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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Ein Glück, daß es das deutsche Erbe in Texas gibt!

(Thank goodness for German-Texan Heritage.)

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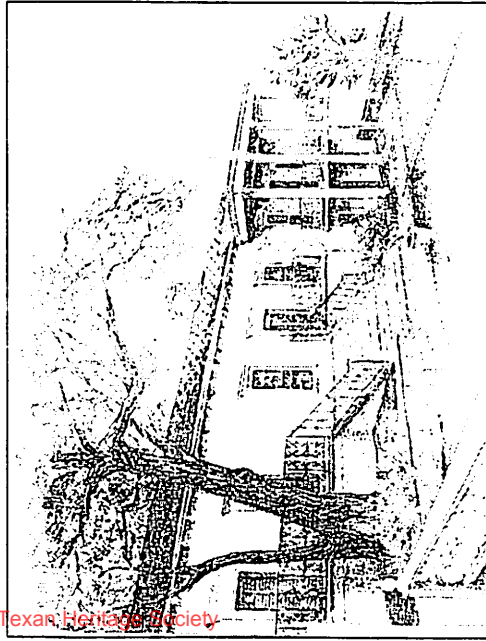
TEXAN SPOKEN HERE

Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage in Texas.

The German-Texan Heritage Society is renowned for the books it publishes, the cultural events it sponsors, and its unique collection of immigrant and historical books, including the complete collection of *Texas Vorwaerts*, an all-German Texas newspaper. Founded in 1978, GTHS is a debt-free non-profit organization dependent upon the generosity of friends and members who support its mission.

EDUCATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In 1858, the German Free School Association opened Austin's first chartered school in the building pictured below. Since 1991, the German Free School serves as our headquarters. Learn to read and write German here, research German-Texan history in our Pioneer Library, and come participate in our numerous cultural events.



Copyright © German-Texan Heritage Society

GTHS ANNUAL MEETING

Each year in early fall, members and friends of GTHS gather to listen to speakers, participate in workshops, visit German heritage sites and the like. See the Summer *Journal* or the GTHS Web site (www.gths.net) for more info.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership is based on a calendar year and open to anyone interested in the German heritage of Texas. You do not have to speak German to benefit as a member of GTHS.

- FREE advice on genealogy research.
- 10% Discount on Books and Events
- Informative Member Publications

THE JOURNAL

Your annual GTHS membership brings you an issue of the Society's *Journal* every three months. Each issue contains over 100 pages of family history, genealogy, inquiries from GTHS members seeking information about their German heritage, articles about GTHS members and their families, and statewide news of German-Texan events.

In each *Journal* you will find book reviews and articles about our German-Texan culture and history written by GTHS members or taken from other publications and newspapers. And there is much more!

THE GUILD

The German influence in Texas is a living legacy. Through Guild membership in the GTHS, our members are promoting and preserving their cultural heritage for the generations to come. Guild members host and organize the many programs offered at the German Free School, including German language classes, a monthly speaker series and annual traditional German events.

As a GTHS Guild member, you will receive (6) issues of our bimonthly Guild newsletter, the *Schulhaus Reporter*, which includes a calendar of events.

MEMBERSHIP

- STUDENT (with valid ID) \$15
- INDIVIDUAL (GTHS only) \$25
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THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAS HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 2, SUMMER (JUNE) 2004

“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”

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Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition

President's Notes

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered who does all of the preparation and behind-the-scenes work for the many events that GTHS sponsors? If your answer is Executive Director Julia Germany and her assistant Doris Butler, you are partially right. Indeed, Julia is responsible for insuring that all tasks are completed, but the rest of the answer is spelled V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R-S.

GTHS is extremely fortunate to have a cadre of volunteers who come to our headquarters numerous times each year to help with projects and activities that are too large or too complex for one or two persons to handle. Most of the volunteers are Austin-area members who have an appreciation for their German heritage, who have a desire to see it preserved, and who are willing to share their time and talents for the benefit of the rest of us. Many of them have been lending a hand for a decade or more.

As an example, one of the activities in which volunteers are heavily involved is Maifest. They help with everything from stuffing envelopes with the promotional mailings you get, to setting up tables and chairs for outdoor activities, to insuring that the table cloths are laundered, and to many other less obvious tasks. Many of these identical tasks are repeated for and during the annual Christmas market as well as for numerous other heritage preservation activities that GTHS sponsors each year.

Another area in which volunteers have contributed significantly is with maintenance and improvement of our headquarters, the old German Free School. We have a nice new parking lot, thanks to the work of a few individuals whose labor saved us several thousand dollars in construction costs.

One of the more visible areas of volunteer work involves the compiling and publishing of the materials that you read in each of the four annual issues of the Journal. Substantial time is spent on this project. We should all be grateful that there are individuals who are interested enough in heritage preservation to do this kind and amount of work.

A sign-in sheet is maintained at headquarters for recording volunteers' names and the hours that they work. When one totals the hours worked and multiplies that total by even so little as the minimum wage, the product comes to an astounding amount of money saved. Since the organization could never afford to pay for this work, the bottom line is that, without the volunteers, service to you the members would have to be cut drastically. Thank a volunteer today!

Cordially,



GTHS ANNUAL MEETING

September 17 & 18, 2004

ROUND TOP, TEXAS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 – OLD DEPOT ANTIQUES HALL

- 4:00 – 5:00 Registration
- 5:00 – 5:45 Program: "Round Top & Fayette County & Genealogy Resources Available" by Kathy Carter, Fayette County Library and Archives and CHC
- 5:45 – 6:30 Tours of Bethlehem Church and Cemetery (Established 1866) and of Round Top Children's Library
- 6:30 – 8:00 German Supper (Goulash) at Old Depot Antiques Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – OLD DEPOT ANTIQUES HALL

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome
- 9:15 – 10:00 Program: "Winedale: Past, Present, and Future" by Pancho Howze, Curator
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 11:00 Program: "George Schwarting of Lodenburg and Round Top: An Immigrant's Life and Adventures in Letters" by Dr. Walter Kamphoefner, Professor of History at Texas A&M University
- 11:00 – 11:15 Break
- 11:15 – 12:00 Genealogy Session by Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor for the *Journal*
- 12:00 – 1:45 German Lunch with German Entertainment
- 2:00 – 5:30 Tours of Henkel Square and Festival Hill

We plan to have a small number of vendors (mainly books) at the Old Depot Antiques Hall



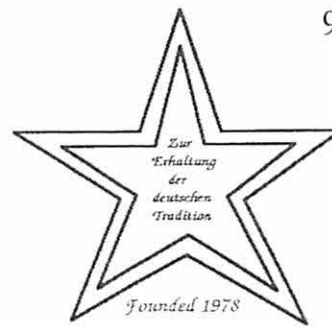
Round Top General Store



25TH GTHS ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2004

ROUND TOP, TEXAS



REGISTRATION

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

To avoid late charges, this form and all registration fees must be postmarked by **September 9, 2004.**

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

German-Texan Heritage Society, Post Office Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171

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

Fees quoted below are per person.

\$35 – Full registration for **GTGS MEMBERS**. Increases to \$40 if not postmarked by September 09. Includes all activities on September 17-18.

\$40 – Full registration for **NON-MEMBERS**. Increases to \$45 if not postmarked by September 09. Includes all activities on September 17-18.

\$45 – Registration for **walk-ins during the annual meeting.**

\$10 – Registration for **Friday night only**. Increases to \$13 if not postmarked by September 09.

\$28 – Registration for **Saturday only**. Increases to \$32 if not postmarked by September 09.

\$15 – Exhibitor Table

GTGS MEMBERS

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PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK MasterCard / Visa _____ EXP

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

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GTHS ANNUAL MEETING TOUR SITES

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY - Although the Lutheran congregation in Round Top began in 1853 and is the oldest active Lutheran Church in Texas, this building was not started until 1866. Carl Sigismund Bauer was the stonemason. Stone was quarried from the hill on which it stands, and cedar was hewn from trees in the neighborhood for the interiors. Johann Traugott Wantke built the original pews and native-cedar pipe organ by hand in his nearby shop, and it still plays beautifully. There are not metal parts in the organ, as even the screws are of hand-turned cedar. This Organ received a citation from the Organ Historical Society as being "an instrument of exceptional historical merit" Wantke is buried in the cemetery, His first pipe, organ (and the first organ ever built in Texas) is now preserved and on display in the Edytb Bates Old Chapel at Festival,

ROUND TOP CHILDREN'S LIBRARY -

HENKEL SQUARE MUSEUM VILLAGE is recognized nationally as an authentic restoration of German-American and Anglo-American 19th Century architecture. Round Top's first settlers belonged to Stephn F. Austin's original band of colonists in the early 1820's. Thirty years later, a wave of educated and cultured German immigrants came in search of land and water and Round Top became a German-Texan community. The Pioneer Arts Foundation was created in 1868 by Faith and Charles Bybee to collect, preserve, and exhibit the arts and artifacts, antiques, tools, and buildings characteristic of the German-Texan culture that flourished in the Round Top area in [he 19^h Century. Henkel Square was created to provide a home for these treasures and serves to preserve and perpetuate an authentic representation of local Texas life as it was in that time period. Three of the Henkel Square structures stand where their owners built them originally and most of the others came from no farther than 15 miles away.

FESTIVAL HILL - The Home of the International Festival institute at Round Top, which was founded in 1976 by World-renowned concert pianist, James Dick, has developed into a unique 200 acre campus containing major performance facilities, historic houses, extensive gardens, parks and nature preserves. Generously planted with thousands of trees and bushes of every species, it offers to visitors shadowing lakes and wonderful herb and flower gardens. In 1981, work began on the 1100 seat Concert Hall, the focus of the campus and the site of nearly 800 concerts, many performed before the building included air conditioning or even a roof. Today, the hall approaches completion and work centers on the beautifully handcrafted interiors of this unique building. Visitors are greeted on the hall's west side by gardens and a nearby fountain, and once inside are reminded of similar European structures by the glowing woodwork, grand staircases, handcrafted chandeliers and keen attention to detail.

GTHS ANNUAL MEETING 2004 SPEAKERS

KATHY BRUNE CARTER is a native of Scaly, Texas and of German and Czech descent. Although she speaks neither language, she remembers family members speaking them fluently. She recalls that both her grandmothers were great cooks. Her Grandmother Brune's specialties were, sugar cookies and bog's head cheese, while her Grandmother Lux excelled at homemade butter bread and "incredible" coffee cake.

Kathy has been married to Mark Carter since 1979 and they have one daughter, Kristin, who will be a senior at Sam Houston State University in the fall of 2004. Mark's family has lived in Fayette County since the 1850's.

She began her career at the Fayette County Library, Museum & Archives in 1982 and has served as facility director since 1989. During those years the Library and museum archives have garnered statewide recognition for its programming and exhibits. Kathy has also served as the Fayette County Historical Commission chairman for 12 years.

