker on the program for the TGS' Annual Meeting next year

EHRENSTERN AWARD FOR 2003

At the 2003 Annual Meeting, GTHS President Van Massier of Crawford announced that three people had been selected to receive this year's Ehrenstern Award in recognition of their outstanding services and contributions to the society. They were Christine Mills of Pflugerville, Robert Neely of Bellville, and Muriel Vaughn of Austin, Congratulations and many thanks to these three for all they have done for GTHS!

FREE MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Win a free GTHS membership for yourself next year! GTHS offers a free one-year membership for the year 2004 to anyone who recruits five new members for the society. And anyone who recruits 100 new members receives a free lifetime membership! To earn this award, be sure to enter your name in the applicant's information section of the *Membership Information Form* on the line marked *How Did You Find Us?* Use the application form in this issue of the journal. Make copies of it front/back. Any color will do.

GTHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our annual GTHS Christmas Market will be held at the German Free School in Austin on December 6th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS ELVES!

Joe and Arlene Burges report that GTHS's FROEHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN Y'ALL MARKET will be needing our wonderful volunteers once again to assist in this fund-raising event held at the German Free School in Austin. On November 22 volunteers are needed to decorate the school and December 2, 3 and 4th will be the annual pre-sale at the school from 1-4 p.m. with volunteers assisting guests with their purchases. December 6th is the all-day market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you can assist, please call the GTHS office at 866-482-4847 or Arlene Burges at 512-255-5223.

MORE ON SISTER CITIES FROM PATSY HAND AND MADELINE DE LONG

Thanks to Madeline De Long for sending GTHS the names of two more cities for our German sister cities list. Castroville in Medina County is a sister city to Equisheim and D'Hanis, also in Medina County, is a sister city to Neider-Oberentzen. Both of them are German cities in Alsace, a region now part of France that has been German much of its history. Thanks also to Patsy Hand who wrote that Nordheim in DeWitt County at one time was the sister city of Nordheim in Germany. If you know of a German sister city, please let us know.

TEXAS GERMAN DIALECT PROJECT

The Texas German Dialect Project still is seeking volunteers to help document and preserve the German spoken in Texas. For details, see one of the following pages in this issue of the Journal.

EDITOR'S APOLOGY

In the genealogy section of last summer's issue of the Journal I included a letter long-time GTHS member Theresa G. Gold of San Antonio sent to Liz Hicks, our new Genealogy Editor. This is to apologize to Ms. Gold for putting her letter in the Journal. She did not intend it for publication. As she has pointed out to me, I should have taken information of interest to GTHS members from her letter and edited that. Regrettably, I thought everything in the letter was valuable genealogy information and thought Liz Hicks, who took over from me as Genealogy Editor, deserved Ms. Gold's words of praise. But that does not excuse my offending Ms. Gold by printing the letter in its entirety. I apologize to her and hope that in the future the job I do as editor will not offend anyone else.

OKTOBERFEST 2003

photo submitted by Arlene and Joe Burges



A special GTHS Oktoberfest was celebrated September 27th with a dinner and dance in the historic Richland Hall in rural Travis County near Pflugerville and Manor. The occasion marked the tenth anniversary of founding of the German Free School Guild. Six of the Guild's former presidents attended. They were (left to right) Arlene Burges (founding president), Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, Joe Burges, Helga von Schweinitz, Ewing (Wing) Evans and Hubert Heinen (the Guild's current president).

photo submitted by Arlene and Joe Burges



A number of GTHS members who have belonged to the German Free School Guild for ten years were at Oktoberfest. Shown here (left to right) are ten-year-members Arlene Burges, Joe Burges, Bill Koehler, Hubert Heinen, Annette Stachowitz, Elinor Koppelman, Rolf Stachowitz, Margaret Hitzfeld, Ewing (Wing) Evans, Barbara Evans and Marie Schultz.

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2003 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The third 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 were Teddy Boehm, Ben Buecker, Wing Evans, James Feuge, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Meredith McClain, Carolyn Meiners, Dan Schope, Terry Smart, Janice Thompson, and Glen Treibs. Absent were John Birkelbach and Ingrid Brock and Executive Director, Julia Germany.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Van Massirer moved approval of the Minutes of the May 24, 2003 meeting with typographical corrections. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hubert Heinen moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report dated August 8, 2003 showing revenues and expenditures through June 30, 2003. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board discussed the three-page report of August 2nd distributed by Executive Director Julia Germany prior to the meeting.

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD REPORT

Hubert Heinen reported on the Guild's activities and plans since the Board's previous meeting in May.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

GTHS Vereins: Teddy Boehm reported that she, Julia Germany, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, and Janice Thompson will meet on Monday, August 11th at Lockhart with prospective members of a verein.

Meredith McClain announced that she is working with an acquaintance at Nazareth to organize a verein there.

Connie Krause moved that, after a new verein is organized, GTHS will present as nearly a complete set of the GTHS Journal as possible to a library or "historical archives" in the verein's community. Motion approved.

In answer to whether or not the German Free School Guild should change its name to verein, it was noted that amendments to the GTHS By-laws approved in May retained Guild as the title of the German Free School Guild.

President Van Massirer assigned the Activities Committee the task of investigating a design and wording for a printed charter GTHS might present to each new verein after its organization.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Operational Fund Drive: For the Budget and Finance Committee, Chuck Kalteyer, an Advisory Board member, reported that seven weeks of the Operational Fund Drive have raised approximately \$7,225, some \$2,000 less than the amount received last year at this stage of the drive.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Appointment of the Old German Free School Committee: The Executive Committee moved that Teddy Boehm, Wing Evans, Hubert Heinen, Van Massirer, and Terry Smart be appointed the Old German Free School Committee for 2003. Motion approved.

President Van Massirer appointed Teddy Boehm the Chair of this committee.

Committee members pointed out that GTHS By-laws make the Old German Free School Committee responsible for care, upkeep and operation of the German Free School, and that they would seek close operation with the Guild.

Use of vacant space in the German Free School: The Executive Committee moved that the apartment in the German Free School be used for a classroom and for storage. Motion approved.

Deutsche Samstagschule (Saturday German School) for children: The Executive Committee moved that GTHS organize and advertise a *Deutsche Samstagschule* for children (as proposed in the Executive Director's Report) using space at the German Free School for a classroom provided six or more tuition-paying students enroll. Motion approved.

J. Feuge moved that Hubert Heinen be placed in charge of the *Deutsche Samstagschule* project. Motion approved.

Move of GTHS Property: Van Massirer announced the Executive Committee (Teddy Boehm, Wing Evans, Van Massirer and Terry Smart) had volunteered to move GTHS property now in climate-controlled storage to vacant space at the German Free School on Saturday, August 16th.

Sale of GTHS Property: The Executive Committee moved that the Board authorize the Executive Committee to select appropriate items from GTHS property now in climate-controlled storage for sale at the Annual Meeting in New Braunfels and at future occasions. Motion approved.

Committee members pointed out that the Executive Committee will consult with Connie Krause about how such a sale, if possible, could be arranged at the New Braunfels Annual Meeting.

Increase of Annual GTHS Dues The Executive Committee moved that dues for 2004 be increased from \$20 to \$25. The motion was approved.

Minutes of Board Meetings: The Executive Committee moved that minutes of a Board meeting must be labeled "Unapproved Draft of the Minutes of ____ (date)" when minutes are included in an issue of the Journal prior to the Board's approval of the minutes. Motion approved.

Staff Performance Review: President Van Massirer announced that the Executive Committee with input from Julia Germany will write an updated job description for use in the Executive Director's performance review by the Executive Committee in 2004. This job description will be distributed to the Board for input .

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Election of Directors at the Annual Meeting: The Membership Committee nominated John Birkelbach, Teddy Boehm, Wing Evans and Van Massirer for reelection to an additional four year term on the Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2007. There were no nominations from the floor. These four nominations will be presented to the Annual Meeting at New Braunfels on Sunday, October 12.

Letters to Lutheran Churches: Janice Thompson reported the Membership Committee had not approved a recommendation made at the May Board meeting that GTHS send letters to more than 900 Lutheran churches in Texas seeking new GTHS members.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting: Connie Krause presented plans for the Annual Meeting at New Braunfels October 10-12 and set a deadline of Friday, August 15 for directors to submit ads obtained for the September 1 special issue of the Journal devoted to the Annual Meeting.

Following discussion of registration fees for the Annual Meeting, Hubert Heinen moved that children age six and younger be admitted free. Motion approved.

Interior Repairs and Painting: Wing Evans reported that GTHS received only one bid for interior repairs and painting the Board authorized at previous meetings, and that GTHS must obtain additional bids by the end of August or risk loss of grant funds. Terry Smart moved that President Massirer direct Executive Director Julia Germany to obtain three or more bids for the interior repairs and painting by Saturday, August 30th.

It was noted that the Board in a previous meeting authorized the German Free School Guild to arrange and direct interior repairs and paintings after bids are received.

Rental of the German Free School Building: Hubert Heinen and Charles Kalteyer, Advisory Board member, explained causes for the delay in drafting a lease agreement. Hubert Heinen offered to submit the final lease agreement to the Executive Committee as soon as it is completed.

Oktoberfest Update: Wing Evans reported that invitation to the Oktoberfest commemorating the Guild's 10th anniversary will be mailed August 21, and that a minimum of 100 attendees are expected.

Parking Lot at German Free School: Wing Evans reported recent repairs he made on the lot and asked for volunteers to help him complete a fence on the east side of the lot.

Musical concert as fundraiser: Ben Buecker announced plans for a German music concert were still being considered.

President Van Massirer sent to the Activities Committee the task of investigating a future evening of music and entertainment at the German Free School as a fund-raiser.

NEW BUSINESS

New Directors: Two new members of the Board were introduced: Carolyn Meiners of La Grange who was elected to complete the remaining two years of the four-year term in Position #7 vacated by Karl Micklitz which ends December 31, 2004; and Glen Treibs of Fredericksburg who was elected to complete the remaining three years of the four-year term in Position #12 vacated by Frances Copeland which ends December 31, 2005.

Ehrenstern Award: President Van Massirer called for nominations for the Ehrenstern Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting in New Braunfels. The Board voted to give the 2003 award to three individuals: Bob Neely, Christine Mills and Muriel Vaughn.

Recognition of Bequests: Glen Treibs moved that GTHS recognize individuals who leave a bequest to the society in their wills with some appropriate sort of physical acknowledgment such as a plaque to be displayed in the German Free School. Motion approved.

Membership Drive: Chuck Kalteyer, Advisory Board member, requested the Board to consider repeating last year's membership drive "contest" which offered annual dues in return for recruiting five or more new members. No action taken.

Expression of Thanks: Meredith McClain moved that President Van Massirer express to Executive Director Julia Germany the Board's appreciation and confidence for the work she is performing for GTHS. Motion approved

Terry Smart moved that President Massirer direct the Executive Director to send letters expressing the Board's thanks to all volunteers involved in the outreach activities listed in the Executive Director's report dated August 2nd. Motion approved.

Dan Schoppe moved that President Van Massirer direct the Executive Director to send a letter of thanks and a free one-year GTHS membership to a Dallas area resident who donated German language books to Dan Schoppe for GTHS. Motion approved.

TGS Annual Meeting: Meredith McClain announced that she had accepted an invitation from the Texas German Society to be a speaker at their annual meeting in 2004.

GTHS Telephone: Glen Treibs moved that President Van Massirer direct Executive Director Julia Germany that when the GTHS office is closed for one full day or more the office's telephone message must be changed to inform callers when someone next will be in the office to respond to calls. Motion approved.

Care of Grounds at GFS: James Feuge moved that the Board authorize payment of \$15 per hour to Christine Mills for maintenance of the grounds at the German Free School. Motion approved.

Location of 2004 Annual Meeting: The Board discussed possible locations for the 2004 Annual Meeting, but no action was taken.

Repair of Garage at GFS: President Van Massirer reported that the roof of the attached garage at the German Free School needed repairs. Hubert Heinen volunteered to obtain an estimate of the costs.

Next Board Meeting: President Van Massirer announced the next scheduled meeting of the Board is November 15, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin.

ADJOURNMENT

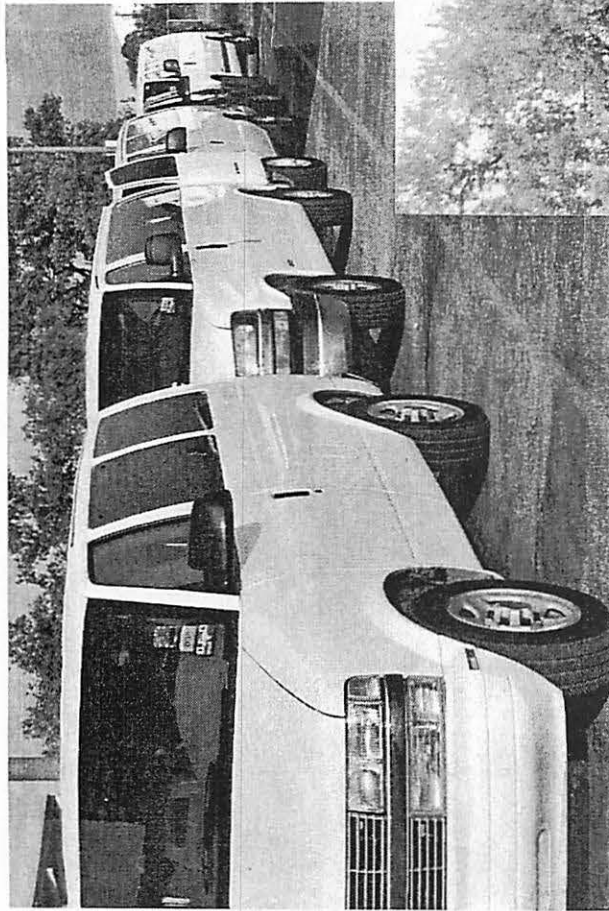
The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by Terry Smart, Secretary



The 2003 Annual Meeting at New Braunfels included a variety of field trips on Saturday that GTHS members could select. The photo above shows part of the large group that gathered Saturday morning to board vans driving them to Solms, Fischer, Spring Branch, Mission Valley Bracken, and Freiheit for the day's program.

more photos on next page →



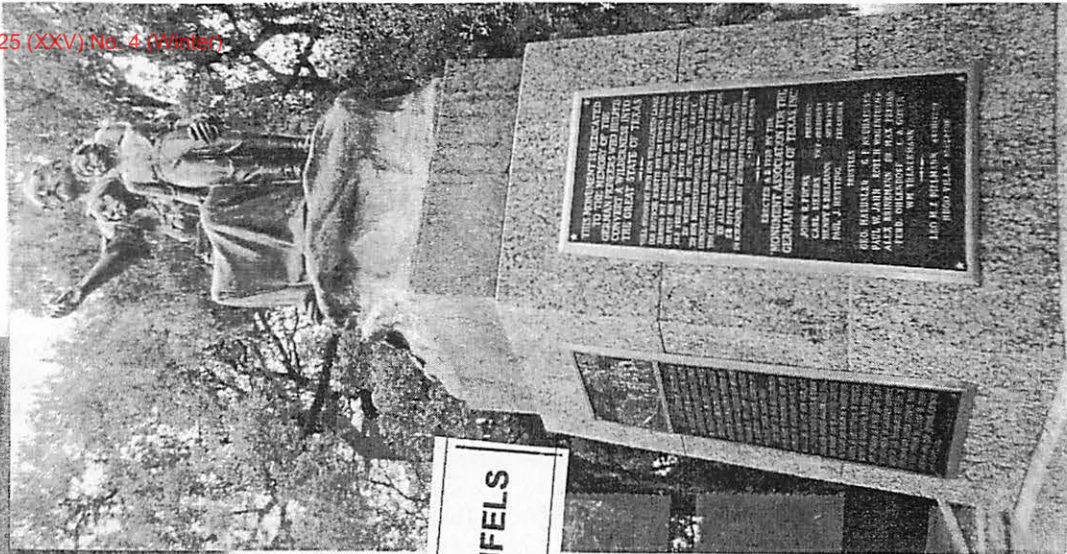
Vans carried participants to places near New Braunfels where a variety of educational programs were conducted.

THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING AT NEW BRAUNFELS

The convention offered choices of six field trips. One group (above) visited the historic Offermann Family homestead to learn about homestead preservation from Don Offermann. Another group (below) visited the old cemetery at Fischer to learn about cemetery preservation with Gerron Hite of the Texas Historical Commission.



photo submitted by Arlene & Joe Burges



A Sunday morning German religious service was held in Landa Park, followed by lunch in a park pavillion by this monument honoring the Germans who founded New Braunfels.

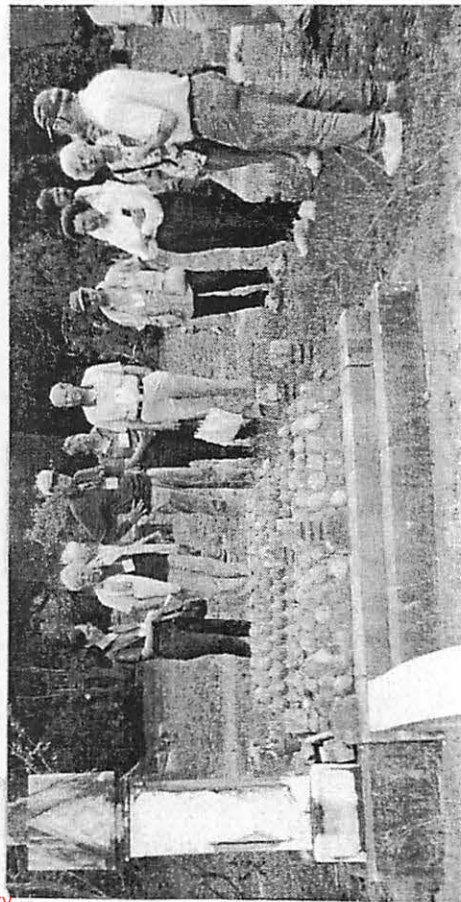


photo submitted by Charles Thompson

THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEN WHO PRESERVED GERMAN PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS IN THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS. THE MONUMENT WAS DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. THE MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED BY THE GERMAN WOMEN OF TEXAS AT A LUNCHEON HELD AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE, DALLAS, TEXAS, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1906. THE MONUMENT WAS UNVEILED BY THE HONORABLE JOHN K. HANCOCK, GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, AT A LUNCHEON HELD AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE, DALLAS, TEXAS, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1906. THE MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED BY THE GERMAN WOMEN OF TEXAS AT A LUNCHEON HELD AT THE HOTEL MONTELEONE, DALLAS, TEXAS, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1906.

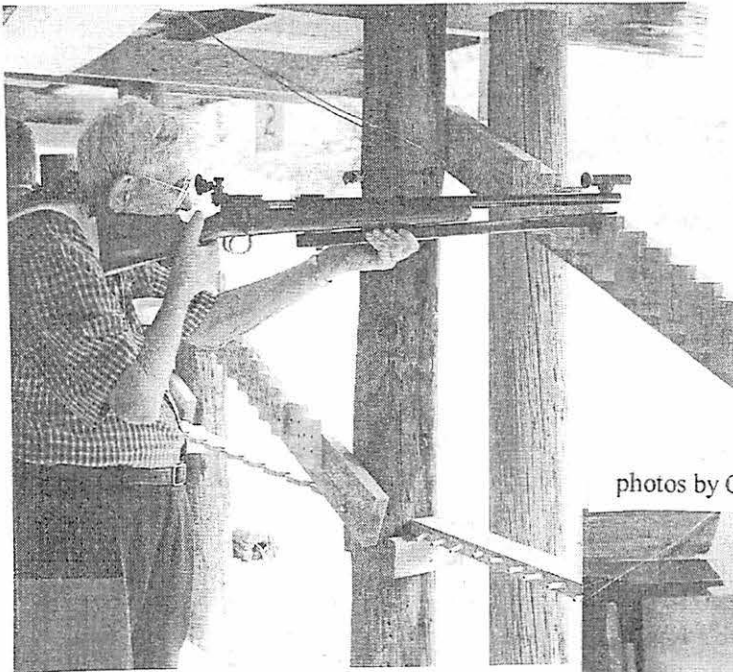
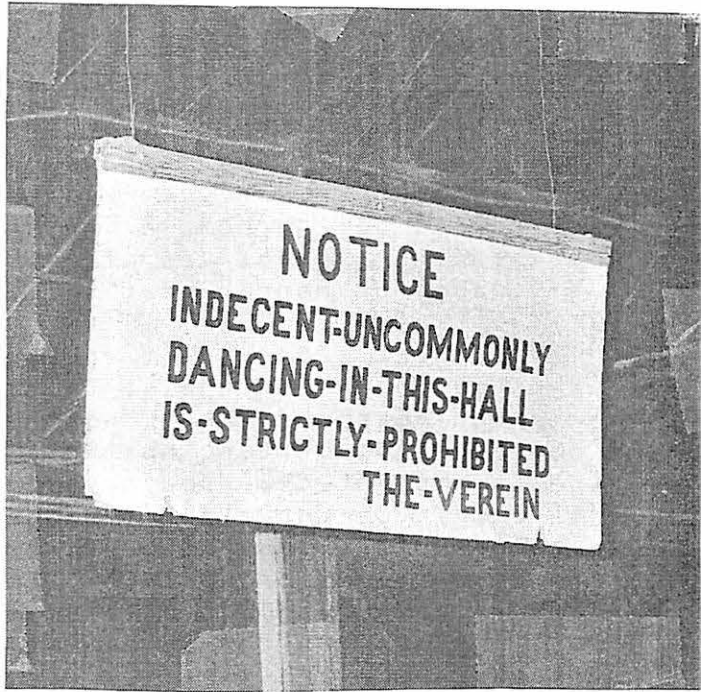
THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING AT NEW BRAUNFELS



The Consul-General of Germany traveled from Houston to attend the 2003 GTHS Annual Meeting at New Braunfels. Friday evening, he briefly spoke to GTHS members, explaining his government's policy on Iraq and its plans to assist the training of a future police force for Iraq.



This old warning sign was still posted in the Germania Farmer Verein's hall at Anhalt near New Braunfels where a German band provided music for Saturday night dancing following the business meeting and dinner during the 2003 GTHS Annual Meeting.



photos by Chuck Kalteyer



One field trip was to the New Braunfels Schuetzen, Verein founded in 1849, where GTHS members did target shooting. Chuck Kalteyer reports that the high score of the day was earned by 86-year-old Walter Kalteyer.

HILL COUNTRY G.T.H.S. GATHERS IN FREDERICKSBURG

Members of the Hill Country Group (Verein) of the German-Texan Heritage Society met in Fredericksburg on Saturday 25 October 2003 for their autumn get together.

The gathering began at Friedhelm's Bavarian Inn for a German lunch. From here the group proceeded to tour a number of old, German churches which was the focus of the meeting. The first stop was at the former Edison Street Methodist Church, now the Greater Life Christian Center. This church had been known as the "northern" Methodist church and had German speaking ministers as late as the 1950's. Some former members recalled interesting facts about how it used to be at this church, including how the women wore hats and sat on one side of the church, and the men sat on the other. The two front doors to the church allowed the women to enter through one door, and men to enter through the other. This red-brick structure was novel in its day because it was the only brick church in town. It was also the only brick church which builder Carl Feuge built or helped build, completing this one in 1923. Several members present were relatives of Rev. Pape, who preached at this church. His daughter Hannah married Carl Feuge.

The next stop was at the former First Methodist Church, known as the "southern" Methodist Church. Doctrine, rather than direction, was the reason for the "northern" and "southern" epithets. The congregation of the "northern" church was mainly country people, while most of the "southern" congregation lived in town. This structure of the old First Methodist Church is the oldest church in Fredericksburg--other than the Vereinskirche (Community Church)--and now is the property of the Gillespie County Historical Society and is being used as a theater. Here Dr. Wilbur Crenwelge presented a background of the Methodist churches in town. Around 1850 a preacher for the Vereinskirche had been summoned from Victoria. He preached so adamantly against the beer-drinking of the local citizenry, that they ran him off. He then established the First Methodist Church.

The third stop was at the Marienkirche, the old St. Mary's Catholic Church, which has been restored and is still in use next to the new St. Mary's Church. Mr. Milton Crenwelge shared some interesting information about the church. Among the features pointed out were the beaded wood ceiling, star figures in the ceiling where lamps had once been suspended for lighting, the hand-made pews in which no nails had been used, the wooden window catches which fit into notches in the window jambs to hold the window open at selected levels, and the mostly original beams supporting the balcony. Since a wedding was taking place in the new St. Mary's, the group could not view this "painted church".

After a brief discussion and tour around the outside of the Marienkirche, the caravan proceeded to Holy Ghost Lutheran Church. After a brief stop and quick look at the parsonage constructed of Basse-block poured stone from the 1920 time-period, the tour continued to the old Negro church, the African Methodist Church, a frame structure on East Main Street. Memories of blacks who

once lived in Gillespie County were shared. Among the better known of the Negro population was Dr. Paul Phillips Sr. He was the county's veterinarian, and he spoke German. His son Paul Jr., too, became a veterinarian. Since Texas universities were not yet integrated, he had to study at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Almost all of the local blacks spoke German.

This meeting was planned and arranged by G.T.H.S. board member Dr. James Feuge and Joyce Theis. Other G.T.H.S. board members attending were Dr. Terry Smart and his wife Bridget of San Antonio, and Janice Thompson and her husband Charles of Houston. Advisory Board member Leatrice Haley and her husband Clyde of Inez, and former board members Frances Copeland and Theresa Gold, both of San Antonio, and Joyce Theis of Kerrville, were participants. Additionally, members from San Antonio, Spicewood, Johnson City and Fair Oaks Ranch participated.

The next meeting of the Hill Country Group (Verein) of G.T.H.S is tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday in April 2004 during wildflower season. Anyone interested in attending should contact either Dr. Feuge or Mrs. Theis, whose addresses and phone numbers appear in both the Spring 2003 and Fall 2003 JOURNALS.

submitted by James Feuge of Fredericksburg

ALSACE AND LORRAINE

by the Editor

Thanks to information from GTHS members and others, we now know four Texas cities have sister cities in the former *Elsass* and *Lothringen* regions known in French as *Alsace* and *Lorraine*. These regions were the homes of many Germans who emigrated to Texas in the early 1800s. Today these regions are part of France. What was *Elsass* (*Alsace*) and *Lothringen* (*Lorraine*) are shown on the map of France as the *departments* of Bas-Rhin and Haut Rhin.

Abilene --- Sister City of Herrisheim in Bas-Rhin, France
 Castrovilla --- Sister City of Equisheim in Haut-Rhin, France
 D'Hanis --- Sister City of Neider-Oberentzen in Haut-Rhin, France
 Hondo --- Sister City of Geipolsheim in Bas-Rhin, France

Except for the Rhine River to the east, the regions of *Elsass* and *Lothringen* never had definite boundaries. They were inhabited by Germans as early as 500 A.D. and did not become parts of France until the 17th century. The French consolidated the territories they called *Alsace* and *Lorraine* in two political provinces (later *departments*) named Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin. But natives in those two areas continued to use the old German or French names. After France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, most of the two *departments* were ceded to the new German *Reich* (Empire) created by Prussia. Then after World War I the area was restored to France and today once again is divided into Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin. Strasbourg is the capital city of Bas-Rhin and Colmar is Haut-Rhin's capital city.

A large part of the German emigration from *Elsass-Lothringen* to Texas settled west of San Antonio at Castrovilla or in nearby Medina County communities including D'Hanis, Hondo, Quihi and New Fountain.

**MINUTES (Unapproved) OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, OCTOBER 11, 2003
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

The business meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society membership began at 7:00 p.m., October 11, 2003, in the Germania Farmer Verein's hall at Anhalt, Texas, as part of the society's Annual Meeting in New Braunfels, with GTHS President, Van Massirer, presiding.

Minutes of the society's 2002 business meeting, which were published in the GTHS Journal, were approved without additions or corrections.

Ewing ("Wing") Evans, GTHS Treasurer, presented a financial report: the society's estimated financial deficit for 2003 will total approximately \$13,345 and that the society's reserves were \$237,000 as of this date. Evans made available a complete copy of his report for members to examine

President Van Massirer announced that the GTHS Board of Directors had approved a \$5 increase in annual dues and that it will continue to seek ways to raise more funds and ways to cut costs without cutting services.

Charles ("Chuck") Kalteyer, member of the GTHS Advisory Board, presented a report on the 2003 Operational Fund Drive: as of this date, contributions received from 145 members total \$9,150 compared to contributions this time last year from 250 donors that totaled \$12, 150.

Janice Thompson, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented the committee's three nominations to fill four-year terms on the GTHS Board Directors beginning in January 2004: Theodora ("Teddy") Vanderwerth Boehm of Brenham, Ewing ("Wing") Evans of Austin, and Van Massirer of Crawford. There were no nominations from the floor, and the three nominees were elected.

President Van Massirer announced that three GTHS members had been selected by the Board of Directors to receive the 2003 Ehrenstern Awards in recognition of outstanding services and contributions to the society: Christine Mills of Pflugerville, Robert Neely of Bellville, and Muriel Vaughn of Austin.

Connie Krause, Chair of the 2003 Annual Meeting at New Braunfels, expressed thanks to the individuals and groups in New Braunfels, Comal County and elsewhere, who volunteered time and effort to plan and conduct the three-day meeting.

President Van Massirer expressed thanks to Connie Krause and her husband Michael Krause, and to Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director and to Jim Kennedy of Austin for their work on behalf of the Annual Meeting.

Terry Smart, Editor of the GTHS Journal, requested members to submit photos taken at the 2003 Annual Meeting for future issues of the journal.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Terry Smart, Secretary



Thanks to Janice and Charles Thompson of Houston for donating the GTHS banner used at the 2003 Annual Meeting and at other events during this year

**GERMAN COWBOYS ARRIVED IN LUBBOCK
FOR 15TH ANNUAL COWBOY SYMPOSIUM**
submitted by Meredith McClain

Delegation of 11 has arrived from Germany for Cowboy Symposium

Lubbock --As so often in the past years, once again German-speaking participants will be a part of the annual National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration held each fall in Lubbock, Texas. Ten members of "Lubbock Town," a western club outside of Cologne, Germany, arrived here on September 1. They are being hosted by the Southwest Center for German Studies at TTU.

Thirty years ago the club named their western village "Lubbock Town" after Lubbock, Texas. About 35 active members spend most weekends during the year in their bungalows lining "Main Street," from the church on one end to the Saloon and music hall on the other. Lubbock Mayor McDougal will honor each German with Honorary Citizenship Certificates.

Now the second generation leader, Walter Milz, has organized his sixth visit to the Lubbock, TX. event, bringing with him his fiancée, Elke Broisch, whom he will marry during the Lubbock stay, his brother, and seven other western enthusiasts. Walter Milz and Elke Broisch will be honored on Saturday as they lead the Parade of the Horse followed by the German delegation from Lubbock Town, Germany.

On the 4th of July weekend 2003, Walter Milz and the Lubbock Town Club members organized a Country/Western music competition. The winner, 21 year old Heidi Hofmann, is thrilled that the first prize is this trip to Lubbock and the opportunity to perform on stage during the Symposium. She says that she can hardly wait to hear all the other musicians performing around the trail ride campfire on Wednesday and at the Symposium. Heidi performs her original Country/Western songs on Friday, Sept. 5 in the Civic Center Theater at 3pm and on Saturday on the Exhibit Hall Stage at 4 pm.

Members of the German delegation are: Walter Milz and Elke Broisch, Hermann Josef Milz, Gerhard Josef and Elke Wischum with their children Eric and Sharon, Thorsten Jungs, Heinz Hermann Fadel, Dirk Spelsberg, and Heidi Hofmann.

For more information and promotion photographs & bio of Heidi Hofmann contact Meredith McClain (744-6033) or <meredithmclain@cs.com>.



According to some sources, "OK" comes from the initials of a German American at a Ford car assembly plant. Oskar Krause placed his initials - OK - on parts when they were approved. Thereafter, OK became a sign of endorsement or favorable regard.

from Cobblestone, May 2001; illustration by Mike Phillips

Texas history nearly took turn for 'wurst'

By RAY WESTBROOK
AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

For most West Texans, probably not.

But Prince Hans von Sachsen-Altenburg is in Lubbock today to talk about what might have been. He will detail a 19th-century plot by German nobility to take over Texas and turn it into a German country.

A citizen of Germany, Sachsen-Altenburg traces his ancestry to the aristocracy of Saxony in the 1800s. He moved to Indiana as an exchange student in 1969 and currently lives with his family in Plano.

Sachsen-Altenburg is scheduled to speak at 4 p.m. in the Qualla Room of Texas Tech's Foreign Language Building.

The author of 32 books and producer of a number of history-based television shows said his documentary evidence for the takeover plot includes letters and diaries from England, Germany, Russia and the United States.



Robin O'Shaughnessy / A-J Photo

Prince Hans von Sachsen-Altenburg, a citizen of Germany but resident of Plano, will speak today at Texas Tech about a mid 1800s plot to take over parts of southern and western Texas to create German country that would have been named West Texas.

submitted by Meredith McClain from LubbockOnline.Com (internet), October 10, 2003 (provided by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal)

The takeover venture was not an implausible plan, given that Texas had barely survived its war of independence from Mexico in 1836. And at the time, the United States was only 60 years from its own declaration of independence.

The plan, which involved about 8,000 colonists, had organization, strategy, and what was considered a fortune in financial backing from some of Germany's elite. Sachsen-Altenburg said it was equivalent in today's purchasing power to \$20 million.

"This group of people — only 29 members in the beginning — were not just any old noblemen," he said. "They were the highest aristocrats and sovereigns that Germany had to offer."

