

# THE JOURNAL



Volume XXVI · Number 1 · Spring, 2004

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



## GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

### MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 684171  
Austin, TX 78768-4171

WEB SITE: [www.gths.net](http://www.gths.net)  
E-MAIL: [GermanTexans@aol.com](mailto:GermanTexans@aol.com)

TEL (512) 482-0927  
TOLL FREE (866) 482-4847  
FAX (512) 482-0636

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JULIA GERMANY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Van Massirer  
**TREASURER:** Ewing Evans

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Teddy Boehm  
**SECRETARY:** Terry Smart

**Position #1, Term 2003-2006**  
Connie Krause  
10167 Schoenthal Road  
New Braunfels, TX 78132  
(830) 625-3075  
[m.krause@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:m.krause@mail.utexas.edu)

**Position #7, Term 2001-2004**  
Glen Treibs  
1099 Treibs Road  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
(830) 997-7356  
[pegtr@yahoo.com](mailto:pegtr@yahoo.com)

**Position #12, Term 2002-2005**  
Carolyn S. Meiners  
1034 South Madison  
La Grange, TX 78945-3304  
(979) 968-3806 mm  
[carolynmeiners@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynmeiners@hotmail.com)

**Position #2, Term 2003-2006**  
Janice Warncke Thompson  
6203 Sugar Hill  
Houston, TX 77057  
(713) 465-6221  
[charles.thompson@tngarchitects.com](mailto:charles.thompson@tngarchitects.com)

**Position #8, Term 2001-2004**  
Bernard Ben Buecker  
2201 Tower Life Bldg.  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
(210) 226-1788  
[mastholte@aol.com](mailto:mastholte@aol.com)

**Position #13, GFS Guild Rep.**  
Vacant

**Position #3, Term 2003-2006**  
James Feuge  
376 Keese-Sagebiel Road  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
(830) 669-2236

**Position #9, Term 2001-2004**  
Terry L. Smart  
1025 Canterbury Hill  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
(210) 824-8645  
[tsmart@trinity.edu](mailto:tsmart@trinity.edu)

**Position #14, Term 2004-2007**  
Ewing (Wing) Evans  
309 Ridgewood Road  
Austin, TX 78746  
(512) 327-0876  
[eke@compuserve.com](mailto:eke@compuserve.com)

**Position #4, Term 2004-2007**  
Vacant

**Position #10, Term 2002-2005**  
Hubert Heinen  
4505 Spanish Oak Trail  
Austin, TX 78731-5217  
(512) 454-6452  
[hubert.heinen@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:hubert.heinen@mail.utexas.edu)

**Position #15, Term 2001-2004**  
Ingrid Brock  
4317 Patrick  
Corpus Christi, TX 78413  
(361) 852-8751  
[cheetah.awesomenet.net](http://cheetah.awesomenet.net)

**Position #5, Term 2004-2007**  
Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm  
301 Cedar Circle  
Brenham, TX 77833-9215  
(979) 836-4776  
[tboehm@texasbb.net](mailto:tboehm@texasbb.net)

**Position #11, Term 2002-2005**  
Dan Schoppe  
1008 Auburn Drive  
Arlington, TX 76012  
(817) 860-1624  
[DScho56956@aol.com](mailto:DScho56956@aol.com)

**Position #16, Term 2002-2005**  
Meredith McClain  
2612 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lubbock, TX 79410  
(806) 744-6033  
[meredithmcclain@cs.com](mailto:meredithmcclain@cs.com)

**Position #6, Term 2004-2007**  
Van Massirer  
124 Canaan Church Road  
Crawford, TX 76638-3328  
(254) 486-2366  
[vmassirer@yahoo.com](mailto:vmassirer@yahoo.com)

**Executive Director**  
Julia Germany  
PO Box 684171  
Austin, TX 78768-4171  
(512) 482-0927  
[GermanTexans@aol.com](mailto:GermanTexans@aol.com)



## OPINION SURVEY -- THE ANNUAL MEETING

**PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS #1 – 8  
THEN TEAR OUT THIS PAGE AND MAIL IT TO....**

Terry Smart, Journal Editor  
1025 Canterbury Hill  
San Antonio, TX 78209

or Email your responses to TSmart@Trinity.Edu

**#1 How many days should the meeting run? Give your first choice.**

- Friday evening / all day Saturday / Saturday night supper & dance / Sunday morning
- Friday evening / all day Saturday / Saturday night supper & dance
- Friday evening / all day Saturday / end at 5 pm
- All day Saturday / Saturday night supper & dance / Sunday morning
- All day Saturday / end at 5 pm

**#3 What sort of program do you most enjoy?**

- Talks/slide shows only
- Talks/slide shows and tours
- Tours only

*Please  
Return  
this  
Survey*

**#4 What on the program would interest you? Check one or more.**

- Information about Germany today (travel talk or film)
- A genealogy session on how-to-do your family tree
- A genealogy session on how to read old German gravestone inscriptions
- Guided visit to a house, church, school, or some German-Texan historical site
- Learn to speak some basic German phrases
- Information about German-Texan history
- Information about German-Texan culture (churches, customs, food, music, etc.)

**→ PLEASE SEE QUESTIONS ON OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE**

**#5 Traditionally, the program includes a dance with polka and waltz music by a German band. How do you feel about this? Check one.**

Yes. We must have a dance.

It makes no difference to me

No. I probably won't dance.

**#6 Traditionally, September is when we hold the Annual Meeting. What is your opinion?**

September is good. Don't change the month.

I would prefer the meeting in the month of \_\_\_\_\_

**#7 Some Annual Meetings offered tours to visit a house, church, school or some German-Texan historical site. If this is offered again, which of these do you prefer?**

To drive my own car and meet the group there

To have transportation provided so I don't have to drive

**#8 This question is for people who decided not to attend an Annual Meeting in recent years. Why did you skip the meeting? Check one or more.**

The program did not interest me.

I didn't like the town / city where the Annual Meeting was held.

I thought the registration fee was too high.

The meeting was too far away from my home.

Two nights in a motel was too expensive.

None of my old friends attend the meeting any more.

Other reason not listed above.

**If there is something about our Annual Meeting you would like to see changed, what is it?**

---

---

---



**THE JOURNAL OF**  
**THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 1, SPRING (MARCH) 2004**

**“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”**

**NEWS AND MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1.....President's Notes (by Van Massirer, GTHS President)
- 2.....Executive Director's Update (by Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director)
- 3.....In Memoriam: Claus Hermann Rohlf's
- 4.....Leave Your German Mark (by Rodney Koenig)
- 5.....Recent Memorial Gifts to the German-Texan Heritage Society
- 6.....Recent Events and Announcements
- 8.....Minutes: November 15, 2003, meeting of the Board of Directors
- 11....Treasurer's Report: November 15, 2003, meeting of the Board of Directors
- 12....Introducing Members of the 2004 Advisory Board
- 14....New Braunfels Wein & Saengerfest (announcement)

**GENEALOGY SECTION, LIZ HICKS, GENEALOGY EDITOR**

- 15....Genealogy Inquiries
- 17....Looking for a U.S. Census?

**FAMILY HISTORY**

- 18....The Vogel Burial Ground (submitted by Vestine Nesloney and Dolores Grubb Nesloney)
- 19....Bohlman Family History
- 20....Genealogy Materials at the Dallas Public Library (submitted by Ed Boehringer)
- 20....Kleberg and King Families (from San Antonio Express-News)
- 21....Rural Cemeteries of Gillespie County (book order form)
- 22....Ottillie Marie Magdalena Prellop (submitted by Monroe Prellop)
- 23....A Letter: Dedication of Fredericksburg's Pioneer Memorial in 1935 (submitted by Hubert Heinen)
- 24....Texas Family Land Heritage Program (from Texas Department of Agriculture)
- 26....“Rain doesn't dampen spirits at Altwein marker dedication” (from Seguin Gazette Enterprise, submitted by Helga von Schweinitz and E.J. Hierhozer)
- 28....Historical Marker Honoring Geier and Schmid Families (submitted by Jean Heide)

**ARTICLES AND STORIES**

- 29....“A Sojourn in the Wachau Region of Austria” (by Ron Hunka)
- 34....“A Spanish Mission...in New Braunfels?” (by Everett A. Fey\_
- 36....“Can You Count the Stars? (submitted by Frances Hartmann)



- 38....“Die Hauptsache” (translated by Brian J. Boeck)  
39....“Herbsttag” by R.M. Rilke (translated by Gilbert J. Jordan)  
39....“German is the Hateful Language....”(a 1918 pamphlet submitted by Brian J. Boeck)  
48....“Harrison & McCulloch Stage Stop, Selma, Texas 1850-1854” (by Jean Heide)  
54....“Comfort’s Civil War Poet: Fritz Goldbeck” (by Anne Seidensticker Stewart)  
57....“Der Umschlag (Poultice) & Other Texas German Folk Remedies” (by Anne Seidensticker Stewart)  
60....From the Journal --- 25 Years Ago (selected by Journal Editor)  
64....From the Journal --- 20 Years Ago (selected by Journal Editor)

### BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

- 68....Nazis & Good Neighbors: The United States Campaign Against the Germans of Latin America in World War II by Max Paul Friedman (reviewed by Ron Hunka)  
70....Helga’s Corner: Musing about German Language and Culture by Helga von Schweinitz (reviewed by Ron Hunka)  
71....Texas Victory by Denzel Holmes and Tom Schliesing (publication notice with order form)  
72....The Handbook of Texas Music (publication notice with ordering information)  
73....German and Japanese POWs at Kenedy, Texas (submitted by A. C. Alonso)  
74....Surviving World War II by Victoria Ruth Armstrong (publication notice with order form)

### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

- 76....“Warm, Fuzzy Feelings for East German’s Gray Old Days” (from New York Times, submitted by Julia Germany)  
78....“Germans build expensive frog tunnel” (from Reuters New Service, submitted by Julia Germany)  
79....“Comfort ceremony honors its Confederate dead Sunday” (from San Antonio Express-News)  
80....“Guardians of the garden” (from Round Rock Leader, submitted by Arlene and Joe Burges)  
82....“A bridge to Texas” (from Dallas Morning News, submitted by Arlene and Joe Burges)  
84....“For the Steinways Made in Queens, Cousins With German Accents” (from New York Times)  
87....“Young walker stays in step” (from San Antonio Express-News)  
89....“A century of Joyful Music” (from Austin American-Statesman)  
92....“Kopp, Bach Society soar with ‘St. John’ Passion” (from Houston Chronicle)  
93....“Hitler vintage leaves bad taste” (from San Antonio Express-News)  
94....“First historic public event of Sesquicentennial year this Sunday” (from Comfort News, submitted by Anne Seidensticker Stewart)



**Thank you, Germania Insurance, for the financial assistance you have given to the GTHS in order to make possible publication of our journal !!!**



**PRESIDENT'S NOTES BY VAN MASSIRER, GTHS PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

Several months ago at our annual meeting in New Braunfels, I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Hans Boas, Assistant Professor of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas in Austin and Director of the Texas German Dialect Project. His aim with the TGDP is to identify, interview and tape the dwindling number of Texans who still speak what he calls the Texas German dialect. In a few words, Texas German is to standard German what Tex-Mex is to standard Spanish.

Dr. Boas' energetic and enthusiastic approach to his work is quite contagious. I immediately determined that I wanted to be involved with this unique project, and on February 7, I scheduled eleven local Texas German speakers to meet with Dr. Boas and his assistants at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Crawford.

Although sickness claimed one casualty and two others succumbed to last-minute "angst," the remaining eight who appeared not only made significant contributions to preserving the dialect, but they also spent a rewarding and enjoyable two hours reliving their past as they recalled the language of their childhood. Those who came with a look of apprehension on their faces departed with a look of satisfaction.

It was also a rewarding time for me and for my daughter, Laura Scott, who helped with the day's activities. We both felt good about making a small contribution to preserving our Texas German heritage.

If you would like to help with the TGDP, you can contact Dr. Boas at home at 512-851-7022 or at [hcb@gmc.utexas.edu](mailto:hcb@gmc.utexas.edu).

Sincerely,





<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE BY JULIA GERMANY</b>
---

Guten Tag, Y'All!

I want to thank the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors for their continued confidence and support, and for extending my contract as Executive Director of GTHS for another year. I am very grateful for the opportunity and look forward to growing the Society's membership as well as its role in preserving the German cultural heritage in Texas.

One of the preservation projects that I will work on this year includes the brochure for the new **Hill Country Heritage Trail**, which is sponsored by the **Texas Historical Commission (THC)**. This new trail brochure will attempt to capture the diverse and unique heritage of the Texas Hill Country. The trail **includes 19 counties**, and each county will have a representative on the trail board. I will be the lead contact for Travis County; GTHS Board Member Connie Krause will work with GTHS Member and New Braunfels Main Street Manager Jan Soechting as the lead for Comal County. The Hill Country Heritage Trail board will be responsible for collecting all the necessary data and preparing it for the Texas Historical Commission. The THC will ultimately decide what to include in the resulting trail brochure, which they will also produce. This is an excellent project that will give us an opportunity to show the German influence throughout the Hill Country in a comprehensive brochure that tourists can use when visiting these sites. If you have sites you would like considered for this project, please let me know. I am sure there are worthy treasures that we don't know about.

Spring is just around the corner, which means it's time for our **9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MAIFEST!** **CONTINENTAL AIRLINES** and **SHINER BEER** have once again agreed to be sponsors of this fundraiser held on the last Saturday in April (**24 April**) at our historic headquarters in downtown Austin. **PLEASE NOTE:** We will start the Maifest at **NOON** this year to capture the lunchtime crowd. We'll offer German Wurst, Homemade German Potato Salad and Sauerkraut, along with Shiner Bock and Blond beer. New this year will be a **German wine tasting**, complete with host to explain the different wines and wine regions! There'll be German singing, music, the beloved Harms Marionette Show and of course the **wrapping of the Maipole** by the Bowie High School German students. Come early, bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of German-Texan Gemütlichkeit! We will mail the airline raffle tickets to our members in March. We hope to double our ticket sales this year. If you belong to other groups or know others who would be interested in the chance of winning **TWO ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO FRANKFURT**, please contact me and I will mail you extra tickets to sell. One chance for \$5, or five chances for \$20. All proceeds go to the GTHS operating fund. Help us help your Society by selling tickets. The raffle drawing will take place during Maifest at 4:30 p.m. Need not be present to win.

**FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • CHEAP FOOD • GERMAN-TEXAN BEER!**

During the year we will participate in other groups' events and will need volunteers to help us with our booth. If you are interested in volunteering, let me know and I will add you to our volunteer database. This year we will **need volunteers in Austin, Fredericksburg and San Antonio**. And that's just the events I know about today! Right now I am looking for volunteers to help us with our booth at the **Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference**, which will be **in Austin 08-11 September**. This NATIONAL CONFERENCE will be well attended and something we can't afford to miss. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me. I will have **one free pass to the conference** that I will give to a deserving volunteer. Other events will include Oktoberfests and Christmas markets throughout Texas.

Alles Gute in 2004!

julia





ROHLFS

**IN MEMORIAM  
CLAUS HERMANN ROHLFS**

The Reverend Doctor Claus Hermann Rohlfs, a minister of the United Methodist Church, died at San Antonio, December 19, 2003, at age 82. He was a long-time member of the German-Texan Heritage Society. GTHS members who attended the 1998 Annual Meeting at Kerrville may recall that Claus presented the Sunday morning address that year. And GTHS members of the "Hill Country Group." may remember that he participated in many of their group's activities at Kerrville, Fredericksburg and elsewhere. Claus was born in Germany April 26, 1921, at Innien in Schleswig-Holstein and emigrated to the United States with his family at age ten, settling in New Jersey.

Claus formerly was the pastor of Methodist churches at Art, Corpus Christi, Dilley, McKinney and San Antonio. He also served as District Superintendent of churches in the San Antonio area and was director of Field Education at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas from 1969 until 1985. Later he became director of the Council on Church Revitalization and Extension for the Methodist Church's Southwest Texas Conference. While serving with the church's Division of Chaplains, Clause conducted retreats around the world for military personnel.

Claus was a World War II veteran, having served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He served on the San Antonio City Council from 1961 to 1963. And he took an active role in development of public housing and of the medical center at San Antonio.

A memorial service for Claus was held December 22, 2003, at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in San Antonio with Bishop Joel Martinez officiating, together with the Reverends George A. Bradley, Bradley DeHaven and J. Michael Lowry. Claus is survived by his wife Doris of San Antonio, his daughter Margaret Decker of Sinton; his three sons, Claus Rohlfs Jr. of Brownwood, Carl Rohlfs San Angelo, and Paul Rohlfs of San Antonio; by three sisters; by nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren; and by nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions can be made to Morningside Ministries Covenant Fund in San Antonio or St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in San Antonio.



## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK BY RODNEY KOENIG

In the Fall of 2003, the German community in Houston suffered a major loss. For a number of years, many of us listened to "Musical Trot with Liselotte", a weekly radio show which aired each Sunday on radio stations KPFT and KENR. Liselotte Babin, along with her husband, Bob Babin, were the hosts of this radio show. Liselotte was also publisher of the newspaper "Deutsche Welt" for a number of years. Liselotte was born in Memelland, Lithuania in what was previously known as East Prussia. Liselotte reached 80 years, having been born on August 4, 1923 and having died on October 30, 2003. Her father was Ernst Milkereit and her mother was Gertrud Bittens. I was honored to be able to speak at Liselotte's funeral and reminisce about the good times on the radio. Liselotte and Bob had four sons, Richard, Wilhelm, Eric and Bruce, as well as a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Liselotte's newspaper and Liselotte's radio show were always available to promote German heritage, German music and other German events. Liselotte left her German mark through German music and German newspapers for over thirty years. She will be greatly missed by the German community. She was also the recipient of the Bundesverdienstkreuz from the Federal Republic of Germany.

German music has always been one of my favorite topics. This past Christmas at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston we organized a very able German choir for the German Christmas service. Dr. Albert LeDoux served as our choir director and Flora von Roeder served as the primary recruiter for the German choir. Christ the King currently has among its pastors the Reverend Karin Liebster, who is the German language pastor who preaches at 5:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at Christ the King, which is located "ecke GreenBriar und Rice" near Rice University stadium. The entire service, including ushers, songs, liturgy, sermon, bible readings, are in German. Some say that the bells even ring in German during the German services. This church is seen as being German friendly and even had a baptism in German recently for the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Schuster, the Chef and owner of Charavari Restaurant in Houston. Christ the King Lutheran, through its pastors, Karin Liebster and Dr. Robert Moore (who is also fluent in German), is leaving its German mark on the Houston community through the offering of German service, German music and related programs.

Recently my son, Jon Todd Koenig, pursued some genealogy questions for the family of Dorothea Dinklage Koenig, my great grandmother. Our cousin, John Williams, is also related to the Dinklage family and he provided a scroll, taking the Johann von Dinklage family of Burg Dinklage back to 1460. My son, Jon, was in Oldenburg, Germany in the Fall of 2003 and he pursued several leads to verify that our relatives were tied into the Dinklage family of our cousin, John Williams. My great-great-grandfather, Hermann Gerhard Dinlage, and his second wife, Anna Catherine Bolling, were located in the archives in Germany. It is always fun to prove through records that one is actually related to a smart and pleasant relative such as John Williams.

How will you leave your German mark in 2004? Consider doing so by encouraging your family to attend German language services, by taking German language courses or by singing with a German chorus. You can also change your Will by leaving 10% or 100% of your estate or IRA to a favorite German heritage cause. The German Department at your favorite school would appreciate a gift to encourage preservation of German culture and heritage. Contact Rodney C. Koenig at [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com) or 713-651-5333 for help in revising your estate plan to include a German charity such as GTHS. Our office will also be helpful, so email us at [GermanTexans@aol.com](mailto:GermanTexans@aol.com).



**RECENT MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
This is to acknowledge recent donations to the G.T.H.S. made by the individuals listed below  
and to express thanks to them for their generous gifts.

**IN MEMORY OF MARTHA VON BRIESEN**

**Jon A. von Briesen of Forked River, New Jersey  
Dagmar von Briesen of Forked River, New Jersey**

**IN MEMORY OF THE PARENTS OF CHRISTA BRODERICK**

**Christa Broderick of Austin**

**IN MEMORY OF ELLA HESS OF SCHWEBHEIM, GERMANY**

**Herta Sokolyk of Kerrville**

**IN MEMORY OF ANITA KILLEN**

**Edna Groeschel of Austin  
Ursula Heinen of Austin  
Charles Kalteyer of Austin  
Gerhild Rogers of Austin  
Helga von Schweinitz of Austin  
Esther Miller Strange of Kerrville  
Anna Thompson of Dublin  
Exxon-Mobil Corporation**

**IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND DR. CLAUS ROHLFS**

**Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rossner of San Antonio**

**IN MEMORY OF DALE VON ROSENBERG**

**Hubert Heinen of Austin  
Charles von Rosenberg of Rock Hill, South Carolina  
Marjorie von Rosenberg of Georgetown**

**IN MEMORY OF NEIL TRAVIS**

**Anna Rose of San Antonio**

## RECENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

by Journal Editor

### RECENT MEMORIAL GIFTS TO GTHS

In recent months, the GTHS has received a number of donations made in memory of deceased friends and loved ones. Executive Director Julia Germany has provided a list of these donors for this issue of the journal so we can acknowledge their generous gifts and say "thank you." You will find the list on page #5.

### THE DEUTSCHE SAMSTAGSSCHULE

Last fall, seventeen students ages 4-13 enrolled in the GTHS German Saturday School (*Deutsche Samstagsschule*) to learn German. Classes were held in the downstairs classroom (formerly an apartment) at the German Free School in Austin and met each Saturday for twelve consecutive weeks.

### FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE 2003 CHRISTMAS MARKET

Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director, reported that GTHS made a profit of \$1,899 from sales during the society's Christmas Market in December held at the German Free School in Austin. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped put on this year's market.

### THE 2004 GTHS ANNUAL MEETING

The Activities Committee, chaired by Theodora (Teddy) Boehm of Brenham, already is looking ahead to our society's 2004 Annual Meeting. Plans are to hold the meeting again in September on the second or third weekend because the first weekend of that month is the Labor Day holiday.

### JOURNAL EDITOR'S SURVEY OF OPINIONS ABOUT OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS

The first page in this issue of the Journal asks a few questions about what you would like to have for our Annual Meeting this year. Please tear out that page and send it to me, the Journal Editor. I will share results with the Activities Committee as they plan ahead for this year.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' CLEANUP THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL

On Saturday, September 6, thirty-nine students in Ms. Miriam (Mimi) Parris' German courses at Bowie High School in Austin devoted their afternoon to thoroughly clean the German Free School building, hosted by Caroline and Ewing (Wing) Evans. Thanks to all those students and to their teacher !

### GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD SPEAKER SERIES

Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director, wrote "Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to promote the GTHS January Speaker Series, which was actually a concert of German arias performed live by Cary Michael. According to the sign-in roster, forty-two people attend the event yesterday (January 18, 2004), which makes this one of our best-attended Sunday events in recent memory. I want to thank everyone who cleaned up after the event, putting away all dishes and even taking out the trash. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am very grateful, tho I have no idea who did the work. Keep up the great work, GTHS Guild members! "

### GERMAN POLKA AND WALTZ MUSIC ON THE RADIO

Angelina Kretschmar of San Antonio wrote to alert all GTHS members that there is a radio station in Floresville that plays polkas and waltzes on Saturday (10 am to 1 pm) and Sunday (1 to 4 pm). The station is KWBC, a FM station at 89.7 on your dial. The station's phone number is 830-393-6166. The mailing address is Public Radio, Floresville KWBC, 1905 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Floresville, TX 78114. If you enjoy polka and waltz music, let the radio station know!



## RECENT EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

by Journal Editor

### REPAIRS OF THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL BUILDING

Last October, emergency plumbing repairs were needed on both levels of the German Free School, costing more than \$3,000. Fortunately for GTHS, this was paid by funds in a grant from the Houston Endowment for upkeep of our historic building. In January, the Executive Committee, acting for the Board of Directors, authorized repair of the roof over the car port attached to south side of the German Free School building. This car port is used for a variety of outside activities during *Maifest* and other fund-raising events.

### GERMAN CLASSES AT THE GFS

Three evening German classes were taught at the German Free School in Austin last Fall. Christa Rabago taught beginning German with eight students; Eva Cadima taught Intermediate German with six students; and Annette Stachowitz taught advanced German with eleven students.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS GUEST SPEAKER

In recent months, GTHS Executive Director Julia Germany has been involved in "outreach activities" to advertise and promote the GTHS. She presented slide shows and talks for groups at Cedar Park, Austin, La Grange, and New Braufels, and also attended meetings and/or manned a GTHS sales booth at other events held in Brenham and Austin.

### "OFF TO TEXAS – THE STORY OF RICHARD PETRI AND HERMANN LUNGKWITZ"

This is the title of a 45-minute-long documentary produced by the GTHS, telling the story of two well-known 19<sup>th</sup> century German-Texan artists, Richard Petri and Hermann Lungkwitz. Thanks to donations, including memorial gifts honoring the memory of Dale von Roseberg, the GTHS made English and German versions of the documentary and to date has sold thirty-two DVD disks and forty VHS videos. We are sending twenty-one copies to organizations, museums and individuals who gave access to paintings and information used in making the film.

### FREE SATELLITE DISH

Thanks to a grant proposal Executive Director Julia Germany submitted to the American Association of Teachers of German, we have received a free satellite dish. Now GTHS needs a television. Once we have that, German TV programs can be shown to guests, classes and visitors to our German Free School in Austin. Joe Peebles Adams of Houston and Constance (Connie) Seger also of Houston have promised contributions for purchase of the needed TV. With one or two more gifts to match their gifts, we will have the funds needed.

### VACANCY ON THE GTHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At its November meeting, the Board of Directors received the resignation of John Birkelbach of Bellville effective December 31, 2003. John joined the board in January 2003 to fill the vacancy created when Dr. Bob Neely of Bellville had to leave the board unexpectedly. Thanks to John for his willingness to serve. In accord with our society's bylaws, the Board of Directors will fill this new vacancy at its February meeting.

### NOVEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

See the next four pages for the draft minutes and a summary of the treasurer's report from the last quarterly meeting of the GTHS Board of Directors on November 15, 2003.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2003 MEETING  
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
( draft minutes for corrections and approval )**

The fourth meeting of the 2003 Board of Directors was called to order at 9:40 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin by President Van Massirer. Board members present were Teddy Boehm, Ingrid Brock, Wing Evans, James Feuge, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Carolyn Meiners, Terry Smart, Janice Thompson, Glen Treibs and the GTHS Executive Director, Julia Germany. Absent were Ben Buecker, Meredith McClain, and Dan Schoppe. Five members of the 2003 Advisory Board attended and participated in the meeting: Sheryl Brown, Chuck Kalteyer, Rodney Koenig, Christine Mills, and Helga von Schweinitz.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

V. Massirer moved approval of the Minutes of the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with corrections and additions from the floor. Motion approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

T. Boehm moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Motion approved.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

J. Germany, Executive Director, responded to questions about her written report distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

She announced the widow of Glen E. Lich, author of The German Texans and long-time GHTS supporter, had donated Lich's papers to the GTHS library. By common consent, the Board directed the President to send a letter of appreciation to the donor.

**GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD REPORT**

H. Heinen, President of the Guild, reported recent Guild activities and plans.

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

T. Boehm, Chair, and other members of the Board reported (1)a meeting was held in August at Lockhart (in Caldwell County) to encourage formation of a *verein* (2)GTHS member Darryl Birkenfeld recommends the committee attend the summer 2004 "fest" at Nazareth (in Castro County) to stimulate interest in formation of a *verein* (3)a former group at Fredericksburg may reorganize in 2004 to become a *verein*, and (4)members of an existing group of GTHS members at Fredericksburg dislike *verein* as a name.

H. Heinen moved that the Board authorize its Executive Committee to waive the requirement that a group wanting to affiliate with GTHS as a *verein* must use *verein* as a name. Motion approved

The President referred to the Executive Committee a recommendation that a minimum number of members be required in order for a group to be recognized as a *verein*.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

W. Evans, Chair, presented the proposed budget for 2004, which included a withdrawal from investments of \$16,230 to off-set expenditures. I. Brock moved approval of the budget with changes recommended from the floor. Motion approved

W. Evans moved that the Executive Director as soon as possible mail the 2004 membership renewal form to all members and include (1)a return envelope (2)a notice of the Christmas Market on December 6 and (3)a notice about gift memberships. Motion approved



The President referred to the Budget and Finance Committee a recommendation that the bequest to the GTHS by the will of Anita Killen be used to establish an endowment fund.

The President moved that Chuck Kalteyer be appointed a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. Motion approved

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The President reported that the Executive Committee with input from J. Germany will draft a job description for the Executive Director's position and during 2004 will conduct two performance reviews of J. Germany.

T. Smart presented five amendments of the Bylaws all distributed to the Board in August.

Article 5.2: delete "sixteen" and replace with "fifteen." W. Evans moved approval. Motion approved

Article 4.2: delete "Newsletter and" W. Evans moved approval. Motion approved

Article 5.6: replace "A majority of the Board of Directors" with "A majority of the elected members of the Board of Directors" H. Heinen moved approval. Motion approved

Article 5.8: replace first sentence with "Any vacancy occurring among the fifteen elected members of the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors" W. Evans moved approval. Motion approved

Article 7.2: replace first sentence with "The officers of the corporation shall be elected for one-year terms, January 1 to December 31. They shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its last meeting of the previous year." H. Heinen moved approval. Motion approved

#### **OLD GERMAN FREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT**

T. Boehm, Chair, and other Board members reported (1)the garage at the German Free School building needs immediate repairs (2)one bid for garage repairs totals \$4,600 (3)recent plumbing repairs totaled more than \$3,000 (4)recent plumbing repairs were paid from the Houston Foundation grant which the Board had designated in February 2003 for interior repairs of the GFS building (5)no funds remain in the Houston Foundation grant (6)the Executive Director will seek a new grant to be used for needed interior repairs (7)the Executive Director has obtained two of three bids required for a grant application (8)the two bids for interior repairs range from \$15,000 to \$20,000

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

J. Thompson, Chair, presented the committee's nominees for officers for the year 2004: There were no nominations from the floor and the nominees were elected:

President: Van Massirer

Vice President: Teddy Boehm

Treasurer: Wing Evans

Secretary: Terry Smart.

The President referred to the Membership Committee these issues: (1)should a family membership be established? (2)if yes, what should be the family membership dues? (3)if yes, how many journals should be sent to a family membership? (4)if yes, how should the membership application form indicate how many copies of the Journal a membership receives? (5)how should the present membership application form be revised? The President requested the committee's report for the February 2004 meeting

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Role of the Advisory Board: Members of the Advisory Board addressed the meeting with suggestions for increasing membership and obtaining grants to fund programs and renovations.

**Resignation of John Birklebach:** T. Boehm moved acceptance of John Briklebach's resignation from the Board of Directors. *Motion approved*

**2003 Operational Fund Drive:** Chuck Kalteyer, Chair, reported contributions to date of \$9,870 from 151 donors compared to \$15,300 from 240 donors at the same time last year.

**2003 Annual Meeting at New Braunfels:** Connie Krause, Chair, reported total expenses of \$5,656.40 and total revenues of \$9,624.80 for a net income of \$3,968.10

**Samstagschule:** H. Heinean reported the progress of the Saturday German school, and that it would continue through the Spring of 2004.

**Rental of German Free School:** H. Heinen reported that (1)the City of Austin has designated the German Free School building as a private residence (2)as a private residence, the building cannot be rented, but (3)free will donations may be made by groups using the facilities

The President requested Advisory Board member Rodney Koenig to investigate the liability issues involved if outside groups use the German Free School building or grounds, and to report to the February 2004 meeting of the Board.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Rates for ads in the Journal:** The President referred to the Budget and Finance Committee a recommendation that rates for advertising in the Journal be reconsidered because they may be too high.

**Journal publication costs:** The President requested Connie Krause and Julia Germany to review the costs of binding issues of the Journal and of using a tear-off second cover and send their recommendation to the Executive Committee.

**Ehrenstern Award:** W. Evans moved that future recipients of the Ehrenstern Award be notified of their awards in advance of the Annual Meeting by a letter from the President. *Motion approved*

**Christmas Market:** C. Krause, Chair, and other members of the Board reported plans for the 2003 Christmas Market and items acquired for sale.

**Grant Proposals:** Advisory Board member R. Koenig addressed the Board with suggestions for obtaining grants from Texas foundations. T. Smart moved that the Board authorize the Executive Director to purchase as soon as possible a copy of The Directory of Texas Foundations, as recommended by R. Koenig. *Motion approved*

The President directed J. Germany to obtain as soon as possible the standard form (guidelines) for grant proposals offered by R. Koenig.

**Site for 2004 Annual Meeting:** The President referred to the Activities Committee recommendations that (1)the 2004 Annual Meeting be held in September (2)the meeting be at Winedale/Round Top and (3)the meeting be limited to Friday and Saturday. The President requested a report at the Board's February meeting.

**Changes for Maifest:** H. Heinen, President of the German Free School Guild, requested suggestions for changes or improvements for the 2004 *Maisfest* be sent to him no later than January 7, 2004.

**Oktoberfest 2004:** The President referred to the Activities Committee a recommendation that another *Oktoberfest* be held in 2004 and connected if possible to the 2004 Annual Meeting.