WALTER D. KAMPHOEFNER a 5th generation Missouri-German with roots in the Westfalia-Osnabrueck region, earned his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1978 and is Professor of History at Texas A&M University, where he teaches in the fields of immigration, urbanization, and quantitative methods.

He has published widely in the field of German-American studies, including a transatlantic tracing study entitled The Westfalians: From Germany to Missouri. (Princeton, 1987). He has co-edited two nationwide anthologies of immigrant letters. The first appeared in English as News from the Land of Freedom: German Immigrants Write Home (Ithaca, 1991); the second, Deutsche im Amerikanischen Buerkrieg: Briefe von Front und Farm (Paderbom, 2002), includes a half-dozen Texas Germans and is currently being translated with the support of an NEH Grant, with English publication expected in 2005. He has researched widely in Germany and was awarded two Senior Fulbright lectureships at German Universities.

Besides his collaborative work on immigrant letters, his research interests include immigrant language, bilingual education, and transatlantic tracing of immigrants to study settlement patterns and social mobility. He is pursuing the latter in a new project, supported by an American Philosophical Society sabbatical fellowship,

Dr. Kamphoefner is married to a German native and has two children-

H. H. "PANCO" HOWZE is the Curator of Collection at Winedale, a division of The University of Texas at Austin Center for American History. Winedale is a complex of 19th century structures and modern facilities situated on 225 acres near Round Top. Winedale's main mission is to foster an understanding of Texas history and culture. The heart of Winedale is its historic buildings, owners, and occupants.

Winedale derives its name from a German community that existed briefly after 1870 in Washington County. Local farmers cultivated grapes and the post office carried the name Winedale. Sometime after 1881, the village was relocated nearby in Fayette County where it centered around a residence owned by Joseph George Wagner, Sr. The "Wagner House" today is the centerpiece historical structure at Winedale.

ANNUAL CONVENTION 2004

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ROUND TOP RV PARK 979 249-5673 www.roundtoprvpark.com

SOUTH FORTY RV PARK 979 366-9341 Fax 979 366-9342 www.southfortyrvpark.com E-mail mary@southfortyrvpark.com



Old Haw Creek Lutheran Church

VOLUNTEERS AT THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL IN AUSTIN

Julia Germany, GTHS Executive Director, reported the following about the work of volunteers at the German Free School in Austin, based on records maintained by Muriel Vaughn:

Number of visitors to the German Free School in 2003 = 2,087

Number of volunteers working at the German Free School in 2003 = 40

Hours volunteers worked at the German Free School in 2003 = 1,933

Top 10 volunteers based on hours worked at the German Free School in 2003

270 hours	Muriel Vaughn
154 hours	Wing Evans
152 hours	Barbara Evans
139 hours	Annette Stachowitz
137 hours	Rolf Stachowitz
123 hours	Helga von Schweinitz
85 hours	Christine Mills
64 hours	Margaret Hitzfeld
54 hours	Chuck Kalteyer
54 hours	Hubert Heinen
51 hours	Gerri West

Julia calculated the value of the total hours of volunteers' time in 2003 to be \$9,665, based on \$5.00 per hour.

However, if we followed the Federal Government's guidelines, the value of our volunteers' time in 2003 would be \$22,036 !!!



Executive Director's Report

ARTISTS ABOUND AT MAIFEST

This year, Maifest featured artists from all walks of life: A marionette meister, three accordion players, a well-known local author, an award-winning wax sculptress, a face painter, German singers of all ages, and German cooks who can't be beat!

One of the Maifest highlights was the unveiling of the wax statue of Fredericksburg founder **John O. Meusebach**. Artist **Adrienne Rison-Isom** worked with **Dr. Marie Marschall Fuller** and **Dr. Jenny Lind Porter**, both members of GTHS and descendants of Meusebach, to locate images of Meusebach as a young man. Dr. Porter was very moved by the wax likeness. Ms. Rison-Isom has received numerous grants to create historically significant wax figures. It is her goal to open a museum in Austin to showcase her work. Until the museum opens, Herr Meusebach will reside in the parlor at the German Free School.

In spite of the evil weather forecasts, by 1:00 p.m. folks were showing up in droves, eager to partake of the delicious German food. **We tripled our food and beer sales over last year.** Here's the simple financial breakdown for Maifest 2004:

EXPENSES	INCOME	NET PROFIT
Maifest: \$1329.26	Maifest: \$2873.68	Income: \$6673.68
Raffle: <u>\$1234.30</u>	Raffle: <u>\$3800.00</u>	Expenses: (<u>\$2563.56</u>)
TOTAL: \$2,563.56	TOTAL: \$6,673.68	TOTAL: \$4,110.12

We can't say **HERZLICHEN DANK** enough to our legion of dedicated volunteers, without whom Maifest would not be possible. And it's not just members who volunteer: members of the Austin Saengerrunde helped with food and beverage sales, and friends of GTHS members could be seen giving a helping hand too!

Last, but most assuredly not least, we thank our **underwriters**, who provided Buns and Sausages (**Annette Stachowitz** and **Bob Torn**), Sauerkraut (**Siegi Keimling**), Potato Salad (**Chris Rábago**, **Annette Stachowitz**, and **Lillie Torn**), Cookies (**Faye Caldwell** and **Christine Mills**), Wine (**Twin Liquors**), Beer (**Shiner**), and of course **Continental Airlines** for two round-trip tickets. **Barbara** and **Wing Evans** generously donated the funds for the marionette shows, and **Dr. Robert Neely** provided a most generous cash donation to help cover expenses.



ABOVE: Don Harms prepares a marionettes for the show.

BELOW: Casey delighted kids of all ages with creative face painting.



LEFT:
Adrienne Rison-Isom, Director of Wax Track Gallery International, created the wax figure of **John O. Meusebach** (founder of Fredericksburg), which resides at the German Free School.

RIGHT:
Dr. Jenny Lind Porter graciously spent the afternoon with us signing copies of her book **El Sol Colorado**, which is about John O. Meusebach.

Photos by GTHS members
Charles Kalteyer and **Logan McNatt**



GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD MINUTES

TUESDAY, April 13, 2004

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Hubert Heinen at 9:55 a.m. Members present were Hubert Heinen, Annette Stachowitz, Gerri West, Rolf Stachowitz, Christa Rábago and Julia Germany.

Opening Remarks: Hubert Heinen

- **Maifest:** There will be a Maifest meeting immediately following the Board meeting.
- **Secretary: Gerri West**
- Minutes were approved as submitted.

Executive Director: Julia Germany

- There will be a lock added to the office door for added security. Julia is looking into repairing the external doors that do not close properly.
- The next GTHS meeting will be on May 8, 2004 in Austin.
- The raffle ticket sales are going well; all were reminded to take raffle tickets to churches, other meetings, etc.
- Muriel Vaughn will now handle photos for historical purposes. All were reminded to put information on the back of photos for identification purposes. Julia has been unable to contact Marie Shultz, Historian, by telephone and will send a note to her.
- The Board decided that the Secretary would be responsible for sending Sympathy/Get Well cards upon notification by Julia. The first get well card will be sent to Peter and Anna Kahn in reference to Anna's mother, Lisa.

Education: Annette Stachowitz

- Margaret Hitzfeld sent two newspaper articles on Westwood HS winning its 6th.state German contest and on Grisham Middle School's Foreign Language Culture Fair. It was moved and seconded (Annette/Gerri) to send congratulatory notes to the respective teachers. The secretary will do so.
- Annette will be the GFSG Representative to the GTHS Board meeting in Austin on May 8 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Library: Doug Wixson

- Doug needs volunteers for data entry in the Library.

Discussion/recommendations on GFSG Officer Duties per the Bylaws:

- The position of VP-Activities was added to handle the weekly Stammtisch and monthly Stammtisch/Games Night. It was moved and seconded (Annette/Rolf) to find a person for this position. Approved.
- The position of VP-Landscape does not need to be filled as long as Michael Charles is working at the building.
- VP-Communication: responsibility for Outreach was moved to VP-Membership. Responsibility for the Web Site was added. It was noted that the Speaker's Bureau is primarily the responsibility of the Executive Director, Julia Germany.
- VP-Education: the teaching/training of Docents remains the responsibility of this VP however the actual Docents will remain under the VP-Volunteer Organization. Julia has Docent information for Annette.
- The position of VP-Merchandising was added to handle the Gift Shops at our two annual fund-raising events as well as at other events such as the Speaker's Series.
- VP-Membership: Outreach was transferred from Communication and Directory deleted since this is the province of the Executive Director and is listed in an issue of the Journal.

- VP-Volunteer Organization: Docents and Special Events were added

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting Tuesday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Gehman West
Secretary

MAIFEST MEETING Tuesday, April 13 2004

The Board reconvened as the Maifest Committee at 11: 30 a.m. Wing Evans had a checklist to insure good organization.

1. Admission: FREE
2. Food/Beverage Tickets: \$1.00. Prices: Beer-2 tickets (can use GTHS beer mugs)/Wine Tasting-4 tickets (Twin Liquors-3 wines & free glass) Bottled water/Lemonade-1 ticket/Sausage-on-a-Stick-2 tickets/Sausage on Bun-3 tickets/Sauerkraut (Siegi)-1 ticket/Potato Salad (Annette/Christa)-1 ticket/Cookies-1 ticket/Pretzels-1 ticket/Coffee-FREE.
3. Christa to give Wing names of volunteers by 4/19 so he can make the name tags.
4. Annette J. Needs the correct time for the Kinderchor performance (3:00 p.m.)
5. Accordion Musicians: Annette will get others in addition to Charles Patrick.
6. Barbara Evans needs volunteers on Friday 4/23/04 for decorating.
7. Chuck Kalteyer has the Raffle Prize (2 tickets from Continental Airlines)
8. Clean Up: volunteers are needed from approximately 4-6 p.m.
9. Photographers: email digital photos to Hubert for editing.
10. Christa has volunteers for gatekeepers/ticket sellers/beverage operations/docents
11. Storytelling: Siegi will tell gnome stories in the garden.
12. Rolf has sent out revised press releases.
13. Julia has taken care of the alcohol license, picnic tables & chairs and portable toilet.
Maypole Dancers are set.
14. Jim Kennedy might sell plants.
15. Children's Activities: Chuck has arranged face painting and balloons.
16. Van Massirer will be Master of Ceremonies.
17. Marionette Show: will be in the living room at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.
18. The PA will be on the balcony for announcements and music but cannot be used during the Marionette Show.
19. Wing has new ribbon for the Maypole.
20. The parking Lot will be reserved for handicapped parking and access.
21. Book Sales: will be held in Kitchen and supervised by Doug Wixson.
22. The Austin Saengerrunde Gemischtechor will sing at 2:00 p.m. and the Kinderchor at 3:00 p.m.
23. There will be a book signing in the Library from 12 – 3 p.m.
24. Signs are needed: No Food/Beverages Inside.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Gehman West
Secretary

A Note from Margaret Hitzfeld

The GTHS Guild Speaker Series meeting held on 21 March 2004 will not soon be forgotten. On that day, a brazen thief entered the German Free School and quietly went about stealing items from the office and taking from the kitchen the purse belonging to member Margaret Hitzfeld. All of this took place while the membership was in the meeting room, enjoying the program presented by Hubert Heinen, all unaware of the theft. Margaret did not discover her purse was missing until she prepared to leave. A search of the building failed to produce the purse and at the time nothing seemed out of place in the office. One thing about the thief was his/her ability to work quietly and leave everything looking untouched - no visible fingerprints could be lifted from the doors through which they exited the building. It was not until late Monday morning that we learned of the things taken from the office.