The plotters met secretly in a castle located on the Rhine River, and discussed how they could pull off the takeover with the support of Queen Victoria of England.

Victoria, who Sachsen-Altenburg said had married her German cousin — Prince Albert von Sachsen-Coburg — apparently was willing to lend support to the venture.

"It was literally one big, happy family. They decided to settle a great number of German immigrants within the southern and western parts of the Republic of Texas."

The Germans who arrived in the 1840s brought with them rifles and cannons, along with their other belongings. Under the guise of fleeing Germany to escape poverty and oppression, they formed military companies and fortified the cities they founded — New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.

Sachsen-Altenburg said the "settlers" never intended to take all of Texas. They hoped to let the northern part of the

History program

• **When — 4 p.m. today**

• **Where — Texas Tech Foreign Language Building**

• **Topic — German designs on Republic of Texas**

• **Speaker — Prince Hans von Sachsen-Altenburg**

• **Admission — Free to the public**

Republic be annexed by the United States. They would take the rest and call their new country West Texas.

In those days, anything south and west of the Colorado River was known as West Texas, Sachsen-Altenburg explained.

"I have never found a different name for it — it was always called West Texas."

He said the plan had the support not only of the various crowns of the German nations from Prussia to the smaller ones, such as Sachsen-Colburt, but also of Great Britain, France and Belgium.

"I have recently come upon some papers that additional support may have come even from Spain and Portugal. That would have become a miniature world war had it come to major military action.

"The German immigrants who came over here and actually did the settling were very militarily educated people. They were not farmers, they were not peasants, they were not impoverished people," he said.

"Just about all of them had a remarkable career in military leadership. Some had participated in the Napoleonic wars."

Like many other well-laid plans, however, flaws existed, one of them apparently terminal to the cause.

"The plan went amiss when some secret letters and charts were brought in early December 1844 from England to be delivered to the British Consul, William Kennedy, who was residing in Galveston.

"The gentleman who was supposed to deliver the sealed can of information was intercepted."

Sachsen-Altenburg said the interceptor drank the courier under the table at a hotel in Galveston.

"The next morning, the box was found and reported to Consul Kennedy. Several papers were missing, and the remaining papers soiled and unusable. That is how I presume — and this is one of the few speculative aspects — that the information eventually reached the White House."

Then President John Tyler, as one of his final executive decisions, signed a letter of intent for the United States to annex Texas as a state.

The following war between Mexico and the United States also provided a means of overcoming the military threat to Texas by the German colonists.

"They abandoned all plans and all funding," Sachsen-Altenburg said.

Fragments of the German project can still be seen today in the German-influenced towns of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.

But the language that prevailed in Texas was a kind of slow, Americanized version of English.

After the lecture, Dr. Meredith McClain reported "Normal everyday life in Lubbock is wilder than fiction. Nothing new, I know, but just to confirm the old adage, let me say the Prince drew a record-breaking standing-room-only crowd of 145 people into our basement lecture hall Friday afternoon from 4:00 – 5:30, primarily because of the help from our local newspaper which posted the following article (above) and a photo of the prince on the FIRST page. The lecture was excellent and the results of the visit extremely important."

• **Information —
Meredith**

**McClain, 742-
3237**

"A man of no common order":

Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau and American Culture

On the banks of the Neisse River, the watery border between Germany and Poland, far off the beaten path traversed by most tourists, is a little village called Bad Muskau. What makes this village distinct from most other charming German hamlets is the presence of a scenic landscape park that has drawn distinguished visitors for many years. Bad Muskau gained international renown in the mid-1800s when a minor German prince named Hermann von Pückler-Muskau turned his entire estate into a landscaped park of beauty and tranquility. Besides his park endeavors, Pückler's fame increased due to the popularity of his travel writings which transported readers to locations as distant as England and Algiers. These works were translated into English and were read by Americans from a broad range of ethnic backgrounds. Even the likes of Edgar Allan Poe and Ralph Waldo Emerson read Pückler's books.

Besides his reputation as a travel writer, Pückler was known among American landscape designers as an insightful landscape theorist. His book *Hints on Landscape Gardening* was not translated into English until 1917, but the original German version was being studied by Americans during the preceding decades. Besides reading Pückler's book, various American landscape architects traveled to Muskau to examine the park firsthand. The lessons they took home with them influenced the development of regional planning, landscape preservation, and public parks in America.

With the Reunification of Germany, the Muskau Park can once again be visited by American tourists, but for those who are unable to make a trip to Bad Muskau, a travel exhibition about Pückler's American connections is being organized by the "Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau" Foundation. This show will be exhibited in Bad Muskau and will then travel to the U.S. This will most likely occur in either 2006 or 2007. The exhibit will be divided into three main sections. The first will focus on Pückler's life and on the Muskau Park. The second section will examine the reception of Pückler's writings in mid-nineteenth century America, with particular attention being paid to the Transcendentalists and Edgar Allan Poe. The last part will discuss Pückler's influence on the early years of the landscape architecture profession in America. Although a general examination of Pückler's impact will be included, the main emphasis will be on the careers of four particular landscape architects. One of these men, George Kessler, was raised in Dallas and helped to shape the Texas urban landscape by designing Hermann Park in Houston and providing Dallas with one of its first urban master plans.

If you would like to learn more about this project or are interested in having this exhibit perhaps come to your community, please contact

Rachel Hildebrandt
16 Johnson Blvd.
Red Bank, TN 37415

or by e.mail: rehildebrandt@earthlink.net

Interested in Preserving Texas German?

**Do you or anyone you know (friends,
colleagues, church members, neighbors)
speak Texas German?**

If so, you may be able to help document this unique dialect before it dies out! The **Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP)** is an organization created to document and research representative Texas German speech communities in central Texas. The TGDP aims to preserve and provide information about the rich heritage of the Texas German dialect as it reflects the cultural and linguistic traditions of its residents.

For more information, contact Professor Hans C. Boas:

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TGDP TEXAS GERMAN
DIALECT PROJECT

An organization dedicated to the preservation of Texas German

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In August, GTHS Member Judith Renker of Temple submitted this clipping from the May 22nd edition of the San Saba News with a note saying "Enclosed is an article on Joseph Vogel who graduated from San Saba 57 years late. Joe is the great-grandson of John and Mary Otilia Vogel who settled in Caldwell County in the early 1850s."

Veteran to Receive Diploma at SSHS Graduation

Although it comes 57 years late, for Joseph Vogel of the class of 1946, receiving a diploma from San Saba High School will truly be a special occasion. Veteran, Joseph Vogel, will participate in SSHS graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 23, 2003 thanks to action taken during the 77th legislative session. During that session, the legislature voted in a new law to the Texas Education Code that provides for a school district to issue a high school diploma to certain veterans. An eligible applicant is one who is honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States, was scheduled to graduate from high school after 1940 and before 1951; and one who left high school before graduation to serve in World War II.

Joseph Thomas Vogel, better known as Joe, was born November 26, 1925 in San Saba. He was one of four children born to Walter T. and Myrtle Cady Vogel. Joe attended San Saba Schools until 1943 when he volunteered and entered the Marine Corps. During his service, Joe was stationed in the Asiatic Pacific Area, the Hawaiian Islands, the Mariana Islands, the Ryukyu Islands and Japan. He participated in action against the Japanese on Tinian, Okinawa, and in the Occupation of Japan. While in the service Joe received the Good Conduct Medal and was issued the Honorable Service Lapel Button. Joe was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps on April 4, 1946. When he returned home from the service, he entered into a farm tractor dealership business with his father and brother. In 1952, Joe bought a small farm about 5 miles north of San Saba where he pursued farming, but he kept working in the tractor



Joseph Vogel

business with his brother and father. The dry weather and a downturn in farming prompted Joe to move to Pecos in the fall of 1954 where he started a career in the auto dealership business. He moved to Dallas in 1962 where he continued to work in the auto industry. Later in his life Joe went to work for a freight line company from which he retired in 1987. Since that time, Joe has been living the good life traveling and enjoying his favorite past times. He and his wife, LaVerne Vogel regularly come to San Saba to stay on their farm and enjoy the company of friends from San Saba. Joe has one daughter, Vicki Vogel Smith who was born in San Saba. Her husband is Doug Smith and they have a son, Scott and a daughter Maren.

Joe's family has had a long tradition of military service for which they should be recognized, his father and his three son's John Vogel, Morris Vogel, and Joseph Vogel and Joe's son-in-law Doug Smith all served in the Military in four different wars - World War I, World War II, The Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SENIORS IN SAN SABA, RICHLAND SPRINGS, CHEROKEE AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES



Damon Blossman



Heather Lowe



Joe Vogel



Dusty Sutton



David Smith

JOE'S BIG CELEBRATION!by **Judith Renker**

I just have to tell you about Joe's big day...it happened May 23, 2003

Joe, Vicki and I went to San Saba on Thursday, May 22nd. The first thing we heard was "you have to go get today's San Saba News". We went by the newspaper office and Joe nearly came unglued! His picture and a big write up was on the front page! He sort of went into shock and/or orbit. All day Friday he had butterflies and was a nervous wreck. He wondered if he had made a mistake. ☺

We rented a room at the L&L Motel with the idea of inviting some friends in for tea, cokes, etc for Friday afternoon. Then, Joe called a nice restaurant called Ma & Pa's and asked them about a place. They were delighted. They set us up in the "Hollywood Room" so we could visit and have fun as long as needed. Then we ate there that night with the family and friends we had invited to eat with us. Doug got off work early on Friday and drove down from Richardson and got there in time for most of the festivities. We got a really nice surprise before we started eating. Ida and James Meredith drove over from Lake Brownwood to see Joe graduate. They walked in to get a bite to eat. Of course, we had them join us. It was great. Joe had lots of visitors come by. He got so many cards, even some gifts! He couldn't get over it.


Then, that night we all went to Rogan Field. Joe didn't want to wear the cap and gown; he wore a coat and tie. Said that was enough. By then he was in a state of shock. There were thirty-seven graduates plus Joe. He was called forward first for a special presentation. The School Supt. read a portion of the newspaper article and handed him his diploma. The entire audience gave him a standing ovation! All of the Seniors stood for him, too. Joe said he didn't see anyone when he looked up – he was in complete shock. Afterwards the senior girls all gathered around and were hugging him. (He liked that!) ☺ All the boys shook his hand and all were giving him various congratulations and thank you for going into service. It was quite a night for him. After the program was over strangers were walking up to him and congratulating him and thanking him.

I mentioned Ida & James but other family members showed up. Joyce Capps (from Lampasas) brought her mother, Maybelle Ray, who lives in Cherokee. (Maybelle is Melvin Cook's sister.) Gary and Sharon Vogel brought Frances Vogel. Frances had been living at Tow (where Sue lives) but has just moved back to San Saba. I don't have her address yet.

You can see what a wonderful time we had. Vicki & Doug ended up spending the night at the L&L and left early on Saturday to get home since Scott and Maren were coming in from Indianapolis.

I'm not sure Joe has "landed" yet. He is still getting cards! Needless to say, I am very proud of him!

And Judith Renke reports that there were more surprises in store for Joe Vogel three weeks after his high school graduation when he attended the Sunday service at his church on May 15thsee next page



MORE HONORS FOR JOE:

Joe got a very big surprise yesterday at church at the 11:00 service. Early in the service the Youth Director told about Joe's graduating from San Saba High School. He said the "new" College & Career Class wanted to honor him and make him an honorary member of the class! All the members of that class came forward to the pulpit and they were grinning from ear to ear. Then Joe was called forward. He was presented with a large plaque. I'm going to try to describe it.

Gold Letters at the top: In Recognition

Just Below That: A large Cross

Inscription Below That: In special recognition of

Script Writing: JOE VOGEL

On the 15th day of June in the year of our Lord 2003

Tyler Street UMC Student Ministry

By

Receiving High School Diploma

For

Donald A. Ward – Student Minister

Signature

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Then he was given one of the new slim line leather bibles like the ones the church gives out to the regular high school graduates. They gave Joe a large print rather than regular print due to his age! ☺ He was really overcome. Again, he got a STANDING OVATION from everyone there. The Youth were so happy to call him "one of their own". They wrote on the back of the plaque notes and told him when they met and invited him to come join them. He tried to thank everyone but got choked up and had to stop with a big "thank you". He just can't believe what all has been done for him. Of course, you know, I'm very proud of him. Everyone seemed so happy for him and glad to see him receive this honor.

THE OLD GERMAN NEWSPAPER OSTFRIESISCHE NACHRICHTEN
(this message to the Journal was edited and abridged by the Editor)

The old German newspaper *Ostfriesische Nachrichten* was published in Iowa by Pastor L. Hündling (Huendling) in 1882 to be a connection between the new American settlements and the old homeland by providing news of events in Ostfriesland and the "New World." Later you could find this newspaper all over the U.S. and Ostfriesland. Issues from the period 1882 to 1915 were microfilmed twenty to thirty years ago. Unfortunately, most of the issues between 1916 and 1971 were lost on the way to a processing center to be microfilmed.

The Reverend Kenneth DeWall and others have published indexes to obituaries in some issues of this newspaper. And in 1997, we (the Ostfriesland Society of Iowa) began reading each newspaper for 1882-1915 and what is left for the years 1916-1971 and recording all the personal data in obituaries and news stories on computer files. We also extracted interesting stories about the events in the America especially for readers in Germany. So far we have listed names of 10,300 individuals who died between 1882 and 1915 plus 12,300 names of their relatives. For the years 1916-1971 we have listed 2,000 deceased individuals and 5,000 relatives.

Now we are searching for issues this newspaper published between 1916 and 1971. Please contact me if you have copies of the newspaper or know where copies are located. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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 of 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.*

BLUM, OTT

Susan Bracken Finn, LELIAFINN@aol.com, 24 Brisbane Way, Irvine, CA 92612

Looking for info. about suicide of Louis BLUM 1-27-1901, born in Germany, 1855. He is listed on the 1900 census of Navarro Co., TX. Louis married Miss L.L. OTT on May 22, 1883. Louis may have lived for a time in Hill Co. Louis had a brother, Charles BLUM who died 10-29-1890 in Corsicana.

Reply: Try to find a newspaper write up about Louis' suicide; also, coroner's records for Navarro Co. There should also be testate (will) or intestate (no will) records for Louis.

HORNBOSTEL, METZE

Judy Hornbostel, jhornbostel@hotmail.com, 408 East St. Louis St., Hamburg, AR 71646

Seeking info. on August HORNBOSTEL who arrived in New Orleans, 1877. He went to Texas, in the Guadalupe and Comal Co. area. He owned a cotton gin in Geranimo, TX. He married Maria METZE. After Maria's death, August moved to Frio Co. where he died. Maria & August are both buried in Geranimo at Lone Oak Cemetery. I have called the church and all they have is that August and Maria are listed in their book of burials. Where in Germany was he from?

Reply: Hornbostel is part of Wietze, county of Celle, in Niedersachsen, Germany. It could be August was from there? His declaration of intent was filed in Comal Co. Maria's probate is listed in the index to Comal Co. Probate records. "Germans To America" Vol. 33, lists an August HORNBOSTEL age 22, occupation-carpenter, destination-Texas, arriving on the ship "Hannover" (Bremen, Havana and La Havre to New Orleans) April 7, 1877. The 1900 census has a different immigration date of 1882. I checked for death certificate on August which gives his date of birth as April 8, 1855 born Germany, parents born Germany, Mother's name-Miss Newman. Informant was Bill Hornbostel of Big Foot, TX (Frio Co.). The place of burial according to death certificate was New Braunfels, TX 11-24-1939, undertaker-Erskine Salmon of Pearsall, TX. I would try to find funeral home records and work Comal County, TX records for any other HORNBOSTEL. People have a reason for being where they are. Why did he go to Comal Co., who was he there with, and why did he leave. Try to find an obit for him, his wife, and his kids as may give place of birth beside Germany.

BIEBERSTEIN, BUESING, GERDES, NEUMANN

Ruby Buesing Tyson, 144 Garrapata, San Antonio, TX 78232

Seeks information on Ernst Wilhelm NEUMANN christened August 22, 1847 Jerusalem, Berlin Stadt, Brandenburg, Prussia. His Parents Ernst Heinrich NEUMANN and Ernestine TUGENDREICH DICKHOFF. This info. from library in LaGrange, TX. Also, anyone researching BIEBERSTEIN in Eschbruck or Eschwege, now in Poland? BIEBERSTEINS came to Fayette Co., TX in 1854.

Reply: I have some form letters for writing to Germany that I will send you since you know the place for your NEUMANN. You need to check a world gazetteer for correct name of town for BIEBERSTEINS. Remember to always start with what you know and work back as a lot of Ernst Wilhelm NEUMANNs. Use land records, religious affiliation to separate people with same name. You will have to research ALL the people with the same name to make sure you have YOUR ancestor.

GENEALOGY SECTION: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

SUEHS, MARBURGER

Lin Team, lteam@austin.rr.com, 600 Bellevue Place, Austin, TX 78705

I am trying to find info. on Laura MARBURGER SUEHS 1881-1985, and Dr. Paul Ernest SUEHS (1875-1951) of Austin, TX. According to Laura's obit. She was active in the "Immergruen". Is there an on-line search from which I might obtain info. on these people?

Reply: "Immergruen" means always green. It might be a name of a ladies group at a church or some organization. You might try the Austin History Center on Guadalupe St. You need about 6-8 weeks lead time to get a death certificate. You could try to get funeral home ledger sheets for both Laura and Paul as sometimes contain more information than does a death certificate.

HAAK

Clyde Haak, Johnjwasson@aol.com

Please check genealogy (Texas) for lead on Karl William HAAK. Possibly DeWitt County, born ca. 1868.

Reply: You didn't give me much to go on. There is a William HAAK age 35, farmer, born Prussia listed on the 1870 Texas census for Precinct #3, Clinton, DeWitt Co., TX with wife, Charlotte age 30 born Prussia, children in household: Alvine 8 and Wm. 4. This might be Karl William HAAK? I did not find a Karl or Carl HAAK in a household on the 1870 TX census. You need to know NOT EVERYONE made the index to the censuses. I would suggest looking at the whole county for 1870 to see if you can find a Carl/Karl the right age in his parents household and allow for variation of spelling of HAAK.

KLAUSEN/KLAUSSEN/CLAUSEN

Louise Clausen, louise@talica.com

Any information appreciated on William Klausen, changed to Klausen who came to Galveston in early 1800's.

Reply: Record of Interments of the City of Galveston, 1859-1872 lists a William KLAUSEN, who died Oct. 28, 1867 from inflammation of bowels, residence-Galveston, Nativity-Alabama, buried in New Ground Cemetery. You might try to find an obit. William was 56 when he died. I would check with the Rosenburg Library in Galvestin for what records they might have to help in your search.

SCHMIDT, ROTH, FRIEDRICKS, LIECK

Doris Kirschke Brown, 1750 Stone Rd., Deland, FL 32720, dkirschke@atlantic.net

Conrad SCHMIDT arrived in Texas in 1846 with wife, Auguste Sybille ROTH, daughter, Anna Christine. Conrad came as part of the Adelsverein from Kurhesse. Subsequent children were Louise Sybille m. another SCHMIDT; Henry m. Marie PHILLIPS; Phillipine m. Joseph LIECK; and John Ernest Charles m. Marie D. Bammel. Anna Christine had married Carl F. C. FRIEDRICKS. I am in hopes some of the descendants of these families are still around? Some descendants may be in Houston or Beaumont areas.

KUGEL, WESTERFELD

Eugene Watson, Watson7714@aol.com

Trying to find Harriett Kugel WESTERFELD's burial in/near San Marcos, TX. Harriett KUGEL daughter Julia KUGEL came to the US in the 1840's or 1850's. First husband, Frank KUGEL died in Poland or Germany before they came. She married (2) George WESTERFELD.

Reply: I would try to find Harriett and second husband, George Westerfeld on a census, also find marriage record for Julia and find her on 1910,1920,1930 census to see when she says she came to US. Look for obits and church records to give you clues to where they came from. San Marcos/Hays County has a genealogy society. You might try www.usgenweb.com for address and to see if cemeteries for Hays county have been posted on web.

GENEALOGY SECTION: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor**KETTLER, MILLER(MUELLER), SCHENDEL, TEGEDER**

Joyce Campbell, jmc2@eonet.net

I am researching my family in Washington County. The names include KETTLER, MILLER (MUELLER), SCHENDEL, and TEGEDER. I would like to find burial place in Burton of Anna Meyer NEIMAN KETTLER who died in 1894. Her husband, Christoff KETTLER is not buried with her. August Christopher (Karl) MUELLER b. Jan. 25, 1836 Kotzlin (Kitzingen), Ost-Priegnitz, Germany, don't have his burial place. His wife, Charlotte Friedriche LANGENBURG MUELLER died Aug. 7, 1917 buried Salem Lutheran Church.

Reply: Found 3 August's: (1) born 1877, d. 9-6-1950 Brenham, Prairie Lea Cemetery; (2) born 7-5-1828, died 1-24-1907 Ebenezer Cemetery; and A. no dates, St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery, Burton. A Charlotte MUELLER is buried Welcome Quadrangle, Salem Lutheran Cemetery, Salem Community 2-1/2 miles SW of Brenham (Washington County).

KNESCHIK

Normk@htcomp.net

Researching KNESCHIK from Weisswasser, Germany believed to be Lutherans.

MEIER, SCHROEDER/SCHRODER

Debbie Martin, dmartin@anv.net

Researching Wilhelm MEIER and Louise SCHRODER(SCHROEDER). Their daughter, Augusta was born Feb. 16, 1885 Cat Springs, TX.

Reply: Wilhelm MEYER born August 22, 1850, died July 25, 1918 is buried in Cat Springs. I did not find a burial for Louise MEIER/MEYER. Did she remarry? I did find a Louise MEIER on the Texas Death Index who died Sept. 15, 1939 in Austin County. Her death certificate #40344. You might try to find an obit for this Louise to see if you can tell if yours before ordering death certificate. Texas Death Certificate cost \$9.00.

GERMANTOWN

Carol Byford, ebyford@austin.rr.com

I'm researching Germantown-Houston from 1900-1905. I'm having difficulty locating this area.

Reply: The Texas Room of the Houston Public Library located in the Julia Ideson Bldg. (old Hou. Public Library bldg. McKinney & Smith Sts.) will have information. According to "Houston's Forgotten Heritage", Rice University Press, 1991: "...While plantations grew up mostly in the east and south of the Harris county area, the north and west sections were gradually occupied by widely scattered farms of immigrants from northern Germany who began coming in the early 1830's. Farms on Buffalo Bayou approx. ten miles above Harrisburg were situated close together in a vicinity known as Germantown. Just west of this area, at the confluence of White Oak and Buffalo Bayous, the Allen brothers founded the city of Houston in 1836."

GOTTHARDT

Bob Schmidt, anne.schmidt@pandora.be, PSC 79 Box 193, APO, AE 09714

Would like to correspond with anyone researching the GOTTHARDTS of Comal and Guadalupe Cos. Ernest, Gustav and Jacob came in 1845 to Comal Co. from Liebenscheid, Nassau, Germany.

Helpful Websites for Genealogy

Submitted by: Elizabeth "Liz" Nitschke Hicks

If YOU have a favorite website for genealogy please let us know.

To find most anything do a search at www.google.com. Try doing a google search for the first and last name of your ancestor. Be sure to put the name in "quotation marks", and use same technique for search such as "Lutheran Archives"+Texas. There is also a German version of google www.google.de

www.cvndislist.com - For genealogy sites by topic (Church records) or location (Germany/Deutschland)

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman> - Germany GenWeb Project

www.genealogienetz.de- German Archives, Societies, Translation, etc. (lots in English)

<http://www.feefhs.org>- Federation of Eastern European Family Societies (Salt Lake City , UT)

www.vitalrec.com- Vital Records (U.S. States)

www.teldir.com/eng/euro/de- German Phone books (do a search for your surname in the town or village they came from and closest large city to find possible relatives). You can also do a google search at www.google.com then type in "phone books Germany"

<http://www.genealogy.net/gene/www/ghlp/muster.html>- Form Letters for German Genealogy

<http://www.postag.de>-German Postal Codes

www.rootsweb.com - To find mailing lists such as the German-Texan Mailing List, or German Kingdoms, etc., also for surname list to find people researching the same surname(s) you are. Social Security Death index at rootsweb-ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com

<http://foko.genealogy.net> - Surnames being researched by German researchers

www.usgenweb.com - Use clickable map of U.S. to go to the state your ancestors lived (example: Texas), then go to county and look to see what records have been posted (Cemeteries, Censuses, etc.). You can post queries on county site and see if anyone has posted the surname(s) you're researching in that county.

www.ellisland.org- Ellis Island database, New York passenger arrivals from the LATE 1800's.

www.tsl.state.tx.us- Texas State Library, do a search for genealogy (Military indexes, Republic of TX Claims, etc.),and what Texas county records have been microfilmed and are available on interlibrary loan.

www.familysearch.org - Latter Day Saints (Mormons) Library, click on "search" for IGI (International Genealogical Index, Social Security Death Index, Etc.); also, click on "Library" then click on Family History Library Catalog to do a Place search or Surname search. You can see what has been filmed of the records in your ancestor's town, village, city. This film is available for loan from an LDS Family History Library near you. You can find locations at this site.

<http://www.fortunecity.com/littleitaly/amalfi/13/ships.htm> - Immigrant Ships, descriptions of immigrant ships

GENEALOGY SECTION: Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor

www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration-login.htm - Galveston Passenger Lists (incomplete)

sec.state.la.us/archives/gen/nln-ship_pass-index.htm - New Orleans Passengers

www.hamburg.de/fhh/behoerden/staatsarchiv - Select "Link to Your Roots English"

istg.rootsweb.com - Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild and www.cimorelli.com

www.earlyfamilies.com - Pre 1700 arrivals to America from Europe

www.mysticseaport.org/library/initiative/ShipRegisterList.cfm - Click on link - "Search Register" Mystic Seaport, the Museum of America and the Sea Ship Registers Lists

<http://www.com-de.pair.com/wast> - This military archives (Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt) holds a central registry of records cards of persons who served in WWII, and German naval personnel (1871-1947), including drafted merchant seamen.

www.xensei.com/users/manet/english/index.htm - Mecklenburg-Vorpommern-histories, maps

<http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/land/wprussia/link/introe/html> - West Prussia-the 1772 land registry for West Prussia is posted here.

www.kartenmeister.com - This database contains 61,180 location and over 20,000 name changes. All locations are east of the Oder and Neisse rivers and are based on the borders in spring of 1918. Directions for use of this database are given in English.

www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/census/census_clues_1850_to_1930.html - Clues in Census Records, 1850-1930

www.bcpl.net/~dmg/courthouse.htm - Courthouse Experience

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sgphtml/sashtml> - American Memories Site - NEW - The American Soldiers' Newspaper of WWI, 1918-1919

<http://www.nbtx.com/sophienburg> - Sophienburg Museum & Archives email:

www.mindspring.com/~dmaxey/rep_b&d.htm - Name Index to Military Bounty and Donation Land Grants of Texas 1835-1888

www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/immigrant_arrivals/passenger_records.html - The National Archives Immigrations Records page for an overview of the records held by the Natl. Archives in Washington, D.C., and a brief history of different periods in American Immigration law. Prior to September, 1906 a person could be naturalized by ANY federal, state or local court.

To find the location of your ancestor's town in Germany, send an email message to geo@genealogy.net. Leave subject box blank and in the body of the message just type in the name of the town. Example: Lunzenau (do not put Sachsen or Germany, just the name of the town/village, NOTHING ELSE). Do not sign message. You will receive an almost immediate reply by return email.

PLEASE REMEMBER ONE PROBLEM WITH THE INTERNET IS THAT WEB ADDRESSES CHANGE!

COLONIZATION RECORDS OF GERMAN IMMIGRANTS & SHIP PASSENGER LISTS

by Robert de Berardinis

Acquisitions Director for Clayton Library Friends, Houston

An often overlooked series of documents in the Texas State Archives are the colonization records of German immigrants and ship passenger lists from 1836 to 1846 found in the Texas Secretary of State's office. All of these documents and the indexes to ship passenger lists and immigrants are being microfilmed as part of Clayton Library Friends project to preserve old Texas records on microfilm at the Texas State Library and Archives.

Clayton Library Friends in addition to microfilming these records is also paying for an extra copy of the microfilm to be at the Texas State Archives (for free Inter Library Loan). Libraries and genealogical organizations will also be able to purchase copies of the film, currently at \$21 per roll. These important records of Germans entering Texas during this turbulent period have not been processed by the archives, thus adding to their obscurity.

This microfilming project will take many more thousands to complete and Clayton Library Friends, a tax-exempt 501.c(3) corporation and favorably rated by the Better Business Bureau, exists entirely on contributions (check with your tax preparer for tax deductibility).

(Thus, an appeal is being made to the members of the German Texas Heritage Society to help in this endeavor. Donors will be honored on the microfilm box at Clayton Library.)

Following the information below from the Texas States Archives finding aid regarding the emigration of Germans into Texas will be the complete list of all the various documents at the General Land Office, Texas State Archives, and Adjutant General's Office at Camp Mabry for which you may specifically designate your funds. Contributions may be sent to: Robert de Berardinis, Clayton Library Friends, P.O. Box 271078, Houston, TX 77277-1078. For further information, you can contact Robert de Berardinis at (713) 266-1692 or e-mail at: redeb@wt.net

Additionally, Robert de Berardinis will be speaking on these records to be microfilmed at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Texas State Genealogical Conference in Austin on Nov. 7. For more information concerning this conference and the other speakers consult the Texas State Genealogical Society web site at: <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsgs/>>

COLONIZATION RECORDS

In a law of December 22, 1836, the Congress of the Republic invalidated all empresario contracts granted under the Mexican Republic, declared all vacant lands under them the property of the Republic, and required empresarios and public officers to deliver the titles for such property to the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Following this repudiation, colonization in the Republic of Texas was not officially regulated until 1841, when a law of January 4 authorized the President to make contracts with W. S. Peters and others "for the purpose of colonizing and settling a portion of the vacant and unappropriated lands of the Republic." A subsequent act approved February 5, 1842, extended the provisions of the law to other colonization companies. The contracts, which were required to specify the number of families to be introduced within three years were to be drawn up and filed by the Secretary of State. Contractors were to commence settlement within one year and to have one-third the number of families contracted for in the Republic by the end of the same period, under penalty of forfeiture of the contract. It was declared the duty of the Secretary of State to publish and declare such forfeitures.

The present series originated in two numerical files in the Office of the Secretary of State, "Proclamation and Colony Affairs" and "Colony and Financial." In 1905 papers from these files relating to colonization were separated and combined into the single file "Colonization Papers," and transferred to the Department of Insurance, Statistics, and History (predecessor of the Texas State Library). In addition, documents from the files "Home Letters,"

“Miscellaneous Domestic Correspondence,” and “Diplomatic Correspondence,” as well as some private manuscripts were included in the series at the time of transfer. All of the documents were arranged in chronological order prior to transfer, and a list was prepared of the contents of the file. This list is in folder 1 of the series.

The series, formerly titled “Colonization Papers,” consists of colony contracts filed in the Department of State, as well as correspondence of the Department relating to colonies. Also, included is correspondence of the President and members of Congress relating to colonies and a small amount of material related to colonization in the Republic of Mexico. In addition, documents received in the Office of the Secretary of State after annexation relating to colonies are included. Private manuscripts included in the series include reports, maps, correspondence and financial records of land companies and colony agents as well as an apparently separate collection, the Robert Swartwout Papers, added at some time subsequent to the transfer of the files from the State Department. A part of the records commonly cited as “Ships’ List,” consisting of lists of emigrants brought to Texas as colonists, was filed in the Department of State in accordance with the requirement that evidence be made of meeting the numbers of colonists specified in the colony contracts. Specific colonies to which the records relate are those granted to Stephen F. Austin, J. C. Beales, Henri Castro, John Dominguez, Fisher and Miller, Arthur Ikin, Kennedy and Pringle, McMullen and McGloin*, Charles F. Mercer, Bourgeois d’Orvanne, W. S. Peters, V. Pirson, the Rio Grande and Texas Land Company, S. C. Robertson, and John L. Woodbury.

At some time after the records were transferred, the original chronological order was replaced by an arrangement according to the colony to which the records relate, with the exception of Lists of Emigrants, which were separated. Records relating to more than one colony were arbitrarily placed with those relating to one or the other of the colonies. The present arrangement represents as much as possible the origin of the papers; within each folder the papers are arranged chronologically.