Dates for Board meetings in 2004: By common consent, the quarterly meetings of the Board in 2004 were scheduled for February 21, May 8, August 14 and November 13.

Replacement of the Journal Editor: W. Evans and H. Heinen volunteered to take over the responsibility as editor for the Spring and Summer issues of the 2004 Journal.

Purchase of folding chairs: H. Heinen moved that the Board authorize Executive Director J. Germany to purchase twenty folding chairs for use in the German Free School building at a total cost not to exceed \$500. Motion approved

Friday office closing: By common consent, the Board sent to the Executive Director and President a recommendation that the GTHS office be closed Fridays and that the day be devoted to grant proposals.

Holiday observances for 2004: J. Feuge moved that the GTHS office be closed to observe the same holidays in 2004 as in 2003 (New Year's Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, two days for Thanksgiving and two days for Christmas). Motion approved

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Terry L. Smart, Secretary*

\*\*\*\*\*

**TREASURER'S REPORT (SUMMARY)  
NOVEMBER 15, 2003 MEETING  
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 2003**

Revenues	\$18,085.68
Expenditures	\$25,638.92
Total	- \$7,553.24

**TOTAL FOR YEAR TO OCTOBER 31, 2003**

Revenues	\$88,475.08 ( total budgeted for 2003 = \$87,080 )
Expenditures	\$102,306.17 ( total budgeted for 2003 = \$100,530 )
Total	- \$13,831.09

**RESERVES (investments) OCTOBER 31, 2003**

Total	\$264,882.69
-------	--------------

**BUDGET PROPOSED FOR 2004**

Revenues	\$129,950.00
Expenditures	\$129,950.00

*Report submitted by Ewing (Wing) Evans, Treasurer*

### **INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF THE 2004 ADVISORY BOARD**

The nine members of this year's Advisory Board are Sherryl Brown of Fredericksburg, Leatrice Haley of Inez, Charles Kalteyer of Austin, Rodney Koenig of Houston, Christine Mills of Pflugerville, Robert Neely of Bellville, Thomas Pawel of San Antonio, Velma Rice of League City and Helga von Schweinitz of Austin.

Thanks to all these nine for agreeing when called upon by the GHTS Board of Directors to serve on this year's Advisory Board. As a group, they represent a wealth of combined experience and service to our society that the Board of Directors can turn to for assistance.

To introduce Advisory Board members, each was asked to provide a short biographical sketch for the Journal. In this issue of the Journal, we begin with three members: Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, Christine Mills, and Velma Rice.

Subsequent issues of the Journal this year will introduce you to the remaining members of the Advisory Board.

--- Journal Editor

#### **CHARLES F. (CHUCK) KALTEYER OF AUSTIN**

Chuck was born and reared in San Antonio, the son of Walter W. and Louise Pressler Kalteyer. One great grandfather was William Luckenbach, the first postmaster of the Luckenbach community in Gillespie County. Another great grandfather was Charles W. Pressler, Chief Draftsman of the General Land Office and a founding director of the German Free School Association. He arrived in Austin in 1846 from Eislaben, Germany. Chuck's family emigrated from Nassau on the Lahn and from Pommern in Prussia.

Chuck graduated from Alamo Heights High School, attended San Antonio Junior College, and graduated from the University of Texas in 1945 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He received his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve at Notre Dame Midshipman School.

Chuck took early retirement from Gulf Oil Corporation / Chevron Production Department in Austin of 1985 after thirty-eight years of service. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas, a past director of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Professional Engineers, and the Permian Graduate Center. He is a current member of the Austin Symphony's Board of Directors, Knights of the Symphony, and the Austin Lyric Opera Guild's Board of Directors. Chuck is a past member of the German-Texan Heritage Society Board of Directors 1996-1997 and 1999-2002; a founding member of the German Free School Guild and its past President 1996-1997; an active member of the Guild's Board of Director since its origin; and he is in his tenth year as Coordinator of the GTHS's Annual Operational Fund Drive.

Chuck and his wife Alicean recently celebrated their 27<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He has three children and five grandchildren. Alicean has six children and fourteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

#### **CHRISTINE MILLS OF PFLUGERVILLE (THE RICHLAND COMMUNITY)**

After World War II, my parents lived in the Sudetenland. They chose to remain Germans, so immediately they had to leave the Sudetenland (which was given to Czechoslovakia in 1945) with only their clothes and eventually settled in Hessen, where I was born and grew up. In Germany, I worked for



an architect five years, doing drafting work, and worked two years as a computer operator for a company in Fulda.

I am a first generation immigrant to the U.S.A. I reached the U.S.A. in 1971 and settled in Texas in 1974. Two years ago, I retired after twenty-seven and a half years of service with the State of Texas. During the last five of these years, I worked as a System Support Specialist in the Information Resource Department of Texas Parks and Wildlife. I have had a BMW degree (Best Mom in the World) for over thirty years, given to me by my daughter.

Before coming to this country, I received only about 100 hours of instruction in English. The rest has been self-taught English from dictionaries, by mouth to mouth and ear to ear, from reading newspapers, and of course by going to work. The best English teachers are my two lovely children. They still correct me!

I chose God as my Father, Jesus as my Savior, and the Holy Spirit as my Helper, and I attend St. John's Lutheran Church here in the Richland community. I have shared by life with my husband Larry for over fourteen years. He also retired from Texas Parks and Wildlife, as a civil engineer. I am a member of the German-Texan Heritage Society, the Richland Community Club, the Blackland Prairie Preservation Association, and I am treasurer of the Austin Lacemakers. I have many hobbies and am a rare German -- I do not dance and I do not like beer!

I would like to see German Texans become more concerned about preserving our heritage within our society. Other ethnic groups outdo us when it comes to celebrating their heritage. Let us start with a friendly handshake, let our hearts warm up, let us drop the "hard-headed German" and switch from sauerkraut to sweet cream ! Let us become more like a Tex-German !

**VELMA RICE OF LEAGUE CITY**

Velma Rice was born and reared at Yoakum, Texas (in Lavaca County) and graduated from Yoakum High School. Her undergraduate degree in Music included a minor in German, and she completed a Masters Degree in Music Theory at the University of Houston. Velma and her husband Don live in League City (near Houston) and are active at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston. They have five sons and ten grandchildren.

Velma's German heritage is from her maternal immigrant ancestors who settled at Cat Spring, Texas (in Austin County). Her grandmother Schmidt spoke fluent German and completed her confirmation in the German language at the Lutheran Church in Moulton, Texas (in Lavaca County). Velma's mother also spoke German, but the family refused to speak German with the next generation. When asked why, there was no real explanation. But the answer can be surmised by reading *Undue Process: The Untold Story of America's German Alien Internees* by Arnold Krammer.

This German family heritage, the Lutheran Church, and Velma's interest in music, much of it from Germany, all fostered a desire to know more about Germany. Additionally, the family has a unique story in that the family in Germany and the family that emigrated to Texas have maintained contact since Civil War times. The Texas family sent care packages to the family that remained in Germany during World War II. Since 1989, the two families have visited each other, taking turns crossing the Atlantic and vacationing together. This is possible only because the younger generations in Germany learned to speak English. Realizing that much culture is lost when language is lost, Velma is interested in encouraging awareness so that our German language and heritage will be carried forth for and by the next generation.

\*\*\*\*\*

*"There shall be a non-voting Advisory Board of the German-Texan Heritage Society, composed of not more than twenty members with geographical representation from various regions of the state. Members shall be elected each year at the first annual meeting of the Board of Directors from nominations proposed by Board members. Advisory Board members shall be elected for one-year terms with no limitation on consecutive terms....Advisory Board members may be invited to meet with the Board and Committees on request..."*

**from GTHS Bylaws, Article 5.11**



## THE NEW BRAUNFELS WEIN & SAENGERFEST MAY 21 & 22, 2004

The New Braunfels Wein and Saengerfest is a special Heritage festival blended with old but familiar traditions in our rich **German Heritage, music, and wine making!** Held in charming Historic Downtown New Braunfels, near the banks of the Comal River, this festival has something for everyone! Wineries from throughout the state will host a **wine tasting event**. A variety of **musical entertainment** will be enjoyed throughout the New Braunfels Historic Downtown District, including an old fashioned street **dance** Saturday night! **The Art Show & Market** will feature talented artists from throughout the state and beyond, and is sure to suit the most discriminating art critics and enthusiasts! Special events include an **Ethnic Pet Parade**, the **Grape Bake**, a **Grape Stomp**, **Weinstein University** (Wine related informational seminars), **GO TEXAN** products, cheese making seminars, food booths, and cooking demonstrations. A Wein and Saengerfest Gala will be held Friday, May 21, which will benefit downtown Historic Preservation initiatives. Come experience the charm and heritage of Historic Downtown New Braunfels!

“In New Braunfels, Ist Das Leben Schön!”



**GO TEXAN.**  
Good people. Great products.

City of New Braunfels Main Street, 424 S. Castell Ave. New Braunfels, Texas 78130  
*Historic Preservation, Economic Redevelopment, Promotions, Heritage Festivals*



## GENEALOGY INQUIRIES

**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, email-erootrot@usa.net or 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. We reserve the right to edit queries.**

### **STEITL**

NitaUno@aol.com, seeks information on Steitle family who arrived in Texas about 1845.

Reply: I found listings for several Stehle/Stiehl/Steitle on 1850, 1860, 1880 & 1900 Texas censuses. Any first names to go with the last name?

### **ENGERT, JUNGST, RICHTER AND STOY**

Thomas.Porombka@web.de, is related to the Arhelger family who went to Fredericksburg and New Braunfels in 1845, as well as the Engert, Jungst (umlaut over "u"), Richter, and Stoy families who went different places in the USA. He would like to find some "cousins" in America. He is willing to share and exchange information on these families.

### **HOLZHAUSER, LIPP**

Deborah Longest, dllongest1@yahoo.com, seeking contacts in US and Germany to exchange info. on family of Christian Sigfried Holzhauser (umlaut over "a") and wife, Katharina Lipp, who came to Texas from Petersberg (near St. Goarhausen). They left Bremen in 1845, arrived Galveston, Jan., 1846 with 5 sons. She has found variations of spelling of name: Holzhauser, Holzheuser, Holzhaeuser. All seem to be related to the original family who first settled in Indianola, then Victoria, Cuero, Inez and Garcitas. Any information on descendants appreciated.

### **FROELICH, EISEMANN, HACKER**

Sherlene Hacker Mats, sherlene@netzero.net, researching Louise Froelich born 1881 Texas. Her parents were born Germany. When Louise became widowed, she married an Eisemann. The Froelichs and Eisemanns are in the 1879-1880 Houston City Directory. Need names of children by all marriages. One daughter, Louise married Arthur Hacker circa 1901-02. His father was Daniel Hacker who was born in Missouri about 1845. Anyone with inf. On these families please contact Sherlene.

### **WENDLAND, GROMATZKY, SCHRANK**

Rod Braun, rbchron@juno.com, has recently opened family mailing lists for Wendland (Wend(t)and(t) and Gromatzky (Gromacki) on rootsweb, to go with an earlier list for the Schranks. Anyone interested in these families is invited to join us and share their information (www.rootsweb.com). Most of these families settled first in Washington Co., TX from about 1860-1890, then moved on to Hamilton County, TX.

### **IKELS, DIETERT AND EWALD**

Cammie Talley, [cammie@austin.rr.com](mailto:cammie@austin.rr.com), is looking for help in locating information regarding the Ikels, Dietert and Ewald families. Cammie has "lots of information on the Schievelbein family, specifically, Milton H. Schievelbein. (No dates given in query)

### **HARSDORF**

Ron Hesdorff, [tylerfh2000@aol.com](mailto:tylerfh2000@aol.com), does anyone know of the origin of the 3 cities in Germany named Harsdorf? One is outside of Leipzig, the second is north of Nurnberg (umlaut over "u"), and the third is north of the Austrian border. Ron is interested in these cities because his name was originally spelled Harsdorf.

### **NITCHTE, MANIGK**

Virginia Garrison Jones, [VirGarJns@aol.com](mailto:VirGarJns@aol.com), looking for any information on Caroline Manigk Nitchte born 1863 Prussia, daughter of Wilhelm Carl Manigk born Nov. 25, 1827 Prussia. Caroline married Herman Nitchte Oct. 25, 1887 in Washington County, TX. Family information says that Caroline's children moved to the Houston area after they were grown.

### **GEBERT, WILKE, KIEKE, AND FREHIF**

Liz Hicks, 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030, [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net) would like to contact descendants of Mrs. Franziska Gebert born circa 1849 TX, who died Aug. 8, 1933 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Otto Wilke in Pflugerville, TX. She is buried in the Bartlett, TX cemetery. Descendants according to her obit were: Mrs. Emma Kieke of Colton (Travis County), Mrs. John Frehif of Bishop, TX (Nueces Co.), Adolph A. Gerbert of Gatesville, Rudolph Gerbert of Bartlett, Amos Gebert of Irwin, TX and Will Gebert of Gatesville (Coryell Co.). Franziska also had 77 grandchildren and 10 g. grandchildren. Franziska was the ½ sister to Matilda Haase Meissner of New Ulm, Austin County, Texas.

### **WERTZ**

C. Plemons, [Plemonsherbs@aol.com](mailto:Plemonsherbs@aol.com), searching for John Stanislaus Wertz who was shot and killed in Corsicana, TX about 1901. He had a son, Leo Joseph, born 1889 and other older children. He is a real mystery we can't find anything on him.

Reply: You need to find him on the 1900 census. Corsicana is in Navarro County. Think of any spelling variation(s) that might make a difference in how the name is soundexed for the 1900 census. You may have to "roll" the whole 1900 census of Navarro Co. to find him. Also, since he was shot, there should have been something in the newspaper (write local library there). A search of district court minutes for 1900-1902 may turn up trail or other pertinent information.

### **WINHEIM**

Sandra Marier, [snooks@scattercreek.com](mailto:snooks@scattercreek.com), how can I find date of death for Frederick Winheim who is listed as age 84 on the 1930 census of Cottle County.



Reply: There are indexes to Texas Deaths, 1903-1940, 1941-46, then by year. I would write the funeral home(s) in Paducah, Cottle County, TX as well as in nearby towns and ask if they handled his funeral. I would give them a time frame of 1930-1945 for his death since he was 84 in 1930. You want the ledger sheets of his funeral. Be sure to offer to pay for copies and postage and include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request. Write the library there to see if he had an obit, as folks who made it to a ripe usually were written up in the local newspaper.

### LOOKING FOR A U.S. CENSUS?

If you have started researching your family tree you may have found problems with U.S. Federal Censuses. Here is a listing of the destroyed or missing Federal Censuses 1790-1890.

Al - 1800, 1810, 1820	MO - 1810, 1820*
AR - 1810, 1820*	MS - 1800, 1810
DC - 1810	NJ - 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820
DE - 1790*	OH - 1800, 1800*
GA - 1790*, 1800, 1810	TN - 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820 inc., 1890*
KY - 1790*, 1800*	VA - 1790*, 1800*, 1810 inc.
IL - 1800, 1810 inc.	
IN - 1800, 1810	

Inc. - incomplete

\*Published census substitute from available tax lists

Most of the 1890 U.S. census burned in a fire in Washington, D.C. (only a few assorted enumeration districts survived).

Substitutes: States Censuses and Tax Lists.

Use Tax lists/rolls if you can't find a census. Texas has very good tax lists. You can track someone year by year by using tax rolls.

Your ancestor didn't own land? No problem, if he owned a horse, cow, hog, clock, he had to pay tax and will be listed. Texas tax rolls started with the date of the creation of the county. If the county was created in 1846, then you should be able to find tax rolls dating back to then. Texas County Tax rolls are available on inter-library loan from the Texas State Library.

Please remember to look for variations of spelling of surname when hunting for someone on the census, and know that it is very possible YOUR ancestor is listed on the census, but not the index to that particular census!

## **THE VOGEL BURIAL GROUND**

submitted by Vestine and Dolores (Grubb) Nesloney

This story begins in the year 1848 when Jahn Vogel and his wife, Mary Otilia left Prussia along with Jahn's two brothers Joseph and Edward Vogel and their wives began their journey to America. They set sail on the ship S. S. Gutterberg, and what a journey it was!

The three young men had just completed their military service in the Prussian Army, and had helped in the construction of the large sailboat. There were other immigrants in the group who were escaping from overpopulated rural Germany and were attracted to Texas by the promise of a new land where they could improve their economic position.

The journey at sea was to last for six months and midway the group ran out of food. After fashioning a treble hook and baiting it with bread, they caught a 300-pound fish, which helped them survive the remainder of their trip. They landed in Galveston on the Texas coast.

The Vogel brothers and their wives worked inward to Caldwell County, where they acquired farmland and reared their families. Jahn and Joseph served in the Civil War from 1863-1864. Descendants are still in Caldwell County today.

Jahn and Mary Otilia Vogel (Great Grandparents of Vestine Nesloney and Robert Renker) had eight children. Jahn and Mary along with two of their daughters, Anna Antoni, born 1859 and Minnie born 1861 are the main characters in this story.

In 1890 Anna Antoni Vogel married Wilhelm Esse Sr. (Grandparents of Vestine Nesloney) who was born in Hanover, Germany on June 1, 1860. Wilhelm came to America in February 1883 with only 17 cents in his pocket and settled at Lockhart, Texas in Caldwell County. They had five children, Henry, Dina, Emma, Minnie and Frieda. Frieda was about two months old when her mother Anna (Vogel) Esse died in 1897. Frieda Esse married Frank Nesloney. They were the parents of Vestine Nesloney.

In 1885 Minnie married John Theodore Renker in Caldwell County. They were the grandparents of Robert Renker. Vestine's mother Frieda always talked about her mother being buried somewhere in Caldwell County, but did not know the exact location.

In 1985 when Vestine was working on a construction project in Lockhart, he saw that there was a Vogel Furniture Store in Lockhart. He contacted someone in the furniture store and they gave him the name of an elderly lady who could possibly help with the information Vestine wanted. He was trying to find the location where his great-grandparents Jahn and Mary Vogel and his grandmother Anna Antoni (Vogel) Esse were buried. The lady told him that they were buried in the Westfork Cemetery, now known as the Vogel Burial Ground in Caldwell County. Jahn and Mary lived in the Westfork area of Caldwell County which is now the Luling oil field. In the afternoons after work, Vestine would drive around and ask people where the Westfork Cemetery was located. No one seemed to know the exact location. When Vestine retired in 1998 we started searching again. In the meantime we had gone to a Vogel Reunion in Lampasas, Texas and we were put in touch with Robert and Judith Renker. Robert is the grandson of Minnie (Vogel) Renker. He was searching for the graves of his great-grandparents Jahn and Mary Vogel.

In 2001 we went to another Vogel Reunion and again visited with Robert and Judith Renker. Judith and Robert did the research and found the location of the Vogel burial ground located on the Trammel Lease between Stairtown and Joliet, in Caldwell County. This is where Jahn and Mary Vogel and their daughter Anna Antoni Esse are buried. They were buried on private property, which at one time was owned by Jahn and Mary Vogel. Judith contacted the oil lease company and they gave Judith the name of the property owners who are Sandy and Cheryl Dozier from Lockhart. Judith contacted Sandy Dozier, who told Judith that he had been trying to find descendants of the people who were buried on his property. He had

been asking people around Lockhart, but no one knew anyone to contact. Sandy Dozier told Judith that the gravesite was overgrown with brush and that he would take us to the location and help clean the gravesite. So on March 8, 2003 Judith and Robert Renker and their daughter, Vestine and Dolores Nesloney along with Sandy and Cheryl Dozier and their four sons met in Lockhart.

They showed us where the graves were and the location where the Vogel home had been when the Vogel's lived on the property. The four children of Sandy and Cheryl Dozier were very interested in what we were doing. All of the boys like history their parents said.

We had taken chain saws, hoes, rakes and whatever we need to clean the graves. When we got to the location the site was overgrown with brush and a long spindly cactus, so we were very careful. The headstones were broken and were on the ground but the footstone markers were still there and in very good condition. Vestine and Robert put the headstones together as best they could.

Soon we are planning another trip to build a fence around the graves and to fix the headstones. Sandy said he would get some pipe for the fence and would weld the pipes for us.

After we got home Sandy Dozier contacted the Renkers and told them that the oil company would put crushed limestone on the graves for us.

We have had such a good experience in finding the graves and meeting the Dozier family. They have been so helpful and they have told us we could come to the graves anytime we wanted to. We thank the Dozier's for all the help they have given us. We have met some new friends. We also thank Judith and Robert Renker for all of the research that they have done on the Vogel Family.

One last thing, when we got to the gravesite it was in the middle of an oil patch, with oil wells too numerous to count and I made the comment that "whatever possessed Vestine's Grandfather William Esse to sell that property and buy property in Karnes county." William Esse had acquired the property that had belonged to his wife's parents Jahn and Mary Vogel.

Jahn Vogel 1824-1887

Mary Vogel 1834-1879

Anna Antoni (Vogel) Esse 1859-1897

## BOHLMAN FAMILY HISTORY

GTHS member Mona B. Wendtland of Shiner, Texas, last year wrote a family history entitled Bohlman Family History, and recently placed a copy in our society's library at Austin. Thank you, Ms Wendtland, for this addition to our growing genealogy collection.

Bohlman Family History is a 287 page book about one German-born clan that came to Texas in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, as Ms. Wendtland writes, "fell in love with it, and are still here five generations later." Her book includes a forty page translation of the family lineage together with accounts of important events in German history from 1603. Because Ms. Wendtland's great grandfather was an architect and builder, she says she wove her story around "four generations of men and their families who dedicated their lives to building the beautiful 'painted churches' of Fayette County as well as many prominent buildings in central Texas which are still standing."

In her book there is information about the history of Schulenburg and the area around Interstate Highway 10 and Highway 77. There also are many photos of family members and construction sites. She adds that the book "concludes with an inclusive synopsis of each family and a 2002 directory of family members."

For more information about this book or the Bohlman Family genealogy, contact Mona B. Wendtland, P.O. Box 186, Shiner, Texas 77984-0186.



**Genealogy Materials at Dallas Public Library**

The Dallas Public Library, Genealogy Section, has the 82-volume *Siebmacher Wappenbuch* Series, a collection of books on family and civic coats of arms for Germany and Central Europe. According to GTHS member and Dallas Library Associate Ed Boehringer, these books do not contain color plates, but certainly narrative descriptions, including an index in book form. All items in the Dallas Library are in the card catalog on-line. Just type in <http://dallaslibrary.org> and that should pull up the catalog.

Please feel free if you have any further questions to contact:

Ed Boehringer  
 Dallas Public Library  
 Library Associate  
 Genealogy Section  
[elboehr@dallaslibrary.org](mailto:elboehr@dallaslibrary.org)

**Kleberg and King Families  
 from San Antonio Express-News, October 19, 2003**

*Note: Kleberg County was named for Johann Kleberg, the father of Robert Justus Kleberg. Johann (known in Texas as Robert Justus Kleberg, Senior) was one of the early German settlers in Austin County. He fought in the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 and in later campaigns against hostile "Indian" tribes in DeWitt County. He farmed and ranched near Meyersville in the 1840s and served in DeWitt County as justice of the peace and judge. He died in 1888 and was buried near Cuero. --- JOURNAL EDITOR*

**Alice Gertrudis King**

She was the child who stayed home and ultimately helped keep the King Ranch together.

Alice Gertrudis King was born at the ranch April 29, 1862, youngest daughter of ranch founder Capt. Richard King and his wife, Henrietta.

Alice King often stepped in as hostess when her mother journeyed north to visit St. Louis, the home of two daughters who had married men the captain was less than fond of.

Capt. King died in 1885. A year later, Alice King married his attorney, Robert Justus Kleberg. One of their five children, Richard M. Kleberg, served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Another, Bob Kleberg Jr., inherited the reins of the ranch.



Henrietta King died in 1925, outliving all of her children except Alice. Alice's husband died in 1932. Two years later, the widow Kleberg and her children formed King Ranch Inc. to share property inherited from her mother and purchased from other relatives. It included most of the 825,000 acres now contained in the ranch's borders.

Leroy G. Denman Jr., who lawyered for the ranch for half a century, said his father helped Alice Kleberg set up the corporation that keeps the ranch intact.

As a boy, Denman often stayed at the ranch's main house while his father visited on business trips.

"You'd wake up in the middle of the night, a norther had come in, it was getting cold, and you'd find Mrs. Kleberg tucking you in with a blanket at 3 a.m.," he recalls. "She ran her house."

Alice Gertrudis King Kleberg died in 1944 at 82.

# Rural Cemeteries Of Gillespie County

Compiled and Published by  
Dr. Wilhelm Keidel Chapter  
Daughters of the Republic of Texas

The book, 8-1/2" x 11" spiral-bound, contains burial records of eighty-four (84) rural cemeteries, many of which are located on private property and are not readily available to the general public. German inscriptions have been translated into English. All of Gillespie County is not covered in this book; however, this will be a valuable genealogy tool for those who have roots in Gillespie County. Cost is \$15.95 each plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. The following form may be used for orders. Checks should be made payable to: **Dr. Wilhelm Keidel Chapter, D.R.T.**

---

## Rural Cemeteries of Gillespie County

Send order form to:  
Kay Daigle  
8007 FM 2093  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

No. of Copies: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Serbin, Texas

The Funeral Service  
of  
† Otille Marie Magdalena Prellop †

December 19, 2002

10:00 a.m.

Otille Prellop was born on April 8, 1910, at Serbin, Texas. She was called to her Savior's side and eternal home on Monday, December 16, 2002, at the age of 92 years.

Otille was the daughter of J.C. Schatte and Louise Umlang Schatte. She was born again into the Kingdom of God through Holy Baptism at her home on April 8, 1910, Pastor H.T. Kilian officiating. She confirmed her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior and the Lord of Life here at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin on March 25, 1923, under Pastor Hermann Schmidt. Her confirmation verse was Isaiah 41:10. Otille was an active and faithful member of this congregation throughout her life.

On January 17, 1932, Otille married Alfred Carl Prellop at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin with Rev. Hermann Schmidt officiating. Their union as husband and wife was blessed with four children, Evelyn, Alfred, Monroe and Delbert. Through their marriages her family came to include LeeRoye, Jeri and Mary Ann. Mrs. Prellop was a homemaker.

Otille was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband who died in 1985. She was also preceded in death by one brother Chris Schatte and one sister Dorothy Wieder.

Otille leaves to mourn her children and their spouses, Evelyn and LeeRoye Schuster of Houston, Alfred and Jeri Prellop of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Monroe Prellop of Houston and Delbert and Mary Ann Prellop of Giddings.

Left to mourn the passing of their grandmother are five grandchildren and their spouses: Brenda Kleidon of Three Rivers, Michigan, Christa and Jeff Utzinger of Round Rock, Joel and Perri Prellop of Birmingham, Alabama, Rebecca and Clay Robinson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Bruce Prellop of Giddings. Otille also leaves three great grandchildren: Briana and Kaylee Kleidon of Three Rivers, Michigan and Emma Utzinger of Round Rock.

Other mourners include four sisters and three brothers and their spouses, Lillian Wieder Oltmann of Giddings, Marie Fritsche of Houston, Elizabeth and Leonard Kappler of Giddings, Frances and Herman Gersch of Giddings, Henry and Hermine Schatte of Conroe, Louis and Thelma Schatte of Giddings, and Edwin and Elma Schatte of Houston. Mrs. Prellop is also survived by one brother in law and two sisters in law, Erwin and Dorine Prellop of Giddings, Hattie Prellop of Giddings and Hermine Moerbe of Austin. Mrs. Prellop is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

submitted by Monroe Prellop of Houston

Otille Prellop's wedding dress



1904 BLACK WEDDING DRESS

Thanks to KRTS 92.1 classical radio station, Mr. Monroe Prellop heard our commercial and brought in one of the most fascinating projects we've had. The 1904 wedding dress was remarkably preserved, along with the original photo of the bride and groom, and their marriage certificate. The black dress, a two piece suit, was designed to be worn with a bustle, and contained some intricate embroidery and beadwork. We heard several strange stories about black wedding dresses, but finally decided that women were married in their best dress, and in this case, it was black. Ruth spent many hours hand-stitching the dress to the khaki silk background. The dress was heavy and needed to be well secured. The moulding, an ornate black, 4" deep shadow box was complemented with a smaller version that we used around the photograph and a reduced color copy of the certificate. This magnificent heirloom, worn by his Grandmother, was a gift for his mother. Thanks, Monroe, for letting us be a part of this very special project

this story was printed by the Houston framing business that framed the black dress.



**GTHS RECEIVED THIS E-MAIL MESSAGE**

*Guten Tag ! Or as we say in Low German, "Goden Dag."*

*Some years ago I wrote a couple of articles regarding Low Germans in Texas. Now that I'm retired up here in Michigan, I'd like to spend some time researching Germans in Texas, as a follow-up to my second book, one I've just completed on Low Germans throughout the Midwest plus Texas and New York.*

*I've never been in Texas and hope to spend a month or two there. Is it possible you might know of a German-owned house or something reasonable where they'd like to rent out a room or two?*

*Danke Schön. Tschüss. Bob Stockman. bsman@iserv.net*

**A Letter: Dedication of Fredericksburg's Pioneer Memorial (Vereins Kirche) in 1935  
submitted by Hubert Heinen of Austin**

I ran across a faint copy of an elegantly written letter to the chair of the German Department in the 1930s that I thought would be of interest to our members. If it weren't so faint, a copy of the handwritten letter would be the best, since it is quite legible, but since that's not an option, I transcribed it. We might lead in with a suggestion that someone might like to submit an account of the festival that the letter refers to (drawn from newspaper accounts, perhaps, or from a festival brochure).

Fredericksburg, Tex.  
April 1, 1935  
Professor W. E. Metzenthin,  
Austin, Tex.  
Dear Professor:

The citizenship of our county have designated May the 11th and 12th for a celebration of the dedication of our Pioneer Memorial (an exact replica of the Vereins-Kirche of 1847).

They have appointed me chairman of the dedication committee and in that capacity I follow the instruction of a resolution of said committee to ask you to come to Fredericksburg on Saturday, May the 11th, and honor us by the delivery of an appropriate address in the English language. Ex-Senator Martin Faust of New Braunfels has been invited to deliver an address in German.

We thought it very proper to have a member of our University on our list of speakers, which consists of only three for the two days: Mr. Faust and yourself for Saturday and Mr. T. H. McGregor for Sunday afternoon.

I sincerely hope that you may be able to accept our invitation.

Let me invite you to my house and table on Saturday forenoon and lunch. Please honor us with the presence of Mrs. Metzenthin. If Professor & Mrs. Hollander could be your companions on the trip to Fredericksburg, Mrs. Koerner and I would be delighted to include them in this invitation.

After your address we will take "supper" (as we say here) at the place of the festival, and after that we could withdraw to my house again for a few hours of conversation.

I am awaiting your favorable reply by April 8th since I have to report on arrangements to the Central Committee on the following day.

I shall be glad to invite Professor & Mrs. Hollander by letter after I have received your reply and only if you wish me to do so.

Cordially yours,  
Arthur Koerner

October 21, 2003

Dear German-Texas Heritage Society:



SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE**

P.O. Box 12847  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(512) 463-7476  
FAX (512) 463-1104  
FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED:  
1-800-735-2988 (VOICE)  
1-800-735-2989 (TDD)  
[www.agr.state.tx.us](http://www.agr.state.tx.us)

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is seeking historic farms and ranches to honor in the Family Land Heritage Program. We are requesting your assistance in locating Texas families who have kept their farm or ranch in continuous agricultural production for 100, 150 or 200 years.

Since the Family Land Heritage Program started in 1974, TDA has recognized 3,773 farms and ranches in 220 counties for keeping their property in agricultural production down through the generations and for their contributions to the Texas agricultural industry.

**Eligibility criteria includes:**

- Owner(s) must reside in Texas and be able to trace the line of ownership from the first family member to own the land to the present, either through direct relatives, by marriage or adoption.
- The land must meet the old U.S. Census definition of a farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.
- The owner must work on the land or if they live off the land, they must be actively managing the everyday operation of the farm or ranch.
- If ALL the land has ever been rented to someone outside of the family, it will not qualify. If only a portion was leased, and as much as 10 acres retained in the family for agricultural production with sales of at least \$50 annually, it will qualify.
- Once a farm or ranch has been certified in the program, it will not qualify for another 100-year certificate even though the land may have changed hands. Farms or ranches will only be recognized again for 150 and-200 year milestones.

A ceremony is held each year to recognize the owners of the farms and ranches that are accepted into the Family Land Heritage Program. Those who qualify are presented a certificate of honor at the ceremony by Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. Families can also purchase Texas historic farm or ranch gate signs to display and there is also a bronze historic marker available for purchase. The farm or ranch's agricultural history is documented in the annual Family Land Heritage registry. There is no charge to apply for the program and there is no obligation to purchase historic signs and/or registry to qualify for the program.

Applications for the Family Land Heritage Program are available upon request or they are on the TDA website at [http://www.agr.state.tx.us/producer\\_info/flhp/com\\_flhp.htm](http://www.agr.state.tx.us/producer_info/flhp/com_flhp.htm). If you or any families would like more information, please contact me at (512) 463-2631 or [melissa.blair@agr.state.tx.us](mailto:melissa.blair@agr.state.tx.us). Applications are accepted each year and are due by November 15 each year.