The mystery deepened eleven days later when Julia Germany opened a cabinet in the rest room and found Margaret's purse. By this time, Julia had discovered more items missing from the office and when Margaret checked her purse, she found her cell phone was gone, as well as a credit card and \$80 cash from her wallet. All other items were left in the purse, including Margaret's driver's license and house/car keys.

Now another "mystery" had occurred. A kind benefactor has come forth, anonymously, and made a cash donation to cover Margaret's monetary loss and some of the losses from the office. To that wonderful person, I want to say "DANKE! DANKE SCHOEN! THANK YOU VERY MUCH" Your act of kindness and generosity is overwhelming. Your actions are deeply appreciated and make this whole experience a little more bearable. Bless you, whoever you are.

Margaret & Herman Hitzfeld

Deutsche Samstagsschule Austin

at the German-Texan Heritage Society

507 East 10th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone (512) 482-0927, Fax (512) 482-0636

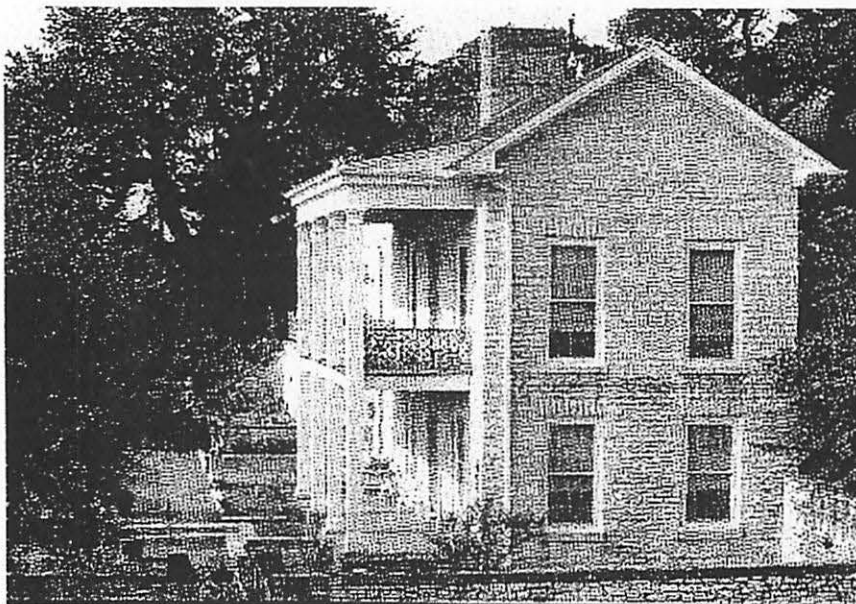
<http://www.gths.net>

German Classes for Children - Ages 4-11

The German Saturday School of Austin offers fun and engaging basic language instruction on Saturday mornings for children ages 4 to 11. Each class runs from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays and the sessions last 12 weeks.

These German classes are organized by the German-Texan Heritage Society (GTHS), which is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the German heritage in Texas. Classes are held at the historic German Free School (1857), which is the headquarters for GTHS, located at 507 East 10th Street in downtown Austin. Free parking is available. The instructors for these German lessons are trained and experienced graduate students from the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Tuition for a 12-week session (1 lesson per week) is \$150 per student and includes all instructional materials as well as a small snack each week. The registration form and full tuition should be sent three weeks before the first class meeting to the GTHS at P.O. Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171. Any late registrations should include an additional \$15 late registration fee.



GTHS / GFS GUILD Volunteer Opportunities:

Maifest/Christmas Market

Docents for GFS
 Greeters
 Cashiers
 Food/Drink preparation and serving
 Sell Raffle/Food/Beverage Tickets
 Coordinate events
 Contact/Coordinate Entertainment & Activities
 Old Book Sales - organistelstaff
 Buy resale items for gift shop
 Buy decorations and other supplies
 Decorate German Free School
 Perform at events - Performers include:
 the Austin Saengerrunde Damen-, Herren-, and
 Kinderchors,
 Accordion players, book signings, storytelling, St Nik
 Cookie/Cake Bakers
 Crafts for-children
 Phone calling (to get the volunteers, cookie/cake
 bakers)

Thursdays/Docents

Prepare Coffee
 Greeters for Friends and Guests
 Clean up after Stammtisch
 Provide Tours of GFS
 Wash/dry/put away dishes
 Take out trash/recycling
 Answer, f@ when needed
 Assist with admin tasks
 (ex: prepare small mailouts, prepare brochures,
 prepare
 Inquiry/Welcome/Gift Membership packets, etc)
 Maintain Volunteer Log Book

Phone Callers

Recruit volunteers for events
 Remind members about speaker series
 Recruit volunteers for special projects (mailouts,
 etc)

Mail outs

Copy/fold inserts
 Stuff envelopes
 Apply labels, stamps
 Bundle for mailing

Speaker Series

Find/Coordinate speakers
 Open/close GFS
 Prepare room for speaker/guests
 Provide food/beverages for post-speaker reception
 Phone Callers (to remind members about the event)

Evening Stammtisch/Games Nite

Open/close GFS
 Also serve as "docents" - oversee the GFS during
 event Provide some of the games

Special Events Docents

Available during building rentals, BOD meetings or
 other special events held at GFS Greeters
 Provide Tours of GFS
 Make coffee
 Wash/dry/put away dishes
 Take our trash

Laundry

Helga takes care of our table cloths for the large
 room table
 Washing/ironing large table cloth, folding and
 returning to GFS

Schulhaus Reporter

Bi-monthly preparation of SR content
 Solicit stories
 Layout and editing
 Copying/folding/labeling/stamping

Journal

Quarterly preparation/production of 100+ pages
 Solicit articles
 Cut and paste some articles
 Send to printer
 Solicit sponsors

Library

Maintain Pioneer and Research library holdings
 Maintain library database
 Sort incoming donated books
 Prepare donation forms and library card
 Box for old books sales

Web Site

Maintained by GTHS member volunteer
 Add updates, post announcements

Board Members

GTHS - quarterly meetings

Education

Teach German Classes, 3 levels
 Find German Teachers
 Coordinate dates & times for classes
 Respond to inquiries about classes
 Prepare classroom for students

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney Koenig

Recently attending a function in Houston I visited with John Adkins and learned of the Ann Schumacher Adkins Endowed Scholarship in German-Texas History at the University of Texas at Austin, named for his mother. This scholarship was created as a surprise gift by Ann's husband, Ward N. Adkins, Sr. in 1995 on the occasion of Ann's seventy-five birthday, to honor her German heritage in early Texas. The family (in addition to Schumachers) is also descended from the August Bering family, which arrived in Galveston in the 1860s. This scholarship is given to Texas students enrolled in the Department of History who are classified as a junior or above, studying or planning to study the lives, work, etc. of German Texas immigrants and their descendants with a preference for Central and Gulf Coast Texas German immigrants. Students at the University of Texas may apply for the scholarship on an annual basis. John Adkins has been active with the UT Alumni Association, the Texas Exes, and was recently nominated to be President-elect of the Texas Exes. What a marvelous surprise seventy-five birthday gift to create a scholarship in the name of one's wife or mother. Ann Schumacher Adkins and Ward N. Adkins, Sr. have truly left their German mark by the creation of the Ann Schumacher Adkins Endowed Scholarship in German-Texas History.

Recently my brother, Weldon Koenig, presided at the groundbreaking for St. Mark's Medical Center just outside of La Grange, Texas. Weldon is a retired submarine Admiral, who currently is Chairman of the Board of St. Mark's Medical Center. He has been instrumental, along with a number of other Fayette County residents, in raising almost five million dollars to establish a new sixty-five bed medical center which will serve Fayette and Lee Counties. The new hospital is just north of the City of La Grange, Texas, on U.S. 77. In addition to the funds raised from the local community, HUD has guaranteed over twenty million dollars in bonds to assure the construction of the new hospital. The new bond issue was sold out almost immediately after it was issued. Hence, Fayette and Lee County will have a new hospital by the middle of 2005. As my wife Mary states, it is good to have relatives who do good things for the community. Weldon was also a co-chairman of the committee which raised significant funds (over one million dollars) for the Fayette Heritage Library in La Grange. The work in expanding such library is also under way and will enhance the lives and heritage of residents of Central Texas. Weldon Koenig has truly left his German mark in the expansion of the Fayette Heritage Library and in the creation of St. Mark's Medical Center near La Grange.

How will you leave your German mark? Will you create an endowed scholarship in German-Texan Culture? Will you help expand a library? Will you help create a medical center? Consider updating your will or changing a beneficiary designation on your life insurance or your 401k plan to include a favored German-Texan charity. What better way to leave your German mark than to create an endowed scholarship at your favorite university to promote German Culture, German Music or German-Texan History. If you desire further information regarding any of the above, please call Rodney C. Koenig at (713) 651-5333 or email me at rkoenig@fulbright.com. You may also get assistance from our Executive Director, Julia Germany at GermanTexans@aol.com or by calling our office at 1-866-482-4847. Furthermore, any member of the Board of Directors or the Advisory Board would be pleased to visit with you regarding potential gifts.

2004 Operational Fund

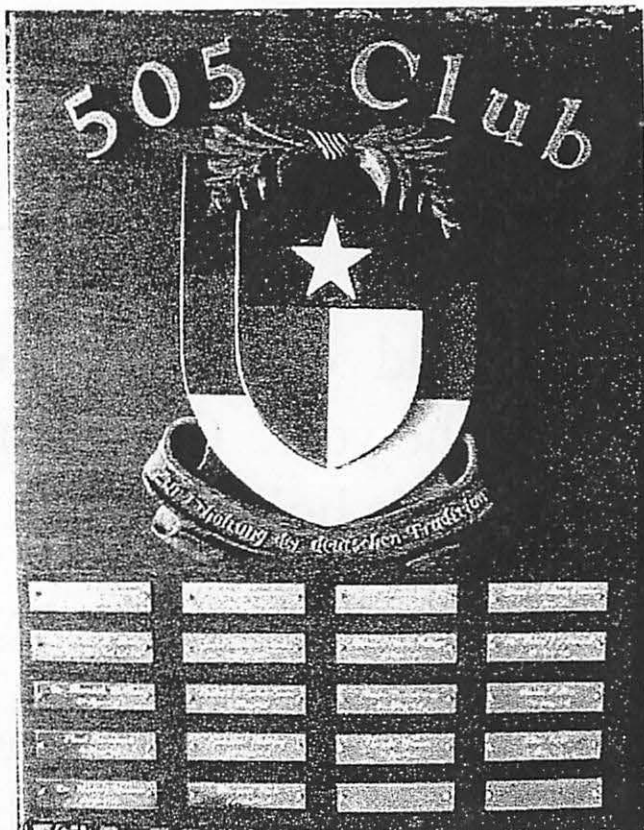
You spoke and we listened!