* For List of Colonists in McMullen and McGloin’s San Patricio Colony, see Memorials and Petition under McGloin

IMMIGRATION LISTS

Lists of persons immigrating to Texas as colonists under the W. S. Peters Contract: 1844-1845

List-Peters Colony immigrants	1845-08-11
List-Peters Colony immigrants	1844-12-03
Affidavits re Peters colony	1846-04-25
443 settlers – Peters colony	1845-08-11

Lists of persons immigrating to Texas as colonists under the Henri Castro contract: 1842-1846

<u>Probus</u> ship list – Castro	1844-12-06
<u>Norwegian</u> ship list – Castro	1844-12-19
List of colonists – Castro	1845-09-17
Castro colonists – 75 families	
Castro colonists – 2 nd copy	

Lists of person emigrating to Texas as colonists under the Fisher – Miller contracts: 1844-1846

List-German	immi [Ferdinand]	1845-06-24
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List-German	immi	[Dethard]	1845-06-24
List-German	immi	[Armenius]	1845-10-22
List-German	immi	[Herschel]	1845-10-22
List-German	immi	[Hercules]	1845-11-15
List-German	immi	[Strabo]	1845-11-20
List-German	immi	[St Rep & NY]	1845-11-20
List-German	immi	[Margarethe]	1845-12-01
List-German	immi	[Neptune]	1845-12-03
List-German	immi	[Washington]	1845-12-05
List-German	immi	[Garonne]	1845-12-06
List-German	immi	[Everhard]	1845-12-18
List-German	immi	[Sarah Ann]	1845-12-30
List-German	immi	[Bohlens]	1845-12-30
List-German	immi	[Geo Delius]	1845-12-30
List-German	immi	[Auguste/Helene]	1845-12-31
List-German	immi	[Riga]	1846-01-08
List-German	immi	[Gesina]	1846-01-10
List-German	immi	[J. Dethard]	1846-01-12
List-German	immi	[Weser]	1846-01-12
List-German	immi	[Harriet]	1846-01-15
List-German	immi	[Hermann]	1846-01-20
List-German	immi	[Apollo]	1846-01-30
List-German	immi	immigrants	1846-01-28
List-German	immi	[Deth/Hers/Ferd]	1846-01-30
List-German	immi	[v. ports]	1846-01-30
List-German	immi	immigrants	1846-01-31
List-German	immi	[Franciska]	1846-02-05
Ship List – <u>Maria Claves</u>			
Ship List – <u>Lyons</u>			1843-10-18
Ship List – <u>Louis Philippe</u>			1843-20-26
Ship List – <u>Jean Key</u>			1843-10-25
Ship List – <u>L'Ebro</u>			1842-11-02
Ship List – <u>Henrich</u>			1843-11-22, 28
Ship List – <u>Ocean</u>			[1844-04-09]
Ship List – <u>Jeannette Marie</u>			1844-05-12
Societe – list of emigrants			1846-11-15
German emigrants [Weser]			1844-07-08
Ship List – <u>Talisman</u>			184[5] 6-01-02
Ship List – <u>Diamant</u>			1846-01-21
Societe – list of emigrants			1846-11-15
Colonization Contracts, 1838 – 1844			
Rullman Contract			1838-05-21
Fisher/Miller Contract			1843-09-01
Mercer Contract			1844-01-29
Mercer Contract			1844-01-29
Viesca/Williams, & c Contract			1835-05-13

Bourgeois d'Orvanne Contract	1842-06-03
Bourgeois d'Orvanne Contract	1842-06-03
Fisher/Miller Contract	1842-06-07
Pirson Contract	1842-11-18

Reports of the Texas Association filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, 1845.

Lists of members, copies of resolutions, and other records of emigration companies filed in the Department of State, 1840 – 1844.

Letters received by the Secretary of State pertaining to colonization, 1836-1848.

Letters received by the President and Governor pertaining to colonization, 1839-1845; 1850-1851; 1855-1857. Chiefly petitions for appointment of commissioners to issue land certificates to colonists pursuant to acts of 1850 for relief of settlers in various colonies:

Petition (1):	re Fisher/Miller	1850-01-16
Petition (13):	re Mercer Colony	1850-01 (13)
Petition (2):	re Fisher/Miller	1850-01-15
Petition (3):	re Mercer Colony	1850-01-17

Two letters sent by Governor and President, 1836 and 1857. Three proclamations of appointment of commissioners to examine Peters' Colony claims, 1857-1858, One message to legislature, undated.

Records of the Legislature, General Land Office, and other agencies relating to colonization, 1836 – 1879: affidavit (3) re Peters colonists 1846-04-25

Papers relating to colonization in the State of Coahuila and Texas, Republic of Mexico, 1826-1835: McMullen and McGloin Colony , [1835].

Papers of the Texas Association and Charles Fenton Mercer, 1844–1848.

Papers of the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas (German Emigration Company), 1844 – 1846.

Dr. F. B. Webb-Day book, 1847-02-[].

Papers of Henri Castro, 1846, 1850.

Letters of John E. Cravens and W. G. W. Jowers, 1849, 1852.

Robert Swartwout Papers, 1820–1848. (Chiefly correspondence and personal memoranda)

Related Typescripts and Photostats

Typescripts, chiefly of records in this series.

Negative Photostats, chiefly of records in this series.

Negative Photostats of typed ship and colony lists, source unknown.

Materials at Texas General Land Office To Be Filmed

1. Confederate Scrip Voucher Files, 1881–1883, [Boxes G059-G084]. (Index on web site: <<http://www.glo.state.tx.us>>)
2. Republic of Texas Donation Vouchers, 1879–1887, [Boxes G411-G441]. (Index on web site: <<http://www.glo.state.tx.us>>)

Materials at Texas State Archives To Be Filmed

1. ADG VI&VII, Texas Revolution military rolls, 1836–370.27 ft
2. ADG VI&VII, U.S. Volunteers military rolls, 1836–37, 1842.....0.41 ft
3. ADG VI&VII, Texas Army military rolls, 1836–421.8 ft
4. ADG VI&VII, Republic of Texas Militia military rolls, 1836–454.01 ft
5. ADG VI&VII, Republic of Texas Minutemen military rolls, 1841–420.83 ft
6. ADG VI&VII, Campaigns of 1842 military rolls0.27 ft
7. ADG VI&VII, Republic of Texas Navy military rolls, 1836–461.86 ft

8. SOS I. 12, Colonization Records (entire), 1834–45[?]
9. SOS I. 9, Texas Passport Applications (entire), 1836–45.....[?]
10. COMP I, III-B, Republic of Texas, Warrant register/memoranda of drafts,
1836–46 (only).....2.22 ft
11. Texas Navy papers (not sure what Ms. Carefoot meant).....¼ OSB
12. Passenger List Index Card File2 drawers
13. Colonists Index Card File4 drawers
14. Navy Muster Rolls Name Index Card File2 drawers
15. Navy Muster Rolls Names by Ship Card File.....2 drawers
16. Legislature, Memorials & Petitions Card File7 drawers
17. ADG VI&VII, Civil War military rolls, 1861-186552.76 ft.
18. ADG VI&VII, Texas Ranger (pre-Civil War) military rolls, 1846-18614.57 ft.
19. ADG VI&VII, Army of the United States military rolls, 1860-1861, 1864-1865..
.....1.3 ft.
20. ADG VI&VII, Minute Men military rolls, 1865-18660.14 ft.
21. ADG VI&VII, State Police military rolls, 1870-1873, undated (bulk 1870-1871)
.....1.26 ft.
22. ADG VI&VII, State Guard military rolls, 1870-1872, undated (bulk 1870-1871)
.....2.07 ft.
23. ADG VI&VII, Reserve Militia military rolls, 1870-1873, undated (bulk 1870-1871)
.....11.62 ft.
24. ADG VI&VII, Provisional State Troops military rolls, 1871.....fractional
25. ADG VI&VII, Frontier Forces military rolls, 1870-1873, undated (bulk 1870-1871)
.....0.97 ft.
26. ADG VI&VII, Minute Men military rolls, 1872-1877 (bulk 1872-1874).....3.36 ft.
27. ADG VI&VII, Texas Ranger military rolls, 1873-1874.....0.69 ft.
28. ADG VI&VII, Militia military rolls, 1874-18770.14 ft.
29. ADG VI&VII, Frontier Battalion military rolls, 1874-19018.76 ft.
30. ADG VI&VII, Special State Troops military rolls, 1876-1880.....0.14 ft.
31. ADG VI&VII, Special Force military rolls, 1880-1881fractional
32. ADG VI&VII, Texas Volunteer Guard military rolls, 1880-1903, undated.....16.91 ft.
33. ADG VI&VII, Texas Volunteers (Spanish-American War) military rolls,
1898-1899, 1901, undated.....5.66 ft.
34. ADG VI&VII, Ranger Force military rolls, 1901-1910, 1913-1914, undated2.24 ft.
35. ADG VI&VII, Texas National Guard military rolls, 1902-1913, 1915, 1917, 1935, undated
.....9.21 ft.
36. ADG I, Republic Ranger records, 1839-1846 (bulk 1845).....1.12 ft.
37. ADG I, Pre-Civil War Ranger records, 1846-1862, undated.....2.88 ft.
38. ADG I, Parker and Wise County Minute Men records, 1865-18660.11 ft.
39. ADG I, Minute Men records, 1872-1874, undated0.32 ft.
40. ADG I, Frontier Forces records; 1870-18742.36 ft.
41. ADG I, Special State Troops/Special Force records, 1874-18810.84 ft.
42. ADG I, Frontier Battalion records, 1874-1901, undated23.61 ft.
43. ADG I, Transcripts and notes, 1852-1975fractional
44. ADG I, Records of State claims against the United States, 1871-1890.....0.12 ft.
45. ADG I, Ranger reminiscences, 19370.13 ft.

- 46. Texas Ranger Card Files.....12 drawers
- 47. ADG II, Texas State Troops records, 1861-1865, undated.....11.75 ft.
- 48. ADG II, Confederate records, 1861-1865, undated.....4.9 ft.
- 49. ADG II, Union troops records, 1855, 1860-1866 (bulk 1863-1864).....0.29 ft.
- 50. Indian Papers of the Southwest.....[2-3 ft.]
- 51. Volunteer Guard Card File.....4 drawers
- 52. Spanish American War Card File (Federalized only).....7 drawers
- 53. ADG I, Navy Papers, Navy correspondence, 1835-1847, 1852, 1855 (bulk 1836-1846)
.....4.19 ft.
- 54. ADG I, Navy Papers, Pursers' records, 1835-1846.....10.06 ft.
- 55. ADG I, Navy Papers, Other financial records, 1836-18472.99 ft.
- 56. ADG III&IV, Army of the Republic service records, 1836-18455.64 ft.
- 57. ADG III&IV, Navy of the Republic service records, 1836-1845.....7.05 ft.
- 58. ADG III&IV, Mounted Volunteers service records, 1854-18611.88 ft.
- 59. ADG III&IV, Minute Men service records, 1855-1862, 1872-18740.47 ft.
- 60. ADG III&IV, Texas State Troops service records, 1861-18652.82 ft.
- 61. ADG III&IV, Confederate States Army service records, 1861-1865.....0.94 ft.
- 62. ADG III&IV, State Police service records, 1870-18714.7 ft.
- 63. ADG III&IV, Frontier Forces service records, 1870-1871.....4.23 ft.
- 64. ADG III&IV, Frontier Battalion service records, 1874-1901 (bulk 1874-1898) ...
.....17.86 ft.
- 65. ADG III&IV, Texas Volunteer Guard service records, 1881-1903 (bulk 1886-1902)
.....18.8 ft.
- 66. ADG III&IV, United States Volunteers (Spanish-American War) service records, 1898
.....17.86 ft.

Materials at Texas Adjutant General's Office at Camp Mabry To Be Filmed

The Card Files (ca. 70,400 cards)

- 1. Volunteer, Frontier, and Border Guard Card File, 1897-1916
- 2. Spanish American War non-Federalized Troops Card File, 1898-1900
- 3. World War I Service Records Card File
- 4. World War I Burials Overseas Card File
- 5. World War II Army Service Records Card File
- 6. Viet Nam Casualties Card File
- 7. Publications Card File
- 8. Unit Histories, Army/Reserve/Texas National Guard Card File

Service Records (Already Filmed)

- 1. Texas National Guard and Reserve Officers, 1897-1962, 154 reels
- 2. Texas National Guard and Reserve Enlisted Men, 1897-1962, 797 reels

INQUIRY

CAN YOU OFFER ANY SUGGESTIONS?



Julia Germany passed on this request: Ed Scharlau and his wife are going to Germany with two other couples in June 2004 to do genealogy in the Altlussheim area, which is located across the river from Speyer and south of Frankfurt. Ed's group is looking for housing for six adults and would like suggestions from anyone who has traveled in this part of Germany. Send an e-mail to Rescharlau@aol.com or contact Julia at GTHS headquarters.

KREBS FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of Heinrich and Dorothea (Keidel) Krebs gathered at the American Legion Hall Shelby, Texas, Fayette County on September 21, 2003 for the 46th annual family reunion. Heinrich and Dorothea and their eight children, Wilhelm, Franz, Marie, Otto, Theodore, Edward, Hermann and Julius left Alberbuittel Hanover Germany for their journey to Texas. Arriving at Galveston, Texas November 27, 1847.

One hundred family members attended this 46th Krebs Reunion. Registration began at 10 A M. Color code name tags were used as in the years passed. Family members could easily identify other family members of their ancestor.

Milroy Krebs asked the table prayer before the noon meal was server. A delicious meal of Roast Beef and all the trimmings was served, followed by home made desserts and Blue Bell ice cream. Family members still make those good old German cakes, pies and cookies.

President Windell Rudolff opened the business meeting. He welcomed everyone to this reunion and it was agreed to have another reunion in September 2004 at this same American Legion Hall Shelby Texas. All the Krebs Family Reunions were held at this same hall. Also, the German soda water will again be enjoyed next year. Secertary, Maxine Rudolff read the minutes and gave a treasurer report from last years reunion.

Judy Chovanec talked about the Krebs Family Cemetery, family birth, death and marriages in 2002 and up dates for the Krebs Family History Book. Edgar and Ida (Krause)Schmidt from Round Top, Texas were the longest married couple. Adolph Schmidt from Seguin was the oldest person attending. Darrell and Charlene Camerer and their daughter Cathy from Oklahoma drove the furthest distance.

Submitted by: Loretta (Hartfield) Leonhardt

INQUIRY



Searching for information on EMIL HARTFIEL OR HARTFIELD who married HENRIETTE PLAGENS on December 23, 1868 in Texas--both born in Germany, where I do not know. Emil was born August 23, 1840 and Henriette was born December 25, 1839. Both are buried at Frelsburg Lutheran Church Cemetery, Frelsburg, Texas--Colorado County. Emil died at home on November 13, 1915--2 miles north of Frelsburg--information from death certificate. Henriette died on June 2, 1916. They had 6 children. Gustav Heinrich born August 31, 1869. Henry Julius born October 12, 1871, Wilhelm F. born December 16, 1873, Henriette born January 31, 1877, Otto Emil Adolph born December 18, 1877, Paul P. M. Born May 19, 1882. These are my Great Grandparents. If any one has information on this family, please contact: Loretta (Hartfield) Leonhardt--278 John Craft Rd. Red Rock, Texas 78662-2658
e-mail lorettaleonhardt@yahoo.com

BEERWINKEL-KOEHN FAMILY REUNION

submitted by Lorchen Koehn

The sixth annual Beerwinkel-Koehn reunion was held at K&G Restaurant in Seguin, TX, October 2002. Descendants of Melissa Ringener Beerwinkel Koehn and their families, 13 in all attended.

Those coming the farthest were Ella Mae (Mrs. Raymond) Koehn, from Temple; and Eugene and Mary Lou (Koehn) Kamas from Waco. Ray Koehn from New Braunfels attended for the first time. The Johnny Koehn family had the largest number in attendance.

The oldest in attendance was Ella Mae Koehn and the youngest, James Allen Eckermann (grandson of Jerry & Lorchen Koehn and great-grandson of Johnny Koehn).

Concerns were expressed for Erwin & Bobbie Remmert as Bobbie had recently fallen and injured her arm; and for Lennis (Koehn) Wittner, who is in the nursing home in Brenham. Cards were signed for both.

This was the first meeting away from the Brenham in order that those living in the San Antonio area would be able to attend. It was discussed to try a different area every other year, with next year's (2003) reunion being in the Brenham area.

The 2003 meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, at Purcell's in Brenham. Descendants of Melissa Ringener Beerwinkel Koehn are invited to attend, as well as descendants of siblings of Melissa, of Georg Beerwinkel, and of Fritz Koehn.

For more information, contact Lorchen Koehn, 361-553-4713.

HOW MANY ANCESTORS?

submitted by Frances Hartmann of Yorktown, Texas

The Reverend Ron Birk served as Pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (at College Station) from 1964-71. In a booklet entitled *Our Jubilee 50th Year* he contributed a devotional. It mentions that when he and his wife, Alberta (nee Hartmann), visited his great-grandfather's home church in Holschausen, Germany, they wondered how many of their ancestors worshipped there and how far back their lineage actually went. Birk said he was reminded of what Charles Dobbins wrote:

"I was born! I came from 2 people, who came from 4 people, who came from 8 people, who came from 16 people, who came from 32 people, who came from 64 people, who came from 128 people, who came from 356 people, who came from 512 people, who came from 1,024 people.

If you go back to 1492 when Columbus discovered America, I have approximately 60,000 people who produced me. If I go back one more generation, it's 120,000, then 240,000, then 480,000, then 960,000. It's hard to believe it took over a million people to produce me.

You may not believe that we are Brothers and Sisters in Christ, but I can guarantee you that you are my cousin!"

GIESE-JUENGERMANN FAMILY REUNION

The descendants of Anna Marie Giese met for their annual reunion at the American Legion Hall in Round Top on September 13, 2003. Thirty-one persons were in attendance. Representing the Johannes and Anna Marie Juengermann Giese, Sr. family were descendants of Friedrich and Anna Cybilla Giese Ponfick and Johann Henry and Bertha Spies Giese. Representing the Ludwig and Louise Caroline Naegeli Giese family were descendants of Gustav and Augusta Giese Wied; Gustav and Ida Scharenburg Giese; and William and Erna Giese Finck. Representing the Johan Ernst Matthias and Anna Marie Giese Juengermann family were descendants from Johann Heinrich and Helene Heins Juengermann. Family members came from Brenham, La Grange, Sherman, San Antonio, Round Top, Spring, Gonzales, Austin, Coppell, Arlington, and Eules. Ed Anderson of Arlington offered the prayer before the meal. A covered dish dinner was enjoyed, especially with the special attention being given to carrying out their German heritage of serving German foods. The host families for this year were: Bill and Joan Rothermel, Tom and Dorothy Rothermel, Jim and Dorothy Ann Rothermel, all of Brenham and Diana Giese Rhodes of Nursery. Helena Juengermann Fair of Sherman brought a special hand pieced quilt and hot pad made by her grandmother, Helene Heins Juengermann. Other memorabilia items of family history were displayed.

Jack Juengermann of San Antonio presided over the afternoon meeting. Dorothy G. Rothermel of Brenham served as secretary for Diana Giese Rhodes. Rose Anderson Thomas presented the financial report.

President Jack Juengermann recognized the following persons:

1. John and Helena Juengermann Fair had traveled the longest distance from Sherman. Their ancestral family is: Harry and Nina Robinson Juengermann.
2. Quintin M. Juengerman of Arlington was the youngest member present. His parents are Jim and Kate Juengerman. The grandparents are: John Henry and Paula Juengerman.
3. Paula Giese Heinsohn of La Grange was the oldest female Giese descendant present. Her ancestral family is: Hugo Heinrich and Ella Reuter Giese.
4. Bill Rothermel of Brenham was the oldest male Giese descendant present. His ancestral family is: Bailleux and Nathalie Ponfick Rothermel
5. Helena Juengermann Fair of Sherman was the oldest female Juengermann present. Her ancestral family is: Harry and Nina Robinson Juengermann
6. Jack Juengermann of San Antonio was the oldest male Juengermann present. His ancestral family is: Raymond Henry and Norma Ida Voges Juengermann.
7. Births recorded since the last reunion were: [1] Madelynn Grace Giese on November 1, 2002 in San Antonio. The parents are: Scott and Christi Giese; grandparents are: Percy and Bobbie Moore Giese. Their ancestral family is: Gustav and Ida Scharenburg Giese. [2] Richard Jacob Grim of Gonzales born on August 1, 2003. His parents are: Paul and Mary Grim; grandparents: James and Marquerite Grim. Their ancestral family is: Gustav and Augusta Giese Wied.

8. One marriage was reported for this reunion: Scott Russell Jackson and Heather Lea Neumann on June 30, 2001 in Austin. Parents are: Dr. Karl and Dixie Neumann. Their ancestral family is: Gustav and Ida Scharenburg Giese.

9. Wilton and Delores Giese Neumann of San Antonio were recognized for being married 56 years. Their ancestral family is: Gustav and Ida Scharenburg Giese.

10. The following names were added to the veterans list for the Giese/Juengermann family: [1] Lance Cpl. Matthew Rothermel, serving at the present time in the Marines. He is presently stationed in Jackson, North Carolina; recently having served in Iraq; [2] Dr. Harry A. Juengermann - served in Europe during World War I.

11. The following deaths were reported: [1] Walter "Boots" Guelker of Burton died on September 27, 2002. He was the husband of Freida Mae Kuehn Guelker. The ancestral family is: Friedrich and Anna Cybilla Giese Ponfick; [2] Odie Steenken of Burton on February 1, 2002. The ancestral family is: Carl and Emilie Giese Steenken.

The following officers were elected for the 2004 reunion:

- [1] President - Delores Giese Neumann of San Antonio
- [2] Vice-President - John Henry Juengerman of Euleess
- [3] Secretary - Diana Giese Rhodes of Nursery
- [4] Rose Anderson Thomas of Austin

The 2004 Giese/Juengermann reunion will be held on the second Saturday, September 11, 2004 at the American Legion Hall in Round Top. The following families will serve as hosts: Jack and Esther Juengermann of San Antonio and Jim and Kate Juengerman of Arlington.



Submitted by:

Dorothy G. Rothermel
2504 Brookbend Dr.
Brenham, Texas 77833-9245

VOGEL FAMILY

submitted by Janet Renker of Temple, Texas

Elsewhere in this issue of the Journal is an article about Joe Vogel, the great-grandson of John and Mary Otilia Vogel, who settled in Caldwell County in the early 1850s. GTHS Member Judith Renker of Temple submitted the article, and she also included this information:

"Vestine and Dolores Nelson recently submitted an article on cleaning up the Volgel Cemetery in Caldwell County. It is located in the Luling Oil Field between Joliet and Stairtown. At one time that area of the oil field was the Westfork community. Today there are working oil derricks all around the small cemetery. On August 4th we attended the 70th Vogel reunion in San Saba. The descendants of Joseph and Alice Belle Robards Vogel organized the first reunion in 1923. The above mentioned Joe Vogel and his wife, LaVerne, help organize the reunio0n every year."

LUEDKE FAMILY REUNION
from the Bellville Times, July 10, 2003
submitted by Lorchen Koehn

The descendants of John and Louise Hoode Luedke held their 11th reunion at the Koester farm at Pleasant Hill with 42 members present. A noon meal of barbecued chicken and brisket was served with a number of side dishes and many delicious desserts. The table prayer "God Is Great" was led by Peggy Porter of Houston.

Melissa Mitchell of Victoria called the meeting to order. Cynthia Rosenbaum of Houston read the minutes from the last year and gave the treasurer's report. Michael Luedke of Houston was elected secretary and Cynthia Rosenbaum will be the president for next year.

The oldest person present was LuEllen Luedke of Bellville. The youngest was Emma Luedke of Houston. Traveling the farthest was the David Schramm family of Allen, Texas. There were two marriages, Thad and Jeannie Sons Porter in Downey, California, and Karl and Christi Harper Nowotny in Beaumont, Texas. There were no births or deaths during the last year year.

The following special achievements were announced: Aaron Meyer, the son of Duane and Shelly Meyers of spring, and grandson of Ora Nell Meyer of Bellville, became an Eagle Scout; Kris Nowotny, Gold Key Writing Award, and Chad Manilla, National Honor Society.

Doris Koester Rosenbaum of Houston read her genealogy articles on the Hodde family and copies were passed out by Sue Loesch Kruger of Brenham.

It was voted to have the next reunion on April 25, 2004 at the same place. A fish fry will be prepared by Charles and Troy Porter.

After the meeting pictures were taken and everyone spent the afternoon getting reacquainted.

THE HODDE'S FROM WESTFAHLEN, GERMANY

By: Doris Koester Rosenbaum

Growing up my mother always said the only relatives her mother had in America were her children; that her "real" brother drowned as a small child in a bucket of water. That was hard to understand as I had aunts, uncles and cousins! Getting involved in genealogy and visiting relatives in Germany assisted me in researching and resolving these questions. My cousin, Gertrude Hodde Hinze of Detmold, Germany (born in Rahden, Germany) told me the following information.

My great-great-great-grandfather Herman Henrich Hodde was born in Oppenwede (date not researched) and was married on March 15, 1776 to Anne Marie Elizabeth Bollhorst, (born November 15, 1754 in Kleinendorf at No. 105). Herman and Anne's son Franz Heinrich Hodde, my great-great-grandfather (born October 22, 1790, died December 15, 1847), married Christine Engel Kolkhorst (born August 10, 1791, died September 13, 1840), on October 20, 1813. Franz and Christine's son, my great-grandfather Friedrich Wilhelm Hodde (born November 27, 1816 in Kleindorf, died May 2, 1877) married Margarethe Sophie Fleddermann on November 9, 1842 (born January 7, 1822, died, November 25, 1871). Friedrich and Margarethe had the following children:



Wilhelmine Sophie Dorothee (born October 4, 1843, died in 1852);
 Christian Friedrich Wilhelm (born November 20, 1845, died August 27, 1870,
 while serving in the army during the French War)
 Caroline Wilhelmine Dorothee, (born August 13, 1848, died June 8, 1877);
 Wilhelmine Louise Anna (born February 3, 1851, died unknown);
 Heinrich Friedrich August (born August 23, 1853, died unknown);
 Friedrich August (born September 25, 1856, died June 16, 1858);
 Karl August (born October 14, 1859, died April 13, 1915) Karl August is Gertrude Hinze's grandfather
 Marie Sophie Caroline (born April 4, 1863, died unknown).

After Margarethe Sophie's death on November 25, 1871, Wilhelm married Margarethe Sophie Dieck-Kröger on January 24, 1872 (born June 9, 1832), the daughter of Johann Heinrich Dieck-Kröger and Sophie Cathrine Marie nee Kröger. Wilhelm and Margarethe had two children:

Sophie Louisa, my grandmother, (born March 10, 1873 in Grossendorf at No. 124, now known as Rahden);
 Fredrich Wilhelm Ernest (born December 26, 1874, died May 12, 1877).

Fredrich died just 10 days after his father. Sophie and her four-year-old daughter Louisa had a difficult time making a living in Germany.

LOUISA COMES TO AMERICA: THE HODDE'S PART II

By: Doris Koester Rosenbaum

Sophie Louisa Hodde, my grandmother, was born March 10, 1873 in Grossendorf at No. 124 (now known as Rahden, Westphalia, Germany) to Wilhem and Margarethe Sophie nee Dieck-Kröger. Sophie Louisa's father, Wilhem, died when she was four years old. Her brother, Friedrich, died ten days after his father. Margarethe Sophie and Louisa had a difficult time in Germany after these events.

When Louisa was 16 years old she immigrated to America as an indentured servant for the Stern family at Phillipsburg, Austin County. After working to pay her passage, she sent for her mother Margarethe Sophie, and then worked for the Sterns to pay for her mother's passage. After paying for the passages, Louisa and her mother continued living with the Sterns.

Across the road from the Sterns lived William and Mathelde nee Luedke (born 3-23-1861, died 10-28-1934) Schlechte. Mathelde's brother, John Luedke (who lived north of Brenham - Gay Hill or Prairie Hill), would visit his sister. John (born 6-23-1863 in Provinze, Posen, Prussia, died 12-11-1933) met Louisa Hodde through his sister. John and Louisa were married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg, on March 9, 1892. John, Louisa and Margarethe Sophie lived with the Sterns until 1905 when they bought a farm approximately four miles west. The farm is still owned by a family member.



*John & Louisa (Hodde) Luedke
Wedding Picture on March 9, 1893*

The following children were born to this union.

Elsamalia Amalie Mathelde: born 12-10-1893, died 8-23-1896;
 William: born 7-5-1895, died 8-28-1973, married Henrietta Winkelmann 11-6-1918 (1 son);
 Erna: born 12-14-1897, died 11-28-1967, married Henry Loesch on 11-18-1915 (4 daughters);
 Olga: born 4-23-1900, died 5-18-1980, married Fritz Loesch on 11-24-1921 (1 son, 1 daughter);
 Lillie: born 9-13-1902, died 2-17-1987, married Theodore H. Koester on 11-12-1925 (2 daughters - my parents);
 Edward: born 8-31-1905, died 3-15-1990, married Elsie Sternberg on 11-20-1930 (no children);
 Adele: born 2-13-1908, died 9-24-1991, married John Emshoff on 1-18-1928 (no children);
 Ella: born 8-26-1912, died 7-23-1991, married (1) Johnny Koehn 1931 (2 sons) and (2) Ed Kridler 7-1-1961;
 Ervin: born 4-2-1919, died 7-12-1974, married Lu Ellen Froebel on 9-22-1937 (2 sons, 1 daughter)

From John and Louisa's nine children the family has grown to:

14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, 40 great-great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-great-grandchildren.

John and Louisa nee Hodde (died 12-29-1961) Luedke and Margarethe Sophie nee Dieck-Kröger Hodde (died 8-18-1900) are buried at St. Paul's Lutheran Church cemetery, Phillipsburg.

I am thankful to have made a trip to Rahden. I was the first family member to visit Gertrude Hinze and her sister Honelore Pläp, who lives in the Willie Hodde home in Rahden, since Grandma left Germany for America in 1889.

References:

Gertrude Hinze & Honelore Pläp of Rahden, Germany • Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rahden, Germany • St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg Family histories

FREIER-FRANKE FAMILY REUNION

submitted by Lorchen Koehn

The reunion of the Freier-Franke families were held in Brenham, TX, June 29, at Purcell's Restaurant. There were 28 present.

The reunion began as just the descendants of Edwin and Mary Freier Franke. In order to include the cousins of the children of Edwin and Mary, the reunion was opened to include descendants of the brothers and sisters of Edwin and Mary. Mary's parents were Joachim and Wilhelmine Hoppe Freier, daughter of Christian and Frederika Reeder Hoppe. Mary's siblings were Anna Freier (Henry) Schuette, Minnie Freier (William) Gaskamp, Otto Freier (Mina Hartmann) and Otto's twin brother Herman who died as a child.

Edwin's parents were Rudolph and Louise Schwarz (Kruger) Franke Sr. His siblings were Rudolph (Ida Buenger) Franke Jr., Carl or Charles (Agnes Bittner) Franke, Emma Franke (William) Schramm. Rudolph Sr.'s parents were Ernst August and Mary Katharine Hoffmann Franke

Families represented were Edwin & Mary Franke, Otto & Minnie Freier, Minnie & William Gaskamp, Herbert & Edna Franke, and Walter & Lillie Franke. Richard and Elke Franke traveled the farthest, coming from Baltimore MD. This was their first time to attend as well as LouJean Franke-Dockery, who lives in Bryan; Christi Rose and children from Houston; Dawn Franke and daughter Tori, Chappell Hill.

A report was given on Charlie and Virginia Pavlovsky's 45th wedding/renewal of vows celebration early in June and pictures were passed around. Concerns were expressed for Norma Franke, who had been in the hospital with pneumonia before but was well before the reunion, which was celebrated; and for Louise Frank who had surgery on both knees and is staying in an assisted facility for rehabilitation. There were no other celebrations or concerns expressed.

It was decided that next year's meeting time will be the Sunday following July 4th for next year, possibly in New Ulm.

HAVERLAH FAMILY REUNION
 submitted by Kent Leonhard Karstädt

The 58th annual Haverlah Family Reunion was held in Seguin, Texas on Saturday, September 20, 2003. Fifty-seven meals were sold. John Koemel played excellent tunes on a piano. The Huegele Family volunteered to host the reunion next year. Drawing winners included Robin Coen; Patricia Funke; Charleen Paasch; David, Shelly and Leroy Haverlah; Tasha, Anjelika, Carrie and Steve Stolte; Cindy Wright, Darvin Dietert; Roland Funke; and Noreen Sippel.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRANKE FAMILY

submitted by Lorchen Koehn

by

Durwood L. Franke

Submitted by
Lorchen Koehn,
cousin to
Durwood Franke

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The earliest record of the Franke family appears in the early 1700s in central Europe. It is a reference to Andreas Franke, a freeman and driver who owned his own carriage. We do not know his birth or death dates, but we do know he was at his son's wedding in 1745 and that he was from Ronneburg, Saxony. Ronneburg is a small village in what today is the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). It is located about seven miles east of Gera, thirty miles west of Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly Chemnitz), fifteen miles northwest of Zwickau, and thirty-five miles south of Leipzig. Leipzig was for years the center of the European fur trade and was an important market town in the early Middle Ages.

On November 24, 1750, Johann Christoph Franke, eldest son of Andreas Franke, was married to Maria Dorothea Gerlach in the Lutheran church of Altenburg, Saxony. Altenburg is located about twelve miles northeast of Ronneburg. As far back as the records can be traced, the Franks were always baptized, married, and buried in the Lutheran church. Johann Christoph was listed as a freeman and furrier master.

The fifth and last child of Johann Christoph and Maria Dorothea was Johann August Franke, born on September 22, 1762. He too became a freeman of the town of Altenburg and a furrier master. In the Lutheran book of marriages for Altenburg between 1782 and 1803 (page 169, number 31) is recorded the marriage of Johann August Franke to Christiana Dorothea Rothe, on July 7, 1795. This couple had three children: Johanna Regina Dorothea, born July 28, 1797; Johann Gottlib, born March 18, 1803; and our ancestor Ernst August, born May 8, 1806. Ernst August's birth is recorded in the Book of the Baptized 1803 to 1807 (page 511, number 122) in Altenburg.

This is the last mention of Ernst August in the records of Altenburg, but we can piece together the rather interesting life he led. He is found in the third volume of A History of Texas and Texans, by Frank W. Johnson (American Historical Society, 1916). On page 1458, Johnson calls the Franke family "one of the pioneer families of Austin County." Two mistakes in this article are as follows: Johnson says that Ernst Franke was born in Oldenburg, Saxony, but it should be Altenburg (a common translation mistake). Also, he lists the birth of Rudolph Franke as 1840, when it was 1834 according to his tombstone at Industry, Texas.