We have had several requests from historical organizations and libraries wanting to purchase copies of the Family Land Heritage registries. I have enclosed an order form in case you or someone you know would like to order copies.

The Family Land Heritage Program looks forward to working with you to recognize the hardworking men and women of Texans who have passed their families farming and ranching heritage down through the generations.

Sincerely,

Melissa Burns-Blair  
Family Land Heritage Coordinator



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY ORDER FORM

Please Print or Type:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to order the Family Land Heritage Registry(ies) specified below. Please be a that 1974 to 1983 registries will be photocopies of the out-of-print books.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Extension</u>
1974	\$17.00	_____	_____
1975	\$16.00	_____	_____
1976	\$10.00	_____	_____
1977-78	\$10.00	_____	_____
1979	\$5.00	_____	_____
1980	\$9.00	_____	_____
1981	\$7.00	_____	_____
1982	\$7.00	_____	_____
1983	\$16.00	_____	_____
1984-1985	\$10.00	_____	_____
1986-1990	\$8.00	_____	_____
1991-1993	\$10.00	_____	_____
1994-1995	\$7.50	_____	_____
1996-1999	\$16.50	_____	_____
2000	\$9.50	_____	_____
2001	\$12.00	_____	_____
2002	\$14.50	_____	_____
Shipping/Handling	\$1.00	_____	_____
		Total \$	_____

**Would you like to be notified about future registries that are printed? Yes No**  
Please make check or money order payable to the Texas Department of Agriculture. TDA accept credit cards as a form of payment.

Mail this completed form and payment to:  
Texas Department of Agriculture  
Family Land Heritage Program  
P.O. Box 12847  
Austin, Texas 78711

Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipping. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Burns-Blair, Family Land Heritage Coordinator, at (512) 463-2631 or email melissa.blair@agr.state.tx.us.



# Rain doesn't dampen spirits at Altwein marker dedication

Rain and more rain didn't hinder the unveiling and dedication of the Altwein Cemetery Historical Marker.

Umbrellas and more umbrellas covered those in attendance. Undaunted were the members of the Guadalupe County Historical Commission, **John Gesick, Jesse Roy Hart, Kathy Hale, Rosie Ornelas, Deanie Klein Rittmann** and your columnist.

Members of the Altweins present were **Marilyn and Kermit Altwein** and their daughter **Susan** and husband **Bennie Thibodeaux** and their children **Cody** and **Nicole**.

Other descendants present were **Jimmy and Leola Wurzlow, Jerry Scheel** and daughter **Jerin; Dorothy Altwein; Kathy and Don Fischer; Cotham Altwein; Annette and Johnny Potts; Larry King** and daughter **Nicole** and granddaughter **Navi Jutta Altwein** and **Werner Altwein** from **Berlin, Germany** and **Rolf Altwein** and wife from **Florida**.



Out there on the Schumannsville Road stands the symbolic marker bearing the seal of Texas in honor of the historic Texas cemetery.

The welcome address was by **E.J. Hierholzer**. The program listed pastor **Richard Carse** as giving the invocation. A very great history of the Altwein family and their cemetery was presented by **Hierholzer**.

State Rep. **Edmund Kuempel** was guest speaker and gave the family flag that had been flown over the state capitol building in honor of the Altwein's special day in the unveiling of the state historical marker.

Following the unveiling, **Rolf Altwein** sang. Benediction was by pastor **Carse**.

**Connie Schneider Krause** discussed cemetery preservation in the vein of protecting our heritage.

Want to know about the Altwein Ranch, dating back to 1853? It is five miles south of New Braunfels and was founded by **JoHann Gotthulf Altwein** of Germany. The owners since 1982 are **Marilyn and Kermit Altwein** of Seguin.

Most everyone in this county know this family.

This is why. Read this Texas history so filled with pioneers who had foresight to make this area a strategically important part of agriculture. Now read carefully why this is a fact and appreciate their efforts.

These people weren't just anybody. They were somebody. **JoHann Gotthulf Altwein** was a builder of mills and a miller in Germany. He came to America in 1850 aboard the sailing ship **San Francisco** bringing his family and paying passage for two other families. Altwein family members who made that journey were **JoHann's** wife **Wilhelmine Quant** and their seven children **Augusta (Krams), Caroline (Kuetsch), Emilie (Hoffman), Otilie (Day), Edward Wilhelm** and **Gustav**. Another son, **Leopold**, died before the family left Germany.

**JoHann** bought 40 acres of land in 1853, later adding 724 more to his holdings. A school was built on **Gotthulf's** property in **Schumannsville**. Ya must know where **The Bandit Golf Course** is — so check out the area.

Originally the school was called **Altwein's School**, but it was later moved to **New Braunfels**, and the name was changed to **Unionweim School** with the last syllable kept in memory of **Gotthulf**.

Only four years after his arrival in Texas, **Gotthulf** died and possession of 150 acres of family land passed to his son, **Wilhelm**. **Wilhelm** received the original 40-acre homestead from his mother in 1868. The land was owned for 53 years by **Wilhelm** and his wife **Louise (Staats)** and they reared their five children there: **Emma (Borfield), Henry, Albert, Meta** and **Athur**.

**Arthur** acquired 14.165 acres of family land in 1907, later adding 53 acres.

The heritage land included among his family acreage was in the third generation owner's hands from 1907 until 1966, **Ida Stautzenberger** became his wife and they had three sons and five daughters.

Now follow these names, **Melvin, Kermit, Edwin** (died in infancy), **Melba (Scheel), Leola (Wurslow), Edna (Roemisch) Lorine (Reichert)** and **Ida King**.

In 1966, **Kermit Altwein**, great grandson of the found, acquired 100 acres, adding another 92.5 acres in 1970. He owns 139 acres which were part of the founder's holdings, including the 40-acre original homestead.

from the Seguin Gazette Enterprise, November 23, 2003  
submitted by Helga von Schweinitz and E.J. Hierholzer



How about that? And to think of the geographic importance and the strategic position of that acreage. Wow!

So the saga continues as Kermit's daughter Susan and her husband Bennie Thibodeaux live on the land and occupy a house built by her grandfather for his new bride in 1910. The house is a jewel, representing the true German architecture — perfectly renovated. The ranch produces cattle under direction of the current owner.

Just realize that farm is 200 years old. Susan and Bennie replaced the gingerbread woodwork on the vintage home, leveled it, reinforced it and updated the wiring and the plumbing. The original house featured a porch on each corner of the structure.

The couple restored them and built a new white picket fence. (*Seguin Gazette-Enterprise*, Oct. 27, 1982)

Also a quote, "Throughout the years, corn, cotton and feed products have been cultivated on the Altwein land. With 1,400 feet of Guadalupe River frontage, the acreage is ideal for-cattle."

Awesome I say!

"The family was invited to Austin for the recognition ceremony by Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown. Since the program began in 1974, the Department of Agriculture has registered 1,556 farms and ranches in Guadalupe County. Only 30 properties have received the honor."

To capsule the article in the *G-E*, read this to appreciate the family who kept a handle on heritage.

"An annual Family Land Heritage Registry, featuring a short history and family pictures of each farm are given to high school, college and public libraries throughout the state in counties which have honorees. They are useful to genealogists and historians."

Aren't ya proud of pioneer families like the Altweins? Respect and admire the foresight of the Guadalupeans. →

No siree, they aren't high rollers but solid people holding onto Texas land where the value is greater than gold.

Don't ya just love to know the Altweins? They knew God wasn't going to make any more green acres.

Include the Benno Heinemeyer Farm and family and the Adolph Lenz Farm and family.

Those farms were entered into the prestigious Family Land Heritage Registry at the same ceremony as the Altwein farm.

Check the Oct. 27, 1982 *Seguin Gazette-Enterprise!*



Jutta Altwein, E.J. Hlerholzer, Werner Altwein



E.J. Hlerholzer and State Rep. Edmund Kuempel

As a follow-up to an article in the GTHS Journal a few years ago, Jean Heide of San Antonio submitted the following, which is the text from a Texas Historical Commission marker erected in June 2003 at the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway of the Olympia Hill Golf Course at Universal City, Texas. The marker honors the Geier and Schmid families.

---

*Marker Title:* Site of Geier and Schmid Farm

*Address:* 12900 Mount Olympus

*City:* Universal City

*County:* Bexar

*Year*

*Marker* 2001

*Erected:*

*Designations:*

*Marker Location:* 12900 Mount Olympus

*Marker Text:* Site of Geier and Schmid Farm This site was once the farm of German immigrants Martin Schmid and Wilhelm Geier. Wilhelm, his wife, Theodora, and their daughter, Johanna, immigrated to Texas from Wolfenbuettel, arriving at the Port of Galveston in 1849. They moved inland and settled first in New Braunfels, where Johanna Geier married Martin Schmid, from the state of Wuerttemberg, in 1854. Martin, Johanna and her parents moved to the new community of Selma, then known as Cibolo, in 1855. They bought 127 acres of land and established a farm for each family. In 1869, Geier and Schmid agreed to split the land, each receiving a portion. Martin and Johanna Schmid reared four children in Selma: William, Sam, Sedonia Haile and Mary Elizabeth Wuest. Martin, a Civil War veteran who served under Capt. Theodore Podewils' 32nd Regiment of the Texas Cavalry, died in 1880 and was buried in this immediate area, thus establishing the Schmid family cemetery. Johanna remained on the farm until 1894, when she sold it and moved to San Antonio. She, along with her parents, two of her infant children, son William and daughter Sedonia, were buried in the family cemetery. All original fencing and tombstones have disappeared from the Schmid family cemetery, as they have from the Kincaid family cemetery, which lies 100 yards northwest. Kentucky native David Kincaid moved his family to this area and was the town blacksmith. His wife, Talitha; their daughters Esther Ada Kincaid Wallace and Josephine P. Kincaid; and Talitha's father, John Davis, are buried in the Kincaid cemetery. Their stories reflect the patterns of settlement and rural life in this part of Texas in the 19th century. (2001)



## ***A SOJOURN IN THE WACHAU REGION OF AUSTRIA***

***By Ron Hunka***

Now that I know something about the Wachau region of Austria, I wish I had spent more time there on my vacation. The Wachau is about an hour by car northwest of Vienna. It nestles along the shores of the Danube for less than twenty-five miles in the Austrian state or province of *Niederoesterreich*. Before the Habsburgs were the royal family of Austria, there were the Babenbergs. The Wachau was the heart of the Babenberg Austria. Many of the historical sites in the Wachau relate to the days of their dynasty.

The Babenbergs ruled Austria from 976 to 1246. The line passed out of existence with the death of the childless Friederich II. The family's Austrian territory consisted of today's Upper Austria (*Oberoesterreich*), Lower Austria (*Niederoesterreich*), Styria (*Steiermark*), and Carinthia (*Kaernten*). These four provinces make up about half of modern Austria, the eastern half.

The Wachau reminds me of the part of Germany on the *Rhein* between Ruedesheim and Koblenz because the Wachau has many small, picturesque, wine-producing towns where vineyards climb the steep banks along one of the great rivers of history which is navigated often today by sightseeing boats from which visitors can admire the beauty of the natural setting and the architectural glories of the Middle Ages.

My family and I stayed in Krems, a town with a thousand-year history. In the days of the Babenbergs, a royal mint was located there. In 1231, Krems was burned down by the army of a robber baron from Aggstein castle not far up the river. During the Thirty Years War in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Krems was occupied by the Swedish forces that, under the leadership of Gustavus Adolphus, brought the war home to Catholic Austria.

Today, Krems is the wine capital of the Wachau. It has its own wine college. It is interesting that despite the many cultural similarities of Germany and Austria the most predominant wine grapes in the two countries are largely different. The three most widely-grown wine grapes in Austria, all three of which are white, are *Gruener Veltliner*, which makes up 37% of Austria's total wine production, *Welschriesling* at 10%, and *Mueller-Thurgau* at about 8%. Only the latter is widely grown in Germany, where it is much more popular and accounts for more than 20% of the grapes in nine of the thirteen wine regions.

In part, to become familiar with some of the local wines, my family and I stayed at a *Weinberghof*, an inn in a vineyard, where the resident, owning family produces wine and provides accommodations for a small number of guests. Our inn was in Krems-Rehberg, which is a few miles north of the old part of Krems. The inn had three double rooms and one vacation apartment. Our rooms were less quaint than in some of the farmhouses where we normally stay and more tastefully decorated like good hotel rooms. Each of the rooms was named for a wine the family produced, and the wide entry hall had display cases with bottles of the family wines, as well. The property also included a *Heurige*

wine tavern, where newly made wine can be tried several times during the year. The family has a web page on which they state "wine is our life". All indications are that it is true.

In the evenings, my family and I played *Uno*, with a deck of cards we had brought from home, in the comfortable breakfast area and sampled the wines, such as *Gruener Veltliner* and *Gelber Muskateller*, from the refrigerator. Once or twice, other guests arrived or went out through the front door of the inn for the evening, but mostly we had the place to ourselves. October is part of the low tourist season for the Wachau. Our *Weinberghof* served as a good base from which to explore some of the towns and sites of the area. Although Krems lies at the far eastern end of the of the Wachau, roads along both banks of the Danube are easy pathways to the other towns of the relatively small region.

One of the most interesting parts of Krems is an active, blocks-long pedestrian zone that is the heart of the town. The cobble-stoned *Landstrasse*, with its appealing architecture from various epochs, is crowded with many types of business establishments, such as banks, travel agencies, hotels, restaurants, stationery stores, groceries, clothing stores, and bookstores.

Still in late October, on a side street, there was an open-air market, where vegetables, flowers, and some attractive Christmas wreaths were offered for sale. One casual restaurant, *Nordsee*, specialized in appetizing fish sandwiches that one could see in a display case from the outside. In one of the bookstores, I bought a calendar and a book with photos of the towns of the Wachau. My wife bought a map of the Austro-Hungarian Empire for her mother who was born in Yugoslavia .

A lot of the locals were out that morning, and the atmosphere of the pedestrian area was busy, but, at the same time, relaxed and friendly. In such places, the contrast between how daily life has evolved in the United States versus Austria and Germany is most obvious.

At the far end of the *Landstrasse* is an ancient gateway, the *Steiner Tor*, which leads to the adjacent town of Stein. The gateway is a landmark of Krems. There is also another nearby town oddly called *Und*. A local joke has it that "*Krems Und Stein sind drei Staedte*".

Across the river from Krems at the top of an extinct volcanic hill is one of Austria's great monasteries, and it is a grand sight when approached from the direction of the village of Furth bei Gottweig between the Danube and the great hill. There are many monasteries in Austria, where the term *Stift* is used in the singular. The setting of *Stift Gottweig* makes it visible for miles, and it offers a fine view of Krems and this part of the Danube valley. With its walls and four onion-domed, corner towers, it looks like a great fortress. It belongs to the Benedictine Order and dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Inside those walls is a large baroque church with twin clock towers and a pink exterior. The elaborate interior is rich with many ornate, golden highlights.

In another building, the tour, which winds along a central hallway provides narrative signs in German and photographs that trace the history of the monastery. At one point, there is a photo of the swastika flag flying above the monastery. One is reminded by this photo of the historical vicissitudes of a thousand years. Elsewhere, there is a museum with rooms large enough for paintings that I estimated to have dimensions of 20 by 30 feet. There are also great ceramic stoves on display that had been used to heat those rooms. Like the towns of the Wachau, the monastery produces its own wine, sold at an inexpensive price in the gift shop.

One morning we drove along the Gottweig side of the Danube toward Aggstein castle, which was where the robber baron that had burned Krems and Stein had lived. For some reason, there are more towns on the north bank of the river than the south, so there were not too many to pass through on our side. It was a foggy October morning, and we barely could make out Duernstein across the river as we stopped for a moment to take pictures. However, before we neared Aggstein, the weather started to clear, and the sun came out. After a short while, we saw the sign for the castle, turned off, and began the winding ascent up the steep hill at the top of which sits the castle ruin, the largest in Austria.

It was an unseasonably cold day. In fact, there was snow on the upper surfaces of the castle. Even so, some reconstruction activity was being carried out by a small crew. The first fortifications on this site were built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. We climbed up ladders, some of which were a little scary, to the various vantage points of the castle to see what kind of view the robber barons had had of the Danube below when they had plundered ships on the river. The day remained sunny, though cold, and one could see for miles along the river in the direction from which the ships would have approached bound for Vienna. One could also see the villages of Aggsbach Markt and Willendorf on the opposite bank, about 900 feet below.

I bought postcards and a small booklet about the history of the castle in German, French, and English. The dukes of Austria had had trouble with the robber barons of this castle in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1477, one of them finally decreed that no one could live in this castle again. It was left in the hands of a few caretakers. Today, there is a society in nearby Schoenbuehel that works to preserve Aggstein and Schoenbuehel castles.

After we had exhausted the viewing of the Danube from the castle, we took refuge from the cold in the interior of the castle. There were tables in a dining area, which had not been modernized, with rugged stone walls. There was an iron stove with a warm fire, and the room was quite cozy. My family had coffee and hot chocolate, and I tried another glass of *Gruener Veltliner*.

The friendly, older man who sold us the admission tickets also brought us our beverages, as there was not a big crowd on this cold day. We told him it was really cold weather for us here, and he replied that it was rather cold for the locals too, for this early in the year.



A few miles south beyond Aggstein is Melk. Of all the fine historical architecture in the Wachau, *Stift Melk* is probably the most splendid. Unlike Gottweig which is well above and set back from the Danube, this abbey sits near the river on a cliff plateau less than two hundred feet above. Its proximity to the river is such that by boat one gets a pleasing view of the three pale gold church towers rising above the surrounding buildings. In fact even, driving by on the opposite side on *Autobahn 1*, between Linz and Vienna, the view of the complex is a good one. Completely enclosed by a wall of buildings, the three towers of the ornate baroque church stand well above the complex. There are two towers on the front and a central tower, the tallest and dominant one, over the transept or part where the arms of the cross in the building layout intersect the main body of the church. The interior of the church is a dazzling display of golden Baroque ornament.

Melk like Gottweig belonged to the Benedictine order. Long before *Stift Melk* was built, the Romans had a fortress on this site. In 967, the Babenbergs built a residential castle atop the cliff plateau by the river where the complex stands today. Thus the town of Melk was Austria's first capital. Today, *Stift Melk* houses art treasures of gold and a library of 100,000 volumes. In more recent times, it was also the inspiration of a novel set in the Middle Ages, *In the Name of the Rose*, by Umberto Eco. Some will remember the movie version of the novel starring Sean Connery. The primary reason for the fine condition of the church and other buildings in the complex is that between 1987 and 1995 *Stift Melk* was completely renovated

The last place in the Wachau where we spent much time was Duernstein, probably the most well known town in the region due to the imprisonment of Richard the Lionhearted there in Kuenring castle at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The von Kuenrings were the leading family of robber barons in Duernstein and the Wachau. Therefore, Leopold V, the Babenberg duke, assigned Richard to them to be held for what eventually proved to be a ransom of about fifteen tons of silver. Aggstein castle, on the other side of the Danube, was also among their holdings. When two of the sons of this family alienated a later Babenberg duke, Friedrich II, with their frequent raiding of merchant ships on the Danube, they were captured, stripped of their property, and sent into exile.

The setting of Duernstein is without question a place of great natural appeal. The battered Kuenring castle sits on a cliff high above town, and the town below is dominated by the light blue tower of the church of Maria Himmelfahrt, said to be the most often photographed structure in the Wachau, as well as a symbol of the town and region as a whole. The tower is also sometimes referred to as the *Fingerzeig Gottes* or the sign from God.

One of the unique aspects of Duernstein, a relatively small town, is that the medieval part of it is closed to car traffic. This area has somewhat the appearance it had in the Middle Ages, ignoring modern intrusive elements such as some signs and ATM machines.

There is a great deal more to the Wachau than I have described, but these are the highpoints of a couple of day's exploration. Had I been more far-sighted in my planning, I might have been able to give a fuller account. However, for anyone who has ever heard the term, *Wachau*, and wondered what it meant or who may be planning a trip to Austria, hopefully you will find these impressions helpful.

Sources and Related Reading:

Baldini, Anna, ed. *Oesterreich*. Florenz: Casa Editrice Bonechi, 1997.

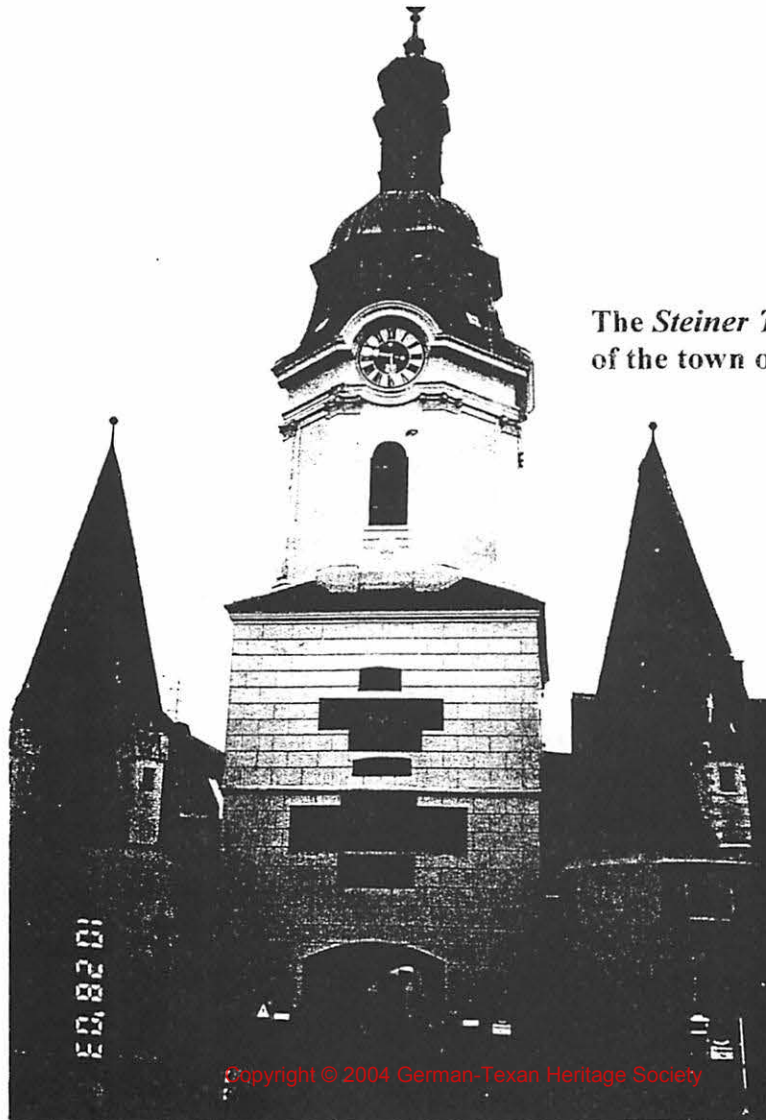
Blom, Philipp. *The Wines of Austria*. New York: Faber and Faber, Inc., 2000.

Bousfield, Jonathan, and Rob Humphreys. *The Rough Guide to Austria*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Penguin Books Ltd., 2001.

Budd, Jim, ed. *Great Wine Tours of the World*. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc., 2003.

Diel, Armin, and Joel Payne. *German Wine Guide*. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 1999.

Schweikhardt, Josef. *Wachau und der Nibelungengau*. Graz: Styria Medien AG.



The *Steiner Tor*, a landmark of the town of Kreims.

by Everett A. Fey of New Braunfels
------------------------------------

## A Spanish Mission...in New Braunfels...?

When our first settlers arrived in what is now New Braunfels in 1845, they encountered an area with only a few “already existing” place names. They followed the *Guadalupe River* from the coast to this area. They crossed the river at the *Camino Real* road and entered an area that Prince Solms first identified as *Comal Springs*, probably named after the *Comal River*. About a month later, Solms added a new name to the local map when he named the town “*Neu Braunfelz*”.

There was one more place-name in the local area...a name whose origin was unknown to our ancestors. This was a hill west of town with the name of *Mission Hill*. It would be a while until they learned of the events and significance of that place. Now, let us look at...the rest of the story!

By the 1740s, the Spanish Government had realized the importance of having a strong defense in East Texas to keep the French out of that area. They began to form several *missions* (structures and programs to christianize the Native Americans and to “civilize” them) and *presidios* (garrisons for the military personnel who provided protection).

Three of these missions eventually were located on the San Gabriel River. Because of certain events, the inhabitants of these missions were later moved to other missions, including a new one near the San Marcos River in 1755. Its name became *Misión San Francisco Xavier Horcasitas*. Later that year, a second mission was moved to the same location and it became *Misión Nuestra Señora de Candelaria* but it was soon dismantled.

Now entered a missionary named Fray Mariano. He had always been a leading proponent to establish a mission on the Guadalupe River and presented a formal petition to do so on June 25, 1756. Thus Diego Ramon, head of the San Marcos Presidio, inspected the area on July 15,



1756. He graphically described the area now known as Landa Park Springs and reported that irrigation was practical and that there existed fertile arable land and two good pastures and “abundant woods of sables, elms and oaks”.

A squabble ensued among the missionaries about the new area with policy concerns in dealing with different tribes, some of whom were “believers” and others who were “apostates”. Fray Mariano seems to have already moved to our local area by December of 1756 but more political problems and appeals followed. The Viceroy finally gave official recognition to our Guadalupe Mission on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1757!

Our mission was first known as *Misión San Francisco Xavier*. It had already been visited by several officials in January. The group found four Spanish families living in “*jacales*” in the area. A “*jacal*” was a quite primitive hut built by placing several poles in the ground and covering them with mud and clay. They also found 41 Indians living in the mission along with two priests.

The inspectors also interviewed the “governor” of the mission, a Mayeye Indian named Pablo. He reported he was happy with his life in the area, had sufficient water for irrigation and knew that many more Indians would come to join the mission.

Unfortunately, the life of our mission was short. Political decisions lead to the ill-fated attempt to establish a mission and presidio at the San Saba area. Resources from our mission were used, the inhabitants of “Mission Hill” were dispersed elsewhere. Unfortunately the “San Saba Mission” project, perhaps spurred on by the legend of the San Saba Silver Mines was also doomed from the start. By now the golden age of the history of the Mission Era in Texas was over.

**Everett A. Fey, SS Peter & Paul Archives**

**(A fuller and more detailed account of our Mission will appear in a future book on the SS Peter & Paul Church in New Braunfels, by Everett Fey)**



**CAN YOU COUNT THE STARS?**  
submitted by Frances Hartman of Yorktown

“Our recent discoveries on Mars led me to recollect a German song I learned some 75 years ago from my Sunday School teacher, Miss Natalia Jacob, at St. John Lutheran Church, Meyersville, Texas, and from my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Albert (Lena) Duderstadt. In the late evenings seated with Grandma in the swing on her front porch, with stars twinkling above, she would sing ‘Weisst du, wie viel Sterne Stehen?’ It is presented here in German and in English.”

**No. 134. Weisst du, wie viel Sterne stehen.** Volltonweise.

1. Weisst du, wie viel Ster - ne ste - hen an dem blau - en Himmelzelt? }  
Weisst du, wie viel Wol - fen ge - hen weit - hin ü - ber al - le Welt? } Gott, der Herr, hat sie ge -  
zäh - let, daß ihm auch nicht ei - nes feh - let an der gan - zen, großen Zahl, an der gan - zen, großen Zahl.

2. Weisst du, wie viel Mücklein spielen  
In der heißen Sonnengluth?  
Wie viel Fischlein auch sich fühlen  
In der hellen Wasserfluth?  
Gott, der Herr, rief sie mit Namen,  
Daß sie all' in's Leben kamen,  
Daß sie nun so fröhlich sind,  
Daß sie nun so fröhlich sind.

3. Weisst du, wie viel Kinder frühe  
Steh'n aus ihren Bettlein auf,  
Daß sie ohne Sorg' und Mühe  
Fröhlich sind im Tageslauf?  
Gott im Himmel hat an allen  
Seine Luft, sein Wohlgefallen,  
Kennt auch dich und hat dich lieb,  
Kennt auch dich und hat dich lieb.

W. Sey.

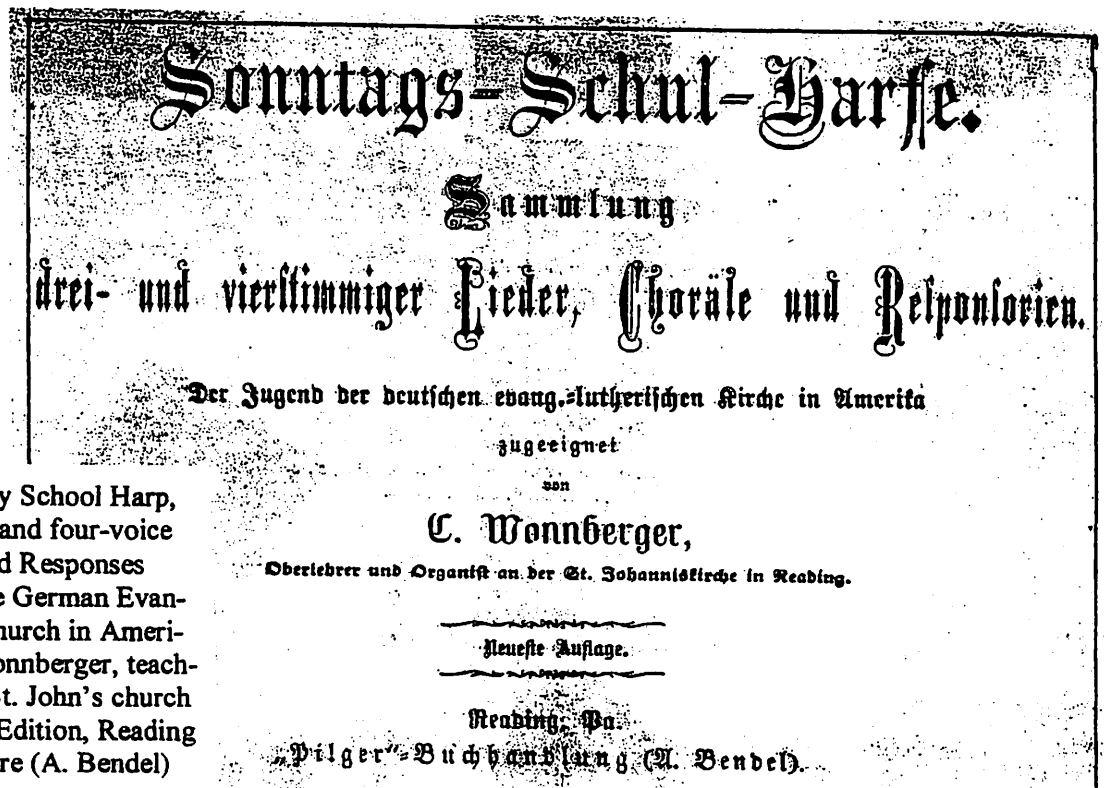
**Do You Know How Many Stars?**  
(a “loose” translation by Frances Hartmann)

1. Do you know how many stars  
Shine in the heavens unfurled?  
Do you know how many clouds  
Drift away o'er all the world?  
God in heaven has them booked  
That not one is overlooked  
In his endless firmament,  
In his endless firmament !

2. Do you know how many tiny flies  
Swarm in the sunshine's glow?  
How many minnows keep cool  
In the clear river's flow?  
God, the Lord, called them by name  
And to full life they all came  
And now live on joyfully  
And now live on joyfully !

3. Do you know how many children  
Rise early for a day to play?  
And that without fear or worry  
They joyfully go on their way.  
God in them has great pleasure  
And each one He does treasure,  
Knows you well and loves you too,  
Knows you well and loves you too !

Music and verses for the hymn on the previous page are from *Sonntags-Schul-Harfe*.



**translation:** Sunday School Harp, Collection of three and four-voice Songs, Chorales and Responses for the Youth of the German Evangelical-Lutheran Church in America, edited by C. Wonnberger, teacher and organist of St. John's church in Reading, Latest Edition, Reading Pa., Pilger Bookstore (A. Bendel)

The words of the song, "Can You Count the Stars?," were written by Johann Wilhelm Hey, born 1789 in Germany near the city of Gotha. He was the son of a Lutheran pastor. After study at the Universities of Jena and Göttingen, he earned a *licentiate* (degree) in theology and in 1818 became pastor of a church near Gotha. In 1827, he was appointed court preacher at Gotha, where his sermons attracted large audiences. Hey wrote poetry, most of it for children. In 1833, he published a book, *Fabeln für Kinder* (Tales for Children), and he wrote many hymns, among them "Can You Count the Stars?" Hey died in 1854 at Ichtershausen in Germany.

**"The Bible tells more about stars in Psalm 19:1 (Revised Standard Version) — "The Heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."**

**In German that is "Die Himmel erzaelen die Ehre Gottes, und die Feste verkuendigt seiner Haende Werke."**



## A German-American Ode to Early Ford Cars

This poem was written by an unknown author and published in the Seguin *Zeitung* on August 23, 1923. I have made some minor changes to the English text in order to preserve the rhyme of the original. The German-Texans often used poetry to advertise everything from beer to kidney pills.