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

We agree.

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

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



THE NUMBER 505 IS THE EAST 10th STREET ADDRESS OF THE VACANT LOT NEXT TO THE GTHS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. THIS BEAUTIFUL BLACK WALNUT PLAQUE DEPICTED ABOVE, CREATED BY EWING EVANS, IS PROUDLY DISPLAYED IN YOUR HEADQUARTERS OFFICE. IT CARRIES THE NAMES OF THOSE SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONATED THE EQUIVALENT OF AT LEAST ONE MONTHLY NOTE PAYMENT (\$1,792.43) ON THE LOT. THESE DONATIONS REPRESENTED 34% OF THE \$99,900 PURCHASE PRICE OF THE LOT WHICH WAS PAID OFF IN OCTOBER 2002. THE BALANCE OF THE MONTHLY NOTES THAT PAID OFF THE 5 YEAR NOTE WERE MADE FROM GTHS CAPITOL FUNDS. WE WOULD LIKE TO REPLACE AS MUCH OF THOSE FUNDS WITH YOUR THOUGHTFUL GENEROSITY.

THE 505 CLUB IS STILL OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIP!

YOUR DONATION OF \$1,792.43 OR MORE WILL ALLOW THE PLACEMENT OF YOUR NAME ON THIS BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE AS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE 505 CLUB. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE A THREE YEAR PLEDGE PLAN IS OFFERED - \$600 A YEAR WOULD WORK FINE.

Thanks!

THE SECOND ANNUAL GILLESPIE COUNTY ONE-ROOM SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
information supplied to the Editor from Veronica G. (Ronnie) Pui

Former students and community members hosted the second annual One-Room School Open House and Barbecue at Fredericksburg on April 3, 2004. This year they featured three former one-room schools in the western part of Gillespie County: Pecan Creek, Cherry Spring and Crabapple Schools.

The Open House kicked off at 10 am at the Kinderhalle at Market Square in Fredericksburg. Former students met and talked about the "good ole days" and their experiences in a rural school in Texas. There also was an information booth for visitors to pick up maps and driving instructions. The Open House was from 11 am to 4 pm and visitors were able to see what it was like to go to school in the country. Former students were the guides. The schools were all within a short driving distance from each other and roads took visitors through the beautiful Hill County at wildflower time.

The evening event was a pork barbecue served again by former students and community members at St. Joseph's Hall on San Antonio Street in Fredericksburg. The meal with all the trimmings began at 5:00 pm. The Fredericksburg Children's Theater presented skits during the evening.

The events were fundraisers. The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools were trying to raise \$60,000 to do the initial repair and renovation of seven of twelve former schools.

THE GTHS ANNUAL MEETING --- A SURVEY OF MEMBERS' OPINIONS

Compiled by Terry L. Smart from responses to a survey in the Spring issue of the Journal

In what month should we hold our GTHS Annual Meeting?

In past years, the GTHS Annual Meeting most often was planned for September. Most responses to the survey suggested we continue to meet in September. Only 12% wanted a change to some other month.

How many days should the Annual meeting run?

Last year and for many years before, GTHS has held a three-day annual meeting (Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning). However, only 23% of the responses to this survey were in favor of continuing this three-day tradition. Most (65%) wanted a change to a two-day meeting, while a few (12%) preferred a one-day meeting on a Saturday. Of those in favor of a two-day meeting, 77% were for a Friday and Saturday meeting with nothing on Sunday. The other 23% wanted to meet Saturday and Sunday morning with nothing planned for Friday.

Should we have a Saturday night dance as part of the Annual Meeting?

There was a nearly equal three-way split on this. Over one third (38%) wanted to continue the tradition of hiring a band for a Saturday night dance. Almost another third (30%) said no to this and said they probably would not dance even if there was a band. And for another third (32%), it made no difference if we had a dance or not.

What sort of program should we have?

A large majority (94%) liked having talks and slide shows combined with a tour to some German-Texan site like a home, church or school. If tours were offered, more than half (59%) asked that transportation be provided so they did not have to drive.

What on the program is most interesting?

The #1 thing of most interest was a talk or slide show about German-Texan culture. The #2 most popular was a tour to visit a German-Texan site like a home, church or school. Tied with that for #2 was a talk or slide show about German-Texan history. And #3 was a session on genealogy and how-to-do a family tree.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO RETURNED THEIR SURVEY FORM

GTHS'S MICHAEL KRAUSE RECEIVES TWO UT AWARDS



Dr. Ben Streetman and Michael



St. Nicholas

Michael Gene Krause, also known as St. Nicholas around the German Free School, has received the College of Engineering Staff Excellence Award and the University of Texas Staff Excellence Award.

He was one of six persons out of 775 non-teaching personnel in the Engineering School to receive this award based on outstanding creative contributions and exemplary performance which has contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the teaching, advising, counseling and research efforts of the College of Engineering. The award certificate and monetary award were presented in a ceremony by the Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Ben Streetman in 2003.

Michael was also one of thirty individuals out of some 8,000 non-teaching personnel across the entire University to receive a University of Texas Staff Excellence Award in recognition of consistently superior performance and dedicated service to the University. The award certificate and monetary award were presented in a ceremony by the President of the University of Texas, Dr. Larry Faulkner in 2003.

The selection of candidates for both awards is based on nominations by faculty and administrative staff. The nominees are then evaluated by respective excellence committees to choose the final recipients.

Michael is currently Manager of Operations and Reactor Supervisor at the University of Texas Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory at the J.J. Pickle Research Center. He also has a Senior Reactor Operations License issued by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission for operation of the UT TRIGA Nuclear Reactor. He has been working for the University for 25 years.

Congratulations Michael.

Treasurer's Report

The overall position of the GTHS is strong. We have \$299,293.48 in our investment accounts. We have dedicated one of these accounts as the "GTHS Endowment Fund". There is currently \$19,000.00 in this account. The Board of Directors has decided to establish this fund in honor of Anita Killen. The intent is that there never be any use of the principle of this account and only ½ of the proceeds may be accessed.

On the other hand, our income into the Operational Funds is not adequate. Each month of this year we have spent more than we have received into the Operational Fund. The main problem is that we do not have enough members. The second part of the shortfall is that donations to the Operational Fund have been lagging this year. We are starting our Annual Fund drive this month, June. Please consider helping solve this cash flow problem. It is not new. The same situation has occurred for each of the last 5 years.

The following two articles are some of the ways you can help with our income problems.

Wing Evans, GTHS Treasurer

Annual Sponsorship Rates for the GTHS Journal

Since the Journal is the most expensive endeavor of the GTHS, the Board of Directors has approved the following rate schedule to help offset these costs. Please try to sell some space in our Journal.

Business Card	\$100
Quarter Page	\$200
Half Page	\$400
Full Page	\$800
Inside Back Cover	\$1000
Inside Front Cover	\$2000

Calling All Recipes

The Board of Directors has decided that we should begin a fund raising project: **Printing a cookbook**. To accomplish this we need for each GTHS member to send us his or her favorite recipes.

If possible give us the history behind the recipe. Maybe it was handed down through three generations or maybe you created it last week. Either type will be very welcome. We need to include this historical type of information. It is OK to copy recipes from other sources, but I prefer you individualize them. Also, if you can, include one of those witty sayings you find everywhere with each recipe you send.

We have several volunteers who are ready now to begin assembling this cookbook. So send your recipes to the GTHS at Post Office Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171.

This project may take more than a year to complete. But if you start now to help create this cookbook, we may finish much sooner.

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.

To introduce Advisory Board members, each was asked to provide a short biographical sketch for the Journal. In the last issue, of the Journal we began with three members. We continue the sketches in this issue.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**LEATRICE FEUGE HALEY OF INEZ**

I was born in Fredericksburg, Tx to Lee and Bertha Lehmann Feuge. I was raised in the rural community of Doss. I attended Doss Country School for nine years. There were seven students in my class. Two teachers taught the nine grades. For the last three years of high school I rode the bus to Fredericksburg High School. Southwest Texas State College is where I received my undergraduate degree in Education. I completed a Masters Degree in Library Science at Sam Houston State University.

After 32 years as a school librarian in the Victoria Independent School District I retired in 2002. Clyde and I will celebrate our 39th wedding anniversary in June. He also retired from Victoria Independent School District. I am a member of the German-Texan Heritage Society and the Eta Pi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. We are members of First United Methodist Church in Victoria.

My heritage is from my maternal and paternal ancestors who settled in Gillespie Co. We spoke German in our home but also spoke English. When I started school in 1949 we were punished at school if we spoke German on the school grounds. We had to speak English at school. I'm hoping that the German language will not be lost.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

On December 31, 2004, two Board Member Positions (#8 and # 15) will be vacated, as the current members will be ineligible for reelection to the Board of Directors. Term limitations, per the German Texan Heritage Society By-Laws restrict Board Membership to two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms. The persons currently serving in those positions have completed two (2) four (4) year terms. Two other positions, (#7 and #9) are eligible for re-election.

The Board of Directors is soliciting the Membership for nominations to serve on the Board. If you are interested in participating in the business of serving our Society, or know of someone among the Membership who would be a dedicated Board Member, please bring this to our attention. Contact the Executive Director, Julia Germany at the GTHS Office (1 -866-482-4847 Toll Free), by E-mail at [GermanTexans\(@alo.com\)](mailto:GermanTexans@alo.com) or any GTHS Board member.

The Board always welcomes new ideas and we solicit Membership participation. Meetings are held in Austin on four Saturdays during the year (February, May, August and November) in addition to the Annual Meeting (September / October.)

There are many challenges put before the Board of Directors each year, but serving in that capacity is a worthy undertaking.

The Ehrenstern Awardees for 2004

The following people were selected by the Board of Directors for their outstanding service to the German-Texan Heritage Society.