Ernst August Franke married Mary Katharine Hoffman. Johnson implies they were married in Saxony, but they are not in the marriage records of Altenburg and in the 1880 census all of the sons stated that their mother was born in Russia. At any rate, shortly after or before their marriage they migrated to St. Petersburg, Russia (Leningrad today), the beautiful European city built by Czar Peter the Great on the swamps where the Neva River flows into the Gulf of Finland. St. Petersburg was the capital of Russia at that time. Here he

followed his trade of shoemaker and fathered all his children -- five sons. The eldest, Rudolph, our ancestor, was born on January 18, 1834. The other sons were Charles, John (Johann), Louis, and August.

In November, 1850, the family sailed from Bremen, Germany, on the brig "Anna" and landed at Galveston, Texas. The earliest record of Ernst Franke in Austin County is located in the County Court records, volume II, pages 561-562. Here we learn that Frederick Knolle sold land to Ernst August Franke in June, 1851, for 100 dollars. Later entries indicate that Ernst Franke acquired more land over the next decade. Records of the 155th District Court of Austin County show that on July 19, 1852, Ernst Franke declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States and renounced all previous allegiances. The same court records that on April 18, 1856, both Ernst and Rudolph Franke became citizens of the United States.

Apparently the Frankes arrived too late to be recorded on the 1850 census. The 1860 census for Austin County was poorly prepared. The Frankes cannot be located, but on page 143, entry number 1099, an F. Ernst is listed as head of household with wife M and sons R, C, J, L, and A, with ages that are the same as those of Mary Katharine, Rudolph, Charles, John, Louis, and August Franke. I believe they were just recorded erroneously by a lazy census taker.

The Civil War involved all the Franke sons except for August. Louis and John Franke enrolled in Captain Robert Voigt's Company (later Company C; 1st Infantry Battalion) of Waul's Texas Legion of the Confederate Army. They enrolled in the spring of 1862 and were captured in the battle of Yazoo City on July 13, 1863. They were shuttled around in prisons at Memphis, St. Louis, and Indianapolis and finally paroled in Baltimore on February 26, 1865. Rudolph and Charles (also known as Carl) enlisted in June, 1862, in Captain H. Wickeland's Company (later Company D, 2nd Infantry Battalion) of Waul's Texas Legion. They both partook in the siege of Vicksburg and were captured on July 4, 1863. They were released on July 9, 1863; after signing an oath not to take up arms again. They returned to Austin County, where they were "collecting provisions" for their company. All were the rank of private except for Carl, who is listed as a sergeant in his last year of service.

The Frankes are present in the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Austin County. Ernst Franke was listed in the 1880 census as seventy-four years old and widowed, Mary Katharine having died sometime between 1870 and 1880. The 1890 census was destroyed by fire. Ernst Franke is not listed on the 1900 census, having died sometime after 1880.

After the Civil War, Rudolph returned to Industry, Texas, and married Mrs. Louise Kruger (formerly Louise Schwartz) on November

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27, 1865. He taught school for a while and learned the shoemaker's trade of his father before turning to farming. To Rudolph and Louise Franke were born three children, Rudolph D. Franke, Emma Franke, and our ancestor Edward Franke, who was born on August 12, 1876, in Industry. Rudolph Franke died July 6, 1902, and his wife Louise died March 1, 1924.

Edward Franko married Mary Preior on October 27, 1908, in Industry. Mary Preior was born on May 5, 1886, in New Ulm, Texas. To Edward and Mary Franke were born seven children, three sons and four daughters. My father, Monroe W. Franke, was born in Industry on September 4, 1911. Edward Franko died March 7, 1962, and his wife Mary died July 4, 1967. Both are buried in Bellville, Texas.

Monroe W. Franke lived and worked in Industry until he married Otilia S. Fick on June 21, 1936, and moved to Houston. To this marriage were born three sons, my brothers Monroe David Franke, born May 4, 1938, and Danny Lee Franke, born December 21, 1953. I was born in Houston on November 7, 1942.

This concludes our brief history of the Franke family. Wars, fires, and the great hurricane of 1900 in Galveston have all resulted in the loss and destruction of vital records that would be of interest, but the search for more information continues. Meanwhile, I hope that this account will be useful to all members of the Franke family who are interested in their roots and curious about the generations that have preceded them.

FROM THE DIARY OF ERNST AUGUST FRANKE

April 26, 1836

Today, on the event of my 30th birthday, I like to write down the memories of my past.

After reaching the age of 7 years, my father had passed away. My youngest brother Julius and I were then adopted by a shoemaker with the name of Haubold, who later taught me the trade.

On June 30th, 1824, I started my voyage to Dresden. After spending one year in this beautiful city, I took ill, but soon recovered, after taking some health baths in Toeblitz and Carlsbad.

After that I continued my journey to Regensburg and from the Danube River to Wien (Vienna). After a short stay I found work in St. Pölten and then again went to Wien to enjoy the sightseeing of this beautiful ancient city. On the event of my 20th birthday, March 28, 1826, I left Wien and traveled through Steiermark, Kärnten, and Ukraine to Tirol, where I found a job in Innsbruck. On June 24, 1826 I witnessed a strange phenomenon, an earthquake which lasted only 25 seconds but swallowed all the people and livestock of the village nearby.

In August I continued my voyage to Switzerland and after a short rest I went to Konstanz on the Bodensee Lake. I visited the beautiful Rhinefalls near Schaffhausen and from there I went to Winterthur, Zürich and Basel.

I found work in various cities and then wandered along the Rhine River to Mainz and Frankfurt. From there I went to Kassel and Braunschweig Hannover until Hamburg, where I then enjoyed three happy years.

On October 17 I left with the ship 'Fanny' from Travemünde and after nine days on the ocean we landed in Riga (Latvia). After staying there eight months I went on to Reval (Tallinn, Estonia) and at the same time had a very pleasant visit with my cousin, Superintendent C. Meyer.

After a stay of three months, I continued to St. Petersburg where I found a job. I decided to work on my master degree, which I then received on November 7, 1831.

On February 14, 1832 I married Miss Anna Sophie Lundsroem from Friedrichshafen. She died after seven months of matrimony on September 25.

On April 3, 1833 I married again, Miss Maria Catharina Hoffmann from Narva.

On January 6, 1834 our first son, Johann Christian Rudolph was born at 11:30 pm. He was baptised February 18.

On February 2, 1835 our second son Carl August was born at 1:00 pm and was baptised Easter Monday, April 8.

On September 25, 1835 my brother Julius and his wife and son arrived in St. Petersburg.

On July 5, 1836 our daughter Amalie Charlotte was born. She was baptised August 22.

On July 5, 1838 (on Amalie's birthday) our third son Johann Heinrich was born. He was baptised on August 13.

On January 18, 1840 our fourth son was born. He was baptised on Easter Sunday in the name of Ernest Carl Friedrich.

On July 21, 1842 our son Ernest Friedrich died.

On May 19, 1844 our sixth son August Heinrich was born. He was baptised on June 18.

On March 22 my beloved brother Julius passed away and on May 5, 1845 our daughter Amalie died. The same year followed in death my other brother, who at that time was living in Leipzig.

In July, 1845 the widow of brother Julius and her six children left Germany and settled in a foreign country.

On September, 1846 our daughter Clara Helena was born and baptised on September 29. She died May 11, 1847.

On July 21, 1850 my family and myself left for Bremen to make plans for our voyage to America. On September 10, 1850 we sailed from this port in Germany and after 77 days on the ocean my wife and I and our five sons landed in Galveston, Texas.

On December 14, 1850 we settled in Industry, Texas where I bought a farm.

On October 7, 1860 my son Rudolph married Miss Sophie Spickmann and my son Carl married Miss Agnes Bittner.

On August 24, 1861 our daughter-in-law (son Rudolph's wife) died during childbirth.

In 1862, at the beginning of the war, my four sons were enlisted in the army. Later three of them were brought as prisoners of war to Camp Morten, Indiana.

On April 28, 1865 Johann and Louis arrived home after their release from the prison camp.

On May 24, 1865 Rudolph and Carl arrived home, after the war had ended.

On October 22, 1865 my son Louis married Miss Emilie Zahn.

On December 3, 1865 my son Rudolph married the second time, to the widow Louise Krueger.

On December 12 my son Johann married Miss Louise Rosenberg.

On March 6, 1870 my son August married Miss Bertha Wienand.

On October 23, 1872 my beloved wife Marie Catharine passed away.

FRANKE FAMILY TREE

Submitted by Lorchen Freier Koehn; Compiled from trees done by Mundina Halbert O'Driscoll (great-granddaughter of Rudolph & Ida Buenger Franke), Edwin Schramm (son of William & Emma Franke Schramm), Durwood Franke (grandson of Edward & Mary Freier Franke), and Richard Franke (grandson of Adolph Franke).

I. Martin Franke (m) ???
 m. p.
 b. 11/12/1666 b.
 d. 10/3/1723 d.

Parents of:
 Andreas Franke

II. Andreas Franke (m) Rossina Vetterlein
 m. 11/25/1721 p. Naulitz, Saxony, Germany
 b. ? b. 3/10/1699
 p. p. Naulitz, Saxony, Germany
 d. 10/20/1758 d. ??
 p. Ronneburg, Saxony p.

Parents of:
 Johann Christoph Franke

III. Johann Christoph Franke (m) Maria Dorothea Gerlach
 m. 11/24/1750 p. Lutheran Church, Altenburg,
 Saxony, Germany
 b. 11/25/1723 b. ?
 p. Gessen, Ronneburg, p. ??
 Saxony Germany

Parents of:
 Johann August Franke
 plus his 4 older brothers

IV. Johann August Franke (m) Christiana Dorothea Rothe
 m. ?/?/1795 p. Altenburg, Saxony, Germany
 b. 9/22/1762 b. ?
 p. Altenburg, Saxony, Ger. p. ??
 d. before 1813 d. ?

Parents of:
 A. Johanna Regina Dorothea Franke
 b. 7/28/1797 p.
 B. Johann Gottlieb Franke
 b. 3/18/1803 p.
 d. 1845 p. Leipzig
 C. Julius Franke
 b. 1804 or 1805 p.
 d. 3/22/1845 p.
 His 6 children & widow left Germany
 and settled in a foreign country

D. Ernst August Franke

After the death of their father, Ernst & Julius were adopted by a shoemaker named Haubold around 1813. He taught them the trade. Ernst received his masters degree in St. Petersburg, Russia on 11/7/1831.

- D. Ernst August Franke (m) Anna Sophie Lundsroem
 m. 2/14/1832 p. ??
 b. 5/8/1806 b.
 p. Altenburg p. Freidrichshafen, Ger.
 Ernst's birth recorded in Altenburg Lutheran Church
 "Record Book of Baptized, 1803-1807, p. 511, #122
 d. 9/25/1832
 (m) Maria Catharina Hoffman
 m. 4/3/1833 p. Navara, St. Petersburg, Russia
 d. after 1880 d. 10/23/1872
 p. Industry, TX p. Industry, TX

Parents of:

- *1. Johann Christian Rudolph Franke
 b. 1/18/1834 p. St. Petersburg, Russia
 bapt. 2/18/1834
 d. 7/6/1902 p. Industry (Pilgrim's Rest)
 m. 10/7/1860 to Sophie Spickemann
 b. ? p. Texas
 d. 9/24/1861 (in childbirth)
 m. 11/27/1865 or 12/3/1865 to Louise Schwartz
 Kruger (widow of Frederick Krueger), came from
 Westphalia, Germany, at age 18 with her brother.
 b. 3/14/1841
 d. 3/1/1924 p. Wharton, TX
 buried in Pilgrim's Rest, Industry

Parents of:

- a. Rudolph D. Franke
 b. Emma Mary Franke Schramm
 c. Edward Franke
- a. Rudolph D. Franke (m) Ida Buenger
 m. 12/18/1842 p.
 b. 9/7/1866 b. 9/22/1869
 p. Industry, TX p. Industry, TX.
 d. 10/1/1942 d. 4/20/1966
 p. Industry, TX p. Industry, TX
 (both are buried at Pilgrim's Rest, Industry)

Parents of:

- (i) Lee Andrew (m. Mundina Kretzschmar) Franke
 (ii) Lena Ethel Franke (m. James) Winborn
 (iii) Nora Bess Franke (m. Alvie C.) Burkhalter
 (iv) Walter Chester (m. Freida Waag) Franke
 (v) Edwin Glen (m. Edith Curtes) Franke
- b. Emma Mary Franke (m) William Otto Schramm
 m. 1/8/1888 p.
 b. 10/27/1863 b. 2/3/1865
 d. 2/2/1940 d. 5/28/1947

FRANKE FAMILY TREE

Parents of:

- (i) Edwin William Schramm (m.1/Alma Heyna)
(m.2/Ida Pauline Seydler)
- (ii) Raymond Rudolph Schramm
- (iii) Bennie Herman Schramm
- (iv) Cora Schramm (m. Carl) Meerscheidt
- (v) Arthur Frank Schramm

- c. Edward Franke (m) Mary Freier
 - m. 10/27/1908 p.
 - b. 9/12/1876 b. 5/5/1886
 - p. Industry, TX p. New Ulm, TX
 - d. 3/7/1962 d. 7/4/1967
 - p. Bellville, TX p. Bellville, TX

Parents of:

- (i) Arthur (m. Dora Brune) Franke
- (ii) Laura Franke Pavlovsky
- (iii) Monroe (m.1/Otilie Sadonia Fick) Franke
(m.2/Opal)
- (iv) Erwin (m. Velma Krause) Franke
- (v) Norma Franke
- (vi) Louise Franke (m. W.B. "Candy") Frank
- (vii) Almeida Franke (m. Franklin) Bravenec

*2. Carl (Charles) August Franke

- b. 2/2or4/1835 p. St. Petersburg, Russia
bapt. 4/18/1835
- d. 9/15/1922 p. Welcome, TX (buried in Industry)
m. 10/7/1860 to Agnes Bittner
- b. 6/6/1844 p. Dresden, Germany
- d. 2/11/1934 p. Industry, TX

Parents of:

- a. Ernst Franke
- b. Agnes Franke Ringner
- c. Oscar C. Franke
- d. Emily Franke Wotipka (10/21/1873-9/23/1956)
- e. Adolph August Franke
- f. Amalia "Mary" Franke Huebner
- g. Paula Franke Eckerman
- h. Bertha Franke
- i(t) Hulda Franke Light
- j(t) Max Franke
- (t-twins)

- c. Oscar C. Franke (m) Carolyn Olmstead

Parents of:

- (i) Winthrop (m. Elizabeth Brown) Franke

- e. Adolph August Franke

- b. 1/23/1875 p. Industry, TX
- d. 9/7/1922 p. Smithville, TX
- m. to Otealea Emma Petersen
- b. 7/17/1884 p. LaGrange TX
- d. 8/13/1956 p. Smithville, TX

Parents of:
 (xxiii) Herbert Adolph Franke

f. Amalia "Mary" Franke (m) Julius Huebner

Parents of:
 (i) Elenor Franke Lahrman
 (ii) Franklin Franke
 (iii) Henry (m. Elinor Howe) Franke
 (iv) Walter (m. Lillie Emshoff) Franke

g. Paula Franke (m) Alex Eckermann

Parents of:
 (i) Cornell "Connie" (m. Erna Emshoff) Eckermann
 (ii) Almeida Eckermann (m. Woodrow Woehst)
 (iii) Gilbert Eckermann
 (iv) Olga Eckermann Bahimann

j. Max Franke

Parents of:
 (i) Max (m. Mildred) Franke Jr.
 (ii) Maynola Franke (m) Walter Mueller
 (iii) Roy (m. Mona Pampa) Franke
 (iv) Ralph (m. Patsy Killeen) Franke
 (v) Beatrice Franke Hufstetler

3. Amalie Charlotte Franke
 b. 7/5/1836 (bapt. 8/22/1836)
 d. 5/5/1845
- *4. Johann Heinrich Franke
 b. 7/5/1838 (bapt. 7/13/1838)
 m. 12/12/1865 to Louise Rosenberg
5. Ernest Carl Friedrich Franke
 b. 1/18/1840 (bapt. Easter Sun. 1840)
 d. 7/21/1842
- *6. Louis Franke
 m. 10/22/1865 to Emilie Zahn
7. August Heinrich Franke
 b. 5/1844 (bapt. 6/18/1844)
 d. 3/9/1903
 m. 3/6/1870 to Bertha Weinand
8. Clara Helena Franke
 b. 9/1846 (bapt. 9/29/1846)
 d. 5/11/1847

*Confederate War Veterans

ART II: A Short History of the Franke Family by Durwood Franke
 PART III: The Diary of Ernst August Franke

submitted by
Flora von Roeder
of Houston

THE BERNHARD CORNELIUS FAMILY by Glenn Edward Stephens

Our grandfather, Bernhard Cornelius, was born January 4, 1860, in Rothensee, County Hersfeld, Hessen Nassau, a son of Friedrich Maximilian Cornelius, a landowner. Bernhard's uncle (called Fritz) had immigrated to Texas in about 1870. After his Uncle Fritz was established, he arranged for Grandpa and his brother, William, to come to America.¹

Grandpa's Uncle Fritz helped him get a start in the new world by hiring him to work on his ranch.² Grandpa made several cattle drives with Uncle Fritz to Kansas. He said that one time he lost the horse he was riding while trying to cross the Red River when it was on the rise. At the end of the drive, they would turn the lead steer loose and let him head home. They would stay a few days in Kansas and then load their horses, gear, and themselves on the train to return home. He said that more than one time when they got back to Midfield, the lead steer would be back in the pasture.

Before he left Germany, Grandpa was engaged to a young lady but he came to America without her. When he returned to marry his fiancé, she had already married another man.³ Grandpa met a beautiful young maiden named Anna Usbeck. They fell in love (apparently love at first sight); he courted her about three weeks; they married and came to America on board the ship on which Grandpa had already booked passage for the return trip.⁴ All of their belongings were in six large trunks.

Times were hard in Germany at that time. The German currency (Reichmark) was worthless. I was told it would take a wheelbarrow full of money to buy one loaf of bread. I remember one of the trunks stored in the attic when I lived in Alfred that was partly filled with paper currency, each bill in 100,000 denominations. I carried one in my billfold for many years until it became so worn, you couldn't tell what it was.

Grandma and Grandpa settled in Ezzell (Lavaca County) and started raising a family.⁵ Grandpa was a ginner and was well respected in the community and was appointed as a trustee on the Ezzell School Board. Grandma was a mother and homemaker. Among the children born at Ezzell were Aunt Helen; my mother, Elsie; her twin, Delsie; Elizabeth; Uncle Benny; Henry; Hilda; and Magda.

At some point in time (about 1919), the Cornelius family and the Engelking family⁷ decided to move to Orange Grove, Texas (Jim Wells County). They were among the first families to settle there. Grandma and Grandpa helped to establish the Lutheran Church there. I have not personally seen the church role, but I understand the first names on the role are 1) B. Cornelius, 2) Anna Cornelius, 3) Helen Cornelius, 4) Elsie Cornelius, 5) Delsie Cornelius, on down the line. Grandma played the church organ. Grandpa was the first secretary in the church. All of the church records were done by hand in German. They were faithful church members until their deaths.

Uncle Henry said that there was only one time he could remember hearing Grandpa use a curse word. It was generally known that Grandpa never owned a team of horses that wouldn't run away. On a rainy day, Grandpa and Uncle Henry and a black person loaded a big sow on the wagon to haul her to the auction. Sure enough, the team ran away with them and turned over the wagon. The black man said, "Mr. Bernhard, Mr. Bernhard, where's the sow? Where's the sow?" Grandpa replied, "Damned the sow! Where's my son!" As it turned out, Uncle Henry and the sow were both under the wagon.

In addition to being a ginner, a builder of gins (he built them at Orange Grove, Robstown, Rabb, and Chapman Ranch while camping out with his son, Bernhard, until the job was complete), farmer, and rancher, Grandpa was also in the land-clearing and cultivating business. As if that were not enough, he also traveled the South Texas area, selling Raleigh products (vanilla, lineaments, salves, salt, pepper, etc.). He always had candy or gum on hand, and the children on his monthly route always were on the look out, watching for Grandpa to come to their house. Often, he would have lunch and visit with friends on his route.

About 1917 Grandpa had bought some unimproved land near Alfred, south of Orange Grove. In about 1935, they decided they would move the house from Orange Grove to Alfred; this was

before there were professional house movers. The house in Orange Grove was two stories. It was built next to the gin in a parcel shaped like a triangle. So they dismantled the house board by board, piece by piece, saved and straightened all the nails, and moved the boards and pieces to Alfred. There, they rebuilt the house with the original nails.

It was a common practice in Germany (because of limited space) to have two story pigpens with a ramp for the pigs to go up and down. We had a two story pigpen at Orange Grove; however, that was not moved to Alfred.

The house in Alfred is still the residence of Cornelius descendants. It is now complete with hot and cold running water, bathroom, water closet, electricity, air conditioning, etc. In fact, a third generation of the Cornelius family was raised there.

After raising her own children, Grandma's work was still not done. During the Depression, in about 1933, Grandma had in her home, under her feet, and in her care the responsibility of seven children. Two of them were nearly grown being Uncle Curt and Aunt Amalie. In addition to them she had grandchildren, Hiram and Leo, Cornelius Hansley, my half-sister, Marguerite, and me. She'd gone through a Depression in Germany; now she was experiencing another here.

Besides us, she also had the garden, hogs and chickens, and Grandpa to tend to. I don't know how she kept her sanity. This was before refrigeration or electric washing machines. Grandpa would pull me in a red wagon to the post office daily and then to the ice house to get a block of ice for the icebox. There was no hot and cold running water, no bathroom facilities, no gas for heating or cooking, and no electricity.

Grandma never lost her strong German accent (you rotten kid!), although she learned the English language and knew the meanings of the words. It took me a long time to learn my name because when Grandma got mad and tried to call my name, she would say, "Benny, Henry, Curt, Glenn Etwart!"

Not only did she know the meaning of the words, she could tell you and explain about nouns, pronouns, adjectives, subjects, predicates, etc. She not only learned to speak English, she learned to read and write and teach her children and grandchildren about the English language.

Grandma had a beautiful cursive handwriting. She said my handwriting looked like hen scratching. She spent many hours trying to teach me how to write so it could be read. I filled many a page of Big Chief tablet paper making row after row of oval swirls to improve my handwriting. But, it didn't work. I now have carpal tunnel syndrome and in order to read my writing, especially when it gets cold, I have to print.

After they moved to Alfred, every Thursday Grandma and Grandpa would come to Orange Grove by train to shop, have dinner with the Engelkings, go to the Ladies Aid Society meeting, etc., and catch the train back to Alfred afterward. One Thursday, they did all the usual. Grandma was singing with the choir, Grandpa got up and went to the depot and caught the train without Grandma. When she finished singing, she saw Grandpa was no longer at church. She went to the depot and realized that Grandpa and the train were gone.

When he reached Alfred, Grandpa realized he'd left Grandma in Orange Grove. He hitched up a team to the wagon and went back. Grandma had already started walking toward Alfred; Grandpa met her, but Grandma refused to get in the buggy. She walked all the way to Alfred with Grandpa walking alongside the buggy, pleading with her to get in the buggy and ride.

Beginning with two people, Grandma and Grandpa, there are now (1995) living, one daughter, Aunt Amalie, 20 grandchildren, 51 great grandchildren, 66 great, great grandchildren, and two great, great, great grandchildren totaling 140 descendants.

I am proud of my heritage, and I know if Grandma and Grandpa were present in person with us today, they would be proud of us, and they could say to each other, "Well done! To God be the Glory!"

Notes:

¹According to *Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports*, Vol. 48, page 198, November 1883-April 1884, Bernhard and his brother, Wilhelm (William) arrived in New York in April 1884 on the ship, *Rhaetia*. They entered Texas at Indianola.

²According to an obituary on Bernhard Cornelius, he spent two years on his uncle's 5F ranch at Midfield (Matagorda County) working with cattle. Following that, he spent seven years in the lumber business in Edna. He applied for citizenship in February 1895 and returned to Germany in May that year.

³The story of the fiancé or even the engagement to someone else is, according to Madeline De Long, probably oral history; no one has been able to document it.

⁴Bernhard Cornelius and Anna Usbeck were married July 22, 1895; they sailed July 28 aboard the *Dania*, arriving on August 9, 1895.

⁵A letter of reference indicates that Bernhard worked for W. Westhoff & Company, dealers in lumber, shingles, sashes, doors and blinds in Edna for about two years prior to establishing his business in Ezell.

⁶Names of the children in birth order, as recalled by child No. 8, Mary Magdalene, in her handwriting: 1) Helen Wilimena Catherine, 2) Delsa Minna, 3) Elsa Anna, 4) Elizabeth Katherine, 5) Bernhard Usbeck, 6) Hilda Frieda Bertha, 7) Henry Maxmillian, 8) Mary Magdalene, 9) Curt Frederick William, 10) Amalia Frederika. However, the Orange Grove First Evangelical Lutheran Church Confirmation and Baptism records, mainly written by Bernhard Cornelius when he was church secretary, show some of them as slightly different: 1) not entered, probably confirmed in Ezzell or Hallettsville, 2) Elsie Anna, 3) Delsie Minna, 4) Elisabeth Katharina, 5) Bernhard Gottlieb, 6) Hilda Frida Bertha, 7) Henry's name was not entered in the Confirmation Record, but family record says it was 1925, 8) Magdalena Marie, 9) Friedrich Wilhelm Curt, 10) Amalie Friedrike.

⁷William Engelking (1867-1939) was born at Millheim, Austin County, Texas. He was a son of Ferdinand Friedrich and Caroline von Roeder Engelking, Prussian immigrants to Texas in 1839 and 1834, respectively. William established a soda water bottling business in Hallettsville, Lavaca County, a short distance north of Ezzell. The two families apparently chose to move south to the almost unsettled area at the same time. Both families were active in the Lutheran Church. William Engelking established and operated a lumber yard and lived in Orange Grove until his death. His only daughter, Anna Lenore, married the oldest Cornelius son, Bernhard Gottlieb.

(Notation: The foregoing essay was written by Glenn Edward Stephens of Corpus Christi, a grandson of Bernhard and Anna Usbeck Cornelius. He presented it in 1995 at a special Cornelius family reunion at what would have been the couple's 100th wedding anniversary.

Madeline De Long of San Marcos, a great granddaughter of the immigrant couple, is researching the Cornelius ancestry and allied families. She made an inquiry which was published in the Summer 2003 issue of the GTHS *Journal*. I had a copy of the essay which was given to me by Lawrence Cornelius of Alice, Texas, in 1999 when I attended the Engelking family reunion hosted by him at his home. I did not notice at the time that the essay did not have the author's name on it. When I found Madeline's inquiry, I contacted her and she helped me identify the author and put me in touch with him. Madeline's input has clarified a number of areas in the essay which are footnoted. My only contribution to this work is the last footnote--Flora von Roeder, August 15, 2003.)

INDIANOLA IMMIGRANT DATABASE ON LINE

by Henry Wolff Jr.

from *Victoria Advocate*, October 1, 2003 (online at victoriaadvocate.com)

More and more is being learned about immigrants that came through the old port of Indianola.

It is a frequently asked question, where are ship's lists for Indianola?

The answer is there are none, the reason being that immigrant manifests were filed at the first port and virtually all immigrants coming through Indianola were on ships that stopped first at Galveston, New Orleans or some other U.S. port. While some of the ships carrying the early immigrants from foreign ports of embarkation did proceed to Indianola, many immigrants boarded smaller vessels for the final leg of their journey, particularly from Galveston.



It was the lack of information on immigration through the Matagorda Bay port that prompted Patsy Hand to begin collecting information on Indianola immigrants in 1994, the period of immigration embracing some 4 decades during the mid to latter 19th Century. Prompted by her interest in genealogy and history, she got the Victoria County Historical Commission to help sponsor the project and the Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria Library to archive the collection commonly known as the "Indianola database."

She has since identified some 1,600 individual immigrants as the list continues to grow. In many cases, in addition to basic information about each immigrant, descendants have provided other family materials for the archival files maintained by the Victoria Regional History Center, the library's center for archives and special collections.

There are thousands of other immigrants yet to be identified as the project proceeds, much of the European settlement of south central and central Texas having been through Indianola. The project to identify these immigrants is getting an additional boost through a new Web site being developed for the Victoria Regional History Center.

According to Hand and Sheron Barnes, special collections librarian, they are in the process of putting up an index of the names and basic information about each immigrant on the center's new Web site.

"This will be a searchable data base on each immigrant," Hand notes.

Barnes points out that other information may also be available in the archival files located at the center for those locating ancestors through the on-line database.

"This information is available by telephone," she notes, "by e-mail or a personal visit to the center."

While still in the developmental process, the new history center site can be accessed at - the library's primary Web site.

Information is being provided about the center, books and maps in its collections, photographs, archives and manuscripts, the regional historic records depository for seven area counties, indexes and aids, and how to contact the center for assistance.

Through a Texas Treasures grant from the Texas State Library, a scanner, software and personnel costs were provided for putting the college's collection of local history photographs on line.

"So far," Barnes notes, "we have scanned over 3,500 photographs that will be on line soon."

There are more than 13,000 images in the library's collection not including an undetermined number of Victoria Advocate negatives in 32 file cabinet drawers spanning the years of 1950 to 1984.

"Over half of the photograph collection is indexed," Barnes notes.

Reproduction of photographs is available at a nominal fee.

Barnes says the center is also in the process of transcribing the late historian Sidney R. Weisiger's collection of notes for on-line access. Other archival documents and collections will follow.

The archives provides an incredible source of information on local and area history with the center, located on the second floor of the library, being open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 to 5 on Fridays.

Forms for submitting Indianola immigrant information are available on-line or at the center, also on the Victoria County Genealogical Society's Roots Web site or from Patsy Hand, telephone 361-575-0049 or e-mail Already a good source for local and area historical and genealogical information, the Victoria Regional History Center is moving into the 21st Century.

The day has come when one can log on to dig in the archives.

INQUIRY



Searching for information on AUGUST C. SCHULZE who came from Elle, Hanover Germany to Cat Springs, Texas in 1854. He was a farmer. He had 1 daughter--Emilie Schulze-- who married Henry Amthor in Austin county on June 22, 1859. Henry Amthor lived in the Cat Springs and Bellville, Texas area. August, also had 1 son--Adolph Schulze who was born February 18, 1829 in Germany. He married Marie Krebs on December 22, 1859 in Bellville, Texas. After their marriage they lived on their farm in Shelby, Texas. Adolph and Marie (Krebs) Schulze are my Great Grandparents. Information on August C. Schulze came from a book "The Cat Spring Story." The marriage records in Austin county have Amelia Schultz, difference in spelling. If anyone has information on this, please contact Loretta (Hartfield) Leonhardt--278 John Craft Rd. Red Rock, Texas 78662-2658
e-mail lorettaleonhardt@yahoo.com

SOME NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE VON WREDE FATHER AND SON:

FRIEDRICH WILHELM VON WREDE SR. (1786-1845)...a First Founder of New Braunfels
FRIEDRICH WILHELM VON WREDE JR. (1821-returned to Germany 1865)...a First Founder of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg

by Ken Knopp of Fredericksburg

Friedrich Wilhelm von Wrede of Holzhausen, Oberndorf, near Kassel in Kurhessen, Germany, came to Texas in 1836 with his wife and son, Jr., and traveled extensively in the United States writing a descriptive travelogue of what he saw and experienced. He did not go back to Germany before being in Texas long enough to qualify to receive a land grant in Van Zandt county from the Republic of Texas. Returning to Germany, his observations about Texas and America was published in Kassel by Emil Drescher Publisher in 1844 and was widely read throughout Germany. In German the book was entitled *Lebensbilder aus den vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika und Texas-1844*. It was translated in 1970 by Chester W. Geue and published under the title *Sketches of Life in the United States of North America and Texas*. (1) Just at that time the Adelsverein was seeking applicants for the Texas German colony it was organizing. .

His continued fascination with Texas led him to associate with the members of the Adelsverein who organized in 1842 as a invitation-only profit-making stock company with its office in Mainz. The goal of the Adelsverein or Society of Noblemen was to develop a German colony (under the control of feudal German, no less) in Central West Texas in the area where the Republic of Texas was eager to issue land grants hoping to attract settlers in order to deal with the Indians. Also, Mexico was insisting their land rights went to the Nueces River and not the Rio Grande River. The Republic of Texas felt its relationship with Mexico was tenuous at best. But in late 1845 Texas was accepted as a state of the United States. The Mexican War with the United States then occurred and settled that issue in 1845-1846. Many of the new German settlers joined the U.S. troops as they stepped off their ships as they reached Texas, especially those who were paupers or not too well off. The U.S. government was quick to hire them to fight against Mexico.