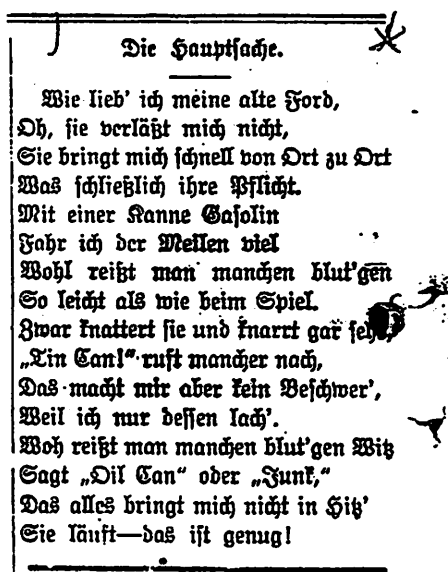
Submitted and translated by Brian J. Boeck

### Die Hauptsache

Wie lieb' ich meine alte Ford  
 Oh, sie verläßt mich nicht,  
 Sie bringt mich schnell von Ort zu Ort  
 Was schließlich ihre Pflicht.  
 Mit einer Kanne Gasolin  
 Fahr ich der Meilen viel  
 Wohl reißt man manchen blut'gen  
 So leicht als wie beim Spiel.  
 Zwar knattert sie und knarrt gar sehr,  
 "Tin Can!" ruft mancher nach,  
 Das macht mir aber kein Beschwer',  
 Weil ich nur dessen lach'.  
 Wohl reißt man manchen blut'gen Witz  
 Sagt "Oil Can" oder "Junk,"  
 Das alles bringt mich nicht in Hitz'  
 Sie läuft - das ist genug!

### The Main Thing

How I love my old Ford car  
 It does not ever fail me,  
 It takes me swiftly near and far  
 Performing a sacred duty.  
 A can of gas'line is just right  
 To log miles and more of the same  
 [Passing all within sight]  
 As light as if a game.  
 True it rattles and creaks its share  
 And many shout "tin can!" at it,  
 But I neither worry nor care  
 And just laugh at such dim wit.  
 Passers-by respect it not  
 Saying "oil can," "junk" and other stuff,  
 But my temper gauge never gets hot  
 'cause it runs and that's enough.



**HERBSTTAG (AUTUMN DAY)**

by Rainer Maria Rilke

Gilbert J. Jordan made this translation of Rilke's poem many years ago. This appeared in the Fall issue of the G.T.H.S. Newsletter in 1982 on page 13 (Volume IV, Number 3).

Herr: es ist Zeit. Der Sommer war sehr gross.  
Lag deinen Schatten an die Sonnenuhren,  
und auf den Fluren lass die Winde los.

Lord, it is time. The summer was aglow.  
On all the sundials lay your growing shadows,  
and on the meadows let the northwinds blow.

Befiehl den letzten Früchten voll zu sein;  
gib ihnen noch zwei südlichere Tage,  
dränge sie zur Vollendung hin und jage  
die letzte Süsse in den schweren Wein.

Command the final fruits to fill in well;  
grant them another day of southern glow,  
urge them to be complete, and then let flow  
the final sweetness in the grapes to swell.

Wer jetzt kein Haus hat, baut sich keines mehr.  
Wer jetzt allein ist, wird es lange bleiben,  
wird wachen, lesen, lange Briefe schreiben  
und wird in den Alleen hin und her  
unruhig wandern, wenn die Blätter treiben.

Who has no house, will never build one now.  
Who now is all alone, will be alone forever,  
will watch and read and write long letters ever,  
will wander to and fro with troubled brow---  
and restlessly --- when leaves fall as they sever.

\*\*\*\*\*

**on the following eight pages....**



**“GERMAN IS THE HATEFUL LANGUAGE OF OUR HATEFUL ENEMY”**  
a World War I (1918) pamphlet

submitted by Brian J. Boeck of Marion

Mr. Boeck submitted this pamphlet from World War I with this explanation.

“The following pamphlet was published by the Goliad Advance-Guard in September 1918 and is a good example of the vehement anti-German sentiments that emerged during World War I. The Councils of Defense mentioned in the text were created at the national, state, and local levels to promote patriotism, suppress German culture, and monitor the activities of German-Americans suspected of disloyalty or sedition. The pamphlet also reproduces articles from the paper attacking individuals who defended the German language and culture in the dark summer of 1918. Only when all such publications have been collected and analyzed will it be possible to better understand the trials and tribulations that the German-Texans suffered during that period.”



# GERMAN IS THE HATEFUL LANGUAGE OF OUR HATEFUL ENEMY "DEUTSCHLAND UBER ALLES" IS CANNED!

## "WHERE IS THE GERMAN FATHERLAND? AS FAR AS THE GERMAN TONGUE IS SPOKEN AND GERMAN PRAYER IS SAID."

The above heading is an exact translation of the opening of the German National Hymn, the infamous Deutschland Uber Alles. It may be a lie like many things put out by Germany, but the Germans believe it, and there is some foundation for their faith.

I wish every citizen of Victoria County could read two recent publications. One of these is a pamphlet, issued under the auspices of the United States Government. It is known as "Number Twenty-One," and is entitled "The Tentacles of the German Octopus in America." The second publication is one that appeared in the May number of the "Forum," and is entitled "Our Danger: Tomorrow's German-Americans." The limits of a newspaper article precludes an attempt to state the substances of either of these publications. They stress the one central idea of all recent German

counteres of DeWitt, Colorado, Caldwell and probably other counties in Texas. DeWitt County had granted this petition, and the other counties had rejected the same. The Victoria Council by a vote of twelve to one, rejected this particular petition.

The attention of the citizens of Victoria County is, therefore, invited to these two things.

First: The address published by this council, which can be easily found in the Advocate of some two weeks ago.

Second: The language, purport and subjects of this particular petition which this council saw fit to reject.

At the request of a number of members of this council, and as chairman of its publicity committee, I am going to indicate some of the reasons that influenced us in rejecting this petition, and I ask that these reasons be considered by the citizenship of Victoria County, with the language of this petition before them.

First: This is the only petition that has come before this council on this subject. Therefore, appar-

plaged with a great deal of language about patriotism and loyalty, but just take the butter and the honey out of this "Ground Two" and see what we have left. We find left only a statement that the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran church has fifty-one sons in the United States Army, and the Council of Defense "does not dare deny these fifty-one soldiers the privilege of having their fathers and mothers preached to in German." This council thinks this a calumny on fifty-one of our Victoria boys. We know no difference between the fifty-one sons of the Lutheran Church and the hundreds of sons of other churches, constituting over eight hundred soldiers from Victoria. The council isn't going to deny anything that is right to any American soldier, whether he be a son of the Lutheran Church or not, but it likewise is not going to confer any special privilege upon or play any favorites among the boys of Victoria County and a covert threat does not sit well with this council that it does not "dare to deny" the use of the German language to the parents of fifty-one American sol-



writers and philosophers, namely that the German tongue must be perpetuated in all countries so that there may arise thereon the structure of Pan-Germanism with its hideous gargoyles of dual allegiance and hyphenated citizenship. Of course, the object of Pan-Germanism is the undisguised one of merely subjugating the earth and making all the peoples thereof serfs of Germany.

Do you know that several months after America had declared war on Germany, there were hundreds of public schools in Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin and other states, which were conducting their entire exercises in German, and at which schools the morning exercises were usually begun by the singing of the infamous hymn above quoted from? This was the poisoning of the minds of hundreds of thousands of American children. As an illustration nearer home.

As a witness myself, I can state that a number of years ago, I had occasion to examine the municipal records of a town not one hundred miles from Victoria, and I then discovered that the entire records of that municipality, for its ENTIRE EXISTENCE, had been kept in the German language and this was only one of quite a num-

ber. Victoria County stating the views of the Council of Defense as to the use of the German tongue. This address was in most courteous language, and, in substance, took the following position: That a state of war always calls for self-sacrifice and its attendant virtue, self-denial. That many people in our community have the habit and custom of speaking German. That almost every American family, in Victoria and elsewhere, has some of its own flesh and blood in the fighting line, facing such things as poison gas, shrapnel and other bric-a-brac of hell, "Made in Germany." That the German language, of course, has a similar trade mark. That it would be a gracious act of self-denial and practical demonstration of patriotism, for people, who had formed this habit of speaking German, to cease such habit. The address closed with the following words: "Our sons are in the trenches. Will you deny them this?"

At the last meeting of the Council of Defense of Victoria County, there was presented to this council a petition of this Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, which petition is printed in full in this issue of the Advocate. A similar petition, with different petitioners, was presented to the Councils of Defense of the

entirely, there is no complaint as regards the spirit of its address anywhere save in one particular organization.

Second: If the previous address of the council and the petition are read together, no one can escape the conclusion that this petition was framed and designated to answer the address of the council, and to protest against it.

Third: It is plainly stated in "Ground One" of this petition, that if the German language is suddenly suspended, "a sympathy will be created for it." Our council wants to know who are the people that will conceive this sudden sympathy for the German language. Also, if such people do conceive this sudden sympathy for anything German, will they not immediately manifest a corresponding lack of sympathy for something American? If there are any people in Victoria County today that are going to conceive, suddenly or gradually, any sympathy for anything German, language or otherwise, the quicker they are smoked out of their holes the better it will be for the public welfare. Therefore, we do not think that "Ground One" states any reason whatsoever.

Fourth: "Ground Two" is even more objectionable. It is camou-

diers.

This council is supposed to be a body organized by the citizenship of the county for the purpose of conserving the resources of Victoria County, and keeping alive the homesteads of American patriotism. The use of the German tongue is not necessary for the one, and is calculated, more than anything we know of, to put out the other.

Did the readers ever consider what thought really was? It is nothing but the FRAMING OF WORDS by the brain, though those words are unspoken. It is a doubtful psychological question in the writers mind whether any brain can think good, honest, United States patriotism in German words, but there can be no question that the best vehicle with which to express good, honest United States thoughts is the language of the United States itself.

"Ground Three" of this petition actually charges that the reason why the astounding condition prevails that there are twenty-six old people, members of this church, who cannot speak the language of this country, is due in great measure to the fact, "that business men catered to them in the German language, and even in public schools German was taught." "Ground

German was taught." "Ground

The Plots of Zimmermann to Turn Texas Over to Mexico was in the German Language.



# The Order to Rape Belgium Was Issued in the German Language.

three, then asks: Why then should they learn another language when they could get along with the one they knew? Is it not utter nonsense to attempt to lay at the door of the Merchants of Victoria the shameful neglect of these people in failing to learn the language of their own country, and is not the very fact that the language was spoken in the stores and taught in the schools, an eloquent demonstration that both of these things should stop and the SUDDENER, the better.

As to these twenty-six members who cannot understand an English sermon, the writer asks these questions:

Name each one of these members and name when he came to America and how long has he lived here?

Did each such person come to this country to remain a German or to become an American?

Who kept these people from reading, speaking or talking English, and who kept them from attending a church where the English language was preached, prayed or spoken?

How many of these twenty-six have been forced, under the laws of the United States, to register as alien enemies, and file their photographs and thumb prints with the United States authorities, and name each one so photographed and stumped.

which state that "the hardships of the exclusive use of the English language are apparent." Again we ask that the citizen be named who is of the opinion that it is a hardship that he or she be required to speak the language of their country, and not the language of their enemies' country in a time of desperate and bloody war.

But the most conclusive answer of all to this petition is the one now stated. Just reverse conditions and geographical environments. Let us imagine a petition of an American church, signed by its pastor and two of its members, handed to any German organization in Germany, asking that the church be permitted to preach English sermons to twenty-six aged people, members of that church and citizens of Germany, who could not speak or understand German, and actually stating in this petition that if this request was not granted, a sympathy would be created for the English language, and the sons of this American church, soldiers of the German army, would be offended, etc. As soon as the hilarity died down, there would be a first class hanging, and TWENTY-NINE would be the exact number hung, the three askers and the twenty-six askees.

Our country does not follow the German methods. All of us over

answer is easy. If any one lives as old as Methuselah and travels further than the Wandering Jew, he never will see bona fide Americanism garbed in German work. Isn't the problem about the same in Texas as in Iowa?

The Council of Defense stated in its original article of organization, that "It knew no race and no creed, but that it would not permit Germanism on the part of any persons." It further declared that "Americanism was a matter of soul, not of racial lines." The council has not changed these articles of its faith, and it proposes to hew to these lines, regardless of who is hit by the chips. It does not believe that any American citizen should ask of this council the privilege of holding services in the language of the enemy's country, nor such an enemy!

The council further believes in the absolute loyalty and good faith of vast body of the citizenship of Victoria county, and thinks racial lines cut little figure in such loyalty. It is just as proud of "the fifty-one boys" from Victoria County in uniform, as it is of any other fifty-one Victoria boys, in similar uniform, and no prouder. All these boys merely did their duty, though it is conceded that duty is the sublimest thing that can be done by any man.

Our state has seen the damage of the German language, and for many years we have had a statute prohibiting the record of any instrument save one in the English language, and the last Legislature took a much belated action in prohibiting the teaching of German in our primary schools.

We can have no "Bits of German in America. Inches soon become ell's and bits bushels. The Stars and Stripes will show but faintly upon a background of German prayers or German sermons. ALL OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN in this country know this and, regardless of racial lines, each is zealously claiming the right to serve the United States and why not? Each son and daughter of our own motherland is equally as dear in her sight. The trouble lies chiefly among those of the aged, who have kept their bodies in America, and their heart and hopes in Germany, who have been poisoned with such treasonable publications as the "Vaterland," who have spoken the German tongue in their households, and cradled their American children with songs of Triumphant Germany. Verily trouble lies where the German Tongue is spoken and German Prayer is said.

If we could spotlight this entire episode, and see in the contracted



persons and their prayer for religious worship in their native tongue, and could exclude in the outer darkness all else, even such things, as the tens of thousands of likely petitioners with similar plea, the great tidal wave of Pan-Germanism threatening to engulf the world, in a second deluge, this time of blood and not mere water, the shameful lessons of Pan-Germanism as written and taught by its Satanic Advocates, and demonstrated by German Troopers, its devotees, and, above all, could we so exclude and forget the sacrifice our own soldiers are now offering, then we could grant this petition. We cannot so contract our vision. Pan-Germanism is a world force and in both structure and shadow is present in our land. From turret to foundation stone, the structure is of German clay cemented with German tongue. Diverse tongues destroyed the Tower of Babel, but one tongue has built and preserves the Tower of Pan-Germanism. The building permit, however, for this unrighteous structure, and its maintenance, repair and alteration, was filched from the careless generosity of the American people, and we think the time has come to cancel such permit, and for good cause. It is true this particular Victoria incident is but one brick in the building, and one brick may appear of little consequence, but suppose every one of the tens of thousands of such communities as Victoria, each preserves its one particular brick, when will the building fall? Nations, peopled with a multitude of tongues, are either despotic, or No Man's Land. THERE IS NO GENTLE, HONEST AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD, WHERE THE

that there is a lesson that a few yet in Victoria County must learn, and this lesson is a plain one, if the heart is right. The lesson is: That we are fighting Germany, German soldiers, German methods, German ideas and everything conceivable German, and there is no compromise in us, and we have just begun to fight. That America has already changed the goose step of German soldiers to the Goose bumps, and we are going to continue the transformation process to all Germans at heart, whether they are in America, or in Germany. That between the United States on one side and Germany, on the other, there is an ever widening Gulf of blood, in which now lie some twenty thousand dead and maimed American boys, and in which there may lie hundreds of thousands of the same kind. Before this war is over, there will be hardly an American household that is not saddened by the loss of some near kinsman, if not of their own very flesh and blood. This gulf between America and Germany is too wide ever to be bridged again, AND NO HANDS WILL EVER BE CLASPED ACROSS IT. DURING THIS WAR AND AFTER THIS WAR, THERE WILL BE NO MORE TALK OF THE "OLD COUNTRY."

ross prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Even Christ's wondrous prayer, how very is not broad enough to embrace or forgive Germany and German soldiers, because they know exactly what they do, and not only know it, but they vain-gloriously boast of it. If the German language is disgraced and humiliated, and frankly, I think it is, its deplorable status cannot be laid at the door of the "merchants of Victoria" or the public school teachers, but the corpse lies at the door of the German people themselves. In last Saturday's New York Times there is an article by Lafayette Young, president of the Iowa Council of Defense. He claims the fight in Iowa is not to make Germans Americans, but to keep Americans from being made Germans. He says the foes of his council are three, German churches, German schools and German newspapers. He says the plea of these churches always is "that there are a few 'old people' who cannot understand English." He says the German text book is usually a panegyric on the Hohenzollern family. He asks if "anyone ever saw a real red hot patriotic American sentiment in a newspaper published in the German language?" The

How long has it been since someone in America has dared to say that in this country there could be a language learned in this country and enjoyed its freedom, doubtless of publishers and printers' hospitality? How many of them are poorer in worldly goods than when they came to America, and how many are now willing to quit claim to the United States what they have made in the United States and go back to the German language and a German country? Furthermore, it is stated in this petition, that for the past four years this church has conducted most of its services in English. What did I do for the previous thirty odd years of its existence? Is it not as much responsible for these benighted persons as the "merchants of Victoria" or the public school teachers? It is a fact, and the present pastor of this church has so admitted, that an American soldier was buried by this pastor at Victoria, Texas, and the funeral rites were conducted in German, and a German sermon was preached over his body. Do the people of Victoria county approve of this as a question of propriety? There are also expressions in "Ground Four" of this petition,

LOYAL AMERICANS WILL NOT SPEAK THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.



# The Order to Sink the Passenger Ship Lusitania Was in the German Language.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE STOPS AT THE FRONT GATE.

Also we have before our eyes the vision of some wounded American soldier, one of our own Victoria boys, returning from France, and dropping in at one of these German services in his own town. After what he has seen, with misted eyes, after what he has heard from pallid lips, after what he has suffered with smiling face, after what he has lost, with unshaken nerve, WHAT WILL HE THINK OF A GERMAN SERMON "AS A REST CURE" at home? In his bitterness he may even think the bitterest of all thoughts, "WHAT'S THE USE?"

We predict that Councils of Defense, who approve, by their action of the German tongue, anywhere or any time, will have short shifts when our boys come home again.

This home coming day is going to be the White Stone Day of America. Why not put our houses in order now? Can we explain to the dead that we intended to stop everything German, after the war?

WHY NOT KEEP THE FAITH NOW AND SUDDENLY AND THEN FORWARD, AND THEN FORWARD, AND A DAY.

Our council is not going to be misunderstood about this matter. We know no racial lines. Distinction of blood are absurd, since in only twelve generations each of us have some eight thousand ancestors. We will stake our lives on the utter faith and loyalty of countless thousands of American soldiers and citizens, of immediate German blood. The most useful American we have today, barring only the president, is of both German blood and name, Charles Schwab. We care nothing for ped-igrees. It is the German mind,

not come sixty-one years ago?" WAKE UP. This letter was written when this church was sixty-one years old. It was written, not at Bingen on the Rhine in Germany but in Victoria, Texas, on the Guadalupe, in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, September 18, 1913. Why the utter supreme gall of this sort of thing. The Victoria County Council of

Defense is not going to give any German Privileges to American Citizens.

And "Mister Professors," this council has its compass set on George Washington and it will not shift it, even to Martin Luther. V. B. PROCTOR, Chairman Publicity Committee, Victoria Council of Defense.

## "WOULD RATHER DIE TONIGHT, RATHER BE SHOT TONIGHT, THAN BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO TALK TO MY MOTHER IN GERMAN."

### SO SAYS COUNTY TREASURER EMIL BERGMANN OF GOLIAD COUNTY, AT A MEETING OF GOLIAD COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

At a meeting of Goliad County Council of Defense Tuesday night, the vigilance committee called upon Judge Pope, chairman of the County Council of Defense, for a discussion of the methods to be employed in suppressing the use of the German language in this community. The inquiry was occasioned, it is stated, by the fact that just recently in Goliad when an individual was requested to refrain from using the German language in a business house the individual stepped out on the sidewalk and said, "I would like to see you keep me from talking German but here."

Judge Pope then stated the attitude of the Council of Defense. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that as high evidence of patriotism and love of those principles of freedom for which our sons are dying on the battlefields of Europe, we, the Council of Defense of Goliad County, call upon all loyal Americans, particularly those of German descent, residing in Goliad County, to abandon and abstain from the use of the German language in private conversation, in business dealings, in sermons and public addresses.

THE GOLIAD COUNTY COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.

In discussing this resolution ad-

security of our American government, did not go unchallenged. Mr. Bergmann was asked how long his mother had resided in America. He replied for fifty years. He was asked how many children had she raised, to manhood and womanhood. He replied fifteen. And then the fireworks turned loose. I can not attempt to report the expressions of the many different individuals in the audience who were inspired to a more pronounced and outspoken antagonism to the use of the German language, but every speaker, and they were many, from Judge Burns as presiding officer, District Judge John M. Green of Spero, who was an invited speaker of the afternoon, to the various citizens in the audience, joined in unmistakable expression of their conviction that the use of the German language in public places must be stopped, and of their further conviction that those who persist in speaking German in their homes and in private places manifest just to that extent an unwillingness to give America a whole hearted and unreserved support in the fight against the Kaiser, and gave their neighbors and friends just cause for questioning their loyalty to our country. Judge Green said the fact that one lived in America for fifty years, had reared a family of fifteen children under the protection of the Stars and Stripes, and yet persisted in speaking German and claimed an inability to speak the English language, gave evidence of the fact that during all these fifty years, the mind and heart of such person had remained steadfast in allegiance to Germany, and had deliberately refused to absorb the spirit and high purposes of the great American republic under which she lived, and under which she and hers have enjoyed a



which she and hers have enjoyed a prosperity, a liberty, and a freedom from the yoke of militarism she could not have enjoyed had she remained in Germany. Judge Green also said a man who urged filial devotion to a mother of fifty years residence in America, and who still claims to be unable to speak the English language, was presenting a very lame excuse, indeed, for opposing the efforts of our people to suppress the use of German language, and that his conduct might be construed as giving aid and comfort to the enemy, which is treason.

In reporting at length and in some detail this incident of the meeting of the Goliad Community Council, I am not actuated by a desire to bring upon Mr. Bergmann or his aged mother one unnecessary pang of suffering, but I am prompted by a sense of duty that justifies the use of the names of the principals in this incident the better to point the moral. We have esteemed Mr. Bergmann as, in many respects, a good citizen. He is a kindly neighbor and friend. He has purchased Liberty Bonds, War Saving Stamps, and has aided in Red Cross work. So have hundreds of other citizens of German blood who for their protection and self interest give outward acquiescence in the war we are waging against the German Kaiser and German Kultur, but who in some cases secretly and at heart are German reservists. I do not say Mr. Bergmann is a German reservist; he has every reason not to be. Nor do I say Mr. Bergmann is altogether without affection and loyalty to America. Surely there is every reason why he should be loyal to America. But I do say he is utter-

ressed to the people, Judge Pope stated no weapon was necessary in dealing with loyal citizens, who, he said, would gladly refrain from the use of the German language as a patriotic duty, and as a small indication of their desire to give assistance and aid to our boys who are fighting the German Kaiser, the German army and the German propaganda laden language, in France. Public opinion would have to be relied upon to deal with and suppress those in Goliad County who persist in a manifestation of disloyalty by the use of the German language. Following Judge Pope, the discussion became general; there appearing practically a unanimous agreement that the use of the German language should be suppressed in this community.

At this juncture, a motion was made that the Goliad Community Council of Defense go on record as petitioning the next Legislature to pass such laws as may be required to suppress the use of the German language in public places in Texas. Then came the denouncement of the evening. Arose one Emil Bergmann, who has been for 30 years county treasurer of Goliad County, and for as many years regarded as the directing influence of German thought and activity in Goliad County, who with visible emotion, declared, "I would rather die, rather be shot tonight, than be deprived of the right to talk to my mother in the German language." This flagrant disregard and defiance of the spirit and purpose of the address issue by our county Council of Defense by a citizen, born in America of German parentage, who had been singularly honored by our people, and who had grown prosperous through the generosity of our people and the protection and

lude of the County Council of Defense which, he said, had issued an address to the people of Goliad County, in line with an address issued by the State Council of Defense, calling upon all people as a patriotic duty to refrain from the use of the German language, the address being as follows, as printed in this paper in its issue of August 1st:

WHEREAS, the United States of America is at war with Germany; WHEREAS, it is of the greatest importance that there be unity of thought and action by the people of the United States in the prosecution of the war; and WHEREAS, it is recognized that a unity of language amongst our people is one of the best means of bringing about such unity of thought and action; and WHEREAS, it is a recognized fact that the German language has been used in spreading dangerous propaganda in other allied nations and in our midst, as seen in the downfall of Russia and the near collapse of Italy; and,

WHEREAS, in view of the fact that the German language, the language of our enemy, has been found is now being used to thwart the purpose of this nation in the prosecution of this war in defense of human liberty, no patriotic citizen of German descent will object to the self-denial involved in the discontinuance of the further use of the German language; and, WHEREAS, the National and State Councils of Defense have strongly urged the discontinuance of the use of the German language and that the English language be used as the means of communications in speaking and print:

The German heart, and the German tongue, of which we disapprove. There is no existence a letter, written of course, in German, by this very church, Mr. E. F. Wm. Stelhorn, dated September 18th, 1913. It is signed officially by the then pastor and seven trustees of the church. Two of these very signers subsequently signed the original petition set out in Chapter Two. This letter is most edifying in the main it embodies complaint of an Ohio Synod which was evidently properly trying to get even with Victoria church. It contains many strictures upon Reverend, then student, Paul Ebert, subsequently and until quite recently pastor of the English Lutheran Church at Victoria. Mr. Ebert's character and reputation, in Victoria, are amply able to take care of themselves. This Council of Defense endorses Mr. Ebert as a proven loyal American, a Christian gentleman and a most admirable citizen. With this comment we can dismiss the Ohio, and Mr. Ebert, phases of this remarkable letter.

There is one portion of this letter as to ANY use of English, which we will quote, in correct translation:

"You further remark: You have waited for years for our parish to begin English. We needed no English and need none as yet today in our parish. All of us can still understand German. Is it not wholly absurd to preach English to German people? What would Master Luther say to that, Master Professor? Is it not true? What would you answer him? Now you wish to come and act as our Goliadian. That can never be. Why did you

# Disloyal Citizens Will Be Punished if They Do Speak the German Language.



# The Order to Murder Red Cross Nurses and Wounded Soldiers in the German Language

ly without excuse in opposing the suppression of the German language, and if his opposition to the suppression of the German language is an evidence of any thing it is an evidence of a lack of loyalty to America, and a secret bond-  
 age to the Kaiser. And the fact that he is a prominent and influential citizen makes a public discussion of his case a duty.

Let us analyze the case. His mother has resided here a half century nearly the span of an average life, and has raised here a family of fifteen. Of that fifteen children there are several boys, all grown and some of them I understand still unmarried. Not one is in the service fighting for Uncle Sam against the Kaiser. Nor have I been able to ascertain that a single grandson of this fifty year resident of America is enlisted under the colors of Uncle Sam. Emil Bergmann has two sons, both in the first draft, and both given deferred classification because they are married. Both are engaged at clerks in Emil Bergmann's large and prosperous merchant establishment. So far as I have been able to ascertain, and I have made inquiries today, not one lineal drop of blood of this German woman who has resided in America for fifty years is represented in the forces now in France or in training in America, in this war against the fatherland. So what has she given America in exchange for the fifty years of secure and profitable enjoyment in this land of the free and of the brave? Do you say they fifteen children? Is that not piling up the debt of gratitude she should feel toward this country, unless indeed, she raised these fifteen children merely as so many

we find her most influential son undertaking to oppose in Goliad County the suppression of the German language.

So, we find this fifty year German resident of Goliad county absolutely without a claim upon our government or on our people for special privileges. What if she does suffer a little inconvenience in not being permitted to speak the German language? What is a little inconvenience like that compared with the suffering of the hundreds of mothers of Goliad County whose sons are now in France, offering their lives hourly in bayonet charges "over the top" and in hand grenades those murderous German soldiers out of the trenches and dugouts? What sacrifice does Emil Bergmann or his mother make in denying themselves the use of the German language compared with that made by these boys, many of whom shall not return to us? Absurdity of absurdities! Mr. Bergmann, let me tell you, if your dear old mother can not speak the English language it were high time you, her arm and support as her son, were teaching her a little English. And if you and she have neglected that privilege until now Father Time has called, the hour of her rest from mental labor, we suggest that you take from her hand the German Newspaper which she has so religiously read all these fifty years, and in its place give her a small American flag, and patiently and with filial love teach her the symbolism of the Red, and the White, and the Blue, to the end that before her soul shall seek refuge in the beyond she shall have become freed of the bondage of a hateful and infamous German Kultur, and shall have seen something

The case of Mr. Bergmann and his mother is typical, and on thoughtful consideration the citizenship of Goliad County can see, from an analysis of this case, how little excuse there is for any one to ask the privilege of the continued use of the German language. And those who are informed of the terrible atrocities committed by Germany in Belgium and France can not but pause to consider how different would have been the treatment of this case had Mr. Bergmann been an American citizen with the audacity to arise in a public meeting in Germany, or in Belgium after that country had been over run, and had offered objection to the methods employed by the German government in fighting America. Had Mr. Bergmann been such an American citizen, even pleading devotion to his mother and his mother would both have been taken out and shot. Mr. Bergmann knows he lives in a civilized country, where our patience is long suffering. But Mr. Bergmann, and other citizens of German blood in Goliad County who are inclined to trifle with the American citizenship during this war, would well beware!

There are means at hand to punish and promptly punish a citizen who manifests a disloyal attitude in any particular. Disloyalty of any brand or stripe, can and will be punished. Let that statement sink deep in every one. This resident who persists in thinking "Deutschland Uber Alles" or "Fatherland" stuff will come to very great sorrow. Public opinion is a very powerful

doing so places himself in the attitude of giving aid and comfort to the enemy, and the courts might hold him or her answerable to the law for treasonable conduct.

The fight against the Kaiser will not be completed even when our boys invade the streets of Berlin. Our boys over there will do a good job. But there will still remain, I fear, something for us to do on Goliad soil. German Kultur is deep rooted right here. Shall we wait until our soldier boys whip hell out of the Kaiser in Berlin and return home before we tackle the job here in Goliad County? I believe not. There is manhood sufficient unto the task remaining in us who stay at home to make a clean-up of Germanism in Goliad County, to the end that our soldier boys when they come back will not find provocations to pitch a few hand grenades in enemy nests in this county.

That is the present task of the citizenship of Goliad County. Attend your Community Councils, and be positive in the type of Americanism exalted there. And, without being fair and just. Point no finger of suspicion toward a citizen merely because he is of German parentage. That in itself is not an evidence of his lack of loyalty. The majority of these people of German blood in Goliad County, I believe, are loyal and true to America. On the other hand there are some who are not loyal and should be shot. But it is not for us to shoot them. The task of the Community Councils, in part, is to be vigilant in the detection and reporting of disloyalty, leaving to the proper governmental authorities the



...men, every one, and if she did  
...of the glory of the Lord in a new  
...ception of National Life planned  
...along the lines of our American  
...government, of freedom and justice,  
...and of mercy and of compassion.

...weapon, and it strikes in many  
...forms. And he who willfully  
...persists in speaking the Ger-  
...man language when requested  
...by recognized authority to stop

...methods and the manner of punish-  
...ment.  
J. A. WHITE, Chairman, Pub-  
...licity Committee, Goliad Coun-  
...ty Council of Defense.

Since the above report of the Bergmann incident was prepared, it has become known, through testimony of reputable citizens of Goliad, that Mrs. Bergmann can talk and carry on conversation in English. This makes the offense of Emil Bergmann all the greater. In the test, when Emil Bergmann has been requested to choose between Americanism and Germanism, Emil Bergmann cast his lot on the side of Germanism. No citizen of Goliad County will be permitted to defy recognized authority in our fight against the Kaiser at home, while our soldier boys are fighting the Kaiser across the seas.

Apr 15, 1918  
6. A. G

Published and Distributed by Order of  
**The Goliad County Council of Defense**

**HARRISON & McCULLOCH STAGE STOP, SELMA, TEXAS 1850 - 1854**

The Winter, 2003 edition of The Journal, contained an article entitled "Harrison & Brown Stage Stop, Selma, Texas 1850 -1854." At the time of the submission of the article to the Texan-German Heritage Society, no connection had been made by the author between John S. Harrison, William McCulloch and the "Brown" referred to in Harrison's newspaper ad in the Western Texan dated December 6, 1849. New information has recently been found that now clarifies which "Brown" was their partner in the segment of their stage route that ran from Indianola to Gonzales, Texas before 1850. As their partnership with Brown pertained only to their Routes 6154 and 6155, John S. Harrison and his brother-in-law, William McCulloch (not McCullough as seen in some records)<sup>1</sup> were the only partners in their Route 6285 that ran through Selma, Texas:

Mail was carried on the early stage lines as the result of contracts with the United States Post Office. These mail routes were given "Star Route" numbers. Harrison and McCulloch, had two star 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.<sup>2</sup> The "Karte des Staates Texas" map printed in Berlin, Germany in 1851 for the protection of German immigrants from Wiesbaden immigrating to Texas shows the old Post Road from Indianola to New Braunfels on up past Fredericksburg -- the old Post Road that Harrison & McCulloch used as part of their Routes 6154 and 6155 to transport passengers and

---

<sup>1</sup> Present day descendants use the McCulloch spelling; from family records provided by Joseph McCright Hill.