Rev. Robert Pfennig (Charter Member)
New Braunfels, TX
Nominated by: H. Charles Eckert

Mimi Parris
Austin, TX
Nominated by: H-B. Moeller

Annette Stachowitz
Austin, TX
Nominated by: Helga von Schweinitz

Philip Lawrence Sterzing
Austin, TX
Nominated by: Charles F. Kalteyer



Founded 1978

German-Texan Heritage Society

P.O. Box 684171 · Austin, TX 78768-4171 · Tel: 512-482-0927

TOLL FREE PHONE NUMBER: 1-866-482-GTHS

www.gths.net

GermanTexans@aol.com

EHRENSTERN AWARD NOMINATION RULES

DEADLINE

Completed submissions must be postmarked no later than **01 MAY** and mailed to:

German-Texan Heritage Society
Post Office Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171

ELIGIBILITY

Nominee must be a current member of GTHS.

Nominee must be nominated for volunteer work benefiting the German-Texan Heritage Society.

PROCEDURE

Each nomination must include a completed nomination form (see other side of this page).

JUDGING

All completed submissions received by 5 p.m. 01 May will be judged by the GTHS board of directors at their quarterly meeting in May.

The board of directors may give more than one award, no award or honorable mention awards.

Winner(s) will be notified by the GTHS President and presented her/his Ehrenstern Award during the GTHS Annual Meeting Banquet.

Sponsorship Rates for 2004 GTHS *Journal*

FULL PAGE AD

One-inch Side and Top Margins

FRONT COVER **\$4000 Annual Rate**
 \$1000 One-time Rate

FULL PAGE **\$1000 Annual Rate**
 \$ 250 One-time Rate

1/2 PAGE AD

Horizontal Only

One-inch Side Margins x 4.5"

\$500 Annual Rate
\$125 One-time Rate

1/4 PAGE AD

Vertical Only

3.25" x 5"

\$250 Annual Rate
\$ 65 One-time Rate

BUSINESS CARD AD

Horizontal Only

3.25" x 1.75"

\$150 Annual Rate
\$ 40 One-time Rate

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21,2004 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(unapproved)**

The February 21, 2004 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin by Vice President Teddy Boehm in the absence of the President. Board members present were Teddy Boehm, Ingrid Brock, Wing Evans, James Feuge, Hubert Heinen, Connie Krause, Carolyn Meiners, Dan Schoppe, and Terry Smart. Board members absent were Ben Buecker, Van Massirer, Meredith McClain (resigned), Janice Thompson, Glen Treibs,

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

W. Evans moved approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2003 meeting with correction. *Motion approved*

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

W. Evans, Treasurer, presented a one-page written report on the society's investments. The Vice President requested the Budget and Finance Committee to consider moving funds from CDs to investments earning more and report its recommendations to the May 8 Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

J. Germany, Executive Director, presented a four-page report to the Board and announced: (1) Meredith McClain has resigned from the Board. (2) Twenty folding chairs for the German Free School were purchased with a gift of \$240 from Board member James Feuge and additional donations by present and former Board members Teddy Boehm, Ewing Evans, Hubert Heinen, Charles Kalteyer, and Robert Neely.

(3) She will be on vacation April 19 through April 23.

J. Germany requested the Board's approval to mail notices to 2003 GTHS members who have not paid 2004 dues, stating that the Spring 2004 Journal is the last issue they will receive until 2004 dues are paid. *Approval by common consent*

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD REPORT

H. Heinen, Guild President, announced: (1) The Guild's Vice President, Annette Stachowitz, will represent the **Guild** on the Board of Directors. (2) The Guild plans an "Open Door" program to find overnight lodging for out-of-town **Guild** members who attend Guild functions held in Austin.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

T. Boehm, Chair, presented a two-page written report on proposed plans for the 2004 Annual Meeting.

H. Heinen moved that the Annual Meeting be Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18, in the Old Depot Antiques Hall at Round Top in Fayette County. *Motion approved*

W. Evans and H. Heinen volunteered to prepare the Fall (September 1) issue of the Journal devoted exclusively to the Annual Meeting.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

For the Executive Committee, T. Smart announced: (1) The committee in January accepted a \$1,950 bid to repair the German Free School garage and the work since has been completed. (2) The committee recommended no changes in the guidelines for establishing new *Vereins*. (3) The Executive Director, not the Executive Committee, should make the decision for/against renting the German Free School building for use by a wedding party. (4) The committee postponed an evaluation of the Executive Director until the Board approved the committee's job description for the position.

H. Heinen moved approval of the Executive Committee's job description for the position of GTHS Executive Director. Motion approved

For the Executive Committee, T. Smart moved that when it is inconvenient or impossible for the Executive Director to close the GTHS Office on Fridays for work on grant proposals that she substitute another day Monday through Thursday for Friday. Motion approved

For the Executive Committee, T. Smart moved that the Board approve publication of a German-Texan cookbook. After discussion, T. Smart moved to table the motion until the May 8 meeting of the Board. Motion to lay on the table approved

OLD GERMAN FREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

For the committee, W. Evans announced that unknown persons had made unauthorized use of the German Free School parking lot and this will be reported to the Austin Police.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

In her absence, J. Thompson, Chair, sent the Board a one-page written report.

The Board recommended to the Membership Committee that nominees for vacant positions on the Board may be invited to the Board's May 8 meeting, when the Board will vote to appoint them.

The Board recommended to the Membership Committee that the present size of the Advisory Board need not be increased at this time.

H. Heinen moved that membership dues for institutions be \$35 and \$75 for patrons. Motion approved

W. Evans moved approval of the following membership dues. Motion approved

- \$ 15 Student
- \$ 25 Individual GTHS
- \$ 40 Individual GTHS & Guild
- \$ 50 Family GTHS & Guild
- \$ 35 Institution GTHS only
- \$ 75 Patron GTHS & Guild
- \$ 750 Life Member GTHS & Guild
- \$ Donation

OLD BUSINESS

Interior repairs of German Free School. J. Germany announced she has not obtained bids to make interior repairs the Board authorized at its meeting in February of last year, 2003.

2003 GTHS Christmas Market: C. Krause presented a one-page financial report on the 2003 GTHS Christmas Market to the Board.

Rental of German Free School: H. Heinen moved that a lease agreement for rental of the German Free School facilities (prepared at the Board's request by Advisory Board member Rodney Koenig) be sent to the Old German Free School Committee for review; then, if changes were made, sent to Rodney Koenig for his review and then to

the Executive Committee; or directly to the Executive Committee if no changes were made by the Old German Free School Committee. Motion approved

H. Heinen moved that a letter of thanks be sent to Rodney Koenig for preparing a least agreement for the *Board*. Motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase of equipment: T. Smart moved that the Executive Director be authorized to purchase a TV and DVD VCR player for the German Free School using funds donated to GTHS exclusively for that purpose. Motion approved. The Vice President requested the Journal editor/editors to recognize this gift in the Summer (June 1) issue of the Journal

Expenditure for Vendor's Booth: T. Smart moved approval to expend \$185 for a GTHS vendor's booth at the three-day national conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference at Austin, September 8-11, 2004. Motion approved

T. Smart moved approval to expend \$25 for a GTHS vendor's booth at the one-day annual meeting of the Texas German Society at La Grange, March 13, 2004. Motion approved

T. Smart moved to table until the May 8 meeting of the Board a proposal to spend \$180 for a GTHS vendor's booth at the three-day *Weihnachtmarkt* in Fredericksburg, December 3-5, 2004. Motion to lay on the table approved

Anonymous donor: J. Germany announced that an anonymous GTHS member had donated \$100 for a full-page GTHS ad in the program of the 58th Annual Texas Saengerfest to be held in Austin during May 2004.

Journal sponsorship rates: W. Evans moved that the Journal sponsorship rates approved by the Board in November of 2003 be revised as follows. Motion approved

For one year (four issues of the Journal)

Business Card	\$ 150
1/4 Page	\$ 250
1/2 Page	\$ 500
Full Page	\$1,000
Inside Back Cover	\$ 1,000
Outside and Inside Front Cover	\$ 4,000

H. Heinen moved that special one-issue rates be established for the Fall Journal (the issue devoted exclusively to the Annual Meeting). Motion approved. The Vice President requested the Budget and Finance Committee to recommend special one-issue rates for approval at the May 8 Board meeting.

The Vice President requested the Budget and Finance Committee to report at the May 8 Board meeting on the inquiry by Board member Glen Treibs about reimbursement of money borrowed from investments to meet GTHS operating expenses.

Web Site sponsorship rate: The Vice President requested the Executive Director to recommend appropriate sponsorship rates for the GTHS Web Site at the May 8 Board meeting.

Committees: For President Van Massirer, the Vice President requested all Committee Chairs (1) to notify him before the May 8 Board meeting if they are willing to continue as Chair during 2004 and (2) to notify him before the May 8 Board meeting if committee members are willing to continue serving during 2004.

Ebrenstern Award: The Vice President requested J. Germany to seek nominations from the membership for the 2004 Ehrenstern Award in time for selection at the May 8 Board meeting. The Vice President requested the

editor/editors to include the person(s) selected at the May 8 Board meeting to receive the Ehrenstem Award in the Summer and Fall issues of the Journal.

505 Club: The Vice President requested the editor/editors to include in the Summer and Fall issues of the Journal a notice by Chuck Kalteyer, Advisory Board member, seeking new members for the 505 Club.

Advisory Board: The Board requested President Van Massirer to notify all members of the Advisory Board that they are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Directors.

T. Smart moved that the members of the 2003 Advisory Board be reelected as the 2004 Advisory Board. *Motion approved*

Sale of Christmas goods: J. Feuge moved that when appropriate GTHS Christmas items should be offered for sale during the GTHS Annual Meeting in 2004 and subsequent years. *Motion approved*

Creation of endowment account: W. Evans moved that the recent Anita Killen bequest to GTHS be used to create an endowment account, into which all future bequests will be deposited, and that no more than fifty percent of the earned income from this account be withdrawn for ordinary operating expenses. *Motion approved*

Joint meeting with TGS: The Board requested GTHS President Van Massirer and Vice President Teddy Boehm to discuss with Dorothy Leyendecker, President of the Texas German Society, a future joint annual meeting of the two societies.

Recluest from sculpture: The Board directed the Executive Director to seek more information and a written request from a local sculpture requesting a no-cost GTHS sponsorship of her art work for an upcoming exhibit.

Development Fund: Charles Kalteyer, Advisory Board member, announced that 2004 contributions to the Development Fund now total \$13,690.

Preparation of future -journals: T. Smart, Journal Editor, announced he could not serve, as editor for the Summer and Fall issues of the Journal, and that W. Evans and H. Heinen will replace him as editor/editors for these two issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Terry Smart, Secretary

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.

GRIESENBECK-HITZFELDER-SMALL-GOETH

Ned A. Small, 3046 Nancy Carole Way, San Antonio, TX 78223-4825, nsmall@satx.rr.com would like to update his family tree and information on the Hitzfelders of Wurttemberg, Germany and August M. Hitzfelder in particular. Priscilla nee Griesenbeck Hitzfelder changed August's last name to Small after her marriage to an Archie Small. Ned's is also researching maternal grandfather, George Jordan who came to America from Berlin and maternal grandmother, who was a Goeth. If anyone has any info. on these surnames please contact Ned.