The Von Wredes returned to Texas in 1844 charged with assisting Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels whom the Adelsverein named as the Commissioner-General of the Texas Colony, referred also as the Texas Verein. For awhile, Von Wrede Sr. agreed to be the director of the Nassau Hof cotton plantation near Shelby which the Adelsverein had earlier bought as a way station for the immigrants going from Galveston into the Hill Country and the Fisher-Miller Land Grant which began at the Llano River. However, Prince Solms changed his mind about the using the port of Galveston and instead arranged for the settlers to arrive first in Galveston and then change to a smaller ship that took them to Carlshaven later called Indianola in Matagorda Bay. At this port of entry the settlers shortened their trek into the Hill Country more than a hundred miles. Unable to trust the purchasing of supplies, oxen and wagons which Fisher (of Fisher-Miller dealings) had failed to produce, Prince Solms gave that job, along with advancement of money, to F. W. von Wrede Sr. who obtained the supplies elsewhere. Wrede went as far as New Orleans to locate the supplies to prepare for the many immigrants who had already set sail for Texas and who were signing up at the Adelsverein office in Mainz. (2)

Von Wrede Sr. also assisted Prince Solms in buying land and preparing it for the founding of New Braunfels which took place on Good Friday of 1845. Along with another officer of the Texas Verein Von Wrede Sr. opened a saloon near the downtown square of New Braunfels which quickly became a popular gathering place for the new settlers. (3) But then suddenly, on a return trip from Austin to New Braunfels he and a partner, Oscar Claren, from Braunschweig, were attacked and killed by a band of Huaco Indians at Manchaca Springs, also called Live Oak Springs, outside of Austin on October 25, 1845. Von Wrede Sr. was 52 years old. Von Wrede Sr. and Claren had been officers in the Hanoverian army together in Germany. (4)

His son, Friedrich Wilhelm von Wrede, Jr., was already employed as the secretary of Prince Solms. The peripatetic Solms sent numerous reports to the Adelsverein members in Germany. One included a personal evaluation of his associates in Texas. He did not mince words. Considering he described one as "a bit frivolous and requires supervision" and another "his abilities are over-shadowed by his selfishness and his greed and the improper way he treats people" ... his assessment of the Wredes was kindly: "Friedrich von Wrede I, a retired Captain in the service of Hannover, is a brave and honorable man. He can be trusted except he is not too bright. Friedrich von Wrede II (or Junior) son of the former, is brave, trustworthy and dependable. He knows the country and is not afraid to work and does not let hardships and danger get in his way. He speaks and writes English as a native, speaks both French and Spanish and writes French pretty well. He has a strong sense of honor, hence one can trust him like a rock. His sometimes peculiar mannerisms and opinions should be over-looked and be blamed on his upbringing." (5) After Prince Solms resigned and returned to Germany on May 1, 1845, Von Wrede, Jr., prepared for the arrival of the new commissioner of the Texas Verein, Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach of Dillingen, Hessen-Nassau. Meantime, Von Wrede, Jr., married Sofia Bonzano. They are known to have at least three children: Margaret, Friedrich, and Max.

With so many more ships already heading from Bremerhaven and Antwerp for Texas, and dozens more contracted, and with New Braunfels filling up, Von Wrede, Jr., and Meusebach planned for the founding of Friedrichsburg at the half way point to the Llano River boundary of the Fisher-Miller Land Grant. Von Wrede Jr. moved from New Braunfels to the new settlement of Friedrichsburg. The famous naturalist from Hildesheim, Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, visiting Texas, lists in his book "Texas" the following German officers who accompanied Meusebach and others in February 1847 to meet with the three principal chiefs of the Comanches at their encampment near the present day town of San Saba. Roemer lists: Lieutenant Bene from Wetzler, Lieutenant Ludwig Willke from Berlin, Lieutenant Plewe from East Prussia, Lieutenant Zeuner from Berlin, and Von Wrede from Kurhessen. (6)

Von Wrede Jr. was elected the county clerk of Gillespie County (Fredericksburg county seat) from 1850 to 1859. In the 1860 census of Gillespie County, he was listed as 39 years of age, his wife Sophie 32, their children: Margaret Mary 9, Friedrich 6, and Max, 4. (6) A rural community several miles west of Fredericksburg and a school there, Wrede, was named after him. He was elected to the 8th Texas Legislature. (8) In Fredericksburg he was evidently involved as a confederate sympathizer and for fear of retribution by the majority of Fredericksburgers who were pro-Union, he returned to Europe in 1865 when the fate of the war was decided.

Von Wrede Jr. eventually went into business in Antwerp, Belgium, with another Friedrichsburg Confederacy supporter who also fled Texas in 1865 prior to the Restoration Era, Frank Van der Stucken, the father of the composer and director, Frank Valentin van der Stucken. Their milling business was established in 1873 outside of Antwerp was known as the Van der Stucken & Van Wrede Mill. It was located in an area

called Antwerp-Dam near a shipping dock on the ocean so their milled wheat could be shipped far and near. Von Wrede sold his shares in the company at a later date to the Van der Stuckens. There seems to be no further record about him since. He probably returned to Germany. (9)

NOTES:

- (1) Geue, Chester W.; *Wrede, Friedrich Wilhelm Von, Sr. (1786-1845)*, Handbook of Texas Online: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/WW/fwr21.html>
- (2) King, Irene Marschall (von Bieberstein); *John O. Meusebach, German Colonizer in Texas*; University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas, 1987; p. 38. Also see p. 51
- (3) Roemer, Dr. Ferdinand; *Texas 1845 to 1847*, German-Texan Heritage Society, published by Eakin Press, Austin Texas, reprinted 1995, p.95
- (4) Geue, Chester W. & Ethel H.; *A New Land Beckoned--German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847*; Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore MD, 1982, p. 155
- (5) Fey, Everett Anthony; *New Braunfels: The First Founders*; Vol. 1, Eakin Press, Austin, TX, 1994; p. 83
- (6) Roemer, Ibid, p. 249
- (7) Geue, Ibid, p. 155
- (8) Fey, Ibid, p. 616
- (9) Arcaute, Miguel Ruiz de; *Family Portraits and Histories-- The Van der Stuckens*; self-published manuscript, Antwerp-Kappellen, Belgium, 2002 in French, translated into English, 2003, p. 42. These manuscripts are available in the Van der Stucken Collection, International Studies & Archives, Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg, Texas. Arcaute's mother was a van der Stucken. He and his daughter Isabelle attended the Van der Stucken Music Festival in 1996 in Fredericksburg, visited relatives, and researched

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN GERMAN* AND IN ENGLISH

submitted by Frances Hartmann of Yorktown

Vater unser, der Du bist im Himmel, Geheiligt werde Dein Name.	Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Dein Reich komme, Dein Wille geschehe, Wie in Himmel, also auch auf Erden.	Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done On earth as it is in Heaven.
Unser taeglich Brot gib uns heute Und vergieb uns unsre Schuld	Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses
Als wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.	As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Und fuehre uns nicht in Versuchung Sondern erloese uns von dem Uebel	And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evil,
Denn Dein ist das Reich, und die Kraft Und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.	For Thine is the kingdom and the power And the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*The German version is from *Kirchenbuch fuer Evangelisch-Lutherische Gemeinden* (Church Songbook for Evangelical Lutheran Congregations) published in 1902 at Philadelphia by The General Council Publication Board.

by Van Massier of Crawford

A German Christmas in Aleman

In the rolling plains of central Texas a few miles south of Hamilton lies the community of Aleman. German-speaking people moving northwestward from Bell and Washington Counties and others coming directly from Germany began settling in the area in the early 1880's. Originally known as Pleasant Point, the community, and later the village, got a new name in 1907, when Mexican workers building a railroad line through the area overheard the local populace speaking German. Apparently at least some of the Mexicans recognized the language and exclaimed "Aleman," and the community got a new name.

The German settlers who came to Aleman were devout Lutherans and sought to establish a church soon after their arrival. Religious services were held in a school house during the early years, and then a group of fourteen families joined on September 24, 1886, to organize a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was to be known as St. Paul's Church, and the first called pastor was Johannes Barthel.

Enduring severe heat and drought during 1886 and 1887, the congregation survived, due in no small part to sheer will and determination of the individual members. The first church building was constructed in 1900 at a cost of \$884. As the congregation grew and flourished, a second church building was constructed in 1916 and is still in use.

The congregation joined the Missouri Synod in 1912 and reached its peak membership in 1935, when it listed 366 communicants and 538 souls. Since then, there has been a gradual decline, and the records showed 157 communicants and 171 souls in 1985, just prior to the congregation's 100th anniversary. Present membership stands at 102.

One of the things that sets this congregation apart from the hundreds of others scattered across Texas is its German Christmas service. More precisely, it is the use of three Christmas trees, several thousand multi-colored lights, and an ingenious method of controlling the lights in conjunction with music that is unique.

Although the congregation used the German language in its services before switching to English in the mid-1930's, Pastor John Feierabend decided in 1984 that it was time to return to German for a special Christmas worship service. He received considerable help and encouragement from Lawrence Schrank, a retired military officer who was born and reared in the Aleman community and had recently returned to his roots. Since 1998, Gerda Schrank, Lawrence's wife, has written the German worship service, using a traditional German Catholic mass and adopting it to a Lutheran service. For the past several years, the service has been led by the Reverend Otto Brillinger, a Lutheran missionary in the former Soviet Union. The organist is Dorothy Meissner, wife of former pastor Alvin Meissner.

From the beginning, the Christmas program included a large tree, usually a tall and stately eastern red cedar decorated with many ornaments but only a few lights. The first

changes came in 1990, when a method was devised by Michael Schrank to control individual strings of lights on the tree. The display consisted of five scenes.

Later, David Siepert became involved with the Christmas Committee and worked with Michael Schrank on the trees for three years. In 1998, the project began to take on a decidedly more complex nature with the addition of more lights and the gradual reduction of the number of ornaments on the tree. Along the way, two smaller trees were also added to symbolize "The Tale of Three Trees" and the scene at Calvary. Today, approximately ten thousand lights adorn the three trees and eleven windows in the sanctuary. The lights are controlled by Siepert operating a switch panel located in the balcony. The switch panel is capable of presenting 28 different scenes in conjunction with appropriate Christmas music for each scene.

For the past two years, the large tree has been a Leyland cypress, cut in either Bastrop or Lee County and hauled back to Aleman by Siepert and Fred Schrank about ten days prior to the German service. The trunk bottom is trimmed so that the tree will be twenty feet tall when set upright in the church. Since the tree is heavy and difficult to set upright, Marvin and Stephen Schrank and David and Darrell Melde usually lend helping hands.

The tree then stands as it did in nature, bare of any decorations, for the Sunday prior to the German service. This symbolizes birth and innocence, just as a newborn child is at baptism.

The next step is to set a scaffold around the tree to aid in the stringing of lights and placing of ornaments, a project mainly for Siepert but with help from Fred Schrank, Kim Howard and Dagan Siepert. A four-foot by three-foot lighted wooden cross is placed in the middle of the large tree and fastened to its trunk, and a smaller lighted cross is placed in each of the two smaller trees. Then, twelve lighted stars are placed throughout the large tree, and a lighted angel is placed on the top of the tree, followed by numerous strings of flashing white lights and solid white, red, blue, green purple and amber lights. The two small trees get white and colored lights too.

The tree-lighting ceremony follows the German worship service and begins with music, usually three or four songs, symbolic of the angels singing to the shepherds on the first Christmas. Then the angel on top of the large tree glows bright, representing the angel that appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of Christ. Suddenly, white lights in the windows of the sanctuary glow bright, representing the angel and heavenly host appearing and praising God.

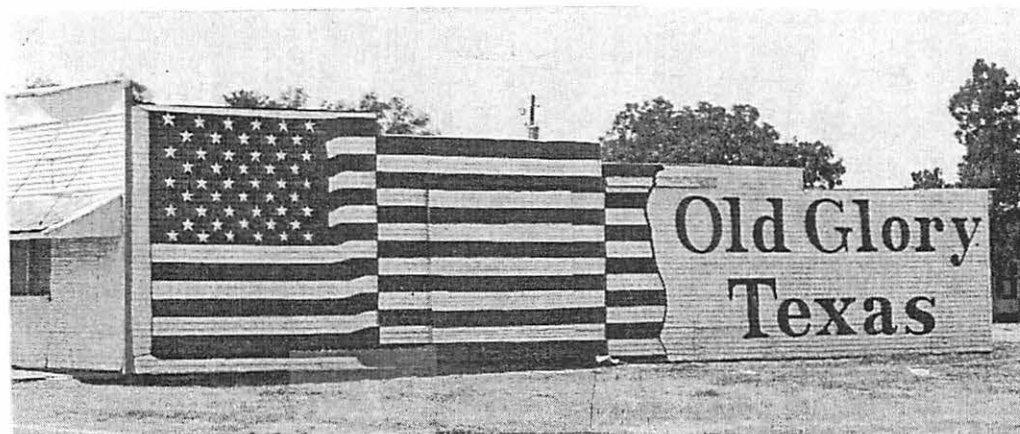
In succession, flashing white lights on the large tree represent the season of Epiphany, the coming of the wise men and the showing of Christ to the whole world. Solid blue lights represent the Old Testament and are the color of hope, while solid purple lights announce the seasons of Advent and Lent. Solid white lights are symbolic of purity and holiness, the season of Easter, and the transfiguration. Solid green lights are the color of life and represent the Trinity, the triune God. Solid amber lights are symbolic of gifts from God, and solid red lights pertain to Pentecost, ordination and royalty.

Good Friday is announced by all lights fading to darkness. Shortly, purple lights begin to glow on the cross in the big tree, symbolizing Christ's suffering and death on the cross, followed by white-lighted crosses in the two small trees that remind one of the scene at Calvary. The purple cross in the big tree next changes to white, signifying Christ's victory over death and the resurrection, followed by a brightly glowing angel on top of the big tree announcing the ascension. The grand finale comes with all ten thousand lights burning to symbolize God's promise of eternal life.

This magnificent display of lights and music is the brainchild of David Siepert, whose roots are five generations deep in the church. The entire Christmas tree project from start to finish is a ten-day endeavor consuming ten hours per day, but it is a labor of love for David and is highly symbolic of devotion to his God and his church.

After the tree-lighting ceremony concludes, the Men's Club serves refreshments in the adjoining parish hall.

This year, the German service and tree lighting will be held on December 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Additional tree lightings will be held on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, as well as on request.



Old Glory is a small rural community of about 125 located in Stonewall County east of Aspermont on Highway 380. The town was founded by Germans more than 100 years ago and first was known as Brandenburg, That was the name of a historic region and a province in the Kingdom of Prussia in the 1800s. But when World War I began, this German town changed its name to demonstrate the patriotism and loyalty of its residents to the U.S. The photo above was taken in July 2003. it shows the painted side of a building at Old Glory. It looks as if the town still lives up to its name and must have the same patriotism it had back in the First World War. —The Editor

from NYTimes.com

The Germans Came; Now They Are Us

October 25, 2003

By JOSEPH BERGER

Not long ago, Ridgewood, Queens, was the city's quintessential German neighborhood, where residents would flock on weekends to the nearby Metropolitan Oval for soccer matches between teams with German names, follow up the game with sauerbraten, dumplings and beer, and end the day with polkas at a German social club.

But in this season of Oktoberfests, it is all the more obvious that Ridgewood is losing its Germans and the city is watching another of its signature enclaves turn into something more cosmopolitan. The descendants of German immigrants continue to dissolve into the American mainstream, marrying non-Germans, raising their children with only a smattering of ethnic awareness and forsaking the tribal streets of Ridgewood for the more scrambled suburbs.

Of course, many German-American residents still keep up the traditions, enrolling their children in German-language classes and joining folk-dance and singing clubs. But even some who do are realistic about how much longer a vigorous identity can be sustained.

"You need to change with the times and realize it was the American dream to fit in with the American population," said Richard Mezic, 35, a former president of Die Erste Gottscheer Tanzgruppe, (the First Gottscheer Dance Group), a Germanic folk group.

There is another factor in this melding of identity. Despite the passage of more than five decades, some German-American residents in Ridgewood say that the stigma

of two world wars endures and that as a result, many are content to blend into an all-purpose Americanism. In New York City, with its large population of Jews, the issue is even more sensitive.

"To this very day, both wars have caused people of Germanic background to pull their horns back and really not talk about it all that much," said Paul Kerzner, counsel to the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association and a fourth-generation German-American.

In the last census, only 2,744 of Ridgewood's 47,417 residents said they were of German ancestry, with larger numbers claiming Italian and Polish heritage and significant numbers Romanian and Albanian.

In 1980, 10,608 residents said they were German, and old-timers estimate that in the 1950's and 60's the neighborhood was more than 70 percent German. In New York City as a whole, according to Susan Weber-Stoger, a research associate at the Queens College sociology department, only 255,536 claimed a German ancestor in 2000, compared with 453,898 in 1980.

Germans have lived in New York since colonial days. (Almost one in seven Americans claim some German ancestry, Ms. Weber-Stoger said.) Ridgewood has been a largely German neighborhood at least since the 1880's, when Germans took jobs in Brooklyn breweries.

The beer barons and others built their workers yellow brick row houses with three-window bay fronts and low stoops across the border in Queens, giving Ridgewood its characteristic look.

Although Yorkville in Manhattan largely disappeared as a German enclave two generations ago, until two decades ago there were usually a bustling Oktoberfest in Forest Park and several German Masses at neighborhood churches, as well as dozens of German shops along Myrtle Avenue.

*submitted by Hubert Heinen and
Julia Germany, both of Austin*

spring tentatively called "Forgotten German New York," said German-Americans have never clung as fiercely to their identity as, say, the Irish.

"There's been so many Germans here for so long that Germans feel very comfortable here, but the polar opposite is that after two wars and the Holocaust, the term German is so toxic that nobody wants to identify themselves as that," Ms. Hulser said.

Richard Alba, a distinguished professor of sociology at the State University at Albany, said that "many families drew the conclusion that the best thing to do was to encourage their children to assimilate."

Evelyn Agnoli, 33, a daughter of Bavarian immigrants who lives in next-door Glendale, studied German as a girl and continues to stay connected to her German heritage by dancing with a Bavarian troupe called Original Enzian.

"I want my daughter and my next kid to know where I came from and how I was raised," she said.

Still, she added that she has experienced the hazards of identifying too strongly as German in New York. "I used to wear a German eagle around my neck and a Jewish person came up to me and said, 'How can you wear that.'"

Of course, there are such annual events as the German-American Steuben Parade up Fifth Avenue, which drew 10,000 marchers last month. William Hertzler, the parade's chairman, trots out George M. Steinbrenner, Donald J. Trump and other German-descended notables as parade marshals and has worked hard to maintain strong relations with prominent Jews.

One group that does not shrug off its identity is the close-knit community of Gottscheers (pronounced Gut-SHAY-uhrs), ethnic Germans from Slovenia who sustain hunting and fishing clubs and benefit societies in Gottscheer Hall in Ridgewood. They were among the people of Germanic background who were resettled by the Nazis within the Reich and at war's end wound up in refugee camps, eventually immigrating to the United States in the 1950's.

The neighborhood is dotted with small insurance companies and butcher shops that bear Gottscheer names. But the Gottscheer children are also intermarrying and the long-range fate of their community is uncertain.

"Life is a journey," said Elfriede Parthe, manager of Gottscheer Hall, "and you know what, nothing ever stays the same."

But there was no community-wide festival of beer and food in Ridgewood this month and some cannot recall one in several years. Mr. Kerzner is helping to organize a modest Oktoberfest tonight at St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church, one of those rule-proving exceptions.

Last year, the Rev. John Stoudt, whose German ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War, ended the German-language service at Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church after the number of worshippers fell below 10. That leaves only two churches with German services, and the Mass at St. Matthias is down to about 50 worshippers.

Worried about shrinking German patronage in the city for its bratwurst and knockwurst, the Karl Ehmer plant on Fresh Pond Road is gradually shifting its focus to other ethnic groups and is also looking for German business in places like Texas and California.

Gebhardt's restaurant closed in the last year, leaving three warhorses - Niederstein's, Zum Stammisch and Von Westernhagen - standing in Ridgewood and nearby Glendale and Middle Village. The bienenstich, a custardy almond-topped confection, at Rudy's Bakery are still prized, but nearby residents say Rudy's may be the only genuinely German bakery left.

At the Alster Gift Shop, the neighborhood's last outpost of German wares, the shelves are as sparsely stocked as the customers are few. Metropolitan Oval, in Maspeth, where teams with names like Blau-Weiss Gotschee played dust-filled soccer behind a screen of row houses, is now owned by a foundation that serves a cross-section of ethnic groups.

New York adventurers may mourn the loss of another foreign land they could sample with a subway ride, but surprisingly, few of the German-Americans interviewed in Ridgewood seem to be wistful for the past.

Kathleen Hulser, public historian of the New-York Historical Society who is planning a museum show for next

TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER
FOR HOUSTON'S FIRST GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
submitted by Janice Thompson of Houston

In 2002, Houston's First Evangelical Lutheran Church was given the status of a Texas Landmark, and in June this year received an official Texas Historical marker. It reads as follows:

On July 1, 1851, a group led by the Rev. Caspar Messon Braun (1822-1880) founded the *Erste Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Kirche*, or First German Evangelical Lutheran Church. The State of Texas issued the Church's charter in September of that year.

The first sanctuary was a wooden building on the south-east corner of Texas Avenue at Milam Street. In 1901, under the Rev. William L. Blasberg (1862-1935), the congregation moved to the northwest corner of Texas at Caroline, to a new red brick and sandstone sanctuary. After selling the second structure in 1926, the First Evangelical Church, as it became known, purchased this site. Under the leadership of the Rev. Detlev Batlzer (1889-1962), the congregation hired Architect Joseph W. Northrop, Jr., who had moved to Houston to oversee construction of the original Rice Institute, now Rice University. James West was general contractor for the new church campus, and J.C. Noland and the Star Electric and Engineering Company held sub-contracts.

Northrops' North Italian Romanesque styling features terra cotta roof tiles on the sanctuary, education building and parsonage, as well as a campanile, or bell tower. The buildings were constructed of interlocking concrete tiles covered with buff-face brick and white sandstone trim. The campanile's bell was forged in 1880 and has rung at each of the congregation's places of worship. The tower connects the sanctuary to the seven-bay arched portalis of the education Building, which houses a stage, sports facilities, auditoriums, and classrooms. The sanctuary's details include pulpit and altar made by master woodcarvers from Oberammergau, Germany. Pews and chancel furnishing, designed by Northrop, are by the American Seating Company. The choir loft houses a 1903 Kilgen and Son pipe organ, and the stained glass windows are from the Browne Window Company.

**First
Evangelical
Lutheran Church**



1851

Houston, Texas

2003

GEORGIA O'KEEFE IN WARING AND SAN ANTONIO
by Anne Seidensticker Stewart of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Yes, Georgia O'Keeffe lived in the German West Texas towns of Waring and San Antonio. Never mind that New Mexico is considered Georgia O'Keeffe's spiritual home of choice. Never mind that Georgia O'Keeffe is famous for the one hundred flowers she painted and almost as many bleached animal bones. That the vast splendor of the Texas landscapes influenced her work is not to be denied.

O'Keeffe's first encounter with the wild beauty of Texas came in 1912 when the impoverished, struggling artist was forced to apply for a regular job and was hired to teach art in the Amarillo Public Schools. In September, 1916, O'Keeffe made what was considered a career limiting move, by accepting the position as the head of the art department at West Texas State Normal College in Canyon. She was also the only member of the art department, which considering O'Keeffe's personality, was probably all for the best.

Her mother, Ida Toto O'Keeffe, had died of tuberculosis under "horrific" conditions on May 2, 1916, and O'Keeffe could well have been reacting to the tragic news. Death of a loved one many times results in what appears to others as strange decisions and inexplicable actions.

It was in Canyon that O'Keeffe produced her first innovative landscapes of the Texas Panhandle. Writing to a friend, O'Keeffe enthused: "I am loving the plains more than ever it seems." She was equally effusive about the horizon. "The sky. The sky. Why doesn't everyone live here?" Working in watercolor, she painted her reactions to the environment. Without a doubt, the "untamed and uncultivated West appealed to O'Keeffe."

O'Keeffe was not as enthusiastic about the college itself or her teaching colleagues. The town and campus, she complained were full of "ugly little buildings" and her fellow teachers as those "darned educators." One boyfriend with whom she cruised the plains by car, she referred to as a "well fed piece of human meat."

It is in Canyon that O'Keeffe began a certain pattern of how she was to live her life. Reacting in a negative manner to the majority of her environment, she would choose one element which made her happy, usually the landscape.

She did not like the architecture of Canyon. She did not like the thought processes or the social mores of the region. She did not like her fellow teachers, the majority of her students and very few, if any, of the townspeople.

However, not all of the humans in her environment were described so scathingly. In Canyon she met a woman whom she characterized as the "finest girl she'd met in Texas." The "girl" returned the compliment. "I've been looking for Georgia all my life." These quotations have been interpreted in several ways, from the style of writing in the early 1900's to sexual innuendo on the part of the women.

This "girl" was Leah Harris. An "out-spoken native Texan," Leah was a "small, dark, sturdy" Home Economics Extension Agent who also taught Home Economics at the college where Georgia was employed. By the spring of 1917, the two women had become good friends, drawn together perhaps because they shared much in common.

Both were "nearly thirty, childless, unmarried and working." Both were members of a large family. Both also carried an inherited predisposition for tuberculosis, then called consumption. Both had recently lost their mothers: Harris's mother was confined to the State Mental Hospital in San Antonio and O'Keeffe's mother had just died.

At the close of the 1917 spring semester, Harris invited O'Keeffe to come with her for a visit to the Harris family farm in Waring, Texas. This small town west of San Antonio nestled along the banks of the beautiful green Guadalupe River. Cypress and native pecan trees invited people to linger in the village. They still do. "Some families took in summer boarders or people seeking health in the hills."

O'Keeffe shipped her Canyon watercolors to her friend, 291 gallery owner, Alfred Stieglitz, in New York. She accepted Leah's earlier invitation for a sojourn in Waring, packed her bag for a short break between semesters and departed the Panhandle.

The two women enjoyed the time off from their work. The Harris farm in Waring became a haven, however briefly, for Georgia. For much of her life, O'Keeffe seemed in search of a physical haven in which to gain strength to allow her to search for her spiritual home. However, every haven was not complete unless O'Keeffe perceived an escape route from said haven.

At this specific time she was torn also by the very real need to support herself teaching school and her driving desire and need to paint full time. Stieglitz, in fact, had been urging her to throw away her job security and come live in New York.

While Waring was not New York and generally viewed as a "wild territory", it had much to offer visitors. Because of the railroad, a small thriving community had grown up. As always in a German town, there was a school house. There were also blacksmith shops, a dentist office, Post Office, railroad depot, a general merchandise store where Georgia could get art supplies, a small grocery and fruit store which would have been of great interest to her as she liked eating fresh fruits and vegetables; a filling station and garage to service Harris' car, a boarding house, hotel and a meat market. A "saloon and dance hall" provided entertainment.

While in Waring, O'Keeffe received a letter from Stieglitz inviting her to the exhibit of her artwork. Harris took her to catch the train in Waring and O'Keeffe arrived in New York on "Decoration Day week-end." The exhibit had been dismantled but Steigletz re-hung it for her.

The showing of her Texas watercolors in New York was declared an "occasion in the art world.. The light, space and spiritual quality of the landscapes..." was quite "evident." Stieglitz's presentation and handling of O'Keeffe's work is what all struggling artists need: a mentor, an agent and a gallery.

When O'Keeffe returned to Texas, she did not go to Waring but to Canyon to teach summer school. She found the little town caught up in the patriotic fever of World War I. Georgia seemed "to be a pacifist" and was "dismayed" at the U.S. involvement. She "apparently discouraged male students from joining the military ...advising them to remain in college" until they were "graduated or drafted."

Canyon residents were not happy with the art teacher's position. Some began to avoid Georgia, "crossing the street when they saw" her coming. Georgia retreated to Waring for a quick visit at the Harris farm but due to the college schedule could not linger long.

Circumstances between O'Keeffe and the townspeople of Canyon continued uneasy. She remained opposed to the war, and the situation deteriorated further when O'Keeffe confronted a local store owner, demanding he cease selling Christmas cards that urged, "Kill Huns!" Rumors that she was the only female attending a stag party in Canyon where she was said to have consumed "eggnog with alcohol", made matters worse.

Early in 1918, an influenza epidemic swept the country. O'Keeffe, unhappy and at odds with her surroundings, began feeling poorly, both physically and mentally. She began suffering from "various flu-like symptoms and tuberculosis-type congestion." Unable to teach, she asked for a "leave from the college" as she was "ill from flu" and in need of a "long period to recover." Opinions vary over the real reason Georgia left Canyon. Studying her correspondence, some biographers think she "suffered from a nervous breakdown."

Whatever the "real" reason, the leave was granted and O'Keeffe retreated once again to the Harris farm in Waring to regain her health. According to a local Waring resident and historian however, Georgia did not go immediately to the Harris farm, but stayed in town. "Georgia O'Keeffe stayed at Aunt Lizzie's (Zoeller) boarding house across the tracks from the depot. When she ran out of funds, she paid what she owed with a painting. It's still in the family."

Apparently O'Keeffe moved to the farm only when Leah arrived some days later. Her air of "general malaise and stomach pains" plus depression, painted a picture of an individual in need of tender, loving care. Leah arrived to care for her, came down with the flu herself and the two women cared for each other.

O'Keeffe was lucky through-out her life to attract caring friends who were loyal to her through thick and thin. O'Keeffe was a complex, needy person, with an often abrasive manner. To be her friend was not easy. Both Harris and Stieglitz were concerned about her. Stieglitz kept up a steady stream of letters to keep her informed on the status of her

work and his opinion on practically everything, from the war efforts which he was against to the state of art in the United States which he deplored.

Concern for her health and drawn to her personally, Stieglitz wrote frequently to his protegee on all manner of issues. He wanted her to stop teaching. He wanted her to come to New York for further medical testing. He wanted Georgia "to be examined" by a big city physician rather than the rural doctors who were treating her in the wilds of Texas. He wanted her to move to New York and paint full time.

Gradually O'Keeffe and Harris emerged from their illnesses. As they began to feel better, they walked around Waring. Later they caught the train at the depot to spend their day seeing the sights in San Antonio and return late the same day on a "\$1.50 round trip ticket." They ventured regularly into the city, sometimes staying over-night or for several days with friends.

The atmosphere in San Antonio at that time was much like it is now: cafes and drinking establishments were dotted along the river, beautiful Mexican and German architecture dominated the environment, bright colors everywhere, several languages heard in the local eateries and markets, a colorful array of flowers and exotic cooking smells engulfed downtown San Antonio.

O'Keeffe flourished in the "holiday atmosphere of San Antonio." She loved "walking in the Alamo gardens" because they were full of "wonderful roses" and had a "gorgeous pomegranate tree with orange red blossoms." With Harris, O'Keeffe developed "many friends and a busy social life."

In April 1918, Stieglitz sent O'Keeffe a "paint box and brushes." She started to paint while staying in the city. True to her interior pattern, she concentrated on "architectual forms and the city's markets as subjects."

Returning to the farm in Waring, the healing, peaceful time came to an unpleasant end. Just how, the story varies. First, the women heard that "a German down the road had been slandering Georgia to the entire neighborhood." The other version stated this same neighbor had been making "disparaging remarks about the two women."

To stop his rumors, Leah "filed a complaint" against him. If the remarks focused on the suspected sexual relationship between the women or were concerned with Georgia's anti-war sentiments is not known. The formal complaint in the sherriff's office has not surfaced in the Kendall County Courthouse records for 1918.

When consulted, the District Attorney told the author that "records about well-known people have a tendency to disappear, for one reason or another. Records are removed to save the individuals involved public embarassment. Other times someone just wants to get their hands on the memorabilia of a famous person."

O'Keeffe told the story that one night she and Harris had been "stalked" by a neighbor. The women had chased him away by "pointing a gun" out the window. Apparently the same German farmer had instigated both events. Harris accused him of "trespassing on her property when drunk."

O'Keeffe, still in fragile health, withdrew to San Antonio for several days to recover from the event which frightened her. When public opinion of Georgia turned against her in Canyon, she fled to Waring. Now she left Waring for San Antonio. Just as the rumors and confrontations in Canyon had spooked her, so the "late-night visit from the armed intruder" at the farm had left her shaken.

Stieglitz, beside himself over O'Keeffe's health and safety, sent a friend, Paul Strand to Texas to act in his stead. Stieglitz wanted to know the exact status of O'Keeffe's health. He wanted something done about the neighbor situation. He instructed Strand to bring O'Keeffe to New York.

May 18, Strand arrived at the train station in San Antonio. "Still jumpy," O'Keeffe agreed met him in the Alamo gardens. Wearing black as always, Georgia spoke with Strand in the park. They discussed Georgia's health, her stay at the Harris ranch and Stieglitz's heightened concern for her. Later they stopped at a "little Mexican café" where they "sat at a green table and ate enchiladas and frijoles."

They stayed in San Antonio for several days and were joined by Harris. While Georgia went off to paint, the other two discussed her circumstances. The determined and focused O'Keeffe with whom we are all familiar was not yet in general view. In fact, it seems just the opposite. O'Keeffe appears to wander about, unconcerned, unresponsive, unconnected while her friends struggle with the situation she created.

Georgia, meanwhile with her "box of colors", worked in an area where she was recognized by the neighborhood children. Harris in the meantime had invited Strand to Waring to stay with her and Georgia at the farm. They left San Antonio by train and travelled into the near-by Guadalupe River Valley.

Georgia wanted Strand to take care of the problem neighbor, but he felt personally unable to do so. Once in residence at the Harris farm, he went to the "sherriff's office in Birney" (Boerne) where it was decided that the neighbor would be asked to apologize. In due time the neighbor did in fact "present himself" to apologize. "Both sides dropped the charges against each other" and a "trial was averted."

With the legal situation taken care of, Strand proceeded to make himself at home. He bundled up O'Keeffe's work and shipped it to Stieglitz. In the package were watercolors: a series of seated nudes and either a single or several portraits, no mention of Georgia's work in San Antonio.