<sup>2</sup> National Archives Star Routes, Vol. 66, No. 6154 and 6155; Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, 1850 – 1851, Monday, Dec. 16, 1850, S. Bill 176, p. 57; Journal of the House of Representatives, 1851 –1852, H.R. No. 135, p. 75.



mail. Language printed on the map states: "Texas, Karte des Staates nach den zu Washington im Septbr. 1850 regulirten und durch die Texanische legislatur zu Austin bestätigten neuen grenzen," which literally translates to: "Texas, the Map of State after that to Washington in September 1850 regulated and through the Texas legislature to Austin confirming new borders."<sup>3</sup> A better explanation of the translation is that this was a map printed in Berlin, Germany in 1851 to assist travelers leaving Wiesbaden and immigrating to Texas. This map showed the new borders for the State of Texas that had been regulated and passed through the Texas legislature in Austin. The map was written in German and showed points of interest to the German immigrant including the road they would be traveling from Indianola inland to New Braunfels. The map contains a note written in German printed along the length of the section from New Braunfels to Indianola: "Post Road von New Braunfels nach Indianola 36 Stunden," which means it was a 36-hour trip from Indianola to New Braunfels.

(Note: The Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States, First Session of the 31<sup>st</sup> Congress at Washington, D.C., December 3, 1849 reflects that: "By Mr. Durkee: The petition of Messrs. Harrison and McCulloch, praying compensation for mail service on routes Nos. 6154 and 6155, in the State of Texas"; and then again at the Second Session of the 31<sup>st</sup> on December 2, 1850, "By Mr. Howard: The petition of John S. Harrison and William H. McCullough [sic], of the State of Texas, praying for additional compensation for carrying the mail from La Vaca to New Braumfels [sic], in said State," clearly denotes that

---

<sup>3</sup> "Kartes des Staates Texas," printed in Berlin, Germany 1851, GLO Map No. 2123, Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

the brothers-in-law were in business together and were seeking payment from the United States government for their Routes 6154 and 6155.)<sup>4</sup>

From the following information, it appears that John S. Harrison was also a hotelkeeper in Victoria, Texas from which he ran his stage office.

In an article entitled "Vignettes of Old Victoria" written by Sidney R. Weisiger in *The Victoria Advocate* newspaper, dated Sunday, May 17, 1970, he references the Victoria Hotel in Victoria, Texas as being operated by a "Mr. Harrison" about 1847. The hotel was located at Bridge and Forrest Streets, which later was the first site of the Trinity Episcopal Church. Mr. Weisiger further elaborated in his article that the hotel was well known on the coast of Texas and was recommended as a stopping place for German settlers passing through Victoria in the 1840's. In connection with the hotel was a tavern or barrel house on the west side of the building. James A. Robinson became the owner and in 1849 sold to George Wright who a short time later sold to David Sutherland of Bexar Co for \$1,500. He states that from an itemized account of the furnishings, the hotel was rather small. Mr. Weisiger's handwritten notes housed at the Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria Library in Victoria, Texas reflect -- "in 1847 stageline of Wm R McCullough & Jas H Harrison operated out of Victoria Hotel on Lot 1 Blk 100."<sup>5</sup> Harrison's Victoria Hotel was mentioned by Viktor Bracht in his book Texas in 1848 on Page 203 as being 11 miles from Indian Point on the "Route to the Interior" that he recommended as "resting and

---

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Viktor Bracht, Texas in 1848, Translated from the German by Charles Frank Schmidt, German-Texas Heritage Society, Manchaca, Texas Reprinted in 1991, p. 203.



camping places for immigrants who intend to make the trip into the interior with their own vehicles."<sup>6</sup>

In the Victoria newspaper, Texian Advocate, an advertisement by John S. Harrison on May 4, 1848 for the "Victoria Hotel and General Stage Office" confirms his ownership and reads as follows:

THE subscriber, having taken charge of and put in excellent order the Hotel formerly kept by Mr. James Wright in Victoria, is fully prepared to accommodate the traveling public, and the citizens of town and country with boarding and lodging, in a style equal to the best Hotels of the country. His terms too shall be quite low.

His stable will be well provided with corn and fodder, and kept by careful and attentive ostlers.

He is one of the proprietors of the San Antonio and Port Lavaca Stage Line, and any facilities he can render travelers and others he will most cheerfully give.

JOHN S. HARRISON.

May 4, 1848

A year later for the same route from San Antonio to Port Lavaca in a newspaper ad in the Western Texas, dated December 6, 1849, from Gonzales, Texas, John S. Harrison runs his advertisement with the name "Harrison & Brown."<sup>7</sup> From information obtained from the Pacific Book Auction Galleries' website, at their Sale #161, Thursday, May 28, 1998, Item 418, this auction company that deals with rare books and original historical documents was auctioning off a:

"Holograph [handwritten] document, an unsigned fair copy, being the Memorandum of a contract between John S. Harrison and C. S. Brown, dissolving their mail stage business which ran between Port Lovaca and

<sup>6</sup> Sidney R. Weisiger, "Vignettes of Old Victoria," *The Victoria Advocate*, Sunday, May 17, 1970; handwritten notes of Sidney R. Weisiger, Sidney R. Weisiger Collection, Victoria Regional History Center, University of Houston-Victoria Library, Victoria, Texas.

<sup>7</sup> Robert H. Thonhoff, San Antonio Stage Lines 1847 – 1881, monograph for *Southwestern Studies*, Figure 4.

New Braunfels in Texas. An interesting document giving the particulars of the separation, and incorporating the means of indemnifying the partners for unpaid partnership debts, one means of which was the transfer 'to the said Brown a deed of trust on a negro woman named Judi and her child three years old named Tennessee ....' Two pages on both sides of a single sheet, dated the County of Gonzales, State of Texas, 17 June 1850."<sup>8</sup>

The *original* of this memorandum was sold through an auction house out of Houston, Texas (Sam Houston Philatelics) in April 2003 Lot #379 for \$100.00 and a copy was obtained by this author from the purchasing collector. The "Memorandum of a Contract" states as follows:

The State of Texas     §  
County of Gonzales    §

Memorandum of a contract made and Entered into this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June A. D. 1850 between John S. Harrison of the first part and C. S. Brown of the Second part witnesseth: that whereas the said parties have lately been associated as partners in conducting a line of mail stages from Port Lavaca to New Braunfels in this State and have this day dissolved this connection by mutual consent; therefore, it is agreed between the parties Harrison and Brown, First that the said Harrison shall obtain and deliver up to the Said Brown a note made by the Said Brown for five hundred Dollars and payable to William H. McCulloch and the said Harrison does hereby agree to give the Said Brown a Deed of Trust on a negro woman named Judi and her child three years old named Tennessee, which deed of trust is made to Edward Malloch for the purpose of indemnifying the Said Brown for any of the partnership debts that he the Said Brown may hereafter have to pay and the Said Brown does hereby relinquish and convey to the Said Harrison all of his right title and interest in and to all the stages, and stage horses on said line, but reserving to himself the right to make a choice of one Horse on the open part of the line and out of the eight horses heretofore belonging to the said Brown. And the Said Harrison does hereby agree to pay and discharge all the partnership debts which the Said Brown was in any manner liable for under his partnership agreement, and in the event that the said Brown is compelled to pay any of the partnership debts by law, then the Said Harrison does hereby bind himself to pay the Said Brown all moneys so paid out by him. In consideration of the premises the Said Brown agrees to loose upon his contract made with Harrison and McCulloch the sum of Sixteen hundred dollars which amount is to include all the money that the Said Brown has paid out by way of discharging the debts of the firm of Harrison and McCulloch and also of the firm of Harrison & Brown and including also all money paid by the Said Brown in purchasing stages, horses, etc.

---

<sup>8</sup> Pacific Book Auction (PBA) Galleries Sale 161, May 28, 1998, Item 418. 133 Kearny Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108.



Signed in duplicate this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1850. John S. Harrison,  
C. S. Brown.

Caleb S. Brown was actually a physician in Gonzales, Texas and at one point a business partner with another prominent Gonzales resident, Charles Braches. Brown is listed as a participant at the Battle of Plum Creek in 1840 and served as a surgeon at the Battle of Salado in 1842 where he was "sent to the field of the Dawson massacre to look for wounded survivors."<sup>9</sup> He served as a councilman and then the mayor of Gonzales in 1841.<sup>10</sup> He is also listed in Gammel's Laws of Texas as one of the original Board members of the Guadalupe College in Gonzales, Texas which was incorporated on January 30, 1841.<sup>11</sup> "Dr. Brown's" in Gonzales is also listed on Page 203 of Viktor Bracht's Texas in 1848 as one of the better places to stay on his "Route to the Interior."<sup>12</sup>

Charles Braches' home, which has Sam Houston's Oak Tree standing in its front yard, is still standing in Gonzales, Texas and is a popular tourist attraction for history buffs visiting the area. A book by Janice Woods Windle and movie entitled "True Women" feature Charles Braches as the husband of Sarah Ashby McClure, one of the heroines of the book and movie.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Sons of DeWitt Colony Texas 1997 – 2002 website;  
<http://www.tamu.edu/ccbn/dewitt/innerresidents.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> The Laws of Texas—Volume 2(1839-1846)—Fifth Congress, Republic of Texas, 1840-41, p. 136.

<sup>12</sup> Viktor Bracht, Texas in 1848, Translated from the German by Charles Frank Schmidt, German-Texas Heritage Society, Manchaca, Texas Reprinted in 1991, p. 203.

<sup>13</sup> Hallmark Entertainment Distribution, LLC 2003 website ([www.hallmarkent.com](http://www.hallmarkent.com)); "History buffs, ghost chasers will like Gonzales," Peggy Whisler, San Antonio Express News, May 11, 1997.

## **Comfort's Civil War Poet: Fritz Goldbeck** **By Anne Seldensticker Stewart. Copyright August, 2003**

Friedrich "Fritz" Goldbeck was a German-Texan emigrant who left an historical record of the times and places in which he lived and he left it in verse. Born in 1830, in Itzingen-Verden, he came to Texas in 1845, with the ill-fated Adelsverein.

For a young man, Goldbeck got around. He lived in New Braunfels and other places. He was a member of Ernst Altgelt's surveying team when they moved into the Texas frontier, camped on the Cypress Creek and laid out the town of Comfort, in 1854.

In one sense of the word, Goldbeck was a community member before there was a community. He and his brother, Theodore Goldbeck and family, lived on 7th Street, Comfort, Texas. They operated a mercantile store, which also housed the post office. More importantly, both brothers contributed to the hand-written, locally circulated newspaper, Der Betel Sack, The Beggar's Pouch.

The Goldbeck family did not linger in Comfort but sold their holdings in 1856, and moved on, but the enchantment of Comfort lingered with Fritz. When the Civil War erupted in Texas, Fritz went to Mexico. When his German friends and neighbors were shot and killed on the Nueces River, August 10, 1862, he wrote a poem commemorating their sacrifice.

The Treue der Union Monument in Comfort, Texas, stands as a memorial to the men who died at the Nueces Battle and Massacre, August 10, 1862. Of all the millions of words written about the Monument, Gregory Krauter, one of Comfort's ablest historians, said it the most clearly and most succinctly.

**"The Treue der Union Monument and adjacent grave on Monument Hill has been and undoubtedly always will be the single most historically significant structure in Comfort. It defines and symbolizes both the very early and continuing history of the community and area as no other edifice ever will!"**

Built of limestone in 1866, this marker and the event it honors, was the subject of one of Fritz Goldbeck's "prose poems." For many years, the Comfort community had only one verse from this poem. The whereabouts of the complete poem was unknown.

Recently, a member of the German Texan Heritage Society learned of our community's problem and forwarded a complete copy of the poem from Harvard. Thanks to Brian Boeck, a fellow member of the GTHS, the German version is now available.



**"Das Monument der am Nuces (sic) Gefallenen zu Comfort"  
by Friedrich Goldbeck.**

**Auf Comforts Eichenhügel  
Steht heute ein Monument,  
Zu kunden später'n Zeiten  
Loyalere Leute End.**

**Dort ruhen arme Opfer  
Der grossen Secession,  
Dem Eid getreue Bürger  
Der freien Union.**

**In ihres Lebens Blüthe,  
Der schönsten Jugendkraft,  
Hat blinder Fanatismus  
Sie einst dahin gerafft.**

**Politische Gesinnung,  
Das freie Mames Gut,  
Fand damals keine Duldung  
In der Empörungsgluth**

**Von Comfort hin nach Westen  
Zum fernen Rio Grand,  
Dehnt sich ein Felsbesätes,  
Zerrissenes. wildes Land.**

**Bedeckt mit Cederwäldern,  
Wo noch in mancher Schlucht  
Die schwarzen Bären hausen,  
Vom Jäger ungesucht.**

**In jenen wilden Bergen  
Sind Wolf und Pantherthier  
Die ungestörten Herren,  
Durchstreifen das Revier**

**Eintönig, melancholisch,  
Der Taube Ruf erschallt,  
Sonst herrscht Todtenstille  
Im weiten öden Wald.**

**Durch die sterile Wildness,  
Die damals Pfadlos war,  
Zog nach dem Rio Grande  
Beritten jene Schaar**

**Der armen sonscribierten,  
Die schliesslich in der Flucht  
Vor dem verhassten Zwange  
Ihr einzig Heil gesucht.**

**Wo unterm Ufer rieselt  
Ein Quell am Waldessaum,  
Liegt in den duriklen Cedern  
Ein weiter offener Raum.**

**Wild gab es dort in Fülle,  
Den Ort lud ein zur Rast,  
Nicht leicht fand jene Stelle  
Ein ungebetener Gast.**

**Die jungen Leute wähten  
Sich endlich einmal frei,  
Gesichert und geborgen  
Vor jeder Tyrannei.**

**Bald knallten ihre Büchsen  
Im Walde ringsumher,  
Ja leider, sie versäumten  
Die Vorsicht täglich mehr.**

**So schlich denn das Verderben,  
Auch über Nacht heran,  
Sie wurden überfallen,  
Ein wilder Kampf begann.**

**Bald lagen da die Meisten  
Von Kugeln arg zerfetzt,  
Nur wenige entkamen.  
Gesund und unverletzt**

**Verschont hat man nicht Einen,  
Der da verwundet lag.  
Das war für jene Sache  
Ein blutger Opfertag.**

**Man hat darnach dem Kampfe  
Den Schlachtplatz rings urnstellt,  
Wo die Gefall'nen lagen  
Auf blutgetränktem Feld.**

**Verderben drohte Jedem,  
Der sich den Ort mocht nahn,  
Noch mancher fiel zum Opfer  
Dem blinden Rückschrittwahn.**

**Der letzte Schuss verhallte,  
Der Bruderkrieg war aus,  
Des Südens Heere kamen,  
Enttäuscht, zurück nach Haus.**

**Sie hatten brav gestritten  
Für and'rer Leute Gut,  
Die unterdessen blieben  
Zu Hause, wohlgemuth.**

**Da Ordnung wieder herrschte,  
Nicht mehr die Raserei,**

**So zogen auch die Freunde  
Der Todten bald herbi.**

**Was von den theuren Resten  
Da noch zu finden war,  
Das sammelte mit Schmerzen  
Die tiefbetrübte Schaar**

**Im kleinen Heimathstädtchen,  
Am grünen Waldessaum,  
Ruhn friedlich die Gebeine  
Vereint, im engen Raum.**

**Ein Stein bedeckt nun Alle,  
Die einst in schwerer Noth  
Treu zu einander hielten,  
Bis sie ereilt der Tod.**

Mrs. Helen Dietert of Comfort, Texas, translated the poem from German script into English. Because Fritz Goldbeck's poetic style is prose poetry, Mrs. Dietert chose to translate it in that format.

**"On Comfort's oak covered hills there stands today a monument to testify in later years to the fate of some local people. There rests the martyrs of the great secession who had taken the oath of citizens of the free Union. In the blooming youth of their lives, blind fanaticism had led them here. Political conviction, a free man's right, found no tolerance in the rebellion.**

**From Comfort to the west, to the distant Rio Grande there stretches a wild and rugged land. Bedecked with cedar forests the black bear lived undisturbed in many ravines. Wolves and panthers lived and reigned in these wild hills. Monotonous and melancholy their calls echoed in the death-like silence that ruled in these distant forests.**

**Through this sterile wilderness, that was then without path of trail, the youthful band rode toward the Rio Grande, seeking only a haven from the hated coercion. Under a riverbank was a spring and on the edge of a forest lay an open space. Wildlife was there in profusion. The space led one to rest at a space not easy to find by an uninvited guest. The young people believed themselves to be finally free; secure and hidden from all tyranny.**

**Then shots rang out throughout the forest. They had been overtaken and a wild battle began. Riddled by bullets the dead and wounded lay.**



*None of the wounded was spared and few escaped unharmed. It was a day of bloody sacrifice. The survivors then moved the bodies to a certain part of the blood-soaked land. The last shot had echoed and the brother-battle was over.*

*Sadly and dispirited the survivors came home. They had battled for other people's benefit that had cheerfully stayed at home. When order was restored and the frenzy over, friends banded together sadly to bring home the remains of the fallen. In the small hometown the remains rest, peacefully united. A stone covers all, who in their distress stayed true to each other until their death."*

For a critique of Goldbeck' s work, including this poem, see Robert Grovier's discussion in "Friedrich Goldbeck" in Don H. Tolzmann's German-American Literature, Scarecrow Press, 1977.

To respond/critique this article, please contact Anne Stewart, e-mail: mastewart@zianet.com. Or 11240 Windflyer Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88007.

\*\*\*\*\*

Those interested in learning more about the Battle of the Nueces commemorated by Goldbeck's poem above might refer to a 172-page book by Rodman L. Underwood, Death on the Nueces; German Texas Treue der Union, published in 2000 by the Eakin Press in Austin. It contains maps of the battle site along with photos. *- Journal Editor*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DER UMSCHLAG (POULTICE) & OTHER TEXAS GERMAN FOLK REMEDIES**  
by Anne Seidensticker Stewart

“For your sneezing, itching, coughing, sputtering, hacking eyes nose and throat” brags a television commercial touting the latest modern miracle drug.

My grandmothers in Comfort Texas took care of all the above and long before the greedy pharmaceuticals gouged sick Americans and Madison Avenue spin-doctors advertised snake oils via politically correct commercials. AND without the list of side effects designed to give you diarrhea, set off an allergic reaction, raise your blood pressure, make you drowsy or cause insomnia, thank you very much!

Chronic fatigue syndrome, for which there were certainly a lot more physical causes years ago than today, the prescription was simple and straight to the point. Take a nap after lunch. Eat venison sausage or koch kase (cooked cheese) with a slice of homemade bread at 4:00. Get on with your chores.

In the summer, for yellow jacket and red wasp stings, scorpion and ant bites, the cure was chewing tobacco, smelly and moist, straight out of Opa Karger's mouth onto the red, swollen, hurting area. Ugh! Nasty! Ahhh! Instant relief.

An elderly Seidensticker uncle, bitten by a klapperschlange (rattlesnake) while working in the lower field above the Guadalupe River, never even sent for the doctor. He pulled a tough, dried cornstalk out of the ground, beat the snake to death, while cursing the serpent to perdition, limped the half mile to the barn, poured kerosene on the bite and rested on the front porch from his exertions.

Less dramatic but just as effective was the treatment for coughs, sore throats, stuffy noses and tight chests. First, mentholatum was liberally applied on the throat and chest and in your nose. Opa placed the thermometer in your mouth while Oma rinsed a white cotton cloth in ice water.

When Opa removed the thermometer, in precisely three minutes (not two and a bit or four, but precisely three minutes) timed by his large metal pocket watch, Oma placed the icy cloth around your neck. As Opa held the thermometer to the light to check your temperature, Oma took an umschlag, (poultice or wrapper) in the guise of a 100% woolen sock and fastened it over the ice-cold cloth with a large safety pin.

Holding the thermometer up in the light and squinting through his glasses, Opa read your temperature and pronounced, "Not enough to worry about." On his way to fetch the rest of the cure he'd turn, stick his head back through the doorway and ask, "Do they need an oatmeal cookie?" Not only did his sweet tooth need a constant need flow of said cookies, so did his grandchildren.

"No, they do not. Cookies have sugar in them." Oma gave him and the puny child a stern look. He'd look at you and sadly shake his head. He'd tried. Off he went to retrieve a hot brick from the wood stove oven. It arrived, wrapped in a copy of The San Antonio Express or The Comfort News, and was placed under the covers to warm your icy toes.

In one grandmother's house, you were covered in white, 100% cotton sheets, blankets and quilts. White was the color of cure. At the other home, the covers had to be 100% wool, winter or summer, for the cure to occur. No specific color was needed to complete the process. I am happy to say the patient recovered in both residences.

Sidebar: Both grandmothers insisted on the all wool sock for the all-important umschlag. Both grandmothers used a liberal supply of World War II G.I. green woolen socks recycled from their sons and sons-in-law, courtesy of the European theater of conflict.

My grandmothers always sat on your bedside, patting your face, conversing softly, making sure you were on your way to recovery. Gutten nacht (good night). Schlafen gut. (Sleep well) Sussen traum. (Sweet dreams).

GTHS Journal Year 2004, No. XXIV © 2004  
**Not all Texans are cowboys,**

**and not all Germans wear Lederhosen.**





**FROM THE JOURNAL — 25 YEARS AGO**

It was in the Spring of 1979 --- twenty-five years ago --- that GTHS members received the first issue of the Journal. At that time, it was called the Newsletter (the name was not changed to Journal until 1989). The first issue was only thirty-one pages long, and dues for 1979 were only \$5.00 ! I thought some of you might enjoy seeing a few of the things that appeared in our first journal.

--- Journal Editor

*Plans were being made for the first GTHS Annual Meeting.*



GERMAN - TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

M E E T I N G

September 1 - 2, 1979

Hilton Inn, Austin, Texas

Why at the Hilton Inn? It is very convenient for those of us who hate to find our way around in a strange city, because it is just off the freeway. It is next to Highland Mall Shopping Center and not far from Austin's German community, Pflugerville.

*The registration fee was \$14.50, which included lunch on Saturday and a 2-hour bus tour of German sites in Austin.*



We have informed the Inn that we will have at least 50 people there....and we will. There will be special convention rates, which are to appear in the next Newsletter.

*A Sunday morning genealogy workshop was schedule for Sunday morning after an ecumenical church service in German.*



The meeting is planned for all day Saturday until noon on Sunday. Wouldn't it be nice to have an ecumenical service in German?

Anna Thompson is making all of the arrangements for us.

*There was a Saturday evening session from 7 until 8:30 on German folklore. It was followed from 8:30 until 11:00 with skits, music, reading and dance.*



Here are some ideas we have in mind:  
Entertainment, i.e., Polka Bands, Dancers, Sängervereine, Theaterstück, etc.

Exhibits of folklore  
A showing of new books from publishers  
Workshops and Interest groups: more "how to" than just speakers  
Special Austin Tour for German-Texans

Please tell us what you would like to do. What are your interests? and suggestions?

Address all inquiries, suggestions to the Editor.

**FROM THE JOURNAL — 25 YEARS AGO**

*This was page #1 in that first Journal in 1979.*

**HOW OUR SOCIETY STARTED**

Dona Reeves and Mary El-Beheri have been feeling sorry about the loss of the German-Texan culture for four or five years. Both are so involved in teaching and in other endeavors that they just talked. Then Dona and Glen Lich put together the Southwest Texas State University Symposium on the Texas Germans and talk became activated. There was interest. Over four hundred excited people attended that symposium. And Patrick McGuire reminded them that nearly 5,000 attended the Institute of Texan Cultures' German Christmas party in 1977. Wow! On a very hot summer day Dona, Patrick, Anna Thompson, Maria Watson and Susan Clayton met in San Antonio at Mary's apartment and that was the first meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society. The second meeting was held a month later in San Marcos. Our organization is six months old with the publication of this first Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

WANTED

One representative, club or group in every county in Texas!! Would you be an organizer in your town and/or county? If you can handle publicity, membership, lists of projects, news articles printed about German-Texan activities, etc.....VOLUNTEER TODAY!! Contact the editor nearest you.

COLLECT

News stories, articles, information in your local area for this Newsletter. Send whatever you collect to the editor.

HELP!

Who writes perfect German and has the time to correspond regularly with German archives, libraries and individuals interested in our German-Texan Heritage Society?? Dona Reeves needs help in this activity, please contact her....sofort!

Wüßtest Du daß.....

....the first laws for the State of Texas were published in both German and English.

....in 1876, there were according to the city assesor, in a total San Antonio population of 17,314, to give only the most numerous elements, 5,630 Germans and Alsatians; 5,475 Americans, English and Irish; 3,750 Mexicans.

Do you have interesting little tid bits to share with us in this column? If you do, please send them to the Editor.

\*\*\*\*\*

Much of the old German heritage in Texas has died. It is time to bring it back to life! And if it is only lost, let us find it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you or one of your neighbors German , Alsatian, Swiss, Austrian, Russian-German, etc., and don't know it? Every third Texan has a German-speaking ancestor or two.

Copies of the Newsletter may be ordered from the Society, \$2.50(members) or \$3.00 (non-members). Please include 60¢ for postage/handling.

Published in February and in July at A U S T I N, Texas.

## FROM THE JOURNAL — 25 YEARS AGO

*That first issue of the Journal back in 1979 offered an interesting article written by Joseph Wilson who was faculty member in the German Department at Rice University in Houston. Notice what he had to say in the fourth paragraph about how German-Texans could be divided into three groups.*

LEBENDIGES DEUTSCH: The Giddings/La Grange Area

-41-

Joseph Wilson

This column is meant to offer information on the present native use of German in Texas. Information to be passed on in future issues will be gratefully received.

German is still spoken by many thousands of people in this state, but its use will undoubtedly slowly continue along the natural road of decline, especially since--to my knowledge--there are practically no families in which children are being raised in German, as was widespread thirty years ago (I will be happy to receive information to the contrary). Scores of German settlements dot the entire state, but the major strength still is located in two large areas of central Texas: the one to the west of Austin (Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, San Antonio, etc.), and the other to the east (Giddings, LaGrange, Schulenburg, etc.). In each of these areas there are still many communities where German is used actively. For this issue, I will confine myself to the latter ("east-central Texas") area, which I know first-hand. Some of the state's oldest German settlements are here (Cat Spring, Industry), dating from the 1830's, but the major immigration was after 1850, thus approximately a decade later than the German influx into the west-central region. The largest group in the east-central area is the Lutheran-Wendish Germans, who founded Serbin in 1854 and later spread all through the area and beyond. The Wends were bilingual in their original Slavic tongue, Wendish (sometimes called "Sorbian"), which is very similar to Russian, Czech, etc., and in German, having been intermingled with the predominant Germans for centuries (in what is now East Germany). In Texas this intermingling accelerated, and the Wends became "the most German of the Germans," as is demonstrated by the faithfulness of the Serbin community to the German language.

Serbin, Winchester, Fedor, Warda, and a number of other such small church-oriented settlements, and congregations in LaGrange and Giddings used German as their official language in church services, church governing assemblies, etc., until well after the Second World War. The latter assemblies were in most cases the only local government. German newspapers in La Grange and Giddings also survived into the late forties. The main reason these communities retained their German language so long was their rural isolation and inner homogeneity. All but a few were Lutheran, and the church and church-school were the focus of all activities. Having their own private German-language schools was naturally a major source of strength for German. Their often lengthy grave inscriptions, in which German was used almost exclusively until the forties, and in some of them as late as the sixties, are a permanent memorial to the former strength of the language. It should also be noted that the Wendish-Germans always used German on their gravestones, evidently considering German to be their official language (although they did cling to their Wendish church services).

Today one may divide the German people of the area linguistically into three groups: the older generation (people now approximately 60 or older), from a thoroughly German youth, who still often use German predominately, and whose English may have a nice accent; the middle generation (people now 40-60), who were raised bilingually during the transition years of the thirties and forties, who usually speak English at home now but who are fluent in German; and the younger generation, many of whom still understand German but are hesitant to speak it.

In many homes of the older generation, German is still the normal language. In the middle generation, the home language is usually English, but German is still very much in use (often more than the people themselves realize, since they take their



## FROM THE JOURNAL -- 25 YEARS AGO

German so much for granted); there is, for instance, often an automatic shift into German when talking to older people, with whom it seems more natural to speak German, and German is frequently used as a "secret language"; for example, in a crowded city store, or to keep secrets from the children (which, of course, insures that the children hear and learn some German). Most of those in these generations have a strong emotional attachment to the German of hymns and sermons. A number of the local churches still have regular German services, once, twice, or three times a month. The weekly Giddings Times and News contains a directory of "Hours of Church Services" of the various area churches, in which one finds German services listed for Serbin, Lincoln, Fedor, and two churches in Giddings (Immanuel and Martin Luther). All the churches concerned are Lutheran; no other non-English services are listed, although there may be a few more places using German, and one might expect to find Czech in a few communities. (continued on following page)

It has been a real effort for these congregations to maintain their German because of the relative scarcity of pastors able (and willing) to use German; if it were not for this problem, German services would be much more frequent. Often pastors fluent in German simply do not want to "bother" with two languages; conversely, sometimes a younger pastor who is not as fluent in German will carry on the tradition. This is the case in Serbin, whose German service I attended recently: Pastor Paul Hatfield--son of a German pastor of the "old school"--preaches beautifully in the old tradition, but makes his "off the cuff" announcements in English. Outside the church, before and after the service, the Serbin parishoners demonstrate in their conversations one of the best examples of "Lebendiges Deutsch" to be found in the state.

---

Are German-Texans an ethnic reality?

The French did not let their culture die in Louisiana. Ten years ago the Louisiana Legislature decreed that the French language and customs would be preserved - all legal notices may be published bi-lingually, the teaching of the history of French populations in America is required and it authorized the establishment of a non-profit French language t.v. corporation. While a few years ago NO pupils in elementary schools studied French, today more than 50,000 are doing so. Businessmen from French-speaking nations now are looking for investments in Louisiana. The father of this program is a LaFayette lawyer, James Domengeaux, who is a former Congressman. He delights in trodding the toes of all who stand in his way. He outrages the academic community by claimings: "The mentality of educators is not to accept innovations because it interferes with their pet projects - band and volleyball and that kind of thing."

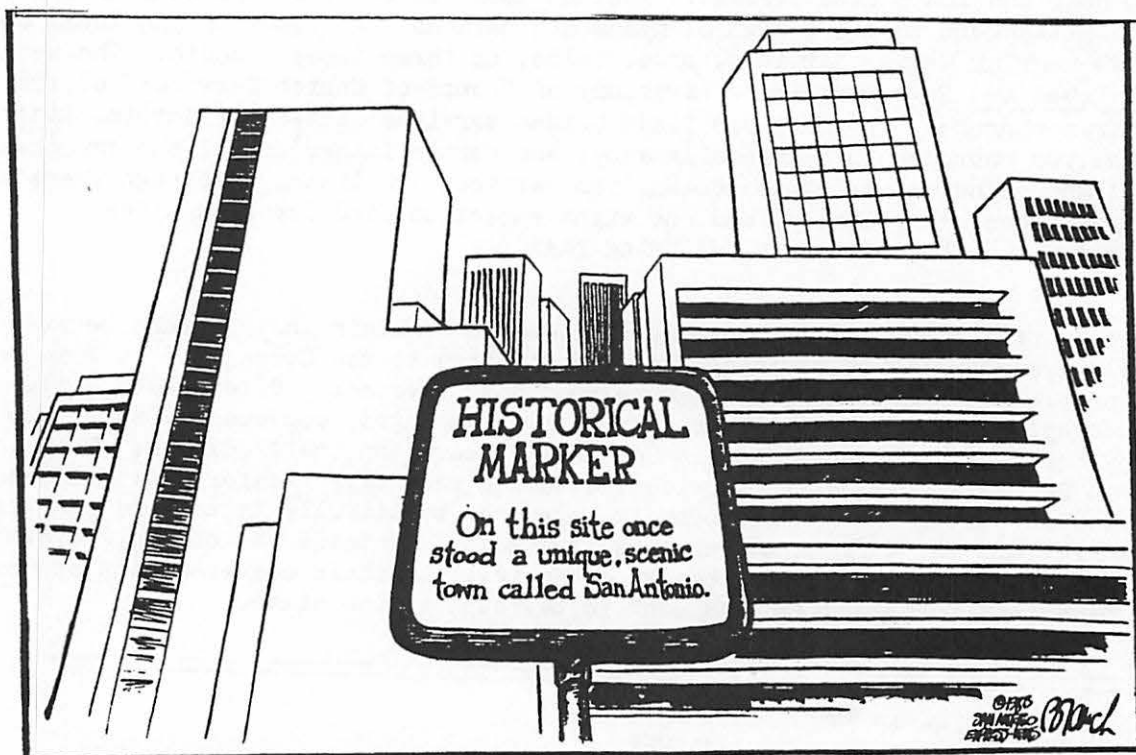
from an editorial column in the 1979 Journal. The first editor of the Journal was Mary Mathis El-Behari of San Antonio.

He does not, however, advocate reducing the use of English. Cajuns, as American, preserve their own culture because they are free. This is from the May 15, 1978, U.S. News and World Report and has prompted a comparison with the German-Texan Culture and the Cajun Culture. Is there hope for the German culture in Texas for a big revival? Don't we have any political activists in our midst, who could do for German-Texans what Domengeaux has done for our French neighbors in Louisiana?

## FROM THE JOURNAL — 20 YEARS AGO

The previous four pages included some items printed in the first GTHS Journal (1979). On this page, I've selected a few things from the Spring Journal of 1984, twenty years ago.