WUEST-HARREUS-MARKSTEIN-OTT-GLAZER

Patricia Brandon, 509 Willow Park Dr., Willow Park, TX 76087, patbran@earthlink.net She is trying to contact Wuests in Texas for any info. they might have on Jacob Wuest, III who came to US from Germany between 1910-1912. Jacob had a brother, Richard Wuest. Both brothers were in the landscaping and greenhouse business. Jacob and Richard were the sons of Jacob Wuest II of Mussbach, Germany (1863) and Elizabeth Harreus of Edenboben, Germany. Jacob and Richard settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, but some descendants came to Texas. Patricia would like to make contact with these descendants. She is also interested in Caroline Markstein, born Neustadt, Germany 4-17-1888 to Carl Fredrich Markstein (3-15-1862) AND Rosanna Ott (1/12/1863). Carl F. Markstein's mother was Barbara Glazer (2/2/1820).

SCHOMERUS-UPCHURCH

Robert Gass, Stephen Watt, 110 E. Hawkins Pkwy., Apt. 4707, Longview, TX 75605 gasswatt@yahoo.com would appreciate any information on his family who settled in Freestone and Navarro County in the late 1800's. They came from Freestone, Illinois. Their names were Lena Folmine Schomerus who was the daughter of Wert Schomerus. She married Thomas Upchurch.

HILLEN-SHIP FORTUNE

George Karpos, gngent@att.net The book *Ships Passenger Lists, Port of Galveston, TX 1846-1871* on pages 97 to 101 shows the passenger list for the Bark Fortune (Fortuna?) arriving at Galveston on 12/11/1868, Master T. Fretag. This book summarized the passenger list at 587 people, 14 died on the voyage, 4 born at sea totaling 577 landing at Galveston. A count of the listed passengers totals 250 with 4 died and 2 born at sea. This results in a difference of about 325 passengers not names. I checked handwritten passenger list at Clayton Library (Houston) and it agrees with the book. How can I find more about the unlisted passengers on the Fortune? Are there records of shipwrecks? The Hillens were from Oldenburg, Germany area and probably left from Bremen.

Reply: Other than what you have already done, I would look for newspaper(s) which sometime give info. on shipwrecks, list of passengers who arrived on the ship at the port. Did I miss something? Could some passengers debarked at another port before landing in Galveston?

ARE YOUR GERMAN IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS FROM WESTERENGER OR JOLLENBECK, PRUSSIA?

Mary F. Thomas, 2109 Rockwood Circle, Bryan, TX 77807-2714, e2mfthomas@msn.com would like to hear from anyone with ancestors from the above mentioned towns in Prussia (now the German state of Westfalia), who immigrated to Texas in 1845-1846. Caspar Heinrich Goehner died in Texas on 13 Sept. 1846 according to a published book in Germany. His wife and baby daughter immigrated to the US with her parents in 1847. Caspar evidentially came to Texas to find land, then send for his family later. His death was probably reported back to his wife by friends with whom he had traveled. Who were those friends or relatives? Mary would appreciate any help. Caspar was her g.g.grandfather.

Reply: Caspar may have applied for a Texas Land Patent. Why not write to the Texas General Land Office in Austin and have them do a search for you? If they find one it will give you a location and then look for records such as newspaper obit, testate or intestate records from that county.

REBECCA CREEK SCHOOL IN NORTHWEST COMAL COUNTY

C. Buchner, Cbuch41823@aol.com , Can anyone tell him if the rural Rebecca Creek School in NW Comal county has a scheduled reunion?

Reply: Try writing to the New Braunfels Zeitung Newspaper and the public library in New Braunfels. Can anyone help Mr. Buchner?

BLANCO COUNTY, TEXAS ONLINE

Anyone interested in Blanco County, Texas records should be interested in email from Wanda Qualls, wandaq@texas.net as she has put the 1870 Blanco Co. census online and has finished the Marriage Index for Blanco County (Index 1876-1974). This is Book A through 7. Please visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txblanco> for this and other information on Blanco County.

NEW GENEALOGY PAGE FOR HAMBURG

Christopher J. Becker sent us this one - new genealogy page for Hamburg <http://www.genealogus.net/welcome.html>

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE - Save Texas Records!

For information on a preservation initiative spearheaded by the Texas General Land Office please check out <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/archives/savetxhist/main.html>

Castroville, Texas 1844-1899 by Yvonne Chandler Ludwig
Illustrated by Three Pioneer Families

Did you know Castroville was settled on Henry Castro's personal land?

Does it surprise you to learn that Castroville's first church is not the stone church on Moye property as the historical marker states?

Do you know why the Confederate wounded had a better survival rate than the Union with the same wound?

The recently published book *Castroville 1844-1899*, answers these questions and many more of collateral information of the times. Parts I and IV tells of Castroville from its inception to 1899, of three families who were original settlers and of today's Castroville. Parts II and III tell of the children of these settlers and their families. Forty-one families who married their descendants are included telling where these families originated, how and why they came to the various areas and which descendants they married where additional data is written on the marriage and their family. Handed-down stories of their daily lives bring them back to us in their struggles to survive, their creative methods to endure and surprising ways they were able to cope.

This six-hundred-seventy-seven page book sells for eighty dollars which includes state sales tax. For shipping or handling, add six dollars per book to LICK Enterprises, 3214 West Woodlawn, and Antonio, Texas 78228-4921.

A brief summary of the following ancestral families that married into these families is included in this history showing where the families originated, how and why they came to the various areas and what descendent they married where additional data is written.

THE JEAN HALLER FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 JEAN BAPTIST RICH -THE CREPIN RICH FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 ANDREAS BRIEDEN AND FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 JOHN SAM TUERPE AND FAMILY FROM GERMANY
 LEONHARDT HANS AND FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 FRANCOIS ANTON SCHOTT ~ BROTHER DOMINIC SCHOTT AND WIFE FROM FRANCE
 SEBASTIAN JOSEPH MARTY FROM FRANCE
 JOHANNES ROHRBACH FROM FRANCE
 HUGH LEONIDAS CAMERON FROM SCOTLAND
 THE FREDRICK OLDMAN NEUMANN FAMILY FROM GERMANY
 GERD HARMS FASELER FROM GERMANY
 THE JACOB DROITCOUR FAMILY FROM GERMANY
 JOHN HENRY AND MARTIN BRAUER FROM GERMANY
 THE JACOB REINHARD FAMILY FROM GERMANY
 THE HEINRICH ROTHE FAMILY FROM BAVARIA
 THE PATRICK TWOMEY FAMILY FROM IRELAND
 THE NICOLAS TONDRE FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 THE JEAN L. BATOT FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 AGATHA TRAWALTER MANN AND CHILDREN FROM FRANCE
 NICKALOUS TSCHIRHARD FROM FRANCE
 THE FRANZ MECHLER FAMILY FROM FRANCE
 THE MARTIN NESTER FAMILY FROM GERMANY

list continues on following page

THE JOSEPH RÜDINGER FAMILY FROM FRANCE
THE JOHANN JACOB BENDELE FAMILY FROM WEST GERMANY
MADELINE WEISS AND CHILDREN FROM FRANCE
JON WINANS FROM HOLLAND
MICHAEL KAUFFMANN FROM FRANCE
WILHELM SEEKATZ FROM NASSAU
THE RICHARD BOWEN FAMILY FROM ENGLAND
THE FRANCOIS ANTOINE LUDWIG FAMILY FROM FRANCE
MARTIN ECHTLE AND SON JACOB FROM GERMANY
DR. FREDERICK AUGUST BOEHME FROM GERMANY
THE JACOB HABY FAMILY FROM FRANCE
JOSEPH SCHORP SR. AND MARY TONDRE FROM GERMANY AND FRANCE
THE PHILLIPPE JAGGEI FAMILY FROM FRANCE
THE JEAN BAPTIST WERNETTE II FAMILY ~ BROTHERS JOSEPH AND DOMINIQUE WERNETTE
FROM FRANCE
JOHANN WILHELM AND HENRY CHRISTIAN HARDT FROM GERMANY
THE SCHWEER H. BALZEN FAMILY FROM GERMANY
HUBERT WEYNAND FROM PRUSSIA
THE PETER KOCH FAMILY FROM GERMANY
THE MIMKE MIMKEN SAATHOFF FAMILY FROM GERMANY

by **Charles Patrick, GTHS Book Review Editor**

Deutsches Wochenende - German Immersion Weekend

I received an e-mail from GTHS headquarters in early April with a notice that something called "deutsches Wochenende" (German Weekend) was going to take place at Bastrop State Park the weekend of April 16 – 18. This event, which also took place last year, was sponsored by the UT German Club and would cost \$30 for two or so days and would require participants to speak only German to the best of their ability. Besides speaking only German that weekend in the pine woods of central Texas, the flyer promised such activities as hiking (another very German activity), volleyball, canoeing, and evening campfires. Indoor activities would include board games, German movies, sing-a-longs, and available quiet time for homework (perhaps browsing through a German dictionary?). Lodging for Friday and Saturday nights would be in the group barracks in the park and meals would be provided. Participants were encouraged to bring bedding, appropriate clothing, movies, games or music to share, and any pots, pans, or other cooking utensils they could spare. My curiosity was piqued because I hadn't had a chance to immerse myself in so much German since leaving Germany in the late 1980's where I worked as a translator in Ulm on the Danube.

Unfortunately, my niece was getting married in Austin that weekend (Saturday afternoon) so I knew I couldn't make the entire event and I was worried that the weather might not cooperate, either. What really interested me about this "German weekend", however, was the chance to participate as a musician and possible storyteller at the event. I'm a longtime amateur musician and more recent singer of German songs and thought I might like to participate in or lead one of the sing-a-longs. I had compiled a list of German songs that was already several pages long and have been accompanying the members of the Texas German Club in Bastrop County the past couple of years whenever we meet in Elgin or McDade.

So I contacted the organizer of the event Ann Keller-Lally with the UT German Department in Austin to find out if I could just show up for some of the activities on Saturday, especially to accompany any group of singers on my accordion. She was enthusiastic about my suggestion, so I sent her a copy of my German song list and promised to show up. Singing was to start at 5 in the afternoon on Saturday.

I arrived at the park just before 5 p.m. on Saturday and, guided by a map I picked up at the park headquarters, I soon found myself at the mess hall next to the group barracks facilities. I was already speaking German as I asked a gentleman at the door, "Wo ist das deutsches Wochenende?" (Where's the German Weekend?). He opened the door to the mess hall and I asked to see Ann Keller-Lally who turned out to be a young woman with an excellent command of German. She was directing people in the kitchen who were busy preparing the evening "German" meal. I introduced myself as the "Ziehharmonikaspieler" (accordion player) and said I was ready to start.