O'Keeffe scholars have not agreed whether or not the nudes are of Harris or self-portraits of O'Keeffe. The paintings were painted wet in wet. Sexual gender can be established

but individual features cannot be distinguished.. "Leah ... may have been the model for some, if not all, of these works (nudes.)" It is thought that these are the only nudes O'Keeffe ever painted.

O'Keeffe painted very few portraits. In Waring, however, she painted a "Portrait W" series. Sometimes the man is described as a handyman or a "local mechanic." This handyman was referred to as "Brack." O'Keeffe may have used more than one man for her model, as the other male name that surfaces is Kindred M. Watkins.

The portraits O'Keeffe painted, filled with black and red watercolors, are even more abstract than the nudes. It is impossible to establish either gender or identity. One Portrait W appears on the O'Keeffe estate inventory. It is dated 1917, but thought not to be the correct date.

As it turns out, Georgia also sketched Harris. In the late 1960s, an uninvited visitor to O'Keeffe's home in New Mexico knocked at the door and asked the artist if she could or would identify some three pieces of art. O'Keeffe is reported to have "grabbed the drawings, threatened to tear them up" and did not want to return them to the rightful owner.

Only after long negotiation was the owner able to retrieve her sketches. O'Keeffe finally acknowledged that two of them were hers, the third, not. The two were of a "female head and bust", "most likely her old friend, Leah Harris."

With the two women, Strand picnicked and enjoyed the Waring area, so different from the bustling, charged air of New York. In the garden of the farmhouse, while O'Keeffe painted her good friend, he photographed Harris. His letters state he used at least 60 plates. Apparently, however, all have been lost or destroyed, much to the disappointment of historians, biographers and O'Keeffe aficionados. . He also photographed Georgia in San Antonio among the architectural forms she so loved.

Stieglitz sat impotent in New York, frustrated at having to hear everything second or third hand, dismayed at what he saw as no progress. The trio seemed suspended in a time bubble, aware of the pressures to reach a point of decision but unresponsive

O'Keeffe painted. Harris cooked for her guests. Strand photographed the women. They took long walks around the countryside, down to the Guadalupe River and back home across a "potato patch." They talked and consulted endlessly. They went into San Antonio for a change of pace and scenery. O'Keeffe caught a cold. Harris wanted O'Keeffe to stay with her. Stieglitz pressured Strand.

O'Keeffe was under pressure concerning her personal finances. She had always gotten by on very little, but she did require some income. She contacted the school and made arrangements to teach during summer school.

In the end, Stieglitz prevailed. Harris and Strand packed up Georgia's belongings, and caring for O'Keeffe who was once again fragile in mind and body, moved her to San Antonio. As soon as she was somewhat better, Strand and Georgia left for New York, arriving "June 8, 1918, at 7:30 a.m."

"Visibly frail" with a "cough and fever, O'Keeffe got off the train and was met by Stieglitz. He was thrilled that at last he had managed to achieve his goal of getting O'Keeffe into his city. Georgia did not return to Leah Harris and the farm in Waring or San Antonio but remained with Stieglitz, years her senior, eventually marrying him.

Texas in general and Waring and San Antonio specifically were good for O'Keeffe. Here she found employment, inspiration and a good friend. Here she had the opportunity to find herself artistically. Here she also set a pattern for lifelong behavior.

It seems that only one of her paintings has been discovered in the Waring area but it has not been verified. Surely something else O'Keeffe painted between January and June, 1918, will turn up in a German estate auction or yard sale. They turned up in a Canyon garage rolled up in brown paper, why not in Waring or San Antonio.

In Waring, O'Keeffe seems to have painted a wide variety of subjects: female nudes and abstract male portraits. Drawn to nature as she was, perhaps she painted the magnificent cypress or pecan trees, or rocks and bones she could have picked up on her long walks. San Antonio scenes could include the pomegranate blooms or the roses in the Alamo garden, Spanish water fountains surrounded by flowers or adobe buildings all of which attracted O'Keeffe. These five months of O'Keeffe's life have not been studied and dissected as so many other specific places and times in her long life. Just why not is something of a mystery.

Please direct your comments and critiques to Anne Stewart 11240 Windflyer Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88007 or e-mail at mastewart@zianet.com.

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**THE REVEREND KURT C. HARTMANN
FOUNDER OF OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AT COLLEGE STATION
submitted by Frances Hartmann of Yorktown**

This comes from a booklet entitled *Our Jubilee: 50th Year of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at College Station, Texas, Devotions Book 1989* ("Blessed To Be A Blessing"). It was compiled by Pastor A. R. Sam Koennig, who became the minister there in 1983. The booklet is composed of devotionals written by previous pastors and interns of the congregation and is dedicated to the Reverend Kurt C. Hartmann in these words:

"....his courage, sacrifice and persistence, joined with the desire to make the Word of God in Jesus Christ a continuing support for the Lutheran students and faculty of Texas A&M and the people of the community of College Station, were instrumental in bringing into being the Lutheran Campus Ministry at A&M and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. It took five years of preparation for the founding of this congregation and so Pastor Hartmann is honored in being its founder and first pastor." (The Reverend Kurt C. Hartmann died October 8, 1986.)

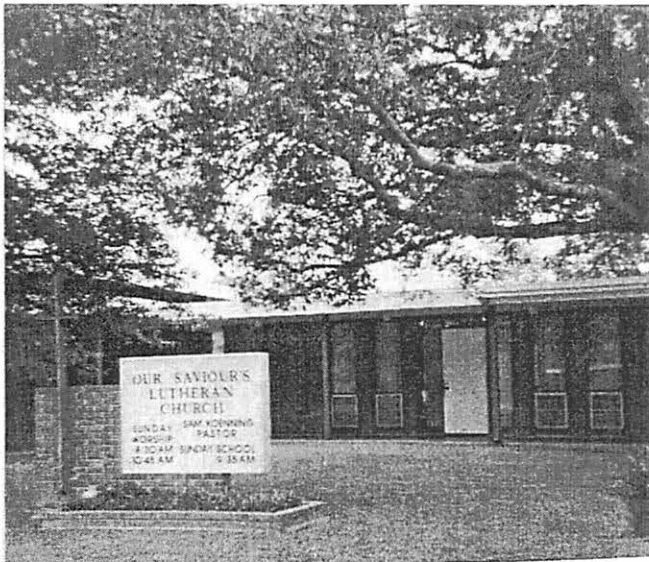
The Reverend Kurt C. Hartmann, founder of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at College Station, holding "The Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Service to the Community and Congregation" awarded to him by the Texas A&M University Agricultural Services and by the The Progressive Farmer.



Mrs. Kurt C Hartmann (center) with founding members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at College Station, Mrs. H. Landau (left) and Mrs. L Engelbrecht (right).



The sister and daughter of the Reverend Hartmann, Mrs. Simmie Smith (left) & Carolyn Spears (right)



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at College Station in 1988

HUGO DISTLER (1908-1942)
 by Melvin F. Rosenbaum of Houston
 submitted by Janice Warncke Thompson

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from a paper presented before an audience at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston several months ago.

Hugo Distler was one of the twentieth centuries primary composers of church music as well as being an accomplished organist and choral conductor. His primary areas of activity were in the German cities of Lubeck, Stuttgart, and Berlin. Distler's primary contribution to modern church music lay in the genius of his **inventive combination** of traditional choral melodies (Bach, Schutz, Pachelbell), fluid Renaissance-style counterpoint, and stark hollow dissonant harmonies . . . quirky but beautiful, tonal yet chromatic. He made the old Reformation Chorales dance with delight, a sound utterly unlike any other. Once your hear it, you don't quickly forget it; sadly it was a sound heard at the *WRONG* place, and at the *WRONG* time.

Distler and other composers of his generation brought to an end the undisputed reign of instrumental music, which characterized the 19th and early 20th century, through the rediscovery of the human voice. For Distler, this message of the human voice was, first and foremost, the message of the GOSPEL. He wished to spread it abroad through his music as a declaration, as sermon, song of praise, and as a proclamation. Distler's musical language dematerializes the *words* in order to liberate *THE WORD* - - - in this area Distler is a preacher of unsurpassed earnestness and witness. "It is not by chance," Distler wrote, "that the new German music, and church music in particular, is primarily choral music."

DISTLER'S EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Hugo Distler was born June 24, 1908 in Nuremberg Bavaria on the Feast Day of John the Baptist, and like him he was destined to be a "preparer of the way" for German Lutheran Church music of his century, and, also like John the Baptist, he was destined to lose his life in a conflict with the political regime under which he lived.

He seldom spoke of his early life. He was the illegitimate child of a manufacturer and a dressmaker, the name "Distler" came from his mother. She later married another man and emigrated to the United States; young Hugo remained with her parents in Nuremberg who raised him. *What if . . . ?* By all accounts he was a very sensitive, and lonely child, high-strung and subject to outbursts of nervous energy. His musical talents were early recognized and encouraged by his Grandparents.

The *Privatmusicshule Dupont*. Despite his obvious early musical talents, he was twice dismissed from this school for disciplinary reasons.

The *Melanchton-Realgymnasium*. Here he excelled in piano, organ, music history and theory, graduating in 1927. He relates how once he sneaked into the ancient St. Lorenzkirche to practice on the organ and was thrown out by a deacon. In the late 1930's that same deacon profusely apologized when the now famous young organist was

invited back to play a recital there.

The *Leipzig Conservatory*. (Fall of 1927) Here Distler was taught by some of Germany's finest musical scholars, especially influential were Gunther Ramin, liturgical organ, and Hermann Grabner, theory and composition. These two men would remain life-long friends and confidants. Grabner said that he soon found himself learning from his pupil. He writes: "from among the mass of average students, a young genius suddenly emerges, from whose artistic expressions speaks forth the certainty of a distinguished career. I had this certainty about Distler from the first instant of our work together". It was Grabner who steered Distler away from a career as a secular *Kapellmeister* (conductor) and into the field of pure church music.

Even though his grandparents were relatively well to do, the young Distler soon found himself short of cash, inflation being rampant in Germany at the time. He answered a newspaper ad by an athletic club in Leipzig that was seeking the services of a choral director. Remember, in the Germany of that day, and to some extent even today, *every* organization, club or association of any size SINGS! When the skinny and very juvenile looking director first stood before his burly group of singers, they were not impressed!

Economic Collapse, 1929

Chancellor Brüning (Hunger-Kanzler) found himself unable to stabilize the economic disaster in Germany after the New York Stock Market crash and in the national elections of 1930, the *National Socialists, capitalizing on this disaster go from 12 to 107 seats in the Reichstag. *(NSDAP or NAZI party, *National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*, National Socialist German Workers Party.) As the Depression deepened Distler realized he must seek full-time employment even though he was just beginning the fourth year at the Conservatory. Sadly he informed his favorite teacher Ramin of his decision.

... FIRST FULLTIME POSITION; ORGANIST AT THE ST. JAKOBKIRCHE LUBECK, JAN. 1931

With glowing recommendations from all his teachers at the Leipzig Conservatory Distler wins the appointment as Organist of the St. Jakobikirche in the old Hanseatic city of Lubeck. Writing in his behalf, the very influential Thomaskantor from Leipzig, Karl Straube wrote: "If the Jakobkirche selects this artist as organist, one could only congratulate the congregation on its choice". The competition, as one can imagine, was fierce. Distler was chosen from the top three as a result of his "superb improvisation on the chorale *Gloria sei dir Gesungen* and on his faultless technique on Bach's D-minor Toccata.

Distler may have been small and frail, but he was not timid. He outlined his conditions for accepting employment and balked at the paltry 840 RM per month salary. (list of his demands, p.25)

It was these years at the St. Jackobi Parish in Lubeck, 1931-37, that proved to be his most fruitful and productive; especially in the area of sacred music. In addition to his work as organist, Distler also conducted a children's choir along with the regular church choir. Here he also made two of his closest friends, Bruno Grusnick, director of the *Lubecker Sing und Spielkreis* with whom he collaborated on musical productions, and the

young Pastor of St. Jakobi, Axel Werner Kuhl. Pastor Kuhl would later be imprisoned by the Nazis because of his work with the "politically incorrect" *Confessional Church* which opposed the Nazis.

Distler Joins the NSDAP

In 1933 Hugo Distler, like so many other young Germans full of hope and idealism were swept along by the initial euphoria of the moment, joined the NSDAP in hopes that perhaps Protestant Churchmen would somehow be given more prominence and freedom of action under the new German regime. He soon realized the fallacy of the party's empty promises to the churches and the people of Germany; this same party into which he initially put so much trust would soon make his life a living hell. It is important to note that even in this early idealistic period, Distler *never* wrote any music for the Party or the Government. In fact, he wrote one piece, *Wach auf du Deutsches Reich*, (Wake up Oh German Nation!) which was a direct call to his slumbering fellow German Lutherans, it begins: "Wake up German Nation good, protect your sheep from the wolf, beware that the Gospel's light be not obscured by the Darkness the Antichrist sends." These words are particularly ironic because of their cryptic double meaning. One of the NAZIS favorite slogans, plastered on banners, posters and flags was their infamous "DEUTSCHLAND ERWACHE" (Germany Awaken)! Also it was known that one of Hitler's favorite pseudonyms was the name "Wolf".

Waltraut Thienhaus

At a Midsummer Nights Festival in 1931 Distler meets the love of his life, Waltraut Thienhaus, a singer in his friend Grusnick's Singkreis. They will be married two years later in 1933 and have three children. Waltraut was from a very prominent and wealthy Lubeck family. Frau Distler died in 1998 at the age of 86 and is buried in Bavaria. Till the end of her life she fiercely protected the reputation and legacy of her husband.

Bleak New Year, January, 1932

The new year of 1932 broke bitterly cold and bleak over the city of Lubeck, the Baltic was frozen for miles, Germany in the depths of the depression, 5 million out of work with political intrigue the order of the day. Franz von Papen became Chancellor by making concessions to the National Socialists; there will be 4 National elections for the Reichstag (Parliament) that year. In the midst of this gloom Distler finds joy in the magnificent organs at his disposal; his own 3 manual, 30 rank instrument dating from the years 1496-1600 as well as the equally old and beautiful *Totentanz* organ at St. Marien's. The latter, a smaller organ, got its name from the Medieval painting in the nearby side chapel. The painting shows a favorite Medieval theme, Death inviting both high and low in society to come and have their final dance with him . . . from Kaiser to infant. You may remember Ingmar Bergman's striking depiction of this scene in his film, *The Seventh Seal*.

The Rapid Political Descent into Darkness, January-May, 1933

On Jan. 30, the old senile President Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler Chancellor as a result of the last national election. On Feb. 27 the Reichstag "mysteriously" burns resulting in the passing of the "Enabling Act" by Parliament, which, in effect gives Hitler absolute dictatorial power for four years: the Weimar Republic is *dead*. All political parties are outlawed except the National Socialists. On May 10 Berlin witnesses the infamous "burning of the books". Though many do not realize it at the time, night has descended on Germany; not the Glorious Thousand Year Reich, but twelve years of deepening misery and ultimate destruction.

Gleichshaltung

One of the Nazis primary goals was to achieve *gleichshaltung* in all areas of German society, just as they had so successfully done on the nations political front: "Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Fuhrer"! The term *gleichshaltung* means, literally, to co- ordinate, and synchronize all areas of society into one unified party controlled program; to switch into the same gear. Here is how the program would work in the area of music. With the creation of the *Reichsmusickammer* (Chamber or Dept. of Reich Music) in Nov. of 1933, it became abundantly clear that music was to be made a weapon in the propaganda war of the Third Reich. In April of that year this Dept. issued an order decreeing that *ALL* German singing societies were to be amalgamated into one large *Sangerbund* in conformity with Nazis ideological principles. Heading up this massive effort was probably the most intelligent, sinister and fanatic of Hitler's inner circle, Reich Minister of Propaganda and Enlightenment, Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbles. This evil genius would, in the end, prove to be Distler's ultimate nemesis and destroyer.

The summer of 1934 was the first vacation for Distler and his wife. They travel to Berlin where he plays a concert on the priceless Arp Schnitger organ in the Charlottenburg Palace and then on to the Mittenwald in Bavaria.

New Decrees from the Reichs Musikkammer

Again a new decree from the *Reichs Kultur-Musikkammer* dated Sept. 29, 1934: artists and musicians are no longer permitted to use foreign sounding (especially Jewish) names. Also, new musical settings were commissioned to replace the Jew, Mendelsohn-Bartholdy's original of *A midsummer Nights Dream*.

Dec. 5, 1934, the Distler's first child, a daughter is born, baptized Barbara. The Distlers now move from their cramped quarters provided by the church and into Frau Distler's wealthy parents home, the Thienhaus villa.

On October 5, 1935, the famous Thomaner boys choir of Liepzig sing a concert at the St. Jacobi church. Distler is at the organ and his old friend Karl Straube (who wrote his letter of recommendation) conducts.

In 1936 Distler's duties are increased, he now teaches in two music conservatories, Lubeck and his new assignment in Berlin-Spandau.

The Religious Climate in Germany Deteriorates Rapidly; especially for the 28 Regional (*Landeskirchen*) Protestant Churches.

The Catholic Church

The German Government had already signed a *Concordat* (treaty) with the Vatican in 1933, having been worked out with the then Papal Nuncio and later Pope Pius XII. He had always been a Germanophile and was openly known in Vatican circles as "il papa tedesco", the German Pope. The Catholic Center party in the Reichstag voted unanimously for the *Enabling Act* which gave Hitler dictatorial powers. Later they lifted the ban on Catholic membership in the NSDAP.

The Protestant Church in Germany was made up of 28 Lutheran, Reformed and *Union Landeskirchen, which did *not*, as the Roman Catholic Church, speak with one voice.

*(The Evangelical Church of the Old Prussian Union was a forced merger of all Lutheran and Reformed churches in Prussia in 1817 on orders from Kaiser Frederick William III . . . *a bit of his own gliedshaltung*!) Hitler had little patience with this splintered group and insisted on *gleichshaltung* for German Protestants; one National Church under one State approved Reichsbischof. The ensuing struggle that followed was long and bitter.

The Church Struggle Briefly: German Protestants became divided into two opposing groups; The "German Christians" who generally favored Nazi Doctrines of racial purity and the absolute leadership of Hitler, the so-called *Fuhrer prinzip*, and the "Confessing Church" (*Bekennende Kirche*) that believed in the supremacy of Scripture which might not be changed to suit prevailing ideological or political convictions. A majority of the clergy tended to take a "middle ground", pursuing a cautious course that endangered neither them personally, or their church institutionally. Remember, they were state employees whose salaries and later pensions were paid by the Government!

Hitler eventually got his *Reichsbischof*, an old army chaplain, Ludwig Mueller, who commanded little respect even from those in his so-called Reichskirche.

During this period of turmoil a second child, a son Andreas, was born on Jan. 28, 1936.

Winter of 1936-37, His Last in Lubeck

During this time Distler loses both his closest friends. His Pastor, Axel Kuhl of the Jacobikirche, who was leader of the "Confessional Church" in Lubeck was arrested along with 9 other Lutheran Pastors and Bruno Grusnick, director of the Sing-Spielkreis, is forced into military service. In despair over these losses and the hopelessness of the situation in Lubeck, Distler begins to look for a new position.

THE STUTTGART YEARS, 1937-40

Distler accepts a position at the *Wurtembergische Hochschule fur Music* in Stuttgart leaving Lubeck on 1 April. His Duties: He taught Form and Analysis, Composition, Choral Conducting as well as conducting the school's two choirs. Radical Nazi students boycotted his classes because his credentials were those of a "church" musician. The tense situation they created eventually eased, but Distler was never fully accepted by the student body.

While here Distler founded, on his own initiative, the *Esslinger Singakademie*, an Oratorio Society. A member of this group, a Frau Hellmut Typke, gives us a candid portrait of Distler's first rehearsal with this group. (p. 57)

Distler attends the first performance of Carl Orff's (1895-1982) Carmina Burana for Chorus and Orchestra in Frankfurt am Main and is much impressed. Always intrigued by Opera, he never finished one of his own.

First Official Denunciation of Distler's Works

Some of Distler's works were branded as *Entarten*, degenerate, un-German and unworthy to be labeled "True German Art". Much of the "new" church music of the time was thus branded.

Resistance of the Confessional Church Broken

By 1937 much of the open and public resistance of the Confessional Church movement had been broken with the arrest and imprisonment of its prominent leaders such as Pastor Martin Niemoeller of the Parish of Dahlem in Berlin. He was tried in 1938, acquitted, then re-arrested by the Gestapo ending in Dachau till the end of the war. In the year 1937 alone, 807 leading Pastors and laymen had been arrested. Protestant Clergy were now forced to swear an oath of allegiance to the State (Hitler) or face arrest.

Dec. 1937, The Reichsmusikkamer established the "Music Examining Board" to protect the "Volk" against the negative influence of undesirable-degenerate music, especially that of non-aryans, Jews, American Swing and Negro Jazz. These examiners were appointed in all areas of Germany to visit all *private* music teachers (all schools were already under total Nazi control) to determine whether they were teaching music acceptable to National Socialist principles. Distler, still a nominal Party member, was appointed one of these examiners for the Stuttgart area, although distressed, he accepted (any choice!) in the hopes of perhaps helping some of those threatened with the loss of their livelihood.

Eventually Distler's own *Singakademie*, his private Oratorio Society in Stuttgart is forced to disband because the Party no longer felt church music to be part of that favored by official government sanctions. The last work performed by this group was Bach's *Johannespassion*. A member remembers one of the groups last rehearsals, humor always had its place as Distler would shout, "laugh, don't keep your heads buried in your music, your expressions need to be alive!"

More and more now Distler retreats into the secure private circle of a few friends and his immediate family, his last place of refuge in a world going mad all around him. One by one the joys of his life are being stripped from him.

Not having access to his beloved organs at St. Jacobi, Distler orders his own custom-built "house organ" from Paul Ott of Gottingen in 1938. He had already purchased a large custom-built concert harpsichord in 1932.

Distler learns to drive and get his first automobile in 1938. His wife related how driving tended to relax Hugo, but usually had the opposite effect on his passengers.

A telling press report on the composer Distler appeared in the *Sudostdeutsche Tageszeitung* as follows: "Hugo Distler, the German Composer, as Pathfinder". "Whenever the Gordian knot is ready, God sends us an Alexander. Hugo Distler, a true Alexander of choral music, cuts through Gordian knots. He pulls down the prison walls of barlines by breaking through them with the rhythmically daring flood of his ideas."

That last summer of Peace in 1939 we are told, like the August of 1914, was idyllic, as if Mother Nature was pulling out all the stops for one last glorious display of beauty before the darkness. Again the Distler family vacationed in Bavaria, Frau Distler's ancestral home.

September 1, 1939

That Fall Hitler invaded Poland, England and France, having nothing left with which to appease the dictator finally declare war on Sept. 3rd; the final horror in the life of Germany and Distler had begun.



Distlers first Military Summons

In January of 1940, Distler's worst fears come true when he is summoned for his army physical exam. This frail, nervous, sensitive and talented young man was terrified, not from physical cowardice but because he did not wish, under *ANY* circumstances, to take part in a war which he felt with every fiber of his being, to be wrong, and for a regime which he detested. He had lost his only brother in World War I. He was saved by a temporary reprieve in the form of a new appointment with an accompanying academic promotion.

DISTLER IS APPOINTED PROFESSOR TO THE HOCHSCHULE FUR MUSIC IN BERLIN-CHARLOTTENBURG, 1940-42

Distler and his family (Waltraut is pregnant with their 3rd child) move to Berlin in Sept. of 1940. Because the British had already begun some night air raids, they settle in a suburb 30 kilometers from his work in the center of Berlin resulting in a long hours drive each day.

At age 32 Distler had won the high honor of the title "Professor" which could only be granted by the Government and temporarily granted him the security from military service.

His Duties in Berlin

He taught choral conducting, theory, composition and organ as well as being conductor of *The Chamber Choir* and *The Hochschule Choral Ensemble*. Most important of all, in April of 1941, he was appointed conductor of the world famous *Statts und Dom-Chor*. It was established in 1842 by King Frederick William IV of Prussia (1840-58) to be *his* royal choir, in *his* royal Dom (cathedral). This was the same King who named the baptized Jew, Felix Mendelssohn, as the choir's first venerable leader or "General Music Director".

In June of 1999 the choir of Christ the King Church was honored to sing in this venerable church, one of the selection was Hugo Distler's arrangement of the Choral *Lobe den Herren*. Already in Dec. of 1940, the Dom received its first damage from a British night raid, in an air raid in 1944 it was severely damaged. It was finally restored to its original splendor in the 1990's.

Now begins with ever more rapid acceleration the downward spiraling of events culminating in the tragic death of Hugo Distler; 1941-42

Distler Recieves his Second Military Summons

On Jan. 16, 1941, Distler's 3rd and last child Brigette, was born. The joy was dampened by the fact that Distler received his second summons to report to the *Wermacht*, again quickly rescinded in light of his recent status, it was a constant reminder to the sensitive Distler that "Big Brother" indeed was keeping its eye on him.

Distler's last Summer with his Family

The summer of 1941 found the family together for a vacation on the Baltic coast at Albeck. Distler's wife and three small children remain at this secluded place as a safety measure because of increased British air raids. Sadly Distler returns alone to Berlin. He is lost without his wife and family and only sees them on rare occasions when he can slip away. In addition to his crushing work schedule he must now be his own housekeeper and cook.

Distler clashes with local Party and *Hitler Jugend* Leaders

Distler was a man, slight of stature, perhaps somewhat "nerdy" by today's standards, but by no means a "wimp". He fought fiercely against the Party when the Hitler Youth leaders began purposely to schedule youth activities that conflicted with his boy (treble) singer's rehearsal time. Every time Distler would change his rehearsal times to accommodate the *HJ* meetings, their leaders would also reschedule; it was harassment, pure and simple, intended to wear him down. Finally his volatile nervous personality overwhelms him and in a fit of temper he personally storms into the Ministry of Education to plead his case. He was lucky not to have been arrested . . . his party membership? Their answer was blunt and brief: "do secular music *WITH* the boys, or continue your sacred music *WITHOUT* them", period, case closed! Needless to say, there was always the veiled threat of military service if he caused further problems.

This personal insult to his artistic and creative genius left the sensitive Distler bitter and frustrated. He now had to make do with old "graybeards" (the young men were all in the military) and almost no boys for the treble parts. He was now forced to transpose and substitute women for the boys treble parts. It was tragic, Distler told a friend, that the old "graybeards" did *not* respond well to the direction of one as young as himself.

Last Vacation With Family, Summer 1942

He was able to spend a few precious days on the Baltic at Albeck with his wife and children, his last.

Last Rehearsals

Distler begins rehearsals for what would have been his last major endeavor with his beloved *Staats-und Domchor*, Heinrich Schutz's *Musikalische Exequien* (German Requiem), to be performed in November.

October 15, Distler's receives his 3rd Military Summons

The final crushing blow comes with his call to report for military service with a *Panzer* division on the Eastern Front. Remember, the Fall of 1942 saw the beginnings of what would develop into the horrible inferno of Stalingrad that would culminate in the encirclement and defeat of Von Paulus entire 6th Army in January of 1943. This battle marked the turning point of the war in Europe and the beginning of the end of Hitler's dream of a "New World Order".

And Finally, The End

The feeling of total hopelessness and futility about his future, his overwhelming work load, separation from his family, the frustration of having his burning creative spirit stifled along with the actual likelihood of finally being forced to serve in Hitler's army caused a total collapse of this sensitive creative mind. On the evening of October 31, he took a long walk alone in the cold grayness of wartime Berlin. The following day, All Saints, the tormented young man moved his bed into the small kitchen, placed a photograph of his dear family so he could see it, with a Bible in one hand and a crucifix in the other, he lay down near the open oven, turned on the gas and went to sleep forever. His farewell letter to his wife was almost childlike in its simplicity, "I have yet only one plea in the world: that *you* not be angry with me. Who knows more than you what a '*Lebensangst*' has been with me all my life? All that I created remained beneath this sign." (Lebensangst, literally, a fear and anxiety of life.)

At his funeral service at the Dom, the *Hofprediger* (court- preacher, old imperial title) preached on the text from Ephesians 6:12: "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the worlds rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Under the circumstances, a brave text to preach from . . . *let him who has ears to hear.*

He is buried in the *Waldfriedhof* in Stahnsdorf bie Berlin. The cross over his grave bears the text from John 16:33: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Irony of ironies; a few days after Distlers death came the news that his case had finally worked its way through the government bureaucracy, his name appeared on the latest official *Fuhrerliste*, those men deemed to be so important to the Third Reich on the Home Front that they were exempt from military conscription . . . *would it have made any difference?*

Professor Dr. Hans Hoffman of Bielefeld took over the Staats und Domchor and the scheduled Schutz Requim was duly sung as a final memorial to Hugo Distler.

In 1992, fifty years after Hugo Distler's suicide, the German government honored him with a 100 Pfennig postage stamp. Framed in lavender, the design features a charcoal sketch of the composer imposed on the score of his chorale setting *Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ.*

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**HERING SALAT (HERRING SALAD):
A CHURCH-SANCTIONED FARE OR A HOLIDAY TRADITION?
FOOD IN THE FREETHOUGHT COMMUNITY OF COMFORT, TEXAS
by Anne Seidensticker Stewart of Las Cruces, New Mexico**

"Did Opa find the salt brine herring at Ingenhuett's? Did Oma make her herring salat (herring salad)?" asked the sons-in-law trooping into their wives' birth home. "Do you need me to taste it?" was the next question. Christmas dinners were not complete without this delicacy: tart, salty and strong. Admittedly this dish, for many, was and is, an acquired taste.

German cultural heritage was transplanted to the United States and the Germans proved innovative when they migrated to Texas. To replicate their German menus, they used the "native turkey to replace the traditional goose, pecans the old world walnut and whitetail deer, the European boar." On the other hand, for herring potato salad they did not contemplate either change or compromise.

Many of the early families in the new town of Comfort left organized religion and church affiliation behind them when they left the Fatherland. State and religion were too tightly bound together, and as such, dictated people's lives. Many, but not all, of those immigrants who settled in Comfort and Sisterdale, ascribed to the freethinker philosophy. These people were "der Deutsch Friedendankers." (the German Freethinkers)

The term freethinker is now used as "more of an umbrella term to describe a variety of people who believed in rational thought rather than a supernatural being." This gamut of belief can range from atheist to agnostic to humanist to Deist. It should be noted that freethought is not only the belief system of educated individuals, but bauers (farmers) and handwerker (craftsmen) as well.

In their new homes, according to author Paula C. Bohnert, these German "settlers practiced customs from the Fatherland that had religious origins." In Comfort and Sisterdale, which were settled primarily by individuals and families, they kept the custom and discarded the original rationale for it.

In Fredericksburg, however, which was "part of an organized settlement effort" under the auspices of the Adelsverein, an early structure in which the population could worship, was one of the first communal projects. Comfort historian, Esther B. Wiedenfeld, researched this population phenomenon for many years.

A friend and fellow church member repeated to Wiedenfeld what her mother had observed. "Those wanting to keep on with their religion and the church went to Fredericksburg and New Braunfels and those that wished to be free of any religion settled in Comfort and Sisterdale."

The fact that Comfort did not build a church until the early 1890's, almost forty years after it was founded bears out this explanation. That Comfort, Texas,

families were also avoiding government holds true still today. Comfort remains an unincorporated community, strong in its belief that "less government is better government." The credo "less is better" is not the case with dedicated fans of herring salad.

Research suggests that herring salad came about as antidotal relief for long periods of meatless fasting as dictated by the calendar of the Roman Catholic Church year. "The Vigil of the Nativity" was only one of many such fasts when "meat was not allowed."

Concerned that their congregations needed something to keep up their strength, the powers-that-be ordained that the hausfrau could add fish to her family's diet. The cook decided to add salz hering (salt herring) to the German favorite, white kartoffels (potatoes). Wunderbar! (Wonderful) Hering salat! In Saxony and Thuringia, "herring and carp" were both used.

In the Karger and Seidensticker households, my grandmothers sent my grandfathers to town to buy salt brine herring from Ingenhuett General Store. "It's the only place you can find good herring, like we need for herring potato salad." The same saying holds true today for unique and hard to locate items: "If you can't find it anyplace else, you can find it at Ingenhuett's."

Herring salad was mixed in a large crockery bowl, covered with a cotton kitchen towel and stored on the big table on the back screened-in porch. Here it was allowed to marinate for up to two days in the brisk winter air. The salt, brine and bacon grease kept it from spoiling. It also kept the main house free of the all-pervasive fish smell. In Bohnert's book, A Comfort Christmas, Lottie Boerner Flach shared her recipe.

*"Take two large herring, if you can find them. If not, I buy the ones in *jars which are just as good. Boil about 2 ½ lbs. Potatoes, cut up and cool. Use at least three large dill pickles and one onion all cut up. Dice and fry until crisp three slices of lean bacon."*

Put all ingredients together. Fix a day before you want to serve it. "Add pickle juice to get it moist and mix well. Don't add salt unless you need to. The longer this stands the better it will get. Put as much of the bacon grease on it as you like the taste, and how moist you like it, but don't forget the pickle juice goes first."

She adds: *"My family would be most upset if I didn't prepare my herring potato salad at Christmas."*

*This type of herring was introduced over the last two or three decades, as the "older local/area (Comfort) residents had either passed away or gone on low salt diets!" The ubiquitous plastic container has replaced the traditional wooden barrel for storage and shipping, only one quarter the size of the original. "For the

last couple of decades, Iceland has been the only remaining source of bulk herring packed in a barrel of salt brine."

Herring salad, food of the gods! German gourmet foodstuff! What else is there to know? Well, a 4 oz. can of plain herring with liquid contains 236 calories, 4 oz. of pickled Bismark-type 353 and 4 oz. of smoked hard herring is a whopping 340! I don't care. Frolich Weihnachten! (Merry Christmas) and please pass the herring salad!