---Journal Editor



John Branch, an Express-News cartoonist, will receive a special citation for his work at the S.A. Conservation Soc. NewsTt, March 1984 Founders' Day picnic on March 22.

RECORD IN GERMAN SCRIPT FOUND IN BEXAR CO. DEED RECORDS  
by Lauren Ann Kattner

Rt 1 Box 122  
Ladonia, TX 75449

While Bexar Co., Texas Deed Records from 1844 through 1848 contain information on Castroville and New Braunfels beginnings, only one record is in German script. The following is a summary of the information contained in this document.

Document dated: 31 December 1845

Recorded at: "Neubraunfels" Bexar Co., Texas

Reference: Vol. C-2, Pg. 286, No. 258 --GS microfilm # 1019380

Grantee: Christian Beckel

Grantor: Christian Engel

In consideration of: 75 Thaler

Property description: the ten-acre tract granted to the seller by the Verein

Other information: The seller agrees that the buyer will pay the money by 2 February with the stipulation that if the buyer does not pay the money by then, the seller takes the land back. Therefore, the buyer cannot gain entrance to the land prior to the time that the entire amount is received.

Witnesses: Anton Rindel and Heinrich Kraft

## FROM THE JOURNAL -- 20 YEARS AGO

*Below is an editorial page from Journal Volume VI, Number 1, Spring 1984.*

- 2 -

### THANKS

New index editors!

We are grateful to Lorene Windle and Ann Lindemann for taking on the big Surname Index task. You will see how much we have grown, when you read all of the names. This index makes our research so much easier. After all a publication without an index is worthless. At the last minute I recruited a new Topic Index Editor, Sister Marlene Fritz, who has kept us up to our standards.

OUR BOOK.....TEXAS by Roemer is selling well. If you want a copy or want to sell some, contact Dona.

### BOARD MEETING

Saturday, June 9, 1984

11:30 a.m.

Kerrville - Inn of the Hills

We will hear a full report about the September meeting.

We will discuss new business matters.

If any member has a suggestion or a complaint, please contact someone, or attend the meeting yourself. The Board includes everyone listed on the front and back cover of the

NEWSLETTER. But all members are welcome.

### GERMAN-TEXAN MUSIC

We received some information on this subject from Johnita Schuessler Bohmfalk of Mason. "There is a Llano River Valley German Hymnfest annually here in Mason and Llano counties in September. People come here from far and wide - Fredericksburg, Harper, Kerrville, Bandera, Llano, Burnett, Marble Falls, Junction - just to mention a few towns. The songs used are worship hymns and Sunday School songs passed down through generations. We have a tape recording of the one last September." Are there others with such authentic German-Texan music?

### EULOGIES FROM BOERNE

Recently Joanna Parrish brought about 130 eulogies written or typed in German, a few in "alte Schrift" to me. My students are doing a few at a time, but it may take us nearly forever to get them done. If anyone out there needs a project, this is a great one. I would be happy to turn them over to someone interested in translating them. They are excellent sources of information for researchers. Call me at school 512-653-3920 ext 19, if interested.

BOEHLER's BIERGARTEN, the oldest German bar and restaurant in San Antonio is being dismantled, piece by piece and sold. If anyone cares, check it out....Boehler's is on Josephine St. two blocks west of Broadway. It will be a great loss if it is razed, which may have happened before you read this.

### MASKENBALL.....BOERNE.....

What an event! The costumes were really out of a fairy tale. We, the judges, were very impressed with the enthusiasm and the "classy" set-up. Glen and Lera Lich, Ingrid Kokinda and myself were judges. Alice Gerfers of our Board was one of the organizers for this big affair.

### SAN ANTONIO FESTIVAL.....May/June

Look for the entire schedule for this activity. Look for the performances of the Berlin Ballet and the Berlin Opera.

### KEEP SENDING ARTICLES AND INFORMATION

Beginning our sixth of publication we are financially solvent and have a slight backlog of publication materials. What more can an editor want? Well, I want you to send more. Send....articles from local papers, from other newsletters, from magazines or any other publications that may be of interest to our readers.

We must maintain our image. The prestigious Southwestern Historical Quarterly has printed this about our NEWSLETTER, "While its publication does in fact serve as a newsletter, it also functions as a scrapbook and historical journal, containing copies of articles originally published elsewhere, book reviews, and original essays." It also calls us "the very best bargain around today". Congratulations to us for a unique publication!

Two articles from our NEWSLETTER are listed in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, page 322, as periodical sources.

**EDITOR**

### NEWSLETTER

Mary El-Beheri

MacArthur High School  
2923 Bitters Road

San Antonio, TX 78217



## FROM THE JOURNAL — 20 YEARS AGO

*For the Spring 1984 issue of the Journal, Ted Gish (who years later became the Journal Editor) wrote an article entitled "Hermann Seele's Texas Fahrten: An Unpublished German-Texan Musical." Seele was a pioneer settler at New Braunfels and played an important role in the educational and cultural development of the town. Part of Gish's article is printed below.*

He was the most versatile of all the German-Texan writers. In addition to his short story, Die Cypresse and his historical sketches (not all of which appear in the recent publication), Seele wrote over 150 poems and a musical, Texas Fahrten. Neither the poems nor Texas Fahrten have been published. The musical Texas Fahrten itself has not been examined to any extent by scholars and has resided, largely forgotten, in the archives of the Sophienburg Memorial Museum in New Braunfels. In 1980, I came across a reference to it in Robert Govier's Master's Thesis, "German Poetry Written in New Braunfels, Texas" (University of Texas, 1962). Shortly thereafter, the Sophienburg Museum gave me permission to microfilm this document, as well as the historically important diary which Seele kept from the time shortly before he left Germany, in 1843, into the 1860s. (I am also in the process of editing this diary which has likewise not been examined by scholars.)

Texas Fahrten is, as far as is known, the only German-Texan musical ever written. It consists of an introduction and twelve narrative scenes or "Chapters", written in rhymed couplets, interspersed with solo and choral songs. The music was composed by C. Wilke, an engineer and assistant to Nikolaus Zink who platted the town of New Braunfels. It is not certain when Seele and Wilke wrote Texas Fahrten. The Introduction is signed by Seele and dated July 2, 1889, but its poetic style and penmanship differ from (and possibly postdate) the rest of the manuscript. There is also no available evidence that the work was ever performed.

Texas Fahrten takes place at the time of the colonization of Texas by the Adelsverein and chronicles the adventures of four immigrants whose names, taken from the motto of the Turners, are Frisch, Frei, Fromm and Fröhlich. Frei, who fought at the battle of San Jacinto in the Texas War of Independence, has been living for some time with his wife and child on a farm in Blumenau, on the Colorado River. Having persuaded his three friends to join him in Texas, Frei meets their boat in Galveston and the four companions spend the night in a Galveston hotel among Germans, celebrating the reunion. The newcomers enthusiastically enjoy the nights in the open and the hunting they engage in on their way to Blumenau. The first night at Blumenau, they witness Texas hospitality when Frei welcomes a stranger who arrives late at night. After working on the farm together for a time, the four friends decide to journey to San Antonio to visit Captain Hays and his Texas Rangers and also to examine Frei's headright. Riding into the Rangers' camp, they meet Emmanuel Satorius, a German-Texas Ranger who demonstrates his expert marksmanship by shooting a bear. While he stands guard, Satorius tells the four friends of his youth and university days in Germany and of his travels and adventures in America. Hays meanwhile discusses the fact that Indians are nearby and the Rangers ride out after them. They defeat the Indians in a fierce battle, later known as the "Indian Congress Fight". Back at the camp, the Rangers are visited by an old Indian, friendly to them, who laments the defeat of his brothers. Toward nightfall, wild mustangs suddenly threaten to stampede the horses, and only Satorius' quick action averts this disaster. The Rangers and the four friends then go to San Antonio where they visit a "fandango" hall. When a Mexican card game gets heated, the four friends leave the hall. Frei

**FROM THE JOURNAL — 20 YEARS AGO**

conducts his companions to the ruins of the Alamo and he explains why it is a Texas shrine. The four companions next journey to Frei's headright and he shares his vision of what this countryside might one day become under cultivation. They return to Blumenau, where they farm together for a year. Satorius arrives and he and Frei's companions clear land and put up a large cabin.

Meanwhile the Indian tribe, whose braves fought the Rangers, leaves Texas, in a disseminated state, for other lands. As they are leaving, their old chief dies. The last scene portrays the wedding festival of Fröhlich and Fromm who have married women who came to Texas with Prince Solms. With Solms at the open-air wedding table and Satorius serving good German wine, the celebrants, including many invited guests from Germany, toast the old homeland and the new.

There are some flaws in the narrative sections of Texas Fahrten. In particular, there is not sufficient character description, especially of the four companions. Furthermore the motivation and exposition of a few scenes, especially the concluding wedding scene, are not always well-handled. But there are also many dramatically and descriptively successful scenes, such as those of the Texas countryside, the activities with the Rangers, the visit to San Antonio and the description of the Indians' flight from Texas. In his verse, Seele generally avoids the possible repetitious effect of rhymed couplets by his use of enjambement.



The Spring 1984 issue of the Journal was 90 pages long. It still was called Newsletter, not the Journal.

Dues in 1984 were \$5.00 a person.

The three-day 1984 Annual Meeting was scheduled at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville with bus tours to Comfort, Sisterdale and Boerne. The 1984 registration fee was \$45.00, which included lunch Saturday and a buffet banquet Saturday night.

The special rate at the Inn of the Hills twenty years ago was \$51.00 for a double room.

***Nazis & Good Neighbors: The United States Campaign Against the Germans of Latin America in World War II***

By Max Paul Friedman

Book Review by Ron Hunka

This book was of initial interest to me because, as has been noted previously in *The Journal*, some of the people who were deported from Latin American countries were interned in Texas. In fact, as Max Paul Friedman states in this book, the largest camps for these persons were in Texas. The Camp Kenedy and Crystal City facilities were in south Texas, the former for single men and the latter mainly for families. Camp Seagoville, in north Texas, was for single women and couples without children.

The main focus of this work is not on the human or personal side of the stories of the over 4,000 persons of German descent who were interned in these camps. Rather, it has more to do with the diplomatic policies of the agencies of the United States government and the prejudices of the individuals who implemented them during this time. The research is thorough and the documentation exhaustive. Of the 359 pages in this book, almost 100 are notes and bibliography. This book is a work of history, and, as such, the writer collects his material and sifts through it with an eye as to what can be learned from the wartime internment policies of our government.

Friedman notes that the government of the United States exerted undue pressure on 16 Latin American countries, excluding Argentina, Brazil, and Chile--the ABC countries--to identify and deport Germans whose allegiance was to Nazi Germany. These countries, for the most part, resented being forced to take this action. Ultimately, most of the people who were identified, in some cases with the help of American officials, were deported on the primary basis of German ancestry rather than political activity.

In Nicaragua, the dictator, Anastasio Somoza, gave in to the demands of the U.S. Charge d' Affaires to deport twenty-one Axis nationals, including Julio Bahlke, who owned an estate, *Alemania*, worth five million dollars. It was seized and put up for auction with Somoza making the only bid, a minimal one. Similar sales of property at discount prices took place elsewhere in Latin America in conjunction with the deportation of German descent persons.

Although the author describes the prison camp at Crystal City as "one of the most comfortable detention facilities for civilian internees run by any country involved in the war", in other major facilities conditions were more problematic. There seem to have been a minority of pro-Nazis in these places at odds with a majority of non-Nazis. It is ironic, Friedman writes, that the largest numbers of these people who had been deported as having primary loyalty to the Third Reich often had to be protected from the Nazis in the camps.



A dentist from Honduras at Camp Kenedy named Otto Kugler was deported on the vague basis of having spread Nazi propaganda. However, due to his strong anti-Nazi attitude he was dragged from the hospital where he was practicing dentistry and beaten by Nazis. In a detention camp in Stringtown, Oklahoma, one of the worst, eighteen Jewish internees were placed with pro-Nazis who called them names, threatened them, and excluded them from all organized activities.

An American Army Colonel who visited internees at Camp Blanding, Florida gave an opinion that many of these people, some of whom he knew from service in Guatemala, were not Nazis but mainly business and professional people who had been evicted from their country in order that their property could be seized. Another official reported that he could find evidence in the records of Nazi sentiments for only 11 of the 116 persons who had been deported from Guatemala.

In 1942, a clash between two departments of the American government involved in dealing with the internees emerged. Two high officials in these departments had very different views about handling the internees. The first was Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long, the other Edward Ennis, head of the Justice Department's Alien Enemy Control Unit.

Long oversaw the deportation and repatriation of the Germans of Latin America. According to Friedman, Long and his subordinates played a key role in bringing Jews and other non-Nazis into the internment camps. They placed security concerns above the possible innocence of some deportees and appeared to have been worried about the possible scandal that might arise from clearing any of these people in investigations.

Ennis had heard from camp commanders that they doubted that many of their charges were dangerous or represented a threat to national security. Camp Kenedy Commander Ivan Williams felt that the Latin American governments had "arrested anybody not born in their country and sent to them to us as enemy aliens. A lot of them don't know what they are doing here." A special assistant to Ennis, Jerre Mangione, toured the camps for two months and concluded about the internees, "had they been accorded due process of law, they probably never would have been interned."

Near the end of this interesting work of historical research, Friedman writes that the internment of enemy aliens during the war was not unique to the United States. However, he points out, the United States took a step that the others did not, to intern persons from other countries which it did not occupy. The most regrettable irony, Friedman concludes, is that the rights of individuals and the tenets of the Good Neighbor Policy, which included concepts of non-interference and mutual respect, were trampled for a wartime goal of questionable value. If one can see a parallel to the present in our World War II policy toward the Germans of Latin America, it is not altogether surprising.

## Helga's Corner – Musings about German Language and Culture by Helga von Schweinitz

Book Review by Ron Hunka

A magazine editor to whom I once submitted a book review asked me if I knew either of the authors. It was against the publication's policy to have someone review works of people he or she knew. Therefore, I confess that I know Helga von Schweinitz from several years' attendance at the *Stammtisch* at the German-Texan Heritage Society. I have learned from that experience that Helga is a gifted storyteller in two languages. Although I have not read every *Helga's Corner* column in the *Schulhaus Reporter*, I have read enough of them to see that her storytelling talent carries over into her writing as well. I have particularly enjoyed those columns that provided insight into the German language.

One of my favorite columns in this book is titled *Should We Neuter Them All?* It begins with the statement, "The language of grammar has a major flaw: it uses the words masculine, feminine, and neuter to describe the so-called gender of a noun." When I saw this column in the newsletter originally I was somewhat fascinated by the notion that the gender was the gender of the word and not the object represented. Pursuant to this idea, by and by, I began to see some applications of the principle. For example, I noted that there are three words in German for cathedral and that each of them is a different gender—*der Dom*, *die Kathedrale*, and *das Muenster*. But the cathedral by any gender remains the same building.

*Schnapps* displays another facet of Helga's columns, the understated, warm, personal anecdote. In this column, Helga describes what schnapps (two *p*'s in English, one in German) is, explains its cultural significance, and then goes on to tell us how her grandmother in Germany made schnapps after the war to barter for food with the American soldiers to keep the children from going hungry "too often". With the briefest mention, she evokes the memory of a loved one who alleviated the suffering of children in the terrible days after WWII.

Other columns in *Helga's Corner* for me have simply been helpful with my German. For example, I finished reading this book just before a recent trip to Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. In *Delicious Americaner*, I learned that the pastry we call a *bismarck* in the U.S. is called a *Berliner* in the German speaking world. Even though I had lived in Germany as a soldier I had never heard this term. When my family and I were returning to the Zuerich airport to fly home, we stopped at a convenience store for a coffee and a breakfast snack. My daughter who does not speak German looked in the pastry case and told me that she wanted one of those pastries that I recognized as a bismarck. They looked good to me too. "Zwei Berliner, bitte" I requested, recollecting an old observation that whenever one learns a new word it shows up shortly and remembering where I learned this particular example.

I looked forward to more of Helga's little columns and the insights that lurk within.

# TEXAS VICTORY

## A HISTORICAL NOVEL

BY DENZEL HOLMES & TOM SCHLIESING

### Texans of German Descent:

Texas Victory is a novel about your German Ancestors and their peers. You've read the history of the settlement of New Braunfels and of Fredericksburg. But history books never put you inside the brain nor behind the eyes of those brave people we call kin.

### Texas Victory is set in the hill country:

Texas Victory is set in the hill country during the years 1845 - 1869. A German Prince leads his colony from the old country to this very land and undertakes to build a German Castle on Texas soil. Prince Carl Franz von Altmann is proud, arrogant, and dignified. But he and his people endure every hardship of the frontier in order to become true Texans.

### Follow Prince Carl from his principality:

Follow Prince Carl from his principality in the days before Germany became a nation to Texas as it changed from a country to the Lone Star State. Experience the love and final Civil War battle that hone Carl into a Christian with a knowledge of the real meaning of life.

---

**FOR AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY, PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, (no cash), FOR \$22.00 (TAX AND POSTAGE INCLUDED), TO:**

**Tom Schliesing  
PO Drawer 1458  
Uvalde, TX 78802-1458**

**Your Mailing Address:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_



## The Handbook of Texas Music

---

The Handbook of Texas Music is a joint project of the Texas State Historical Association, the University of Texas at Austin, the Governor's Texas Music Office, and the Center for Texas Music History at Southwest Texas State University. It is to be published in summer 2003.

The HTM is to be an encyclopedic work. Articles are planned on all important Texas musical subjects, including musical genres, ethnic music, musicians, composers, music groups, musicologists, publishers, patrons, manufacturers of musical instruments, performance venues, noteworthy musical events, and other categories. The HTM is modeled on the other distinguished encyclopedias of the TSHA, the Handbook of Texas, the New Handbook of Texas, the Handbook of Texas Online, and the Portable Handbook of Texas.

The scope of the HTM is indeed broad. It will include articles on the music performed by Texas Indians before the arrival of Spaniards, as well as the music of contemporary Houston, Dallas, and Austin. It will include "groups" ranging from the Houston and the San Antonio symphony orchestras to Tejano conjuntos and jazz bands. Our intent is truly to cover the subject in a wide-ranging collection of historical articles.

The HTM will be richly illustrated with about 150 images, and will include a comprehensive index.

### Editors

At TSHA: Roy Barkley Or write: Texas State Historical Association, SRH 2.306, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712

At the Texas Music Office, Governor's Office: Casey Monahan

At the Center for Texas Music History, Southwest Texas State University: Gary Hartman

At the University of Texas at Austin provost's office: Dave Oliphant

Ethnomusicologist at large: Cathy Brigham

[Selected Articles](#) | [Announcement](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [top of page](#) | [home](#)

Copyright © The Texas State Historical Association Last Updated: February 19, 2003

Comments to: [comments.tsha@lib.utexas.edu](mailto:comments.tsha@lib.utexas.edu)

Produced in partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and the General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Frank van der Stucken, a German-Texan musician and composer born at Fredericksburg, studied music in Europe with the famous composer Edvard Grieg and later collaborated with other famous 19<sup>th</sup> century composers including Verdi, Massenet, Liszt, and Chabrier.**

**Prices for music handbook:**

\$45.00 for hardback plus tax and shipping charges

\$24.95 for paperback plus tax and shipping charges

**To order, contact****Beth M. Bow, Accounting Assistant****Texas State Historical Association****University of Texas at Austin****1 University Station D 0901****Austin, TX 78712-032****phone 512-232-1513    fax 512-471-1551    email [bethbow@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:bethbow@uts.cc.utexas.edu)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**GERMAN AND JAPANESE POWs AT KENEDY, TEXAS**

In the last issue of the Journal (Vol XXV, No. 4, Winter 2003) there was a review of a book by Robert A. Thonhoff, Camp Kenedy Texas, published last year by Eakin Press of Austin. In this book, Thonhoff points out that Kenedy was one of several sites in Texas where German and Japanese prisoners of war were held during World War II.

As a follow-up to the book review, A.C. Alonso of Kenedy wrote to say that in the local cemetery at Kenedy several grave markers bear the names of detainees, including four Germans, who had been interned in the Kenedy camp. These names are

Oskar Bechstedt (died March 22, 1943)

Kurt Pellman (died August 4, 1942)

Herman Richard J. Boedinger (died June 23, 1942)

Fredrich Hartleben (died September 22, 1943)

Mr. Alonso adds that in past years many former detainees and their families have visited the site of the detention camp at Kenedy. He goes on to say "We would like to set up some type of memorial, perhaps a historical marker and a monument, to mark the site. We are looking for partners who would be able to help fund this project...Please advise it you know of any organization that would be interested in helping us set up this type of memorial."

To contact Mr. Alonso, write to

Mr. A.C. Alonso

P.O.Box 251

Kenedy, Texas 78119

---Journal Editor

Kenedy is a town of over 6,000 located in Karnes County. During the Great Depression years, a CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp was built there. In 1942, after World War II began, the camp was converted into a detention center for civilian male enemy aliens, most of them from Central and South America and the West Indies. In late 1944, some 600 German prisoners from the POW camp at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio were sent to the Kenedy camp. German POWs were transferred after the war ended in Europe, and Camp Kenedy became a detention center for 500 Japanese prisoners. In 1946, the camp was closed.

# 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.*

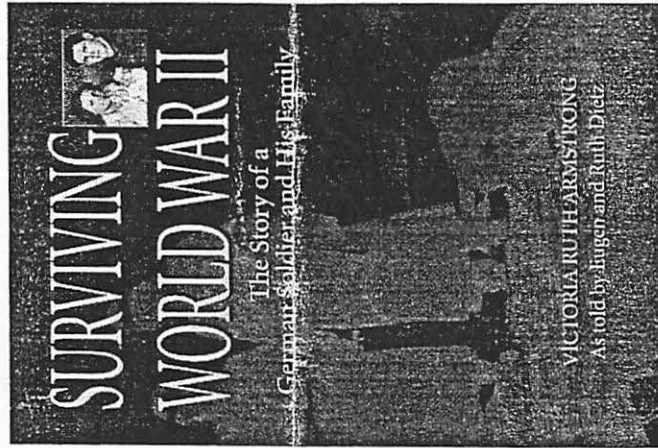
—From the author's preface

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.





October 20, 2003

German Texan Heritage Society:

I am writing because I am currently having a book published by Eakin Press in Austin, Texas. It is a biography of my grandparents during WWII in Germany and their immigration to the United States. I am trying to reach a German-American audience because I feel those with a German heritage may have an interest in such a book. If you would be able to pass this information along to the members of your club, by copying the enclosed flyer or by placing some information in your clubs newsletter, I would appreciate it greatly.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

I appreciate your consideration in circulating this information.

Sincerely,  
*Victoria R. Armstrong*  
Victoria R. Armstrong  
[Vic7767@aol.com](mailto:Vic7767@aol.com)  
614-478-9463

**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).

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ST** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE #** \_\_\_\_\_



I am including: credit card \_\_\_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_ money order \_\_\_\_\_

**CARD #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expires** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

*All orders require a signature*

**MAIL TO: EAKIN PRESS \* P.O. Box 90159 \* Austin, TX 78709**  
**OR CALL: 1-800-880-8642 FAX 512-288-1813**  
**OR ORDER FROM OUR WEBSITE: [www.eakinpress.com](http://www.eakinpress.com)**

submitted by Julia Germany of Austin

## Warm, Fuzzy Feelings for East Germany's Gray Old Days

By RICHARD BERNSTEIN

13 January 2004 New York Times

EISENHÜTTENSTADT, Germany, Jan. 6 — This town is the perfect setting for the strange mood of nostalgia that seems to be taking hold in Germany lately, even if a Socialist utopia from the Stalinist former German Democratic Republic (otherwise known as East Germany) does not seem a natural inspirer of warm and fuzzy feelings about the past.

But, strange as it is, a wave of what is called ostalgie (ost meaning east in German) has become a phenomenon in this country. People wear born-in-the-G.D.R. T-shirts, or they collect Trabants, the rattling two-cylinder cars that East Germans waited years to buy, or they go on line to be contestants on the "Ossi-Quiz," all questions relating to East German pop culture.

Here in Eisenhüttenstadt — Steel Mill Town — a few miles from the Polish border, ostalgie has been provided with its own museum, officially known as the Documentation Center on Everyday Life in the G.D.R. It is just down the road from the giant steel mill built here in the early 1950's as an industrial showpiece.

The museum is just a few rooms, mostly on the second floor of a former day-care center, but it holds 70,000 to 80,000 objects from the former East Germany. About 10,000 people a year come to look at Mikki transistor radios, jars of Bulgarian plums, schoolbooks, plastic water glasses that never seemed to come in the right colors. Seeing these familiar objects clearly stirs warm feelings about the vanished and unrecapturable past.

"It's a very nice place when you want to remember your childhood," Thomas Blechschmied, a 29-year-old visitor, said the other day. "My parents still have those egg-holders," he continued, pointing to a bright yellow object inside a case of plastic kitchen utensils from the early 1970's.

There's no general wish for the East German state be revived, Mr. Blechschmied said, explaining the limits of ostalgie. It is more a recognition that millions of people made do as best they could for the 40 or so years between the end of World War II and the fall of the Berlin Wall, when the East Germans competed in all areas of life, from consumer products to Olympic ice skating. A person might, looking at a jar of nougat, have a

1/20/2004

Proustian recollection of the shortages that plagued everyday life in East Germany.

"The products are genuine and the shelves are genuine," Mr. Blechschmied said, standing inside the well-stocked store, "but usually they were more spread out than you see here, and there were lots of empty spaces."

Ostalgie is complicated, made up of various ingredients. One is clearly the disillusionment felt by many former Easterners over German reunification, which took place 13 years ago. Unemployment these days is commonly 25 percent in regions like Eisenhüttenstadt. Rents are no longer subsidized. Doctor visits cost money. People can be fired. In addition, as Andreas Ludwig, the West German scholar of urban history who started the museum a few years ago, noted, even capitalist products break down or are shabby and schlocky.

All this has given rise to a sort of East German post-mortem feeling that maybe the East had its good aspects after all, especially a certain economic security and stability, even if your best vacation option was Bulgaria.

Ostalgie got a huge lift during the course of the last year by the success of a movie, "Goodbye Lenin," which offered a poignant, very human image to life in the East. Set in East Berlin just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it's the story of a woman in such delicate health that she might die if she learns that her country has ceased to exist, so her loving children maintain an ever more elaborate charade aimed at persuading her that nothing fundamental has changed.

The mother, for example, asks for Spreewald Pickles, a highly valued East German product that disappeared from the market after the fall of the wall (and has since, by popular demand, reappeared). When the children find a discarded bottle with the Spreewald label still on it, they treasure it as an item that can save a life.

Looking around Eisenhüttenstadt is to see that the Center of Everyday Life is a museum inside another sort of museum. Built during the course of the 1950's, the town was one of four model communities East Germany created to embody in the here and now the futuristic promise of Communism.

The steel mill continues to operate, one of the very few such socialist installations still doing so. The workers' housing blocks, with their sometimes Stalinist-classical facades, are actually rather attractive, painted in creamy or buttery or ochre tones. There are parks, playgrounds, day-care centers, schools. At the same time, the place imparts a feeling of emptiness; there is an absence of bustle, a quiet at the center of things, that is itself a legacy of central planning.

Mr. Ludwig, who comes from what was West Berlin during the divided years, proposed the museum to the state of Brandenburg, though his purpose was not then and is not now to provide props for national nostalgia. He felt that with the East German state dead, it had become appropriate to collect its



artifacts and to study them, just as one might have collected objects and testimonies about the American South right after the Civil War.

"There's no real reason to be nostalgic toward the G.D.R.," he said. "It was a dictatorship and people couldn't get out." People, he said, rarely come alone to the museum; more often, two or more generations of a family come together, or Ossis with Wessies, and they find that objects impart not only memories but lessons.

"The thing about everyday objects is that they don't say much about politics," Mr. Ludwig said. "But people start talking when they're in front of things. 'I remember that,' A says to B. People intervene, and that starts a discussion."

## Germans build expensive frog tunnel

Reuters News Service

Jan. 6, 2004, 4:06PM

BERLIN - Germany's cash-strapped government is paying \$285,200 to build a tunnel to help frogs avoid the perils of a busy road, officials said.

Ruediger Zech, a local council spokesman in the Berlin district of Reinickendorf, said the project would allow native varieties of toads, frogs and other amphibians to reach a nearby lake safely when they spawn in the spring.

Previously the creatures had been carried across the road in buckets by volunteers from environmental groups.

The foreign ministry, headed by Green Party member Joschka Fischer, is funding construction of the tunnel near a training center for diplomats on the outskirts of Berlin.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman said the tunnel was part of a package of environmental measures agreed when the ministry took over the Villa Borsig, a country house located in a nature preserve north of Berlin.



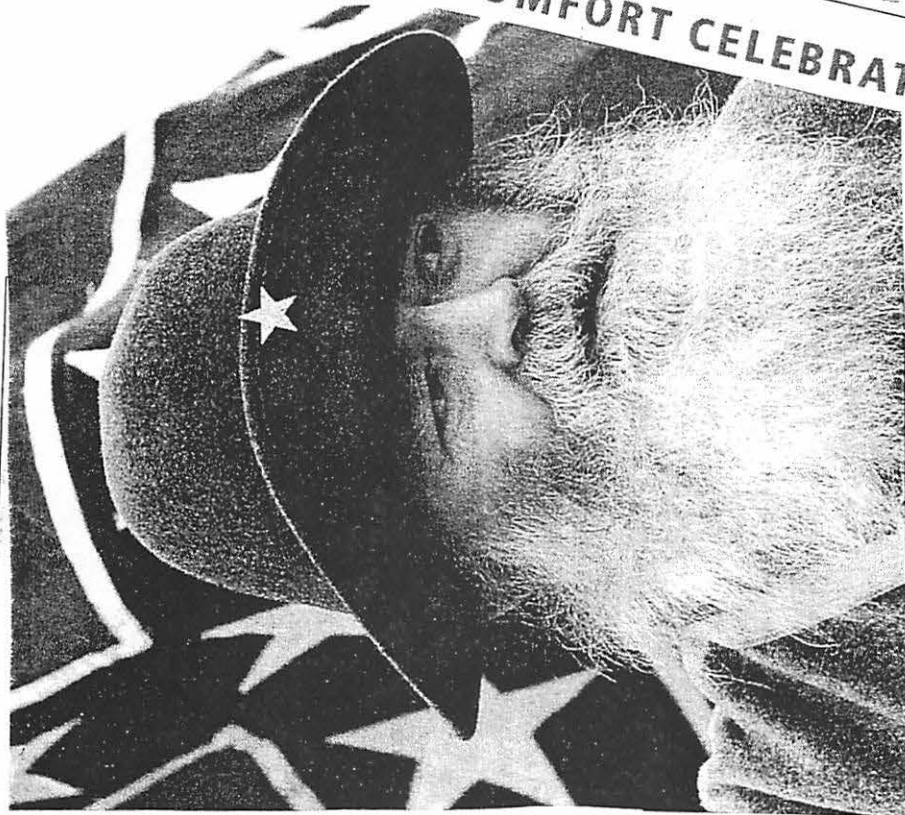
Infantry members protect their ears from the blasting of cannons as Comfort celebrates 150 years. The town was founded in 1854.

See story →→→



from San Antonio Express-News, January 17, 2004

PHOTOS BY GLORIA FERNIZ/STAFF



**ABOVE:** Confederate Infantry, Texas Infantry member Dennis Guenter (left) takes part in the Comfort sesquicentennial ceremony

COMFORT CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

# Comfort ceremony honors its Confederate dead Sunday

Rite starts off historic Union stronghold's sesquicentennial.

By ZEKE MACCORMACK  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

COMFORT — Although this Kendall County town is known for its Unionist sympathies during the Civil War, it will pay belated homage Sunday to locals who fought for the Confederacy. The kickoff of Comfort's sesquicentennial jubilee will feature speeches and musket salutes around the Confederate States of America gravestone of Alfred Kapp.

Kapp, who died in 1873 at the age of 36, is among 16 locals in the town cemetery known to have fought for the South. The graveyard isn't far from The Treue der Union shrine, a national monument installed in 1866 to honor Kendall County settlers who died fighting in 1862 rather than renounce their Union allegiance.

"The time has come to honor those in the greater Comfort area who made the decision to

join the Confederate Army based on honorable reasons," said Greg Krauter, a local grocer/historian who is a descendant of Kapp.

"They've been kind of forgotten because of the focus on the anti-Confederate sentiment in the area," Krauter said.

Lending a frontier flavor to the observance will be members of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, bearing muskets and decked out in gray.

Krauter, 53, predicted Sunday's salute to local Confederate soldiers will eventually be seen as "a significant historical event" and not just because it's the first function marking the community's founding in 1854.

Settled by German immigrants fleeing religious oppression at home, Comfort was the largest "freethinker settlement" in the Hill Country, swelling to several hundred residents in its first decade.

"They were mostly highly educated liberals," Leakey author Paul Burrier said of the town's founders. Like many others with roots in Comfort, his ancestors fought each other during the Civil War.

Burrier's great-great-uncle Fritz Tegner led dozens of Hill Country Unionists toward Mexico in 1862, some of them planning to join northern forces in Louisiana. Among the Confederates who tracked them down and engaged them at the Nueces River was William Thomas Bensen, Burrier's great-grandfather.