Out in the hall, where there were just a few people sitting, I started to warm up while Ann found a volunteer to lead the singing – a young fellow wearing a name tag that read Helmut. We practiced some songs – "Ach Du Lieber Augustin", "Mein Hut Der Hat Drei Ecken", "Schnitzelbank", "Du, Du Liegst Mir im Herzen" etc, etc. I even sang a few songs myself. Helmut, who was a good singer, and I soon discovered that our informal practice of a half hour or so actually was our performance because supper was ready to be served by now. I was invited to join in.

Afterwards I sat down at a table and began to converse with other people who spoke German to varying levels of proficiency (from beginners to native speakers). I had brought some copies of the German originals of my German-Texan history publications such as "Mein Ausflug nach Texas" (On To Texas!) by Friedrich Schlecht, "Auf dem Weissen Pfad des Friedens" (On the White Path of Peace), and others. These turned out to be great conversation starters, especially because they were in German and dealt with local history. I showed them my small, laminated copy of the German-Indian Peace treaty of 1847 and told them "auf deutsch" (in German) the fascinating story connected with it and that the original was on the wall in the lobby of the Texas State Library in Austin.

By now someone informed us that the campfire would soon be starting, with German movies to follow later in the evening. I gathered up my instrument and music and headed down the trail into the woods where they were already lighting the fire. I played and sang a few more songs as the fire began to glow more brightly just before the sun set beneath the forest trees. I had brought along my copy of the German original of Friedrich (Fritz) Schlecht's account of his wilderness adventure in Texas in the summer of 1848 and, with the aid of a modern flashlight, began to read aloud a passage from Schecht's account, describing first to my listeners how Schlecht had wandered through the forests around Bastrop on his way back to La Grange over 150 years ago. The passage described a wagon train with German settlers who were headed out of Houston going west through the prairies and woods. I imagined that old Fritz himself was listening to me read as his spirit hovered in the swaying trees with the stars flickering above in the night sky.

After I finished reading, the person next to me – a young man from Canada who had been born in Germany and emigrated there with his family when he was three – handed me a book of poetry. I suggested that he read it, but he insisted that I continue to read. After stumbling through a few poems aloud, I realized that they were a little too esoteric for my tastes. So I got up to get a copy of my song sheet and a few German Texan poems I had brought along as well. I sat back down on a log (I fell over backwards as I sat down, I'm ashamed to say, but quickly sat back up.) and started to read some of them in a sing-song fashion. One of the songs was "Wir kommen aus Alt-Texas her", the German version of "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie", which seemed quite appropriate. I then read the German-Texan poem "Am Rio Colorado" (On the Colorado River) and finished with "Der Stern von Texas" (The Star of Texas) written by Hoffman von Fallersleben, the famous German poet and lyric writer, for German settlers here in the 1840's and 1850's.

By now the hour was late and I bid farewell to the group to drive home near Austin. Though I did not attend all the events offered at "deutsches Wochenende", what I did experience was very worth while, especially refreshing my German language skills. I had a great time out-of-doors that evening as well. I hope that "German Weekend" will be held again next year.

Research Bibliography: "The Factors that Led to German Immigration to the Texas Coastal Plains from 1840 to 1880"

Keith Swartzbaugh

**Presented in partial fulfillment
of
History 6303-60
United States Immigration History**

Presented to Dr. Gerhard Grytz

**University of Texas at Brownsville
Brownsville, Texas
April 27, 2004**

Book titles:

Biesele, Rudolf. History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-1861. Austin, Texas: Eakin Publications, 1998.

ISBN: 1-57168-236-8

Description: Covers the founding and history of many German settlements and towns in Texas before the American Civil War. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Breitenkamp and Dabbs. Church Records of the Pioneer Families of Berlin, Texas. Austin, Texas: Eakin Publications, 1997.

ISBN: 1-57168-241-4

Description: Contains church records of German immigrants living in Berlin Texas, located between Hill Country and coast. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Cartwright, Gary. Galveston: a History of The Island. New York: Maxwell Macmillian International, 1991.

Description: Early German immigration in Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Fornell, Earl Wesley. The Galveston Era. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1961.

Description: Early German immigration in Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Geue, Chester William, Editor; Geue, Ethel Hander. A new land beckoned; German immigration to Texas, 1844-1847. Waco? Texas, 1966.

Description: Early German immigration in Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Geue, Ethel Hander. New homes in a new land: German immigration to Texas, 1847-1861. Baltimore Genealogical Publ. Co., 1882.

Description: Early German immigration in Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Gish, Theodore G. and Spuler, Richard. Eagle in the New World: German immigration to Texas and America. College Station: Published for the Texas Committee for the Humanities by Texas A&M University Press, 1986

Description: History of German immigrants in Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Reichstein, Andreas. German pioneers on the American frontier: the Wagners in Texas and Illinois.
Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2001.

Description: German immigrants in Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Trommler, Frank, and McVeigh, Joseph. America and the Germans; an assessment of a three hundred year history .Philadelphia : University of Pennsylvania Press,1985.

ISBN: 0812279964 (set); 0812279794 (v. 1); 0812279808 (v. 2); LCCN: 85-1063

Description: Papers from the Tricentennial Conference of German-American History, Politics and Culture, held 1983 at the University of Pennsylvania. Background source on German immigration to America. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Von-Maszewski., W.M., Editor. A Sojourn in Texas, 1846-47: A. Sörgel's Texas Writings. San Marcos, Texas: German-Texas Heritage Society, 1992.

ISBN 1-57168-237-6

Description: This dual-language edition contains observations, advice, and warnings for those who chose to come to Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

_____, Editor. Handbook and Registry of German Texas Heritage. Austin, Texas: German- Texas Heritage Society, 1989.

ISBN 1-57168-239-2

Description: Presents information on early German-Texan businesses, churches, cemeteries, schools, etc. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Academic Periodicals:

Baughman, James P. "The Evolution of Rail-Water Systems of Transportation in the Gulf Southwest, 1836-1890." *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 34, No. 3. (Aug.,1968), pp. 357-381.
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4642%28196808%2934%3A3%3C357%3ATEORSO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>

Description: Port of Indianola, Texas described. Provides background information for period and area under study.

Baum, Dale. "Pinpointing Apparent Fraud in the 1861 Texas Secession Referendum." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 22, No. 2. (Autumn, 1991), pp. 201-221.
Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-1953%28199123%2922%3A2%3C201%3APAFIT1%3E2.0.CO%3B2-U>

Description: Important historical event in Texas during time frame covered. Provides background information for period under study.

Berthoff, Rowland T. "Southern Attitudes Toward Immigration, 1865-1914" *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 17, No. 3. (Aug., 1951), pp. 328-360.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-4642%28195108%2917%3A3%3C328%3ASATI1%3E2.0.CO%3B2-E>

Description: Attitudes of German immigrants neighbors toward newcomers. May give insight into their motivation for immigration to east Texas.

Curti, Merle, and Birr, Kendall. "The Immigrant and the American Image in Europe, 1860-1914." *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 37, No. 2. (Sep., 1950), pp. 203-230. Stable

URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0161-391X%28195009%2937%3A2%3C203%3ATIATAI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-6>

Description: Discusses official US government policy encouraging immigration, which may give insight into the motivation for German immigration to east Texas.

Dorpalen, Andreas. "The German Element and the Issues of the Civil War." *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 29, No. 1. (Jun., 1942), pp. 55-76. Stable URL:

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0161-391X%28194206%2929%3A1%3C55%3ATGEATI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X>

Description: Discusses German attitude toward slavery, and thus may provide insight into their attitude toward America.

Gerstle, Gary. "Liberty, Coercion, and the Making of Americans." *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 84, No. 2. (Sep., 1997), pp. 524-558.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8723%28199709%2984%3A2%3C524%3ALCATMO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-D>

Description: German attitudes toward America before emigrating.

Gold, Theresa. "Texasians Genealogy." *German-Texan Heritage Society Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Mar., 1980), pp.40-42.

Description: Possible source of information regarding patterns of Germans immigration to east Texas.

Horowitz, Murray M. "Ethnicity and Command: The Civil War Experience." *Military Affairs*, Vol. 42, No. 4. (Dec., 1978), pp. 182-189. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0026-3931%28197812%2942%3A4%3C182%3AEACTCW%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q>

Description: Possible source of information regarding German immigrant participation in the Civil War which may give insight into their motives for immigrating to America.

Johnson, Hildegard Binder. "The Location of German Immigrants in the Middle West.." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 41, No. 1. (Mar., 1951), pp. 1-41.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0004-5608%28195103%2941%3A1%3C1%3ATLOGII%3E2.0.CO%3B2-P>

Description: Provides background information on German immigration to America.

Moltmann, Gunter. "Migrations from Germany to North America: New Perspectives (in Chapters of American History)." *Reviews in American History*, Vol. 14, No. 4, The View from Abroad: The Bellagio Conference on American History. (Dec., 1986), pp. 580-596. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0048-7511%28198612%2914%3A4%3C580%3AMFGTNA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>

Description: Provides background on theories about German immigration.

Kent, George O. "A Survey of German Manuscripts Pertaining to American History in the Library of Congress." *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 56, No. 4. (Mar., 1970), pp. 868-881. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8723%28197003%2956%3A4%3C868%3AASOGMP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-P>

Description: German attitudes toward America. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Kollmorgen, Walter M. "Reconnaissance of Some Cultural-Agricultural Islands in the South." *Economic Geography*, Vol. 17, No. 4. (Oct., 1941), pp. 409-430. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0013-0095%28194110%2917%3A4%3C409%3AAROSCI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-T>

Description: German Immigrants to Texas included in the survey. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Roper, Laura Wood. "Frederick Law Olmsted and the Western Texas Free-Soil Movement." *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 56, No. 1. (Oct., 1950), pp. 58-64. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28195010%2956%3A1%3C58%3AFLOATW%3E2.0.CO%3B2-I>

Description: Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Smith, Timothy L. "Religion and Ethnicity in America." *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 83, No. 5. (Dec., 1978), pp. 1155-1185. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28197812%2983%3A5%3C1155%3ARAEIA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0>

Description: Concepts of religion and ethnicity among German immigrants. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Smith, Woodruff D. "The Ideology of German Colonialism, 1840-1906." *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 46, No. 4. (Dec., 1974), pp. 641-662. Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-2801%28197412%2946%3A4%3C641%3ATIUGC1%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0>

Description: German attitudes toward America before emigrating.

Vecoli, Rudolph J. "The Significance of Immigration in the Formation of an American Identity." *The History Teacher*, Vol. 30, No. 1. (Nov., 1996), pp. 9-27. Stable URL:
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0018-2745%28199611%2930%3A1%3C9%3ATSOIT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-7>

Description: Source of general information regarding immigration and the how the German immigrants to Texas may have viewed themselves.