© Anne Seidensticker Stewart, August 2003. With thanks to Mike Stewart for tech support and Gregory J. Krauter for editing and additional notes on the distinctive history of salt brine herring as a grocery item. Any mistakes and incorrect assumptions are those of the author. Comments and critiques to 11240 Windflyer Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88007. Email: mastewart@zianet.com

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HARRISON & BROWN STAGE STOP, SELMA, TEXAS 1850-1854

by Jean Heide of San Antonio © 2000,2002

The Harrison & Brown Stage Stop in Selma, Texas was declared a state archeological landmark by the Texas Historical Commission in October 2000. The stop is constructed with "limecrete." Mark Denton of the Texas Historical Commission stated on his first visit to the stage stop that there were only about three stage stops in the state of Texas from this early a time period in the state's history and that none of the others were so constructed.

The stage stop has been sitting alongside the Old Austin Road (IH-35 at Evans Road) in Selma for at least 155 years or possibly even a little longer. Roads that were forged as early Spanish trails, such as the El Camino Real, later developed into main stage route arteries running through the heart of Central Texas. Following is a brief history of two of the earliest, most notable stage lines that ran from the coast of Texas inland to San Antonio and Austin -- and how one in particular influenced and necessitated the building of this State Archeological Landmark.

Long Before There Were Stage Routes, the Spanish Influenced the Old Roads Between San Antonio and Austin

Many early Spaniards made treks through what was to become the State of Texas as far back as the 1700's. One of these early Spaniards was Martin de Alarcon who visited the San Antonio area during the days of Spanish rule. On April 9, 1718, he and his expedition left the Rio Grande and headed towards the heart of Texas. On May 1 he founded the Mission San Antonio de Valero and four days later the Villa de Bejar. Alarcon had been a governor of Coahuila in 1705 and then again in 1717 and became governor of the province of Texas in 1716. On May 6, 1718, Alarcon with his group "left in search of the bay of Spiritu Santo and arrived at the creek which they call Sibula which is about eight leagues from the above-named place (present Cibolo Creek near Selma, Bexar-Comal Co border)."¹

In Viktor Bracht's Texas in 1848, he references the Cibolo Valley in the Selma area by its old Spanish name -- "la Huerta del mundo" or, "the "garden of the world" and the Valley being known for its beauty and good farming soil."²

The Old San Antonio Road (also known as El Camino Real by the early Spanish missionaries) ran through the Cibolo Valley just to the west of Selma on what is now Nacogdoches Road. This "camino" was the connecting road between the missions in San Antonio and Mission de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches in East Texas.³ Present day Evans Road, known back in the mid-1800's as Hill Street, was the link between the Old San Antonio Road (which ran through Davenport [Bracken, Texas]) and the Old Austin Road, which ran through Selma. Hill Street meandered alongside the Rio Cibolo connecting these two old trails.⁴

The Early Stage Lines Move Inland From the Coast to San Antonio and Austin by Way of the Old Austin Road and El Camino Real

During the days of the Republic between 1836 and 1846, there were only a few stage lines operating in Texas.⁵ Most of the lines were in East Texas and ran along the coastline from

Houston to Galveston and down to Indianola and Port Lavaca.⁶ Due to the heavy influx of European immigrants to the Texas coast at Indian Point (later to be renamed "Indianola" by Mrs. John Henry Brown⁷) and Galveston:

Hotels, restaurants, and stage lines were overwhelmed by the heavy passenger traffic. Stage operators strove to acquire more coaches to satisfy demand. Whereas one loaded stagecoach had been arriving in Victoria in the evening, now three or more came rattling into town, often having left at Indianola passengers who could not be elbowed into the seats.⁸

These stage lines were picking up immigrants who were arriving on steamers from New Orleans and other major ports of entry along the East Coast. Through the Foreign Mails Act of 1845, on June 16, 1845, the Post Master of New Orleans was "instructed to engage a once a week Steam Boat conveyance between his office and Galveston and back. ... He may make this arrangement with one or with several boats, but only with one boat at one trip. If necessary to effect a regular organization of a weekly line, he may enter into contract for one year, otherwise the engagement may be from week to week."⁹ One of the first entrepreneurs to take advantage of this new Act was Charles Morgan when on January 30, 1846, he contracted with the Post Master of New Orleans to "recognize and ratify the arrangement made by P.M. of New Orleans with Charles Morgan, for trips on this route in Steamboats, to be performed in each direction, every five days, at the postages collected on the route, less 25 per cent."¹⁰

The stage lines were also delivering passengers who were embarking on those very same steamers for destinations outside of Texas:

Passengers from Austin, Gonzales, San Antonio, New Braunfels and the other inland towns could arrive at Indianola in the morning and be assured of departure on steamers leaving in the evening. ... That regularity was a key to the successful development of the stage lines operating into and out of Indianola on fixed schedules tied in with those of the ships.¹¹

Many European settlers were arriving at New Orleans and taking ships down to Galveston and Indianola to move inland into Texas.¹² Between 1847 and 1850 there existed a rivalry between stage lines for the route between Houston and Port Lavaca. An ad placed in the December 29, 1848, issue of the Galveston Weekly News stated:

The U. S. Mail stage leaves the Planter's House on the arrival of the steamers from New Orleans and Galveston by which travellers will have a speedy and direct passage to Victoria, Cuero, Gonzales, Seguin, New Braunfels, San Antonio, and Austin. Messrs. Harrison and McCullough, the well known proprietors of the line, have placed upon it an excellent coach, and will make their trips so as to enable passengers landing at Indian Point to proceed to the interior with as little delay as possible.¹³

Competition for passengers became fierce as more settlers began arriving to Texas. Two main competitors were the firms of Brown & Tarbox and the U. S. Mail Line owned by John S. Harrison and his brother-in-law, William McCullough.

... Brown's immediate success generated competition on the Indian Point run from Harrison & McCulloch. In November 1847, that firm had inaugurated the United States Line of stages between Port Lavaca and Victoria. The increasing commercial importance of Indian Point and Brown's success, led them to extend their route from Lavaca. Theirs was a four-horse stage weekly service to New Braunfels via Cuero, Gonzales and Seguin. It connected with the Houston stage at Gonzales and the San Antonio to Austin line at New Braunfels. Edward Clegg was named the first agent at Lavaca, the depot being at the livery stable next door to his hotel which Mrs. Eberly then had under lease.¹⁴

Competition for the Route Between Austin and San Antonio

Viktor Bracht in his accounting of his days spent in Texas in 1848 references the two main competing stage lines providing service between Austin and San Antonio.

Many of the Texas roads are traveled regularly by mail coaches. Thus Brown and Tarbox's stage goes four times a week from Houston via Washington and Bastrop to Austin, and twice a week from there via New Braunfels to Bexar and back. The fare for the entire distance is twenty dollars, but only thirty pounds of baggage is carried free. Two competing stage coaches make at least two weekly rounds trips from Bexar via New Braunfels and Victoria to Port La Vaca, where they make connection with the steamboat to Galveston. I can recommend the stages coaches of Wm. and R. McCullough and of Harrison. The fare is ten dollars, and very little is charged for baggage. From the foregoing, it will be seen that stage coaches pass through New Braunfels eight times a week. Between the towns of Indian Point (Karlshafen) and Victoria, which are inhabited by many Germans, regular omnibus service has been inaugurated.¹⁵

John F. Brown not only ran stage lines, but he also served as a freighter and delivered goods regularly to the Indian Bureaus. In the Texas Indian Papers, 1844-1845, Item No. 199, -- Account of Indian Bureau With J. F. Brown to Maj. T. G. Western Superintendent Indian Affairs, dated March 20 - May 7, 1845, he is owed \$2.50 for his freighting of a package on March 20 for 75 cents, on March 30 a Box of Candles for \$1.00 and on May 7th 2 kettles for 75 cents. "Dollars amt of the above of freight of articles brought from Messrs. Torrey's at Houston for the Indian Bureau at this place -- Washington 30 May 1845 J. F. Brown."¹⁶

Also, in a letter Item No. 312 from Anson Jones [1798-1858] (doctor, congressman, and the last president of the Republic of Texas) from his plantation home at Barrington near Washington-on-the-Brazos¹⁷ to Thomas G. Western dated Sep. 8th 1845:

Dear Sir

Mr. Brown the Stage proprietor has one of the Mules, I loaned it to him some time since. By calling on him he will be able to furnish you with something to suit the purpose you require.

We are all well, can not you ride out tomorrow morning, I will be at home until 10 O. Clock

Yours Truly
A. Jones

To the Hon. T. G. Western
 {Endorsed} Hon. A. Jones
 Sept. 8 1845
 Major Western Washington¹⁸

Lyman Tarbox was a prominent merchant and had established dealings supplying merchandise and horses to the Indian Bureau of Texas. In Item 139 of the Texas Indian Papers -- Account of Indian Bureau with Lyman Tarbox dated January 26, 1845:

To a Bay Horse sold to the Supt. for public service		\$40.00
" a Grey Poney sold B. Sloat on acct of his		
Salary as Agent		30.00
" Cash advanced to B. Sloat on acct' of his pay	\$7.50	
" " " Delaware Jim Shaw	<u>7.50</u>	<u>15.00</u>
		\$85.00

Washington Jany. 30.1845 --

Received an approved account for Eighty five Dollars of which the above is a Copy--
 LYMAN. TARBOX

{Endorsed} Encl.
 L. Tarbox 30 Jany. 1845
 \$85.00¹⁹

However, it was in 1847 that John F. Brown and Lyman Tarbox first began their stage line inland from Houston to Austin. Towns serviced by their line were: Route 6111, Washington by way of Eden; Route 6145 from Washington to La Grange by way of Independence; and Route 6149 from LaGrange to Austin.²⁰ Travis County Deed Record Book E, p. 270 dated March 22,1851, references Brown as residing in Houston and Tarbox in Austin.²¹

It was a few years later before it was safe enough to link Austin to San Antonio. These two cities sat on the western edge of the Texas frontier and the land between them was subject to frequent Indian attacks. In 1845 an article in a Houston newspaper stated "the trade of Bexar, like that of Corpus Christi, has been completely broken up by the Comanches who have driven back or cut off every party of traders that were accustomed to visit those places."²²

As stated earlier, mail was carried on these early stage lines as the result of contracts with the United States Post Office. These mail routes were given "Star Route" numbers. In 1849, Brown and Tarbox contracted with the United States Post Office for their route from Austin to San Antonio, Number 6152.²³ In Bexar County Deed Record Book No.G-1, p. 422, dated October 5, 1848, Brown & Tarbox are referenced as stage proprietors and mail contractors. They are leasing a lot and back room from Vance & Brothers, a prominent San Antonio business, to be used for their livery stable and stage office for "the term of and until the first day of July 1851."²⁴ The lease names a Capt. Hall as having formerly occupied that area.

Vance & Brothers was a commercial building at the northeast corner of Houston Street and St. Mary's Street in San Antonio, Texas.²⁵ The building was to be used during the Civil War as a headquarters first for General Persifor Smith, then Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston and, finally, Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee ultimately to become the Vance Hotel.²⁶ On May 1, 1907, this old building was torn down and the present-day Gunter Hotel took its place.²⁷

It wasn't until 1850 that John S. Harrison and William H. McCullough began their first stagecoach service from Austin to San Antonio with their Route No. 6285 running out of Austin through Manchac, San Marcos, Bonita, New Braunfels, Trier, Cibolo (later to be named "Selma") and into San Antonio. They successfully outbid four other stage line owners for Route 6285 between Austin and San Antonio. Those lines that lost out on the postal contract were: Brown & Tarbox; Capshaw & Grant, L. Sims & Brothers and Levi Shackelford. Harrison & Brown won the contract with a bid of \$2,500.00 to provide a stage upgraded from two to four horses. Their stage would leave Austin at 3:00 a.m. and not arrive into San Antonio until 9:00 p.m. the next night -- an 18-hour trip for what takes an hour and a half today.²⁸

In the June 5, 1851 edition of the San Antonio Ledger, John S. Harrison, placed the following ad which he had written on July 13, 1850:

THE Proprietor respectfully informs the travelling public that he has fully organized this Line and is now prepared to carry passengers between Austin and San Antonio. He has provided pleasant and convenient coaches and fresh teams and skilled and accommodating drivers. He will make the trip through in one day. No visitor to the State should fail to pass over this route as it leads through one of the most beautiful portions of Texas, by way of San Marcos and New Braunfels. This Line connects at Austin with the Line to Houston and that to Gonzales, and at New Braunfels with the Line to La Vaca Bay.

The fare through from Austin to San Antonio was \$6. Capt. A. COLEMAN was the agent in San Antonio; Col. DURHAM at San Marcos; and Capt. J. M. W. HALL at Austin.²⁹ (Note: Could this be the same Capt. Hall who had previously officed in the Vance Building in San Antonio?)

Harrison's use of the phrase "fresh teams" may have been slightly self-serving as in the Affidavit of Georg Long found at the Comal County Courthouse in New Braunfels, Texas dated June 4, 1852 and notarized by Ferdinand J. Lindheimer, Justice of the Peace Comal County Precinct 1 states:

"... Schaw traded a sorrel horse named Sam Houston, blind on the left eye, appertaining to the firm of the stage line between Austin and San Antonio, for a flea bitten gray horse than belonging to Brooks, and further that said gray horse was delivered to the deponent for use of the Stage team, and further that Brooks traded the above mentioned sorrel horse to Jacob Schmitz, and further says not."³⁰

Harrison's "pleasant and convenient coaches" were most likely the most commonly manufactured and used coach of that day -- the Concord mail coach manufactured by the Abbott-Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire. The company's catalog advertised how widely used these coaches were: "The use of our Coaches and Wagon on all the Mail routes in America and the English Colonies for many years is a guarantee of their superiority."³¹ These coaches could sit anywhere from six to twelve passengers with additional passengers sitting on the flat top of the coach. Because the older boxy-type stagecoaches were top heavy and would flip easily, the new Concord coaches were designed so that the egg-shaped coach itself was suspended on "two 6- to 8- ply bullhide belts that cradled the coach like a body in a hammock The result was a floating, swaying, or rocking motion that made some passengers seasick but

did not jar teeth loose."³² These coaches were painted with multiple coats of pomegranate red paint and rubbed down with pumice. Two coats of spar varnish were then applied to the finish. "The mirror-like, blood-red surface gleamed. A beckoning landscape - usually an idealized New England scene - was painted on the door panels"³³

In a newspaper ad in the Western Texas, dated -December 6, 1849, John S. Harrison runs his advertisement with the name "Harrison & Brown."³⁴ (Note: As of this writing, the author has not been able to make a connection between John F. Brown and John S. Harrison although it is suspected that these two were in partnership at some point in time because of this ad.)

Harrison, with his brother-in-law, had two other existing stage routes - No. 6154 (which ran from Gonzales through Belmont [previously Bellville], Seguin and into New Braunfels) and 6155 (which ran from Gonzales through China Grove, Cuero and into Port Lavaca) from 1846 - 1850.³⁵ These three combined routes gave passage to travelers and mail all the way from Port Lavaca to New Braunfels where they could then catch the next stage on up to Austin or down to San Antonio.

As if travel in those days was not hazardous enough, the roads themselves were often the cause of delayed deliveries of mail and passengers due to rain and flooding in which the resulting mud would bog down the stage coaches and/or freight wagons. The stagecoaches would have to wait to cross flooded streams and sometimes passengers would have to help "dig out" the stage from muddied roads and/or make their way through the countryside for help. On his trip to Houston from where he would depart to return to Germany, Ferdinand Roemer in his account of his trip from New Braunfels to Houston, states:

... We waded in this black mud, a foot deep, for about a half hour, when the driver declared that the road was becoming firm again, and ordered us to climb back into the coach. In the meantime it had become dark, but despite this, our coachman drove as fast as his horses could go in order to make up for lost time. The result was that while crossing a little boggy creek, the wheels on the one side of the wagon slipped off the saplings which had been placed there in the absence of a bridge, and now our wagon came to a standstill. The entire stage had to be unloaded, and since the exhausted horses were not able to pull it out of the bog, we had to get help from a plantation several miles distant.³⁶

In 1848, Charles Eckhardt and Theodore Miller, merchants from Indianola and the German Emigration Company, commissioned John A. King of DeWitt County to "survey a new and shorter route from New Braunfels to Victoria, where it would connect with the roads then traveled from that town to the port. The purpose was to save time and effort on the part of wagoners, stages, immigrants, and the general public."³⁷ King's work resulted in reducing the distance from Indianola to New Braunfels by 25 miles and bypassing the old road that ran from Victoria to Gonzales and Seguin to New Braunfels. In the early days of Texas, there were no state highway departments and "little or no grading was done. A route would be surveyed and marked. The next step was for wagons, carriages, horsemen and stages to follow the marked trail and make their own road."³⁸ King's new route provided not only a shorter, more easily traveled road, but was "[t]he route well watered and the greatest distance between the watering places 10 miles."³⁹

The Settlers' Road/Attacks by the Indians

Indian attacks were frequent in the 1850's along the Old Austin Road (John S. Harrison's Star Route 6285 between Austin and San Antonio). Settlers who began arriving into the Selma area in 1847 were such notable landholders as Hugh Allen, William Davenport and James B. Davenport who ran cattle spreads just off what is now Evans Road near the back of present day Retama Race Track and the SFX Amphitheatre.⁴⁰

There were only about 23 families in Selma in the early 1850's struggling to keep their homes, farms and businesses safe.⁴¹ They were there scratching out a living in the new, little satellite-community of New Braunfels in a strange and dangerous territory. Indian attacks by the Lipans, Comanche, Waco and Tawakoni were known to happen.

On the 20th they stole from Davenport, Wallace and others on the Cibolo (16 miles N.E. of San Antonio) from 80 to 100 head of horses. On their way down the Cibolo, they killed a negro woman belonging to Mr. Sewell, near the mouth of the Martinez - and a short distance below, butchered in cold blood a promising lad of about 12 years of age, the son of the Revd Mr. McGee⁴²

Also, a letter dated September 24, 1855 from W. E. Jones to Governor Pease stated:

Mr. James A. McKee, of Lavaca, arrived here tonight on the San Antonio Stage and brings information that a party of Indians on Friday night last drove off from the Cibolo near the crossing of the stage road to San Antonio sixty horses, of which 49 belonged to Davenport.

It seems that the Indians were known to have been in the neighborhood and a party had been searching for them - On Friday night there horses were driven out into the prairie with the intention of watching them and detecting the Indians in the act of taking them -Some mistake occurred about the meeting of the party and the Indians carried off the horses.

The stage driver says that the horses were driven off while the men were at supper.⁴³

Harrison Comes to Selma

John Sobiesky Koontz Harrison was born on August 20, 1818, in Kingston, Roane County, Tennessee. His parents were Dr. Benjamin and Elizabeth Koontz Harrison. John's father died when John was only 5 years old. His mother with her five children moved to Laporte County, Indiana in 1833⁴⁴ and then later to Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana to be close to a brother, John Koontz (named after his father).⁴⁵ In the 1850 Federal Census of Porter County, she is listed as being a hotelkeeper. The Koontz family was a prominent family. Her father, John Koontz, was elected in 1797 to the Virginia House of Delegates. He served as a Colonel in the 31st regiment of the Virginia Militia and fought at Norfolk, Va. in the War of 1812.⁴⁶ He also owned a store near Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Virginia.⁴⁷

John's two older brothers, Achilles Leonidas and Erasmus Darwin Harrison left for Texas sometime before John. Erasmus serving with Fannin was killed at Farming's Massacre, at Goliad, Texas in March of 1836.⁴⁸ John's oldest brother, Achilles, a Second Lieutenant in the

Army of the Republic of Texas, died in the Houston area about 1840 and was buried there.⁴⁹ John himself had served in Captain Burnett's Company, 1st Regiment, 1st Brigade in the Texas Army of Volunteers, commanded by Col. E. Morehouse through the year 1836.⁵⁰

In February of 1851, John S. Harrison, co-owner of the Harrison & Brown Stage Line, along with his wife, Martha Jane, (William McCullough's sister) and their two children moved to Cibolo (later to be renamed "Selma" in 1856) from New Braunfels.⁵¹ They bought their 127-acre farm from sections of properties owned by Jacob Kaderli, Henry Kempel and Adam Wuest.⁵² Mr. Harrison moved his family next door to Jesse M. Hill. Mr. Hill had purchased his property from James B. Davenport (brother of Selma's founder, William Davenport). James Davenport had purchased the property from the wealthy and prominent San Antonio land developer, Enoch Jones, who had purchased it from the original Spanish landholder, Toribio Herrera, on January 12, 1838.⁵³ Mr. Hill's property lay directly adjacent to the Old Austin Road (Star Route 6285) and only a few hundred yards from the Rio Cibolo.

John S. Harrison established Cibolo's first post office when he became the postmaster on June 21, 1852. He served a two-year term until July 15, 1854.⁵⁴ It is quite possible that his stage stop on Mr. Hill's property also served as the first post office. Harrison and his family only stayed in Cibolo/Selma for two years when they moved to Pleasanton, Texas in 1854. John S. Harrison died in Waco, Texas on December 31, 1864.⁵⁵

The Old Austin Road/Route 6285

As the years progressed so did the state of the road from Austin down to San Antonio (Star Route 6285). What had been a dangerous dirt path through Indian territory in the late 1840's became a safer and larger road as it progressed to become "Austin Street" in Selma in 1879.⁵⁶ A city plat by county surveyor Navarro for Selma resident, Catherine Miller, shows that Selma had formerly been called Hills Borough (possibly after Jesse M. Hill, Selma's second postmaster) and also shows that Austin Street was the main street through town with two parallel roads to the east (Braunfels and San Antonio Streets) and a single parallel road to the west (Seguin Street). Cross streets were Allen Street, Hill Street and running parallel to the Cibolo River - Cibolo Street.

It was Austin Street back in 1879 that was destined to become State Highway 2 ("Old No. 2") by the 1920's; U.S. Hwy. 81 by the 1930's; and I.H. 35 by the 1950's⁵⁷ and ultimately destroy the "downtown" of Selma because of its progressive enlargements and expansions. This means that this old road has been in continuous use here in Texas allowing its residents and out-of-state travelers passage through the heart of our State since before 1850.⁵⁸

Stage Stop and Stagermaster's House Still With Us

John S. Harrison's home and the little limecrete stage stop on what was Jesse Hill's property are still with us today. The old stage master's house has recently been purchased by the City of Selma to keep it from harm's way due to the fast rate of commercial development taking place along the IH-35 corridor. A cornerstone found near the house establishes its construction in the year 1852.

As stated in the beginning of this article, the Harrison & Brown Stage Stop was constructed with limecrete. Limecrete is made by taking wooden forms filled with "slip" -- a concrete-like mixture made from the sand and pebbles found in the nearby Rio Cibolo. The forms were lifted higher as each setting of slip dried and hardened until the desired height of the

wall was reached. Shards of wood and, in the case of the stage stop, corncobs were forced into the drying slip for added strength to the walls. (The corncobs are still visible after all these years!) The stop is believed to have had three interior rooms originally with a hearth for cooking and corrals outside on the creek-side of the building. A loft may have also existed as there is a window on the upper right side of the stop just under the roof. The actual age of the building most likely will never be pinpointed as this building may have been standing *before* Route 6285 was established and most likely as far back as 1847 when Brown and Tarbox were running their line between Austin and San Antonio before John S. Harrison -- or perhaps even further back when Henry Mundell had the route before Brown & Tarbox. Two preliminary archeological digs by the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2000 failed to pinpoint the exact time period of construction of this little limecrete building as the property has been tilled and farmed over the many years with looters and relic hunters having had free access to the building and its surrounding area. Some small artifacts that were found, however, establish that the building went back to at least the mid-1850's.⁵⁹

¹ See website <http://www.tamu.edu/ccbn/dewitt/alarconex.htm>

² Viktor Bracht, Texas in 1848, Translated from the German by Charles Frank Schmidt, German Texas Heritage Society, Manchaca, Texas Reprinted in 1991, p 127.

³ A. Joachim McGraw, John W. Clark, Jr., and Elizabeth A. Robbins, A Texas Legacy The Old San Antonio Road and the Camino Reales A Tricentennial History, 1691 - 1991, Texas, Second Printing January 1998.

⁴ Plat of the Toribio Herrera Survey No. 68 and recorded in Vol. 11, Pages 432 and 433 of the Bexar County Deed Records

⁵ Robert H. Thonhoff, San Antonio Stacie Lines 1847 - 1881, monograph for *Southwestern Studies*, p. 1.

⁶ Brownson Malsch, Indianola The Mother of Western Texas, State House Press, Austin, Texas 1988, pp. 20 - 21.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 36.

⁸ *Ibid.* -, p. 48.

⁹ National Archives, Registers of Star Route Contracts, Vol. 42, pp. 137-138, p. 148; delivery of mail from New Orleans to Texas.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 148

¹¹ Brownson Malsch, Indianola The Mother of Western Texas, State House Press, Austin, Texas 1988, p. 37.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 20 - 21.

¹³ Robert H. Thonhoff, San Antonio Stage Lines 1847 - 1881, monograph for *Southwestern Studies*, p. 6.

¹⁴ Brownson Malsch, Indianola The Mother of Western Texas, State House Press, Austin, Texas, p. 20.

¹⁵ Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, Roemer's Texas 1845 - 1847, Translated by Oswald Mueller, Standard Printing Company, San Antonio, Texas, p. 82 - 83.

¹⁶ Dorman H. Winfrey and James M. Day, The Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825-1916, Volume II, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas 1995, pp. 230-231.

¹⁷ The Handbook of Texas Online. The Texas State Historical Association, 1996, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/JJ/fio42.html>

- ¹⁸ Dorman H. Winfrey and James M. Day, The Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825-1916, Volume II, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas 1995, p. 353.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 183-184.
- ²⁰ National Archives Register of Star Route Contracts, Vol. 66, p. 282-283; Vol. 105. 21 Travis County Deed Record Book 5, p. 270, March 22, 1851:
- ²² Robert H. Thonhoff, San Antonio Stage Lines 1847 - 1881, monograph for *Southwestern Studies*, p. 4.
- ²³ National Archive Register of Star Route Contracts
- ²⁴ Bexar County Deed Book G-1, p. 422, October 5, 1848.
- ²⁵ Cecilia Steinfeldt, San Antonio Was: Seen Through a Magic Lantern Views from the Slide Collections of Albert Steves. Sr., San Antonio Museum Association 1978, p. 121
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 121.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 121.
- ²⁸ National Archive Register of Star Route Contracts
- ²⁹ San Antonio Ledger, Vol. 2, No. 2, June 5, 1851.
- ³⁰ Affidavit of George Long; June 4, 1854; New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas as provided by John Rightmire, local historian (2002).
- ³¹ Philip L. Fradkin, Stagecoach. Wells Fargo and the American West, Simon & Schuster, New York, New York 2002, p. 44.
- ³² *Ibid.* p. 45.
- ³³ *Ibid.* p. 45 - 46.
- ³⁴ Robert H. Thonhoff, San Antonio Stage Lines 1847 - 1881, monograph for *Southwestern Studies*, Figure 4.
- ³⁵ National Archives Star Routes, Vol. 66, No. 6154 and 6155.
- ³⁶ Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, Roemer's Texas 1845 - 1847, Translated by Oswald Mueller, Standard Printing Company, San Antonio, Texas 1935, p. 297.
- ³⁷ Brownson Malsch, Indianola The Mother of Western Texas, State House Press, Austin, Texas 1988, p. 26- 27.
- ³⁸ *Ibid.*
- ³⁹ *Ibid.* at 27.
- ⁴⁰ 1850 Bexar County Census Records, Texas Handbook Online, The Bexar Abstract Company, Cert. 10, Patent 278, Vol. 1, 1 League & 1 Labor, Survey 68, Abstract 2309
- ⁴¹ *Ibid.*
- ⁴² Dorman H. Winfrey and James M. Day with a New Introduction by Michael L. Tate, The Texas Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest 1825 - 1916, Volume III, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, p. 231.
- ⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 247.
- ⁴⁴ Obituary of Elizabeth Harrison, Porter County Vidette, February 3, 1870, Valpariaso, Indiana.
- ⁴⁵ Power of Attorney executed by Elizabeth Harrison, December 27, 1856, Porter County, Indiana included in Land Certificates and Patents issued by Republic of Texas for Erasmus D. Harrison, Land Certificate Number 786 (1/28/1839) Patent No. V3 597 (2/6/1875) Survey Date 5/12/1872; San Patricio County; Abstract No. 270 for "having been killed with Fannin."
- ⁴⁶ "A Letter From Chicago, 1911," A History of Rockingham County Virginia, John W. Wayland, Ph.D., Ruebush-Elins Company, Dayton, Virginia, 1912, p. 167; and, The Virginia Germans, Klaus Wust, The University Press of Virginia 1969, p. 114.

⁴⁷ Settlers by the Long Grey Trail, J. Houston Harrison, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, 1975, 1984, p. 365.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 389

⁴⁹ Affidavit of Michael Decker, before John D. Cratlin, County Judge, County of Lee, State of Illinois, September 17, 1873.

⁵⁰ Muster Rolls from the Texas State Archives 1835-1836; Pages 87, 98, 182, 186, 206, Index No. 2

⁵¹ Oscar Haas, History of New Braunfels and Comal County. Texas 1844 - 1946, Burke Publishing Company, San Antonio, Texas 1968, p. 90.

⁵² Bexar County Deed Record Books J-2, p. 363 and K-1, p. 462.

⁵³ Bexar County Deed Record, Book A-2, p. 3.

⁵⁴ National Archives Registers of Appointments of Postmasters, Bexar County, Texas, Selma Post Office.

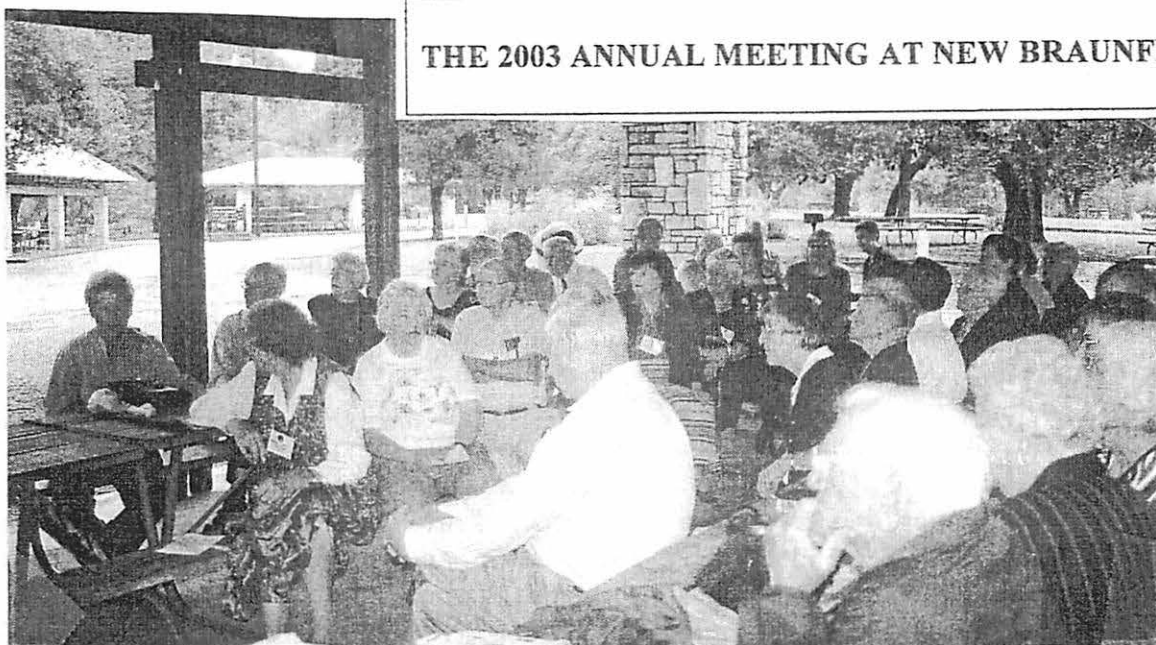
⁵⁵ John S. Harrison Family Records as Provided by Joseph McCright Hill.

⁵⁶ Plat of the Toribio Herrera Survey No. 68 and recorded in Vol. 11, Pages 432 and 433 of the Bexar County Deed Records.

⁵⁷ Maps from TxDot District 15 Bexar County - Plan of Proposed State Highway No. 2 Federal Aid Project, Bexar County, Austin Road From Country Club Road to County Line (1920+) FAP 31 Job 15-A; U. S. Highway 81, Project: NRH 31 (Part 2) From the Guadalupe County Line at Selma to 1 1/2 miles northeast of Fratt, Grading & Structures 1932; and, Final Plans of Proposed State Highway Improvement Guadalupe and Bexar Counties, IH- 35 (U. S. 81) Interstate from 0.4 Mi. North of Bexar County Line to a Point 0.6 Mi. South of Selma, Project FI 73(6) & FI 31 (14) 1953.

⁵⁸ Robert H. Thonhoff, San Antonio Stage Lines 1847 - 1881, monograph for *Southwestern Studies*, p. 9.

⁵⁹ Draft Report - Archaeological Testing at the Selma Post Office and Stagecoach Stop, Northeastern Bexar County, Texas; The University of Texas at San Antonio, Center for Archaeological Research, August 2000.