The Unionists, surprised and greatly outnumbered, suffered heavy losses, with only about 30 surviving. The Treue der Union Monument marks the site of a mass grave that reportedly holds the remains of many of those killed.

Organizers say Sunday's hour-long event has two purposes — to educate residents on local history and provide closure for those locals who may feel their Confederate ancestors have been overlooked.

Despite passage of more than a century, Burrier said, "the Nueces battle is still a very emotional issue in Comfort. Sometimes people shed tears, and it's almost like the battle took place yesterday."

zeke@express-news.net



from the Round Rock Leader, November 13, 2003  
submitted by Arlene and Joe Burgess of Round Rock

# Guardians of the garden

## Gnomes found standing watch in Round Rock yards

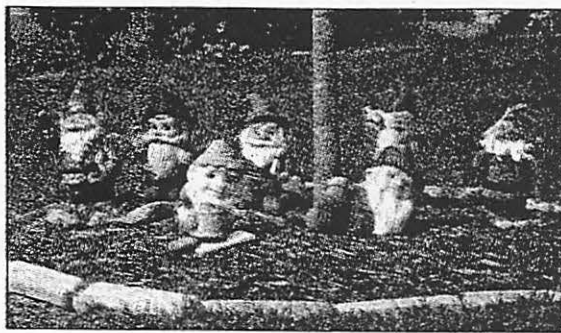
story and photos by pamela riemenschneider

Peering out from behind the landscaping stands a small, bearded creature. His jovial expression belies the true nature of his presence. He's more than a kitschy decoration — he's a protector, a bringer of good fortune, a guardian of house and garden — a garden gnome.

The creatures, originally called "der Gartenzwerg" first made their appearance as luck charms and protectors of European homes and gardens in the 1800s, specifically in Germany, Austria and the low countries.

Today, you can pick one up in the strangest places, from stores catering

specifically to gardening and landscaping to the occasional lucky thrift store find. The best time to find one is during the spring and summer months, when garden statuary is in stock.



Edie Williams, of Round Rock, formerly of Germany, remembers her grandparents always having gnomes around their house back in Germany, and introduced her children and grandchildren to them during a vacation. During the trip, they encountered a home with more than 80 gnomes in various displays around and on top of the house.



"The whole yard was just full of them," Williams said. "They even had some set up like Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

Williams has two gnomes, one she found in Germany and one from the local Goodwill store.

"They just brighten up the landscape," Williams said. "I also think they watch over and kind of protect the house."

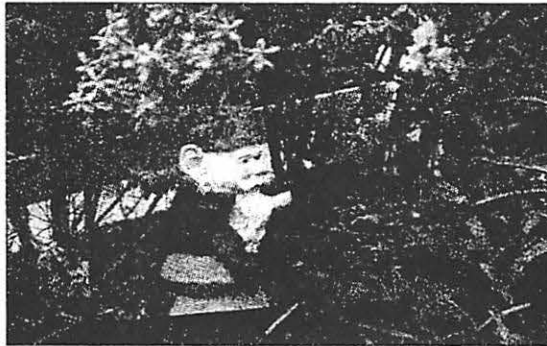
Williams' daughter Tina, husband Chip and grandson Brandon have their front garden well protected. They have three medium-sized gnomes and four three-inch-high fellows facing out from behind the bushes.

"My son was 4-and-a-half or five years old when we first saw them," Chip Williams said. "He had a fit and just loved them. That was our first gnome, and we have five or six of the bigger ones now."



Beverly Jackson, who lives just down the street from the Williams family in Round Rock, was surprised to find out that the concrete gnome in her front yard was watching out. Jackson inherited the gnome from a grandmother and put it in her front yard as a decoration.

"It was my grandmother's," Jackson said. "I never did know the story of why she had it, but it is good to hear that they watch over the house."



One of the gnomes that can be found around town, none encountered were as prominent as the ones at the home of Gizelle Goode. What started with one gnome, quickly multiplied to six around a tree in the front yard, watching

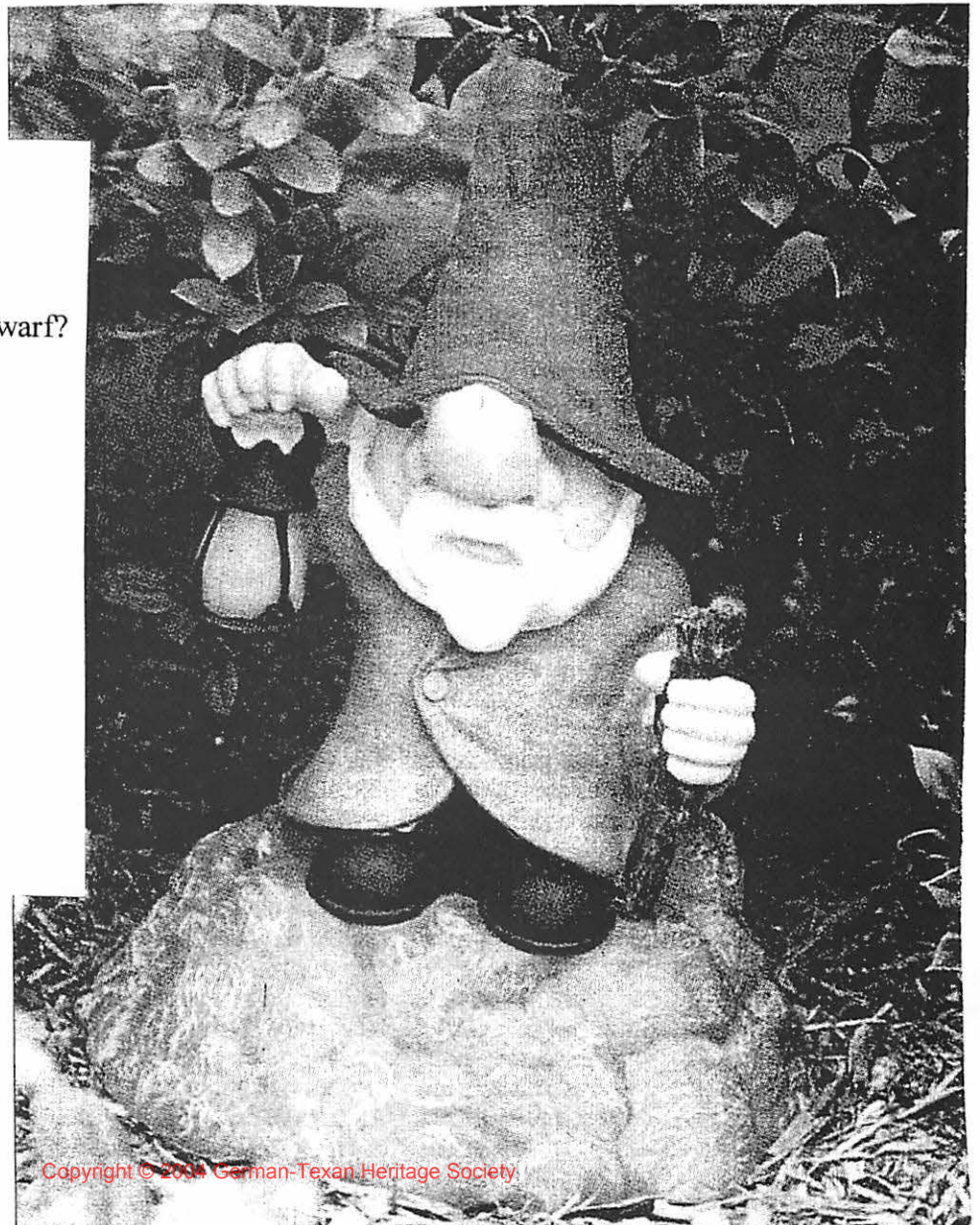
passers-by.

"Everyone who walked by wanted to know why we didn't have seven, because of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves," Goode said. "We finally got another one just recently and now we have the 'Seven

Dwarves.' We have to find a Snow White to go with them."

Goode said the gnomes are decorated to go with the seasons, and will be Santa's helpers during the holidays.

Though they're hard to spot among the many frogs, rabbits, angels and other yard statuary, when you drive around the neighborhoods of Round Rock, keep an eye out for these garden guardians — they've got an eye on you.



Garden = *Garten*

Dwarf = *Zwerg*

*Gartenzwerg* = Garden Dwarf?

Mountain = *Berg*

*Geist* = Spirit

*Berggeist* = Gnome

Earth = *Erde*

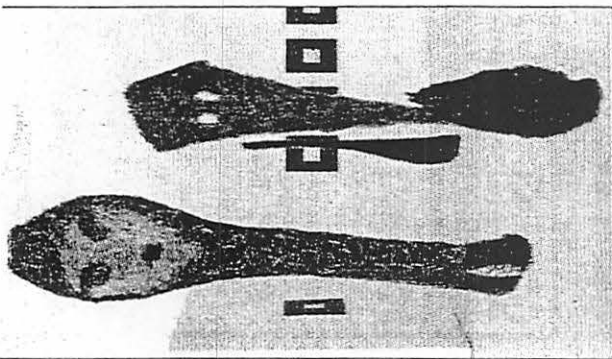
Spirit = *Geist*

*Erdegeist* = Gnome

(from Cassell's 1936 German dictionary)



from Dallas Morning News, August 10, 2003, submitted by Arlene and Joe Burges of Round Rock



BRAD LOPER/Staff Photographer

*Mongen Okome (Face)* by German artist Christine Wehe-Bamberger

# A bridge to Texas

A small German town and Arlington bond through their artists

By JANET KUTNER

Art Critic

ARLINGTON — For more than 50 years this city has sustained a close relationship with the small town of Bad Königshofen, Germany. It started in 1951, when a German pen pal told her Arlington friend about the need

for food and clothing in her community. Located on the East/West border, it was overrun by refugees from the then Soviet-occupied zone of Germany.

Ties that bind are hard to break, and during the years Arlington citizens stayed in touch with their German counterparts. But it fell to artists to cement the kinship.

A collaborative program that began two years ago when an Arlington contingent traveled to Bad Königshofen continues this summer with a combination exhibition/public art project. The show, titled "The Bridge," is at the Arlington Museum of Art. A large outdoor sculpture known as the International Peace and Friendship Monument, dedicated on July 12, is in the adjacent Gene Allen Park.

The German delegation — Eva Luna Warmuth, Peter Picciani and Christine Wehe-Bamberger — spent 17 days here, working with Arlington friends who visited their town in 2001, when a monument was erected there. A fourth German artist, watercolorist Fritz Toennieshen, was unable to make the Arlington trip but is represented in "The Bridge."

All three Arlington artists have strong reputations. Both Nicholas Wood and Benito Huerta teach at the University of Texas at Arlington, and the latter also directs its gallery. Celia Muñoz, whose retrospective is touring Texas, is creating a major work for the new Latino Cultural Center that will open in September in Dallas.

All six artists view the Arlington monument as a beacon.

"People help people," Ms. Warmuth says. "That is peace work and on the ground something good for

*Continued from Page 1G*

the future can grow."

Arlington Museum curator Rachel Bounds, who oversaw both the monument and the exhibition, agrees. "The monument symbolizes the efforts of many who have reached out, joining others to create a bond of friendship fostering peace in our community and the world community," she says.

The form speaks for itself. A semicircular "bench" covered with earth supports a 12-foot-tall column of stainless steel, which flares out at the top like a ray of light. Sand-blasted into the column's surface are words in both English and German. References are to "commonality ... dreams ... [and] responsibility," and terms such as "in each other's shoes" and "communicate by listening" are used.

Although some support was provided by the sister city groups in each city, it was mostly a labor of love.

"Arlington has no public art program or funding for arts organizations," Mr. Huerta points out, so "all of the money either came from private donations or in the form of in-kind gifts."

These were considerable, according to figures provided by Ms. Bounds. "We've received \$20,000 cash to date and approximately \$90,000 in contributions of time, service and goods," she says, although more will be needed to complete landscaping around the monument. A May fund-raiser to which the Arlington artists contributed works brought in \$5,000.

Other donations included 69 yards of topsoil, part of which

forms a berm that functions as the back of the bench, and 33 yards of concrete for the column's support base.

Oddly enough, Bad Königshofen, a town that has grown only from 7,000 to 11,000 during the years, "pulled its part of the project off with ease," Ms. Bounds says. "We had a more difficult time here because Arlington is now so big that we had to wade through bureaucratic systems," she adds.

If shared interests are the message of the monument, diversity drives the exhibition. Both Mr. Huerta and Ms. Muñoz are conceptualists who address the ironies of acculturation among Latinos in the United States, but his works are more about consumerism and hers about social ills.

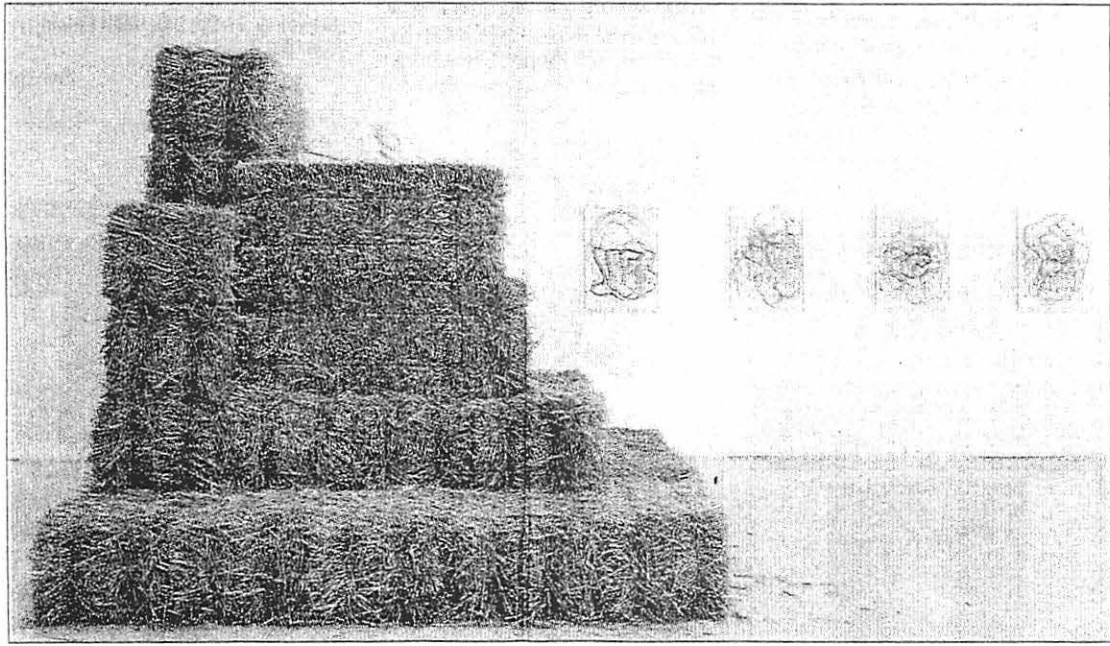
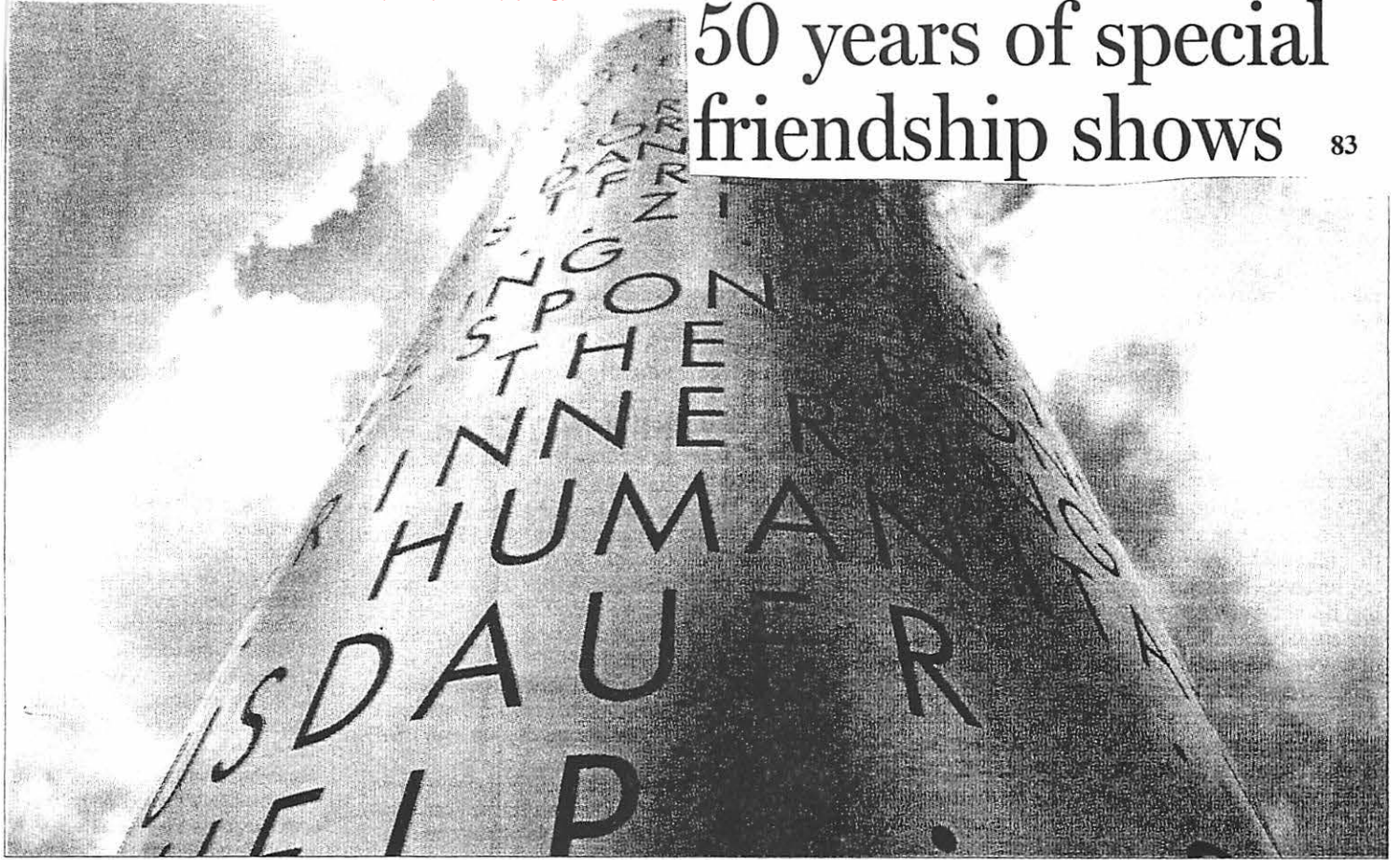
Mr. Wood is a designer/craftsman, although wood wall reliefs in the form of bullet-ridden targets carry social implications. Mr. Picciani presents elegant hand-turned vessels of exotic woods along with etched and silvered copper plates from a new series of abstractions based on human genetics.

Ms. Wehe-Bamberger, who specializes in room-size installations, shows monumental felt pieces that hang from the ceiling and fluid drawings made by diluting earth-colored inks with Bad Königshofen mineral water.

Ms. Warmuth juxtaposes expressive bronze effigies of human figures with a giant throne built from bales of straw. The latter includes a winged heart, made of marble and feathers. She dedicates it "to everyone who's sitting in a powerful position" — an implied warning about the abuses of



# 50 years of special friendship shows



**Arlington Museum curator Rachel Bounds visited the monument in Bad Königshofen, Germany.**

**Top: Sand-blasted into a stainless steel column are words in both English and German that refer to "commonality ... dreams ... [and] responsibility." Above: A throne of straw is dedicated "to everyone who's sitting in a powerful position," says German artist Eva Luna Warmuth.**

power. Ironically, Mr. Toennieshen, whose picture-postcard watercolors of scenes around Bad Königshofen seem a throw-back to an earlier time, best carries the mes-

sage of continuity forward. "When we were in Germany we visited a monastery and there was a shop that sold his works," Mr. Huerta recalls. "He told us that he was taken captive by both Ameri-

can and Russian troops during the war, but that they let him do his art in prison, and he was able to trade his works for cigarettes."

It's been "his sustenance for most of his life," says Mr. Huerta,

who believes the Arlington and Bad Königshofen collaboration can serve much the same purpose.

E-mail [jkutner@dallasnews.com](mailto:jkutner@dallasnews.com)

"The Bridge" is on view through Saturday at the Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St. in Arlington. Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Free. Call 817-275-4600 or go to [www.arlingtonmuseum.org](http://www.arlingtonmuseum.org).



# Steinways With German Accents

## Pianos Made in Queens Have Cousins in Hamburg

By JAMES BARRON

HAMBURG, Germany — In 1850, when Heinrich Engelhard Steinweg left for New York and changed his name to Henry E. Steinway, four of his five sons immigrated with him.

The fifth, C. F. Theodor Steinway, stayed behind. He hated America — “that land of iniquity” with its unbearable weather and uncouth concertgoers. So when his father and brothers started a piano company in New York, Theodor, the technical genius of the family, sent his ideas for improving the instruments via a trans-Atlantic mail.

He moved to New York in 1865, but went back to Germany regularly until

*Continued From Page B1*

Queens — a cluster of red-brick buildings. But the Hamburg factory — whose windows were blown out in an Allied bombing raid during World War II — today is smaller, brighter and cleaner. It also continues C. F. Theodor’s laboratory tradition. Much of the precision cutting and drilling machinery installed in the Astoria plant was tried in Hamburg first.

For years, especially when Steinway was owned by CBS in the 1970’s and 1980’s, the company resisted acknowledging that New York Steinways and Hamburg Steinways were different. “Under the reign of CBS,” said Werner Husmann, a vice president who has worked for Steinway in Hamburg for 35 years, “we had to say we’re the same.” Now, seven years after new owners took the company public, “at least it’s allowed that we sound different,” Mr. Husmann said.

There are pianists who prefer a Hamburg Steinway. The workmanship is better, they maintain. “It’s like an upgraded American

1880, when he went back for good. He opened the company’s second plant here. It was part laboratory, part factory. While he tinkered with new sounding boards and rims, workers manufactured pianos according to the same designs used at the factory in Astoria, Queens — instruments that, because of his innovations, gave Steinways the big, bright sound that defined the modern piano.

Steinway & Sons still makes pianos here. But they are a bit different from their American cousins. Many pianists maintain that Hamburg Steinways tend to sound lush, warmer and somehow smaller than Steinways from New York. So there is not one Steinway sound, but

Steinway, and there’s nothing to sneeze at in the American Steinway,” said the pianist and arranger Wally Harper. Hamburg Steinways, he said, “seem to be more sensitive and have a wider range of dynamics.”

But the pianist Jeffrey Siegel said the difference was more in the touch than in the sound. “I’m not so sure anymore that one can generalize about the tonal quality,” he said.

Emanuel Ax said that Hamburg Steinways were once “more consistent” than New York Steinways. Now, like Mr. Siegel, he said the differences have more to do with individual instruments than with where they were made.

“My impression is the whole operation has become more connected in the last few years,” Mr. Ax said. “I really like it, because from my point of view, I think we’re starting to get the best of both worlds.”

Alfred Brendel performs on a Hamburg Steinway in Europe and a New York Stein-

### INVENTION FOR 900 HANDS

*The Second Plant*

two.

When concert grand No. K0862 was being trimmed in the casemaking department of the factory in Queens in June, it took on characteristics that marked it as a New Yorker forever. What would be different if it were being made in Germany? What does the Hamburg factory do differently?

The factory looks like the one in

*Continued on Page B4*

way in America — and sends Steinway executives handwritten critiques of both, they say. So, some Steinways are delightful and some can be disappointing, no matter which factory they come from.

### An Ocean Apart, Yet Close

They may still sound different, but Steinway officials say New York Steinways and Hamburg Steinways are more similar than they have ever been. High-level managers from the Queens factory say they confer with their Hamburg counterparts more often than ever. That closeness is recent, though. The chief technician at the Hamburg factory, Gerde Fründ, has worked there since 1958. But not until four years ago did the company pay his way to Queens so he could meet his American counterparts.

from New York Times, August 27, 2003

# For the Steinways Made in Queens, Cousins With German Accents

Bruce A. Stevens, the president of Steinway & Sons, says he is not worried that some customers may find Hamburg Steinways superior to New York Steinways. "When people ask which is the better piano, I say, 'We have the No. 1 and the No. 2,'" he said, without specifying which he considers first and which second.

Mr. Husmann added, "We are in a position to provide people with the piano they like."

Hamburg Steinways cost more in the United States than New York Steinways. A Hamburg concert grand sells for about \$97,800, roughly \$5,000 more than a comparable New York Steinway like No. K0862. "What we try to do is keep it on parity," said Frank M. Mazurco, Steinway's executive vice president, "because the exchange rate plays games with products like this."

### Sharp Corners, or Rounded?

One difference between a New York Steinway and a Hamburg Steinway is recognizable from the outside: the shape of the arms, the part of the case at either end of the keyboard.

On a New York Steinway, the curve of the arm ends in a sharp corner — a Sheraton arm, named for Thomas Sheraton, the 18th-century furniture designer. On a Hamburg Steinway, the edge is rounded.

Once, New York Steinways had rounded arms, too. Mr. Mazurco says the New York factory switched to the Sheraton arm around 1910. "Obviously, somebody said, 'Guys, furniture styles have changed, we need to adapt,'" he said. "New York adapted. In Hamburg, they said, 'That's not happening in Europe.' They kept the design the way it was. And later, when the Japanese entered the market, they started with rounded arms, like Europe. It's New York that's standing unique in the architecture."

Cutting the arms gives a piano an unmistakable identity. The laminated rim of No. K0862 got its New York look on a sunny morning in June, a couple of weeks after it was wheeled out of the hot, dry room where it had spent 69 days aging so it would never pop out of shape.

The cutting was done with a machine operated by Louis Auguste, who was born near Santo Domingo in the Dominican Re-

public and arrived in this country in 1970. He was hired at Steinway five years later.

"My father was a cabinetmaker," he said after guiding the noisy, fast-moving blade around the edge of the rim. "My grandfather was a cabinetmaker. My girlfriend is a cabinetmaker. I've been doing this since I was 7."

Since late last year, his counterpart in Hamburg has been a machine. The rounded arms of Hamburg Steinways are now shaped by a robotic device that does its work alone: once the workers have moved the rim into place on a cutting table, they step outside and shut the door.

On a Tuesday morning a couple of weeks after Mr. Auguste cut the arms on No. K0862, two of his bosses stood in the Hamburg plant, watching through a plastic window and marveling at the speed and precision of the machine. "This is a more refined process," said Andrew Horbachevsky, the manufacturing director of the Queens plant. "We're pretty primitive."

Will a similar machine be coming soon to Mr. Auguste's corner of the factory? "Whether we go in with this is a question," Mr. Horbachevsky said. "But you've got to be impressed."

The arms are not the only clue that a Steinway was made in New York or Hamburg. Just inside the lid is another marker.

The Hamburg factory still uses reddish African mahogany for one layer of the rim, the layer that ends up next to the piano's sounding board and the cast iron plate that holds the strings. In New York Steinways, that last layer has long been made of maple and spray-painted black with the rest of the case. The mahogany is "a marketing question," Mr. Husmann said.

Other differences between the way No. K0862 is being made and the way Hamburg Steinways are made became clear during two days at the Hamburg plant.

The first big step in the making of a piano — bending the rim — took the same amount of time here as in Astoria: 14 minutes. But in Hamburg the job was done by three workers, plus a foreman. In Astoria, it takes six or seven, plus a foreman.

The managers of the Hamburg factory said they did not need as large a crew because, after gluing the strips of wood together, their workers load the slabs onto

carts and roll them to the rim-bending machine. In Queens, the workers carry the 340-pound slabs from the gluing machine to the rim-bending device.

"You don't need those big guys carrying it around," Mr. Husmann said.

And where the Queens rim-benders use long-handled levers to shove the rim wood into place, members of the Hamburg team wheel in a machine with a hydraulic arm that did some of the work without grunting, groaning or sweating.

Are human hands better than hydraulic arms when it comes to driving wood into place? "We hear people talking," Mr. Husmann said. "'Steinway hates machines.' 'Steinway loves machines.' 'What is your relationship to machines?' It's simple. A machine has to provide an increase in quality. We are not the people who believe we can do everything with machines. We do 85 percent by hand."

### Questions of Supply

Like the Queens factory, Hamburg has a lumberyard where wood sits, aging.

The Hamburg factory uses much of the same wood as the Queens factory — maple from the Pacific Northwest for the rims, spruce from Alaska for the sounding boards. The strips that will be glued together in Hamburg are cut, packed and shipped in Queens.

Until the 1990's, Hamburg used European beech in the rims and Bavarian spruce in the sounding boards. Both became scarce, and Steinway officials say they decided that a reliable supply mattered more than the price. The maple costs a third more than the beech did, Mr. Husmann said.

The cast-iron plates now come from the same Ohio foundry as the plates that go into New York Steinways. The German plate-maker that the Hamburg factory once relied on — which also made plumbing pipes — went bankrupt, Mr. Husmann said.

### Hammers and Felt

One arm is pointed, the other is curved. One inner rim is brown, the other black. Two more major differences between a New York Steinway like No. K0862 and a Hamburg Steinway are deeper inside.





Ting-Li Wang/The New York Times

The pianist Emanuel Ax tries out a New York model in Steinway's 57th Street showroom. One difference between it and its German cousin is easily seen. Pianos made at the Queens factory have sharp corners at either end of the keyboard. In Hamburg, they are rounded.

One is the action — the sensitive, see-saw mechanism inside the piano that drives a hammer toward its string when a pianist hits a key. The action is as complicated as a Rube Goldberg machine, and exists to do one crucial job: translate the touch of the pianist into motion. It converts the delicateness of Debussy or the explosiveness of Shostakovich into what the audience hears.

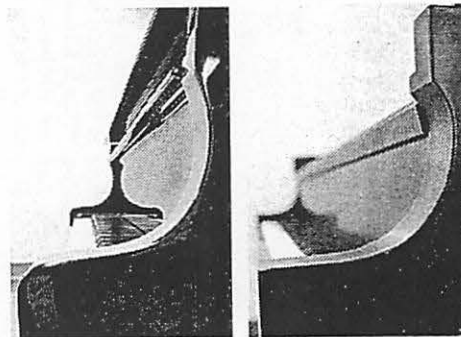
The other difference, Steinway says, is the hammers themselves.

On a New York Steinway, the action and the hammers are made at the factory by Steinway workers. On a Hamburg Steinway, both parts are bought from subcontractors who follow Steinway's specifications. (Mr. Mazurco, the executive vice president, says the union contract that covers the New York plant does not dictate staffing levels.)

Pianists who prefer Hamburg Steinways, like Wally Harper, maintain that their action is more responsive than the action in New York Steinways. Steinway says the difference in the hammers matters more.

In Hamburg, Steinway uses hammers with hard felt, and the workers make them softer with needles and sandpaper. In New York, Steinway uses hammers with softer felt, and the workers make them harder by painting a gooey solution onto the head of each hammer. The solution, lacquer and lacquer thinners, adds strength, and that increases the volume and brightness of the sound.

"This is a process that takes longer," Mr. Husmann said. "We shape it to the right shape, voice it, listen to it."



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

In a soundproof room here at the Hamburg factory, Erich Lagemann spends seven hours a day sanding the tops of hammers to just the right shape. Then he slides the action into the piano, playing a few chords and then sliding it out for more work. It is more or less what Mr. Fründ, the chief technician, does if he does not like the sound or the touch after each piano has gone through seven tunings.

"The fit and finish, I think, is a little better here," he said.

He paused. He did not want that to sound like a put-down of New York Steinways or the workers who make them. The only thing that matters, he said, is the final result, the sound.

"New York is O.K.," he said, "and this is O.K."



# Young walker stays in step

Six-year-old has taken strolls in 10 foreign countries and 30 states.

By **CHUCK MCCOLLOUGH**  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

It has only been a few years since Karl Boller took his first steps, but the 6-year-old Northeast Side resident already has left footprints in 10 foreign countries and 30 U.S. states.

The active youngster and his adoptive parents, Mary and Roy Boller, are volksmarchers, part of an international group that preaches the benefits of walking, including good health and family bonding.

Volksmarch, which is German for "people's walk," has become a centerpiece for the Boller family.

Mary and Roy Boller both were volksmarchers before they met and married nearly 11 years ago. When they adopted Karl about three years ago, he was introduced to the family hobby. Karl is from Slovakia, one half of the former Czechoslovakia.

So far, Karl has participated in volksmarches in England, France, Luxembourg, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Austria. And he has trekked through 30 of the 50 U.S. states, including the 13 original states during an East Coast trip this past summer.

"We estimate he has walked a total of 780 kilometers (nearly 500 miles) during all the volksmarches," said Mary, a fifth-grade teacher at Palo Alto Elementary, where Karl is a student. "Next summer, we are going to follow the Lewis and Clark expedition trail, or as much as we can."

Karl jumped in with his own comments.

"I like to go on volksmarches because I get to see my friends," the youngster said, remembering the people he has met on his walks. "I look for gold rocks, and I found a turkey feather once. I have seen different animals, including a rabbit, a deer, a buzzard, a bee and a buffalo."



from San Antonio Express-News, October 29, 2003

COURTESY PHOTO

Karl Boller, 6, walks with his dad Roy Boller during a Volksmarch in a European country. The child has walked in 10 foreign nations and 30 states with his adoptive parents.