GTHS members at the outdoor religious service held in Landa Park at New Bruanfels on Sunday morning as part of the 2003 Annual Meeting.
 --photo submitted by Janice Thompson

BOOK REVIEW BY CHARLES PATRICK, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

HELGA'S CORNER - Musings about German Language and Culture


Author: Helga von Schweinitz

Published: 2003 by Helga von Schweinitz , 2319 Village Circle, Austin, TX 78745,
telephone: 512-441-2089, e-mail: helgavs@aol.com

ISBN: 0-9744590-0-3

Softcover, 129 pages

Price: \$10 (includes tax but not postage)



*you may order your copy
directly from the author*

This is a new publication by Helga von Schweinitz, a native of Herford, Germany and a long-time resident here in Texas. She has also been active in the GTHS in a number of posts since 1980. "Helga's Corner" is an easy-to-read book that contains articles that Mrs. von Schweinitz originally wrote for her column "Words of Wisdom" in the "Schulhaus Reporter" published by the German Free School Guild.

The articles are printed on the odd-numbered pages while each even-numbered page offers a short German proverb with an approximate equivalent in English. Topics covered by the articles deal with a wide range of topics: food and drink, customs, humor, swearing(!), love, spelling, idioms, etc., etc. Each of the articles is fun to read and highly instructive as far as German language and culture are concerned.

At the end of the book the author offers the reader her "Denglish" (a mix of German and English) rendition of the classic American Christmas poem by Clement C. Moore, "The Night Before Christmas" (Die Nacht Before Christmas). Personally I prefer Erich Kästner's standard German translation of this same poem, but Mrs. von Schweinitz' version adds a dash of humor with her mix of German and English that might be more enjoyable for readers of this journal. I would highly recommend this book as a present for any German-Texan Christmas stocking.

BOOK REVIEW BY CHARLES PATRICK, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

WEIHNACHT – Christmas in Germany

Author: Susanne Ehrlich

Published: 1985 by National Textbook Company

ISBN: 0-8442-2108-6

Language: German (short section of recipes in English)

Softcover, 126 pages, index, black and white illustrations

Price: unknown, check used book stores or libraries for availability

This book is written in German and deals with Christmas as it is celebrated in Germany and other German-speaking countries. If you have a good reading knowledge of German and want to know more about both current and historical German Christmas customs this book is for you. This book is full of fascinating facts about the Advent season, Christmas (Weihnacht), Silvester, Neujahr, and Dreikönigstag (New Year's Eve, New Year, and Epiphany) as well as Sankt Nikolaus (Santa Claus) and his helpers. Contents also include the history of the Christmas season, traditional German Christmas poems and songs, riddles, greetings, recipes (written in English with American measures), games, party ideas, and even a Christmas crossword puzzle in German with answers. Learn how to decorate a Christmas tree (Tannenbaum) in German style.

This book should give you all the information you need to make your Christmas celebration as German as possible. Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr, 2004! (Merry Christmas and happy New Year, 2004!)

Friedens Church history completed

By Janet Grafe

Seguin Gazette

GERONIMO — Friedens means "peace" in German, and five local women are looking forward to a well-deserved rest upon completion of an ambitious project to publish a history of Friedens Church near Geronimo.

The Friedens United Church of Christ 100-year history (1896-1996) is expected to be published and ready for purchase by Dec. 14th.

"We've been working on this for years," said Wanda Timmermann, a member of the committee working on the book. "The original minutes of the church council were written in German from 1896 until the 1940s, so I found members of the church who spoke German to translate them into English."

A short history written for the 50th anniversary of the church provided additional information.

Most of the committee working on the book are longtime residents of the area. Annette Waite is the fifth generation in her family to be a member of Friedens Church and Dorothy Constable is a descendent of the founding minister.

"I'm always interested in genealogy (family history), so I am interested in seeing the names of people on the lists of the original church council members and confirmands," Waite said. "From the first class confirmed in 1897 until now, all the names are listed. The church was organized in 1896 but services were held in local schools until the building was completed in 1904. This is a labor of love. We had all the information here, but it has never been gathered together and put in one book."

Though not a member of the church, Wanda Timmermann and her sister, Meta, have deep roots in the Geronimo area and have worked hard to keep the history project going.

"The idea of doing a history book is to see how the past and the future connect," Wanda Timmermann said.



A copy of the book may be reserved for \$20 at Friedens Church services or by phone at 303-7729 through Nov. 23.

Announcing Pre-Publication

Surviving World War II

The Story of a German Soldier and His Family

by Victoria Ruth Armstrong

Through my childhood, I grew up knowing my grandparents, Eugen and Ruth, as hard-working people with strong German accents. Although I was curious about their backgrounds, in our family the war was rarely discussed.

In the summer of 1997, I was driving through Indiana to pick up my stepdaughter four hours away in Terre Haute. It was a long drive, and my grandfather had joined me. After talking on several everyday topics, he began to tell me a story from his past. I listened attentively, secretly wishing I had a tape recorder to document all he had said.

Afterwards, he agreed to retell the story so that I could videotape him. I also began to document my grandmother's life. What started out to be some notes about an individual part of my grandfather's life developed into a four-year project, with 23 tapes and nearly 300 pages of script. I had never expected that moment in the car to evolve into such a monumental journey—one filled with not only the unfolding of my grandparents' unforgettable lives, but a journey which has led to a bond with my grandparents that is precious to me. Our time together has been filled with cherished moments that I will forever treasure.

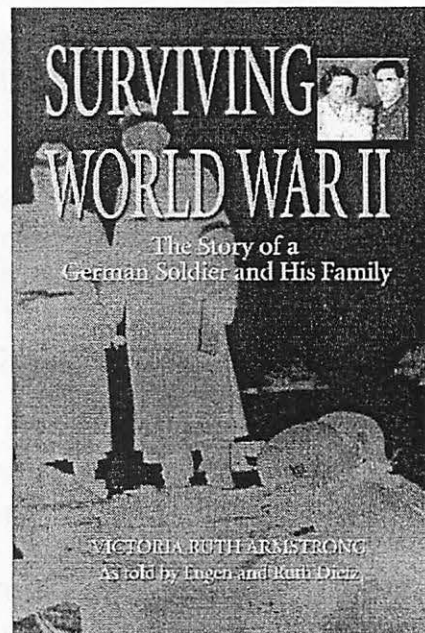
--From the author's preface

The biography of Eugen and Ruth Dietz is told in *Surviving World War II: The Story of a German Soldier and His Family*, as written by their granddaughter, Victoria Ruth Armstrong. Their remarkable story of survival reveals the horrors of a typical family as they lived through war under a strict dictatorship.

Eugen was the third of ten children, and life for his family was a struggle. After being drafted into the German military, he was trained in heavy machine artillery and was then sent to the front lines in Russia. After two years in that harsh environment, he and a comrade were captured by Polish civilians and turned over to the Russian Army. His capture led to five years in a prison camp, where he was forced to work in deplorable conditions. With limited sanitation and nutrition, disease spread through the camp and killed thousands. Miraculously, Eugen was one of the fortunate survivors.

Ruth Dietz has happy memories of her childhood. However, after the death of her mother and the start of the war, life changed for her. As Germany began to fall, food was scarce, disease spread, and the threat of harm was endless. Their daily lives revolved around simply remaining alive.

Both Eugen and Ruth endured suffering that is unknown to most people. But from the hardships of war came a strengthening of family, a new daughter, and a journey to America, where a new life would begin. Victoria Ruth Armstrong is a resident of Columbus, OH, and her grandparents, Eugen and Ruth Dietz, live in Trotwood, OH.



PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

Please ship me _____ hardback (printed case) copies of *Surviving World War II* by Victoria Ruth Armstrong at the special pre-publication price of \$35.00 each (includes shipping and sales tax).

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submitted by Robert H. Thonhoff of Karnes City, Texas

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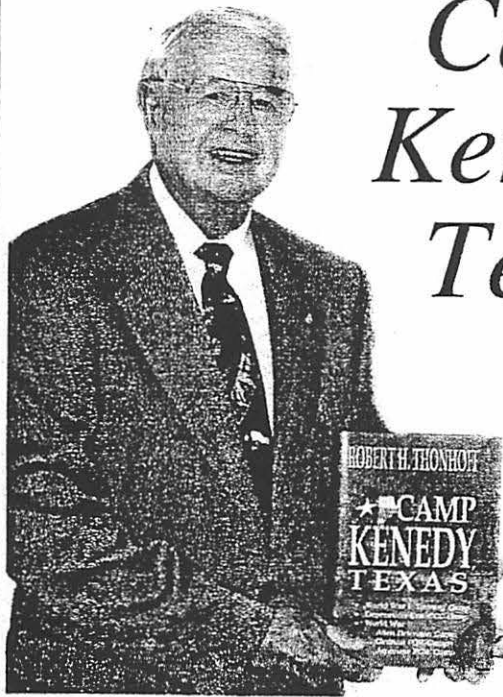


PHOTO BY JOE BAKER

HISTORIAN/AUTHOR ROBERT H. THONHOFF proudly displays his new book entitled *Camp Kenedy, Texas*, just published by Eakin Press, Austin, Texas.




PHOTO COURTESY OF CHESTER A. THAMES OF KENEDY, TEXAS

THE KENEDY ALIEN DETENTION CAMP as it appeared in an aerial photograph made in 1942 with a view from the southwest to the northeast corners of the camp.

Camp Kenedy, Texas

Karnes City author and historian pens tale of five historic camps

Former Karnes County Judge Robert H. Thonhoff, author of four previous prize-winning books on Spanish Texas, is pleased to announce that his long-awaited book entitled *Camp Kenedy, Texas*, is fresh off the press and ready for sale.

Some forty years in the making, the book relates the stories of five military/semi-military camps that were established in Kenedy, Texas, from World War I through World War II. Few people, Thonhoff has found, realize that all of this occurred in Kenedy, Texas, a quaint little town in Karnes County, Texas, heretofore known as "Six-Shooter Junction" and, more recently, as "The Horned Toad Capital of the World."

During the first half of the 20th Century, the small town of Kenedy played an important role in America's involvement in two world wars and in America's recovery from the Great Depression between the wars.


From 1918 through 1945, five successive camps metamorphosed to meet the needs of the nation. A company of volunteer infantry were trained there in 1918 during World War I. In the wake of the Great Depression, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, Camp J. M. Nichols, was operated there from 1935 to 1942. With the advent of World War II, the CCC facilities were restyled in 1942 as a detention camp for male civilian enemy aliens, mostly from Central America, South America, and the West Indies.

Not long after D-Day (the Normandy invasion), the Kenedy Alien Detention Station was converted in October 1944 into a POW Branch Camp of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for about five hundred German officers and one hundred enlisted men.

⇐ See Camp Kenedy, Texas Page

Wednesday

June 25, 2003
Volume 112, Number 25
Weekly 50 Cents



KARNES COUNTY, TEXAS

Camp Kenedy, Texas

Continued from Page 1

who were detailed there to perform camp duties.

After V-E Day (Victory in Europe) the German POWs were transferred, and Camp Kenedy was converted in July 1945 into a POW Camp for some nearly six hundred Japanese officers and non-commissioned officers until December 1945, a short time after V-J Day (Victory in Japan).

In 1946, Camp Kenedy, Texas, was declared as Army Surplus, and its buildings and sites were disposed of in a most interesting manner, which the author describes in the last chapter of the book, entitled "Remnants of the Camp."

Once situated astride Graham Road on the southern outskirts of Kenedy, the camp site has since been developed into a housing subdivision of Kenedy.

Save for a lot of memories, there are few remains of the camp today.

With his new book on *Camp Kenedy, Texas*, Thonhoff has preserved for posterity the astounding story of the genesis, evolution, and final episode of Camp Kenedy, Texas, a one-of-a-kind camp in the United States of America.

Author Robert H. Thonhoff, who lives in nearby Karnes City, Texas, meticulously researched original documents at the National Archives and contacted former staff members and internees to compile this comprehensive record of the five successive phases of Camp Kenedy, Texas. Some two hundred photographs, maps, illustrations, and documents along with first-hand accounts of those who were there bring a visual and personal perspective to this important historical record, which has great local, state, national, and international significance.

Published by Eakin Press of Austin, Texas, the book on *Camp Kenedy, Texas*, will be formally introduced at a book signing event to be held in the Daugherty Room of the Kenedy Public Library on Friday, July 11, 2003, from 10.00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. The author invites all interested persons to come.

In the meantime, copies of the new book will be available at the author's home at 617 N. Esplanade St., Karnes City, Texas, (Telephone: (830) 780-3582).

from the *Austin Chronicle*, July 4, 2003, submitted by Hubert Heinen

The Living Library

GRASSROOTS HISTORIANS TEAM UP WITH LOCAL AGENCIES TO BRING PAST AND FUTURE HISTORY TO LIGHT BY ABE LOUISE YOUNG

I have always longed to visit Pompeii. The humans whose lives were caught under a blanket of lava and ash were not posing. They were not wealthy royals, and they had not just cleaned the house. Culture was vibrant and vital, and the great fabric of social strata was as in motion in AD79 as it is in 2003 – brothels doing a brisk business, bread in the ovens, dogs and children and merchants running the square. When Mount Vesuvius let out its mighty roar and turned the town into a tapestry of ashes, almost everyone – from richest to poorest – was there. This is what makes Pompeii so rare: a kind of queer equality allows us to look at this antique city without the editing and erasures that power performs on history. The volcano had the power, and we are left with the story – in its most elemental form.

There's no limit to our romance with the past: we shake its shards through a

screen, piece them together, guess at who, how, why. But what would have happened if everyone in Pompeii could speak for themselves? Could they have told us what they were thinking, where they came from, what they hoped to do tomorrow?

Dr. Martha Norkunas, director of Texas Folklife Resources, is a well-respected oral historian. "When I visit a place," she mused, when asked what she thinks about the history of everyday people, "I walk through the local cemetery, and then I walk through the history museum. If I don't see the same names, there's something wrong."

Norkunas and UT English professor Dr. Evan Carton have set projects in motion this spring which aim to bridge that divide

– Norkunas with the Project in Interpreting the Texas Past and Carton with Writing Austin's Lives. The programs share a common goal of enriching the public record with the greatest possible diversity of voices, through collaboration with regular citizens.

The Project in Interpreting the Texas Past pairs groups of graduate students with state historic sites (such as the Jourdan-Bachmann Pioneer Farm in North Austin and the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead in Stonewall, Texas). The students collect oral histories of local people whose families have lived in the area for generations. Then, they examine the site's "official" stories about the past, and devise ways to diversify and expand the interpretation that is offered – using the words of

pl

locals. It's a partnership program between the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship Program (creating "citizen-scholars") and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Writing Austin's Lives is a "community discovery project" created by Evan Carton at the UT Humanities Institute in partnership with Austin Public Libraries, the Mayor's Office, and AISD. The initiative is soliciting autobiographical stories from across the city, sponsoring free public life-writing workshops, offering prizes for each ZIP code and grade level, and producing an anthology. The story originals will be housed in the Austin History Center.

In both of these undertakings lies a radical interpretation of "history" that flips the concept of who is significant on its head. The stories of the midwife, the ranch hand, and the shopkeeper are as important as the statesman, soldier, and astronaut – and we want to be able to name their names.



THE PROJECT IN INTERPRETING THE TEXAS PAST

In Stonewall, Texas, you drive down a long straight road and turn right into the dusty scrub of LBJ State Park. The vast Johnson ranch is also the home of the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead, a small living history museum. Piglets with sun-burnt backsides clamor in the wooden pen, while inside the old stone farmhouse, Parks and Wildlife interpreters work hard at churning butter, cooking on a wood stove (even in the scorching summer), curing meat, sewing clothes, and talking to the approximately 150,000 children and adults that visit in a year.

The farm is a big eye opener, especially for urban kids



Glen Treibs is a member of the GTHS Board of Directors

In February, Molly Wheeler interviewed Glen Treibs, a local historian and former high school teacher in Fredericksburg. Treibs relates:

My father kept in his toy box one of those great big hat needles. When he was a child, hair was so long and the hats so big, they had needles that were about a foot long. Grandmother Treibs' hair was so long she could put her eight little children together in a bunch and part her hair and put it around them. One man said that his father told him when he was little, that he would have given a thousand dollars if his wife had hair like that.

I always wondered why he had that in his toy box, but it was a remembrance of his mother who died. He was only 12. She died with her ninth child. When Oma died, the next day Opa got on in the wagon and went to town, and he bought two cases of Cokes up at the chiller, the children each had two or three Cokes apiece, to help with their mother being gone. He did that so special for his children. They had a little money, he wasn't destitute, but you didn't have a lot of cash around the farm. And that was a real privilege to give the kids.

Alvin Weinheimer Jr. spoke of one of the few black men who lived in the area in 1915, an animal faith-healer named Doc Phillips:

Once he went out to work for these two German brothers. They had a cow that was sick and it was cold that night, he was working on this cow. These two brothers were standing in the back, and one of them told the other in German, "Whether that black man knows what he's doing, that cow's probably going to die anyway." And Doc said, he didn't let that bother him - he just kept on working on the

who may not realize that carrots grow in dirt, or have imagined that life existed before bathrooms. Interpreters are passionate about authenticity and do an excellent job portraying the daily work of a German-American farm family in Texas, 1900-1918. Still, questions linger: Who picked the cotton? Where did African-American children go to school? What kind of fun times did women have? Where did migrant Mexican workers live, and what were relationships with the German farm owners they worked for like?

A team of nine graduate students under Norkunas' mentorship (including myself) went to interview local resident

cow. He worked on it for about another half an hour or so. After he got through, he turned around and told those guys in real fluent German, he told them, "I don't think this cow is going to die." Those German guys, they turned all kinds of colors!

Stories of race are systematically excluded from most historic sites. We wondered how this could be remedied. "It's particularly hard to create public sites that deal with the history of enslavement in this country. It's a very delicate balance to find between representing people's humanity, agency - and the fact that they were owned. If you go too far in either direction, you're in trouble. If you focus on agency, then people think - 'Oh, slavery wasn't so bad.' If you focus on the fact that they were owned and enslaved, then you risk presenting people as objects," says Norkunas.

The Germans in Fredericksburg, Texas, didn't own slaves - in fact, Gillespie Co. as a whole went Union, rather than Confederate. They paid heavily for it throughout the Civil War, enduring bands of vigilantes called *hangerbender* who massacred those citizens (usually new German immigrants, and often their own neighbors) who refused to fight for the Confederate flag. We heard tell of one German farm family who dug a room into the dirt of their pasture and hid out there during the entire Civil War. Glen Treibs speaks of discussing race with his high school class:

I tested my students one time. I took them to the cemetery, and I said, "We're so very proud that we have a very, very small black section. There were very few blacks here." And they said, "Mr. Treibs! We didn't expect that of you." I said, "You're misinterpreting. We had so very few blacks here because the German people were so opposed to slavery."

seniors with these questions - and to hear their stories, all the things they would tell that we could not anticipate. "It's an incredible place in between time," says Norkunas, describing the techniques of oral history interviewing. "Between the person and myself, we go back and relive pieces of the past together. They tell me in amazing, rich detail, in beautiful narratives what happened to them and why - how they make sense of it. To hear these extremely moving stories from deep inside another person's life - in their own voice - changes the listener. You are never the same after sharing in that."

We voted strongly with the Union in 1860. But I hate to say this, there was prejudice. Every ethnic group was considered strange. We had a veterinarian, self taught, Dr. Phillips, and I remember a couple saying, "Well, we even had him eat with us in the house." They thought they were being extra stars in heaven for letting him eat with them.

Johnny Wade's mother and father were one of three African-American families who lived and worked on President Johnson's ranch. They were cooks, and Wade followed in their footsteps, working as a groundskeeper and bartender. Tracey Boone Swan interviewed Wade at his home in April:

When I was young the president raised about, I'd say about three or four hundred chickens. So, he put upon himself to tell me that I needed to gather the eggs. Every morning, it was my job. I picked up the eggs and washed them off and put them in cartons. Then one of the hands came by and picked them up when I did that. It was wonderful. I have really lived a charmed life. It was like being in Switzerland. And the president was very generous. You'd walk up to him and he'd pull out of his pocket a 20 or a 50. That's why I was always around him!

When it's all said and done, the Sauer-Beckmann Farmstead will have plenty of material to address many more aspects of early 20th-century history - as long as resources hold out. Because of the Project in Interpreting the Texas Past, the site will end up with a new Web site, a series of performance pieces for interpreters based on newspaper accounts from 1915, a new exhibit using local demographic maps, a movie about the region, and a series of oral history booklets on themes such as women's work, children's lives, and the interaction between Germans, African-Americans, and Mexican-Americans.

from the **Daily Texan**, April 8, 2003

WILL SPOKEN GERMAN IN TEXAS DISAPPEAR

Racing Against Time

UT professor strives to document dying German dialect

April 01, 2003

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."

Although he knew funding for language-revival programs is often hard to obtain, Boas applied for a grant from the University. In September 2001, after receiving one from the dean of liberal arts, Boas founded the Texas German Dialect Project.

The goal of the TGDP is to interview as many of the remaining 6,000 to 8,000 fluent speakers of Texas-German and to document the dialect. Boas expects the dialect to be gone in about 25 to 30 years, as most of the speakers are of an older generation.

"I want as large a data pool as possible," Boas said. "Not only do I want to do as many interviews as possible, but also archive them online. The goal of archives is to preserve these interviews for future generations. My primary objective right now is to get as many speakers as possible, archive them and make them available to the public."

The archival process begins with Boas or his colleagues going to interview Texas-Germans, many of whom still reside in German communities within cities such as New Braunfels and Fredericksburg.

The interviews are recorded on a mini-disc player using a microphone. Recordings are then digitized, and six students involved in the project transcribe and translate the interviews into English. About 90 percent of the project's estimated \$52,000 in funds goes toward paying personnel, who, along with Boas, hope to have about 100 interviews by the end of the year.

One student working on the project, Jarrod Slocum, a mathematics senior and student technician for the Department of Germanic Studies, said the interviewing 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."

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.



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.

IN 25-30 YEARS AS THIS ARTICLE PREDICTS ???

"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."

"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 "Verein" 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.

Still fighting for a scenic Galveston

Festival creator Whorton turns sights to marshland

By **KEVIN MORAN**
Houston Chronicle

GALVESTON — As a volunteer, Evangeline Whorton has battled to save precious marshes, penned histories of hundreds of Texas architectural treasures and created a holiday festival that has pumped millions of dollars into Galveston's economy for 30 years.

While many may not know her name, it is legend among coastal marsh and wildlife preservationists and historians.

Whorton created Galveston's internationally known Dickens on the Strand winter holiday festival and developed the 164-year-old city's annual historic homes tour. The events are run by the Galveston Historical Foundation, which Whorton and others revitalized in 1974.

"Evangeline was one of the great forces in the foundation and made incredible contributions to historic Galveston," said Peter Brink, the foundation's first executive director, who now is a senior vice president at the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.

Dickens on the Strand is a Victorian-themed festival held the first weekend in December. It has drawn thousands of costumed patrons to the city's historical district annually since 1973. And the spring homes tour still attracts thousands of tourists 30 years after its debut under Whorton's direction.

Foundation employees now run the two events every year. Whorton ran them annually from 1973 to 1982 as a volunteer.

"I became a volunteer foundation vice president," said Whorton, 65. "I was there every day, with my 2-year-old daughter sitting on the desk."

An architectural historian, Whorton also helped pave the way for restoration of the city's 19th century commercial buildings and homes. She wrote detailed architectural histories of more than 300 structures.

Historical markers that visitors see on the Strand today bear information Whorton gathered.

It was during this research, Whorton said, that it dawned on her that Galveston's Victorian-style, mid-1800s building boom coincided with the career of England's most famous Victorian author, Charles Dickens.

"So Charles Dickens' books became the basis for this wonderful, re-created Victorian holiday event we called Dickens on the Strand," Whorton said.

Whorton is a purist who lavishes energy on projects and stubbornly defends her beliefs.

Evangeline Whorton is a GTHS member & served on the GTHS Advisory Board

Whorton

Continued from Page 13A.

For years, she and others insisted the Dickens event reflect Victorian life as Dickens described it. That included authentic foods and drinks and items Dickens would have seen sold from carts. The event drew national publicity.

"I left in 1982 when some of the board members wanted to sell Budweiser beer out of coolers and peddle turkey legs," Whorton said. "I thought Guinness stout and Watney's ale could get you just as drunk if that's what you wanted, and I didn't want to lose any part of that magical excursion into the authentic past."

Whorton and her husband, Elbert Whorton, a University of Texas Medical Branch professor, worked on former Gov. Mark White's 1982 campaign.

White named Evangeline Whorton to the Texas Historical Commission. She served seven years as the commission's architecture division chief, working on scores of small-town preservation projects.

Whorton's volunteer career had yet to peak.

In 1993, she founded Scenic Galveston Inc. The group raised \$4.7 million and, piece by piece, bought 2,500 acres of marshland straddling Interstate 45 between Bayou Vista and Tiki Island near the Galveston causeway. The effort was punctuated by political and legal battles along the way.

Now Whorton envisions the sprawling marshland as an unobstructed, pristine and picturesque gateway to Galveston.

Scores of volunteers have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of hours restoring the most badly damaged acreage.

Some people said it was impossible, but Whorton and equally stubborn volunteers plunged in, dragging up tons of debris — from tires to a pizza oven — dumped over many decades.

The group then planted marsh-

grass stems. Overnight, one area reopened to bay water was repopulated by small fish and crabs and the bigger fish that feed on them.

The cleanup is aided by Tom Minello, a scientist at Galveston's National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory. He and fellow scientists also helped plan the restoration and will use the area as a natural laboratory for years to come.

Whorton's organizational ability is her most remarkable trait, Minello said.

"She ramrodded this whole effort as fund-raiser and volunteer coordinator," he said. "She's been unbelievable in her ability to get people to come help with this project. She's one of the most tenacious people I've ever met."

When possible, Scenic Galveston has refused to renew billboard leases on tracts the group purchased.

"There were 29 billboards out there 10 years ago," Whorton said. "There are 12 now."

It may be 20 years or more before the last of the billboards are gone, Whorton said.

In time, Whorton hopes power lines that cross the marshlands will be buried, leaving an open vista as well as a rich nursery for marine life.

Before Texas was settled, experts estimate 8.6 million acres of saltwater marshes lined its bays and coast.

"We are down now to 610,000 acres," Whorton said.

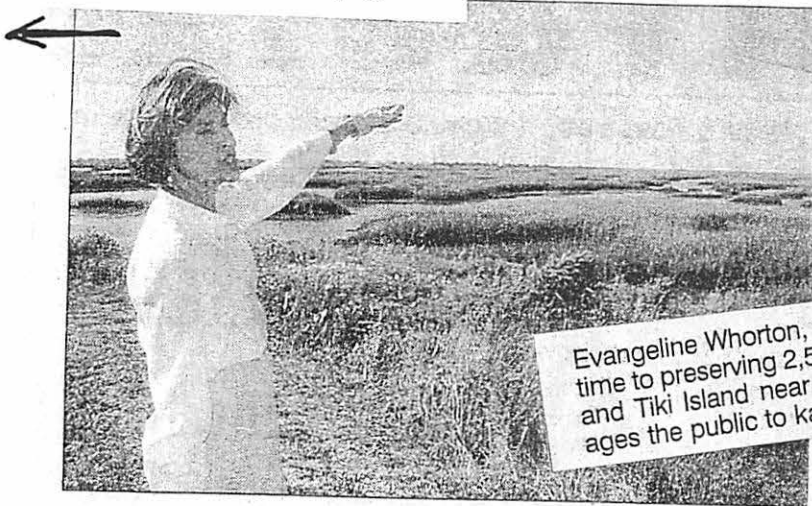
Scenic Galveston members believe natural preserves like the one they're creating will bring more tourists and money to the area, Whorton said.

"Birdwatchers spent \$5 billion in America alone last year," Whorton said.

The marshland is meant to be used, Whorton said.

"People can kayak it, canoe it, fish it, swim it, sunbathe it, photograph it, collect marine specimens or just sit and enjoy it," Whorton said. "Every citizen owns it forever."

see story on previous page



Evangeline Whorton, founder of Scenic Galveston, dedicates her time to preserving 2,500 acres of marshland between Bayou Vista and Tiki Island near the Galveston causeway. Whorton encourages the public to kayak, canoe or swim in the marshland.

Kevin Moran / Chronicle

Grace Lutheran Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and even the author of a book on the church's history says he was astounded that its archives date to its founding.

Century of Grace comes alive in church archives

Records were kept even in the congregation's humble early days.

BY CARMINA DANINI
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Meticulous notations document baptisms and marriages, outreach services and a porter paid "twenty-five cents per fire" on Sundays.

Those records, and ledgers peppered with well-known San Antonio names like Wurzbach, Guenther, Cupples, Eisenhower, Gunn and Toeperwein, tell the story of the first century of Grace Lutheran Church.

The yearlong celebration of the church's founding in 1903 ends this weekend, with a banquet today in the Sky Room of the University of the Incarnate Word's Grossman International Conference Center and a festival worship service

from San Antonio Express-News
October 4, 2003

Sunday.

When Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church — its complete name — was founded, it was the only English-speaking Lutheran church in San Antonio, pastor Curt Pedder said.

Grace Lutheran is an offshoot of St. John's Lutheran Church, the city's first Lutheran church.

Established in 1857, St. John's held services in German. The desire of some of its members for worship services in English led them to found Grace Lutheran in October 1903 with 23 members.

Though the congregation initially held Sunday services at First Presbyterian Church because it didn't have its own building yet, Grace Lutheran members already were keeping records.

Most of those documents still exist. Besides the records of official acts, boxes are filled with blueprints, scrapbooks containing newspaper articles about Grace Lutheran, and hundreds of photos.

Other records focus on the church's ministries, including a sanitarium for tuberculosis patients that later evolved into the now-defunct Lutheran General Hospital.

Craig Johnson, who compiled the book "A Century of Grace A Brief History of Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church," said he was astounded the ar-

chives date to the church's start.

"I knew we kept records but thought that surely in the process some had been lost — and they weren't," said Johnson, a longtime member of the church and retired technical director of the electronic warfare center at the former Kelly AFB.

Some of the documents Johnson unearthed provide a glimpse at life in the early 20th century.

In 1918, the president of the church's Ladies' Aid Society complained it was difficult to keep the pews clean because of dust raised by the jitneys from Fort Sam Houston and Camp Travis.

To remedy the situation, Avenue E from Fourth to Sixth streets was paved. A five-year loan for the entire cost of the paving

— \$366 — was taken out at 8 percent interest.

After a citywide quarantine that same year due to the influenza epidemic was lifted and activities were resumed, a porter was hired to start a fire to heat the church before the two Sunday services.

The porter got 25 cents per fire.

"The records are more complete than they probably need to be, but they contain most of the church's unique history," Pedder said.

"A Century of Grace" and a booklet, "A Century of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals 1903-2002," are on sale at the church.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003

Blooming unusual

Century plant puts out an extra stalk

By **AUDREY GARZA**
Tribune-Herald staff writer

For one century plant in McLennan County, blooming once in its life was not enough.

Van Massirer says he has a century plant in the Prairie Hill-Crawford area that has bloomed twice now.

He said his grandmother, Katie, told him about her century plant.

"She was just adamant that it only put that stalk up in the center once every 100 years," he said.

The century plant is so named because of its "once a century" bloom, but the plant actually lives an average of 25 years, according to several Web sites.

Massirer estimates that his grandmother planted the century plant sometime between 1937 and 1945.

However, he said the plant has put the stalk up at least twice.

"It goes up in a hurry," he said. "It's taller this time than it was the other time."

That "other time" happened about 20 years ago, he said. About two weeks ago, he noticed the latest bloom. It's at least 20 feet tall, he said.

A century plant that blooms more than once would be a rarity. The plant is supposed to bloom only once in its life, and the blooming spike is so large and grows so fast that it saps all of the plant's resources. The plant then dies, leaving a tall wooden seed stalk, according to Web sites about the plant.

Massirer said when it last bloomed, the stalk started drying



error: this should be
Prairie Chapel-Crawford
not Prairie Hill

More than 50 years ago, Van Massirer's grandmother planted this century plant near the Prairie Hill-Crawford area. He says the plant has bloomed with a big stalk twice.

Staff photo —
Donald Meyerson

out, it broke off and fell down. Curiosity over took him, and he picked it up, he said.

"It was light as a feather," he said.

According to a Web site, the plant is a perennial and blooms in late spring to early summer. Yellow flowers composed of six petals, bloom June through August. The flowers grow in clusters and face upward at the end of horizontal branches, appearing only near the top of the stalk.

The preferred habitat for the plant is in dry, rocky desert

slopes. The bloom colors range from yellow, orange and red spikes, which start out like giant stalks of asparagus, and are topped by a bouquet.

A century plant bloomed last month at June Johnson's home in Robinson. It has a stalk between 12 and 14 feet tall.

Massirer has another "baby" century plant near the older one. He said he is interested in moving it closer to his house.

Audrey Garza can be reached at agarza@wacotrib.com or 757-5748.

Van Massirer, GTHS' President, reports his grandmother's plant reached a height of 19 feet and 8 inches. He has saved seeds from its pods and says he will share them with anyone who is interested.

His grandmother was Katherine Althof Massirer. She was born in Austria in 1882 and immigrated to Texas in 1889 with her parents and siblings.

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JOURNAL PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>MAIL OUT</u>
Spring 2004	January 20	March 1

POLICY STATEMENT

Material sent for *The Journal* will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted articles must be typed, single spaced, on 8.5x11 white paper, with a margin of no less than .75 inches on all sides. No faxes please. Editor is not responsible for errors or misinformation.

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

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All German materials must be accompanied by an English text. The Editor has the right and the responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS policies. Submission deadlines will be followed as closely as is possible. The journal is produced by an all-volunteer team ☺

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