*"I like to go on volksmarches because I get to see my friends. I look for gold rocks, and I found a turkey feather once."*

**KARL BOLLER**  
young volksmarch participant

When the youngster said he thought he saw a polar bear, his mom interjected, "Not yet,

Alaska."

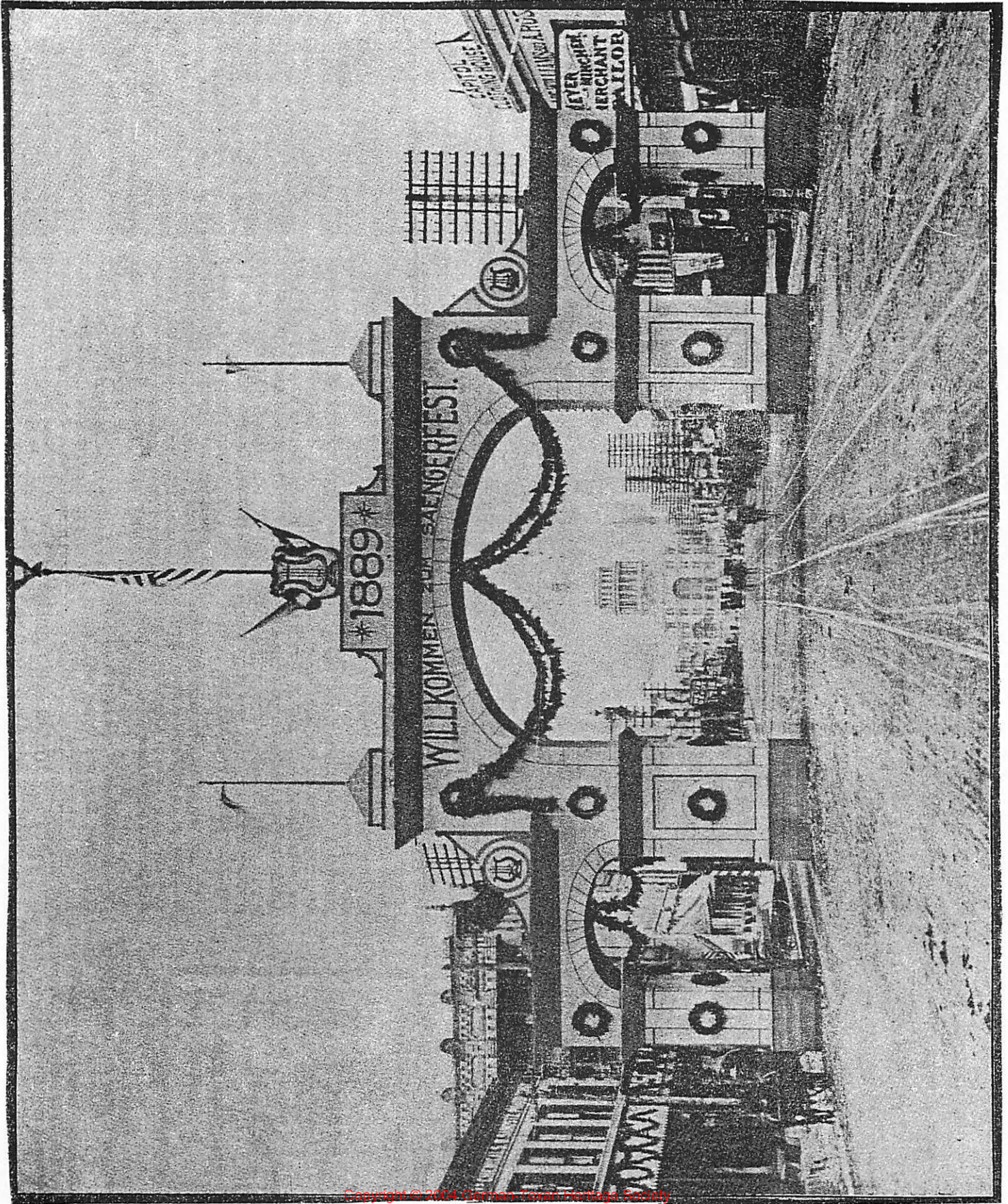
The family also likes to get out and go on regular walks in such areas as Canyon Lake and Lost Maples State Park, west of San Antonio.

Mary said Karl does well on the walks because as an active youngster he is free to wander in the beautiful outdoors — within sight of his parents, of course.

"He has such a sense of freedom on the walks, and because he is so curious, he is free to explore," she said.



This photo taken in 1889 was reproduced in "Onward," a feature section of the Austin American-Statesman, August 10, 1985. The photo was taken looking northward up Congress Avenue toward the state capitol. The arch with *Willkommen zum Saengerfest* (Welcome to the Singers Festival) commemorated the meeting in Austin of German singing clubs from all of parts of Texas, an annual event at which they performed.





# A century of joyful noise

## Saengerrunde celebrates German good fellowship

By Myra Hargrave McIlvain

from Austin American-Statesman,  
December 10, 1985

As waves of German immigrants began pouring into Texas in the mid-1800s, they formed social clubs of every imaginable kind — singing, gymnastics, shooting, literary, and mutual help societies.

Most of the old "vereins" or associations were gone by the turn of the century, but for more than 100 years Saengerrunde Hall has been Austin's traditional gathering place for German music lovers.

Most Austinites know the locale as Scholz Garten, for the Austin Saengerrunde owns the old beer parlor where University of Texas students and state employees have been sipping mugs of beer under the shade of giant pecan trees since 1866.

What many people don't realize is that butting up against the garden is Saengerrunde Hall, a sprawling German social club that houses a grand ballroom, a stage and a six-lane bowling alley.

Singing is serious business at Saengerrunde. In fact, singing rousing old German tunes that range from the beer hall variety to classical, is what the organization is all about.

The Maennerchor (men's choir) and the Damenchor (women's choir) hold separate practices sessions every Monday night except for a two-month summer holiday.

President Rolf Meyer says membership is about 350 and includes bowlers on the club's five leagues and dancers who come every month to twirl to the music of the polka bands, but the active members (those who can vote) must belong to the Maennerchor.

And to be accepted into the men's choir, you must either speak German or have the intention of learning. The business meetings are conducted in German — an inspiration to learn the language.

Since its organization Feb. 8, 1879, Saengerrunde has cultivated German song, language and fellowship, known as *gemuetlichkeit*.

In keeping with those goals, the dances and parties at Austin's oldest ethnic club are family affairs where you'll see a broad mixture of modern dress and women and young girls in full, colorful peasant dresses and dirndls and men and young boys in short leather pants called *lederhosen*. Blending with the lively beat of the polka band you'll hear both English and the clipped sound of German.

Most member families have been in the United States for one to three generations. Several, like Eva Forest, who came to Texas about a year ago, have made remarkable strides in learning English, but revert comfortably to their native tongue.

Forest explained that the finest *lederhosen* and

the distinctive sturdy shoes worn by some of the women came from Tegernsee, a Bavarian village far removed from the tourist route.

She pointed to 76-year-old F. Lee Weigl who came to this country with his parents when he was 4. "He looks like the Bavarian man. See his Tegernsee *lederhosen*, his pipe and his cane? All very Bavarian."

Weigl, who operated the iron works his father founded at Red River and East First streets, proudly showed off an ornamental iron gate he and Roy Walker have just completed for the entrance to Saengerunde Hall.

"My father read about the America of opportunity," Weigl said. "The first two years (in Austin) were rough. My father found work shoeing horses and sharpening plow points. He started his own business through help of a Saengerrunde member (wood-carver Peter Mansbendel)."

Richard Heilscher expressed similar feelings of satisfaction about the opportunities he has found since coming to the United States as a young man almost 56 years ago.

A cabinetmaker and member of the men's choir, Heilscher built a handsome walnut music stand and cabinet for the Maennerchor's music library.

The first German singing society in Texas was begun in 1851 in New Braunfels, and the next year German settlers in Austin organized the Austin Maennerchor.

continued on next page





In 1853, the Austin singers rode horseback or in wagons over washed-out roads and crossed rain-swollen creeks to reach New Braunfels for the first Saengerfest (singing festival) held in Texas. Except for years during the Civil War and the two world wars, the Deutsch Texanischer Saengerbund (German Texas Federation of Singing Clubs) has held an annual Saengerfest in one of Texas' major cities.

Called the "greatest musical event Austin had witnessed," visitors to the 1879 Saengerfest, hosted by the enthusiastic, newly organized Saengerrunde, were greeted by a lighted triple triumphal arch stretching across Congress Avenue at Sixth Street.

The gala affair included a grand ball at the Millett Opera House on East Ninth Street, a banquet at the old Ben Hur Shrine Temple, and excursions to Mount Bonnell. It was reported that the New Orleans National Orchestra furnished "absolutely enchanting music." Again in 1889, 1900 and 1911, Austin was the site of elaborate singing festivals.

Over the years Saengerrunde members have played a large role in Austin's social activities. A few years before 1909, when Saengerrunde purchased the beer garden and meeting hall, it leased the garden and began offering Sunday afternoon band concerts for families. Its members presented German plays and sponsored German summer schools.

Today, preparation is intense for the elaborate spring Saengerfest. And the societies have reached across the Atlantic. Austin Saengerrunde has established a friendship with singers from Glueckstadt, Germany, where members have exchanged visits with Austin about every three years since 1966. And the Chorgeneinschaft, an association of singing groups from other cities, has a similar arrangement with singers in Wiesbaden.

To accommodate the festival crowds and the increasing number of Austin activities, the Saengerrunde Hall recently has been enlarged. Helmut Hartmann, an organ builder and master cabinet-maker, has juggled the job of overseeing the renovation with his duties of renting the facility to the public for wedding receptions and other large parties.

Although a women's choir was organized when Saengerrunde was chartered, it soon became a women's auxiliary, says Manfred Holck in his book, *A Century of Singing "Das Deutsche Lied (The German Song)"*.

Holck's wife Bertha, a charter member of the present Damenchor, which was organized in 1959, also is a charter member of the Damen Kegel Verein (women's bowling league) that was organized in 1935.

"The pins were hand-set back then and it cost 10 cents a game," Holck said. At 80, Bertha Holck said she still bowls, but complained that her average has dropped from 150 to 100. Her sister-in-law, 84-year-old Esther Bohn, also is a member of a team that bowls in one of the mixed leagues.

As bowlers rolled balls along all six modern lanes and automatic pin setters kept the action moving, Frank Kuse took time out to reminisce.

The great-grandson of August Scholz, the beer garden's builder, Kuse said he lived in the neighborhood and used to climb in the window at night to hand-set bowling pins for 30 cents an hour and free soft drinks.

At this year's Oktoberfest, families as usual were represented by more than one generation. Rose For-

ster and her husband Herbert met in Germany two years ago. They have been in Austin for two months and were busy helping Rose's parents, Lilly and Robert Torn, at the dessert table.

Food and beverage at Saengerrunde Hall are consumed with as much gusto as goes into the other activities. Eugene Powell carted a tray laden with four of his wife Mary Jo's apple pies while Helmut Hartmann supervised the sausage, and several women lined up to serve sauerkraut, potato salad and hard rolls.

When the Cloverleafs broke into *In Heaven There is No Beer*, the crowd moved in from the beer garden and poured onto the dance floor — from toddlers to senior citizens. The music didn't stop, and neither did the dancers. They hopped to the *Seven-Step Polka* and glided to the *Bird Waltz*, then they formed a giant circle and wriggled to the *Chicken*.

Later, the Maennerchor and Damenchor joined forces, distributed song sheets, and led the merry-makers in a round of lively German songs.

As parents carried rumped, sleepy-eyed children and other members carted empty serving dishes out into the cool night air, they shouted *aufwiederseh'n* (goodbyes) and reminded each other what to bring to Monday night choir practice or Tuesday night bowling. Except for the cars speeding along San Jacinto and the darkened state office buildings towering nearby, it could have been a hundred years ago when a group of early Austin settlers got together for a night of German song, language and fellowship.

Among the best known of German beer drinking songs is "O! Du Lieber Augustin" a German *Volklied* (folksong) probably sung thousands of times at the Scholz Beer Garden in Austin →

Ach! Du lieber Augustin, Augustin, Augustin,  
Ach! Du lieber Augustin, alles ist hin.  
Geld ist weg; Mädels ist weg.,  
Augustin liegt im Dreck!  
Ach! Du lieber Augustin, alles ist hin.

Another well-known drinking song is "In Heaven There Is No Beer."

Im Himmel da gibt's kein Bier.  
Drum trinken wir es hier.  
Und sind wir nicht mehr heir,  
Dann trinken die Andern unser Bier!  
Ja Ja, ja-ja-ja-ja

(from German-Texan Society  
song sheet)



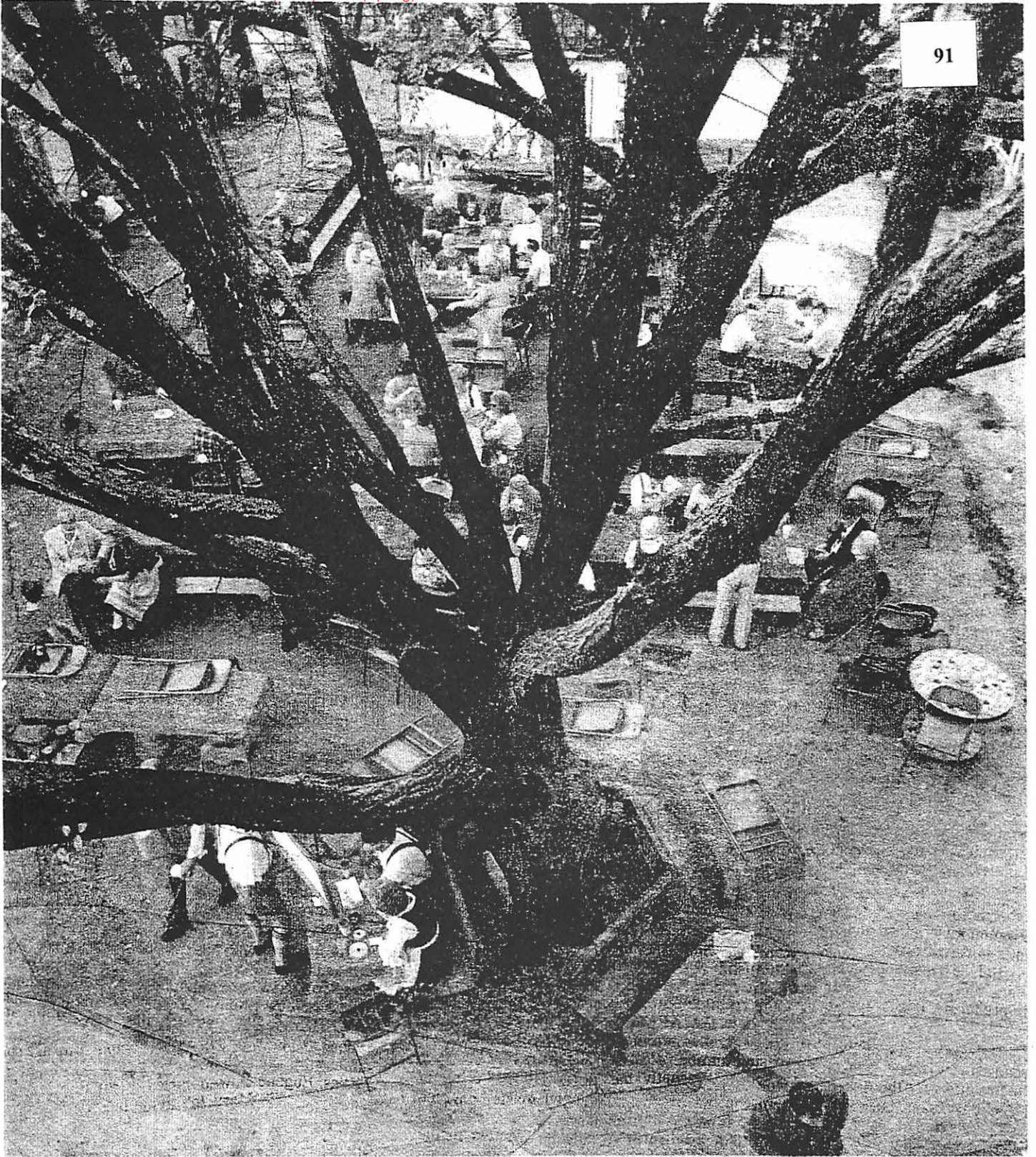


Photo by Stroud McIlvain

Scholz Garten — known to college students, state employees and other Austinites — is owned by the Austin Saengerrunde.

Austin American-Statesman photo, 1989



from the Houston Chronicle, April 15, 2003

# Kopp, Bach Society soar with 'St. John' Passion

By CHARLES WARD  
Houston Chronicle

Storytelling is central to all religions. In Christianity, the core is the death and resurrection of Jesus — a narrative that the early church turned into the elaborate rituals of Holy Week, the period from Palm Sunday through Easter currently under way.

The drama inherent in the Passion story — the death of Christ — captured the imagination of the Catholic Church early on. Dramatic recitations, theatrical presentations and musical settings became vehicles for retelling the central story of the faith.

The peaks of that tradition are the Passion settings of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Appropriately for Holy Week, the Bach Society of Christ the King Lutheran Church is presenting two free performances of Bach's *St. John* Passion. They are the major project with guest conductor Peter Kopp, the Dresden choral director leading the Bach Choir and Orchestra this spring.

The first performance was Sunday at

Christ the King. The second is 3 p.m. Friday.

Scholars now believe that Bach composed four Passion settings. Only two survive: *St. John* (1724) and *St. Matthew* (1727 or 1729).

*Passio secundum Joannem*, or *Johannes-Passion*, in alternative Latin and German titles, is the more intimate. Most notably, it requires only one choir, not the two of the monumental *St. Matthew* setting.

The Evangelist tells the story in recitative (i.e. sung speech). The narration is straightforward except for the few places where Bach indulged in word-painting.

A sensational example Sunday was the moment when the Evangelist described Peter as weeping bitterly (*weinete bitterlich*). Tenor Randolph Lacy, the Evangelist,

turned the long melisma depicting weeping into a heartbreaking lament. That was typical of his excellent work during the performance.

Other characters — principally Jesus, Peter and Pilate — also tell their part of the story in recitative. At certain points, the choir becomes the crowd demanding justice.

Woven into the story are arias, chorales (Lutheran hymns) and choruses that reflect on the emotions and meaning of the story. They add distance and emotional release.

Kopp provided the two crucial ingredients of Sunday's performance. He made the drama crackle. He infused every moment with just the right pace and shape.

Kopp provided the two crucial ingredients of Sunday's performance. He made the drama crackle. He infused every moment with just the right pace and shape.

Several times in the Passion, Bach wrote sequences of action that are almost like quick-cut film-editing. Dialogue jumps

back and forth between the Evangelist, other characters and the chorus. Under Kopp's leadership, these places were electric.

Elsewhere, the music-making was equally gripping. Kopp and the small orchestra established the standard in the restless, surging string accompaniment that introduces the first chorus. From then on, every moment had just the right character — from deep sigh to champing-at-the-bit energy.

Overall, the performance was intimate — appropriately for the Christ the King sanctuary.

The 25-member choir performed with grace and calm; members sang the secondary characters and the arias with strong commitment and periodic excellent musicality.

A strong backbone of accompaniment came from the strings and chamber organ in the 15-piece period-instrument orchestra.

Charles Ward can receive e-mail at [charles.ward@chron.com](mailto:charles.ward@chron.com).

## MUSIC REVIEW

*Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Boulevard at Greenbriar in Houston, conducts worship services in German one Sunday each month. For information phone the church at 713-523-2864 or send an e-mail message to [ctk@neosoft.com](mailto:ctk@neosoft.com)*



from San Antonio Express-News, September 6, 2003

# Hitler vintage leaves bad taste

Germany asks Italy to stop winery from using Nazi on its bottles.

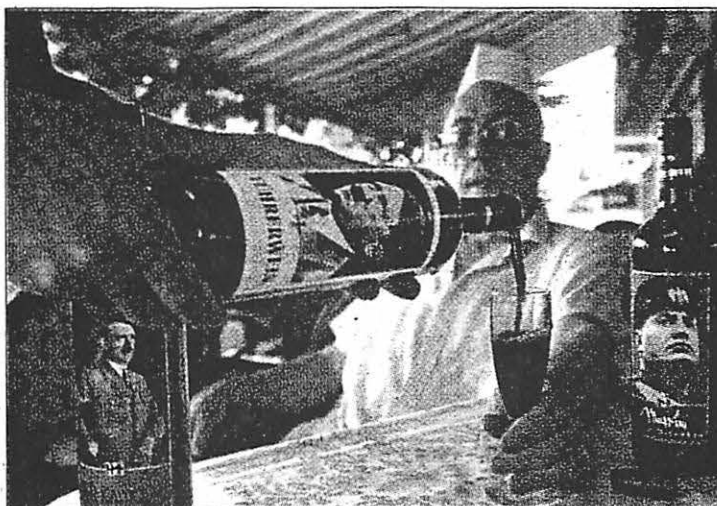
BY DAVID RISING  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — This nation has complained to Italy about a winery that labels its bottles with portraits of Adolf Hitler.

Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries recently wrote to her Italian counterpart to say the labels are "contemptible and tasteless" and asked him to see what could be done to stop their production, spokeswoman Christiane Wirtz said.

The so-called "Fuehrerwein" bottles, part of vintner Alessandro Lunardelli's "historic line," features 14 different labels portraying Hitler with slogans like "Sieg Heil" and other Nazis.

The line also includes labels with portraits of other infamous characters of history, such as Italy's former dictator



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Gianfranco Bettiol receives wine from a bottle bearing the image of Adolf Hitler in a bar near Rome in this photo from 2001. Germany has protested to Italy over the bottles, saying they are tasteless and that they glorify the Nazi leader.

Benito Mussolini and Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

In a 2001 interview, Lunardelli told the Associated Press the labels were "a great marketing success."

The wine is available legally

in Italy, where it also can be purchased on the Internet, Wirtz said.

Its sale is illegal in Germany, where products bearing images or slogans from the Nazi era are outlawed.

Bavaria state said it was opening an investigation to see if any of the bottles had crossed the Italian border into southern Germany.

Zypries, in her letter to Italian Justice Minister Roberto Castelli, expressed hope Italy would act as part of common European efforts to fight racism and xenophobia.

Castelli said Friday he'd been unaware of the wine labels, but there was nothing his office could do.

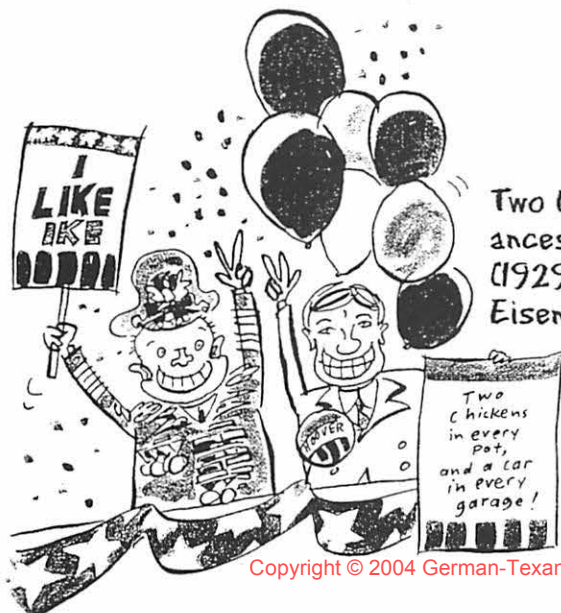
"I agree, it seems in bad taste," he told Radio Padania in northern Italy.

Past attempts to end production of the wine have failed.

Jewish organizations in Italy's northern Alto Adige region sued the vintner, citing an Italian law against publicly glorifying any leaders or principles of fascism. They lost when a judge ruled Lunardelli wasn't "exalting" Mussolini or Hitler by putting their pictures on bottles.

Germany's embassy in Rome also has been protesting the bottles since 1997.

## Did You Know?



Two U.S. presidents with German ancestry are Herbert Hoover (1899-1964) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (1894-1969).



from the Comfort News, January 15, 2004, submitted by Anne Seidensticker Stewart

# First historic public event of Sesquicentennial year this Sunday

by Gregory J. Krauter

On Sunday, January 18, 2004 the first special event of Comfort's 150th Jubilee year will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the historic Comfort Cemetery. The program will be under the direction of the Hill Country Camp No. 1938 of the Division of Texas of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The organization was founded in 1896 in Richmond, Virginia and is a direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans. Their re-enactment ceremony will be similar to the performance by the Sons of Union Veterans at the 130th Anniversary Rededication of the restored Treue der Union Monument (the oldest Civil War Monument in Texas) on August 10, 1996. The program will last about thirty minutes and will include local, county and area officials and dignitaries. Members of a second Central Texas Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans are also planning to attend with both groups wearing period uniforms and other accoutrements and following their organization's guidelines for such events!

I first had the idea for this event almost two years ago, and Wm. Paul Burrier and I have been working on the necessary research and preparations for almost a year and a half!

Paul is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans "Hill Country Camp No. 1938" whose official motto is 'Heritage, not Hate' and he had ancestors on both sides of the Nueces Battle/Massacre of August 10, 1862. He has been seriously researching this

not survive. While many atrocities took place on both sides, and especially along the frontier states and territories, the vast majority of individuals who served on both sides were brave and honorable men who deeply believed in their causes. There were also many, especially along the frontier line and the western part of the nation who really did not want to be part of either side of the conflict. However, when conscription laws were passed many of these decent human beings were forced to make life or death decisions based upon their own situations and welfare of their loved ones.

The time has come to honor those in the greater Comfort area who made the decision to join the Confederate Army based upon honorable reasons. Some had brothers who were serving in the Union Army or had been killed at the Nueces Battle/Massacre. The vast majority who joined the Confederate Army in the Comfort area were of German descent and were able to fulfill their requirements without sacrificing their own personal principles.

Frank W. Kiel, MD LLB of Comfort has thus far identified sixteen (16) Confederate Army veterans who are buried at the Comfort Cemetery and who all were members of original founding families. Two (2) of these men also served in the Union Army and only one (1) has the official headstone issued at the time by the Confederate States of America (CSA). This individual is Alfred Kapp, the oldest son of Professor Ernst Kapp of Sisterdale. He was born in Germany on December 22, 1836 and immigrated with his parents and four siblings to Texas and Sisterdale in 1847. He served in Company F in Woods' Regiment 36 of the Confederate Texas Cavalry and eventually died in New Braunfels on May 25, 1873 at the age of 36 with his death being related to his previous

military service. In the 1960's Miss Paula Ingenhuett hired the Schaeffer Funeral Home to relocate his remains to the family plot of Christoph and Antonie Kapp Flach, the oldest of his four sisters. (A fourth sister, Elizabeth, was born after the family's arrival in Sisterdale. Another sister, Julie, married Rudolph Wipprecht who later became the first Professor of Modern Languages at Texas A&M. The other sister, Hedwig, married Carl Coreth who died during the Civil War and whose sister married John Meusebach.)

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will have their program near this official gravesite of Alfred Kapp and this special event will bring additional status to our unique community cemetery which has been maintained so well for many decades by the Comfort Cemetery Association.

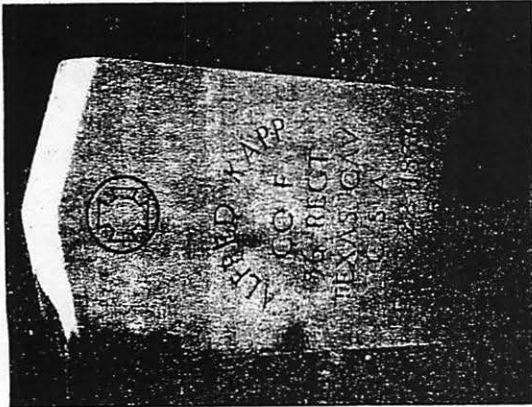
Local attorney and Comfort County Commissioner Russell C. Busby, as well as his father, are also longtime members of the Hill Country Camp No. 1938 and will host an "Open House" at 3:00 p.m. following this event at his new law office in the historic Rathskeller building on U.S. Hwy. 87. He and his wife Jan have spent months restoring this unique structure where his own personal collection of memorabilia relating to the history of Texas, the Civil War, Comfort and the Rathskeller building will be on display as part of the décor of his new office location.

The general public is cordially invited to attend this rare event at the Comfort Cemetery on Sunday which will also hold a few surprises for those in attendance and will itself become part of Comfort's special history in history of Texas, the Civil War, Comfort and the Rathskeller building will be on display as part of the décor of his new office location.

The general public is cordially invited to attend this rare event at the Comfort Cemetery on Sunday which will also hold a few surprises for those in attendance and will itself become part of Comfort's special history in history of Texas, the Civil War, Comfort and the Rathskeller building will be on display as part of the décor of his new office location.

The general public is cordially invited to attend this rare event at the Comfort Cemetery on Sunday which will also hold a few surprises for those in attendance and will itself become part of Comfort's special history in history of Texas, the Civil War, Comfort and the Rathskeller building will be on display as part of the décor of his new office location.

The general public is cordially invited to attend this rare event at the Comfort Cemetery on Sunday which will also hold a few surprises for those in attendance and will itself become part of Comfort's special history in history of Texas, the Civil War, Comfort and the Rathskeller building will be on display as part of the décor of his new office location.



**ALFRED KAPP's headstone is the only one in the Comfort Cemetery issued by the Confederate States of America (CSA).**

## Sesquicentennial event, from pg. 1...

tragic event which greatly influenced the formative years of our community since 1992 and has become known as the most qualified living source on the subject. He is currently planning to publish in the near future what will surely become the most thorough documentation of the event and its overview for generations to come.

History must be preserved accurately if present and future generations are to learn from the mistakes of the past. Wars, especially Civil Wars, provide some of the best lessons over the centuries—with the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865 being our new country's 'Baptism by Blood' and the single most horrendous event that the United States of America almost did

# HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR GTHS MEMBERSHIP ????????

If you have not, this might be the last issue of the Journal that you receive !  
But it's not too late. Simply remove this page and return it to GTHS.

## 2004 MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (area code & number) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check (make payable to GTHS)

Mastercard or Visa (signature required)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature (for Credit Card) \_\_\_\_\_

Your total payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 FOR GTHS ONLY

\$60 FOR PATRON

\$15 FOR STUDENT

\$40 FOR GTHS AND GUILD

\$750 FOR LIFE MEMBER

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR DONATION

*FREE MEMBERSHIP?  
SEE OTHER SIDE OF  
THIS PAGE →*

→→→→Return this completed page with your payment to ←←←←

GTHS  
PO BOX 684171  
AUSTIN, TX 78768-4171

IF THIS IS FOR A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE TELL US ---HOW DID YOU FIND US?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The German-Texan Heritage Society is a 501-(C)-(3) non-profit organization.



## **FREE MEMBERSHIP !**

**GTHS still is offering a special incentive for recruiting new members.**

**For recruiting 5 new members, you will receive a free, one-year membership for 2004.**

**Recruit 100 new members, and you receive a lifetime membership !**

**In order to earn your free membership, be sure to enter your name on the application form on the line(s) marked "How did you find us?"**

**Do your part to help membership grow — bring in new members from among your family and friends.**



**ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2004**

**Sherryl Brown**, Fredericksburg

**Leatrice Haley**, Inez

**Charles Kalteyer**, Austin

**Rodney Koenig**, Houston

**Christine Mills**, Pflugerville

**Robert Neely**, Bellville

**Thomas Pawel**, San Antonio

**Velma Rice**, League City

**Helga von Schweinitz**, Austin

**COMMITTEES & EDITORS FOR 2004**

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

**Chair — Teddy Boehm**  
Brenham

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Chair— Janice Thompson**  
Houston

**BUDGET & FINANCE**

**Chair—Ewing Evans**  
Austin

**GENEALOGY EDITOR**

**Elizabeth Nitschke Hicks**  
Houston

**JOURNAL EDITOR**

**Terry L. Smart**, Spring Issue  
**Ewing Evans**, Summer Issue  
**Hubert Heinen**, Summer Issue

**BOOK REVIEW EDITOR**

**Charles Patrick**  
Manor

**THE JOURNAL — WHERE TO SEND WHAT**

Send announcements, articles, news of reunions, meeting dates, newspaper clippings, and other information relating to German heritage to

**GTHS**  
**The Journal Editor**  
PO Box 684171  
Austin, TX 78768-4171

Send your genealogical inquiries or responses to requests for family history information to

**Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor**  
746 Edgebrook Drive  
Houston, TX 77034-2030  
E-mail: [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net)

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL**

**ISSUE**

**Spring 2004 (March 1)**  
**Summer 2004 (June 1)**  
**Winter 2004 (December 1)**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**January 20**  
**April 20**  
**October 20**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Materials sent for The Journal will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single space on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right and left, top and bottom margins no less than .7 inches. Editors are not responsible for errors or misinformation. All German materials must be accompanied by an English text. Editors have the right and the responsibility to refused materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS policies. All editors are volunteers and not paid for their services.

**GTHS TOLL FREE PHONE NUMBER 1-866-482-GTHS (4847)**



**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**PO Box 684171**  
**Austin, Texas 78768-4171**

**TOLL FREE**  
**1-866-482-GTHS (4847)**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
AUSTIN, TX  
PERMIT NUMBER  
02681**

***Promoting awareness and preservation of the  
German cultural heritage of Texas***