Wiederaenders, A.G. "The German Background of Texas Lutheran College." *German-Texan Heritage Society Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Mar., 1980), p.10.

Description: Possible source of information regarding motivations of German immigration to Texas.

Wilson, Joseph. "Lebendiges Deutsch: Houston's Bethlehem Lutheran Church." *German-Texan Heritage Society Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Mar., 1980), p.19.

Description: Possible source of information regarding motivations of Germans immigration to Texas.

Wittke, Carl. "The America Theme in Continental European Literatures." *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 28, No. 1. (Jun., 1941), pp. 3-26.

Stable URL: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0161-391X%28194106%2928%3A1%3C3%3ATATICE%3E2.0.CO%3B2-T>

Description: German attitudes toward America before immigrating to the US.

_____ "The German Forty-Eighters in America: A Centennial Appraisal." *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 53, No. 4. (Jul., 1948), pp. 711-725. Stable URL:

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28194807%2953%3A4%3C711%3ATGFIAA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-9>

Description: Source of background history of Germany that contributed to immigration.

Primary sources:

Berndt (August) Diary, 1849-1855.

Location: The Center of American History's Research And Colletions Division, University of Texas at Austin.

Library location: 3P120

Description : Source is diary of a tailor named August Berndt which documents his trip form Cracow Poland to Bremerhaven and then his voyage to Texas. Source describes his traveling in Texas. Places include Galveston and Houston.

Bracht, Victor. Texas in 1848. Austin, Texas: Eakin Publications, 1998.

ISBN: 1-57168-242-2

Description: Book was originally published in German in 1849. Book contains early Texas observations. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Brazoria Tax Records, 1837-1884

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C89 Drawer: D06 Roll: ROLL #01 ID:

Format: FILM **Coverage:** TAX REC **Total:** 01 **Dates:** 1837-1884

Box Title: BRAZORIA COUNTY TAX ROLLS

Note: (ROLL ENDS WITH SURNAME OF OLIVER). THERE ARE SEPARATE LISTS FOR EACH YEAR.

SOME YEARS ARE ALPHABETICAL BY FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME. DATA CAN INCLUDE: NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS, NUMBER OF ACRES, LAND VALUE, GRANT/ABSTRACT NUMBER, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, PERSONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY, LIVESTOCK, # OF NEGROES, COUNTY AND STATE TAXES DUE.

Description: Tax records for region under study. Possible source of information on financial well being of German immigrants to east Texas.

Burmeister (Charles) Papers, 1876-1877.

Location: The Center of American History's Research And Collections Division, University of Texas at Austin.

Library location: 2B176 Correspondence, 1876-1877

3S109 Stereoviews of Houston in 1877

Description: Contains the correspondence and photographs of Charles Bumeister who was sent from Wisconsin to Texas in order to investigate living conditions and opportunities for immigrants from Germany. Papers relate to climate and business opportunities. Cities covered included Houston. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Colonization Contracts, 1838-1844; Fisher/Miller contract

Location: Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

Archive location: Box 2-9/27, folder 1, INV 9124

Description: Contract settling German immigrants in Texas. Provides historical background of German immigration to Texas.

Duerr (Christian Friedrich) Papers, 1832-1833, 1839-1844. 2 vols.; typescript.

Location: The Center of American History's Research And Collections Division, University of Texas at Austin.

Library location: 2Q497 Diary, 1832-1833, in German (2 copies)

2Q498 Diary, 1839-1844 (2 copies)

Description: Diary and letters of Christian Freidrich Duerr, a German merchant and businessman. Source deals with his voyage from Germany to America and his personal and business affairs in Florida and Texas. The first volume is in German. Places covered included Houston. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Breitenkamp, Edward C. Church records of the pioneer German families of Berlin, Texas = (Kirchenregister für die deutschen Pionierfamilien von Berlin, Texas) / transcribed and translated from the records of Ebenezer Lutheran Church at Berlin, Texas. Bryan, Texas. : Family History Foundation, 1985.

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: F394.B336 B74 1985

ISBN: 0-943162

Description: Family history of German immigrants who settled between Hill country and coast in Berlin, Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Census, The 1850 Federal Census for Texas

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C02 Drawer: D11 Roll: ROLLS #908-916 ID: M-432

Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 09 Dates: 1850

Note: SEE: INDEX SHELVES, FIRST FLOOR BOOKS.

Description: Information on number of German immigrants in Texas, including region of research.

Census mortality, The 1850 Federal Census mortality Schedules

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C38 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID: T-1134

Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 01 Dates: 1850

Note: INCLUDES A PORTION OF THE DEATHS OCCURRING IN THE ONE YEAR PREVIOUS TO THE

START DATE OF THE CENSUS. ARRANGED BY COUNTY. SHOWS NAMES, AGES, DATE OF DEATH AND CAUSE OF DEATH. NOT INDEXED.

Description: Mortality statistics for region of research. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to east Texas.

Census (special) 1850-1880 Special Census of Texas

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C38 Drawer: D06 Roll: ROLLS #01-52 ID:

Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 52 Dates: 1850-1880

Note: ARRANGED BY COUNTY AND NOT INDEXED. INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL, SOCIAL, INDUSTRY, MANUFACTURERS, DDD (DEFECTIVE, DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT), AND SOME MORTALITY SCHEDULES (PT) FOR 1850. **SOME COUNTIES ARE NOT FILMED IN ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE. SEE: ROLL LABELS FOR COUNTIES COVERED AND APPENDIX IN TEXAS FINDING AID NOTEBOOK FOR COMPLETE LISTING.

Description: Source of general information on numbers of German immigrants to region under study.

Census, The 1860 Federal Census for Texas**Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas****Library location: Cabinet: C04 Drawer: D05 Roll: ROLLS #1287-1308 ID: M-653****Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 22 Dates: 1860****Note: SEE: INDEX SHELVES, FIRST FLOOR BOOKS. BLANCO AND TARRANT COUNTIES ARE MISSING FROM THIS CENSUS.****Description: Source of general information on numbers of German immigrants to region under study.****Census mortality, The 1860 Federal Census Mortality Schedules****Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas****Library location: Cabinet: C38 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID: T-1134****Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 02 Dates: 1860****Note: ARRANGED BY COUNTY AND NOT INDEXED. LISTS A PORTION OF THE DEATHS OCCURRING ONE YEAR PREVIOUS TO THE START DATE OF THE CENSUS. INCLUDES NAMES, AGES, DATE OF DEATH AND CAUSE.****Description: Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to east Texas.****Census, The 1870 Federal Census for Texas****Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas****Library location: Cabinet: C06 Drawer: D04 Roll: ROLLS #1573-1609 ID: M-593****Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 37 Dates: 1870****Note: SEE: INDEX SHELVES, FIRST FLOOR BOOKS.****Description: Source of general information on numbers of German immigrants to region under study.****Census mortality, The 1870 Federal Census Mortality Schedules****Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas****Library location: Cabinet: C38 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID: T-1134****Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 03 Dates: 1870****Note: ARRANGED BY COUNTY AND NOT INDEXED. SHOWS A PORTION OF THE DEATHS OCCURRING IN THE ONE YEAR PREVIOUS TO THE START DATE OF THE CENSUS. INCLUDES NAME, AGE, DATE OF DEATH, AND CAUSE.****Description: Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to east Texas.****Census, The 1880 Federal Census for Texas****Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas****Library location: Cabinet: C10 Drawer: D01 Roll: ROLLS #1288-1334 ID: T-9****Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 47 Dates: 1880****Note: SEE ALSO: FIRST FLOOR TEXAS BOOKS, COUNTY SECTIONS FOR PRINTED CENSUS TRANSCRIPTIONS OF HOUSTON, MONTGOMERY, FRANKLIN, HILL AND SABINE COUNTIES.****Description: Source of general information on numbers of German immigrants to region under study.**

Census mortality, The 1880 Federal Census Mortality Schedules**Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: C38 Drawer: D07 Roll: ROLLS #04-05 ID: T-1134**Format:** FILM **Coverage:** Total: 02 **Dates:** 1880**Note:** ARRANGED BY COUNTY AND NOT INDEXED. SHOWS A PORTION OF THE DEATHS OCCURRING IN THE ONE YEAR PREVIOUS TO THE START DATE OF THE CENSUS. INCLUDES NAME, AGE, DATE OF DEATH, AND CAUSE.**Description:** Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to east Texas.**Death records, Index to Galveston Deaths and Burial Records, 1800'S-1910****Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: C89 Drawer: D08 Roll: ROLLS #1437550-62 ID: 1437550-62**Format:** FILM **Coverage:** VITAL REC **Total:** 13 **Dates:** 1800'S-1910**Note:** NAMES ARE ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED ON ROLLS. SEE ALSO: GALVESTON CO., TEXAS 1ST FLOOR BOOKS, FOR CITY INTERMENTS 1859-1872 & 1878-1882.**Description:** Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.**Fisher (Henry Francis) Papers, 1821-1870****Location:** The Center of American History's Research And Colletions Division, University of Texas at Austin.**OCLC:** 21398846**Library location:** 2D145 papers

2Q392 transcripts, volume 1-3 copy 1

2Q393 transcripts, volume 2-3 copy 2; volume 1, copy 2

Oversized documents 24325\36

Description: Papers contain the correspondence and financial records of Henry Francis Fisher including his duties as German consul in Texas, Texas consul in Germany, and involvement in the San Saba Company of Houston and the Verein zum Schutze deutscher Einwanderer. Colletion includes newspaper clippings, and letters from family and friends. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.**Galveston City Directory, 1856-1857; 1859-1860****Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: FC01 Drawer: D05 Roll: FICHE #489-490 ID: 0489 - 0490**Format:** FICHE **Coverage:** DIRECTORY-CITY **Total:** 04 **Dates:** 1856 - 1857, 1859 -**Note:** SEE: FICHE #489-489:01 FOR 1856-1857. SEE: FICHE #490-490:01 FOR 1859-1860.**Description:** Directory of area under research. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Galveston City Directories, 1866-1935**Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: C73 Drawer: D11 Roll: ROLLS #20001-20002, 30001-30004, 44101-44106**Format:** FILM **Coverage:** DIRECTORY-CITY **Total:** 12 **Dates:** 1866 - 1935**Note:** ROLL #020001-02, AND 030001-04 AND 044101-06. FOR A MODERN MAP (1989) OF GALVESTON STREETS, SEE: TX MICROPRINT VERTICAL FILE. ALSO SEE: 1973 GALVESTON CITY**DIRECTORY, 1930 M883 (MAY BE AT THE REFERENCE DESK) AND 1973 P769, FIRST FLOOR BOOKS.****Description:** Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.**General Land Office, Abstracts of Original Texas Land Titles Comprising Grants and Locations, VOL. 1--VOL. 8, 1830'S TO 31 AUGUST 1941****Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: FC04 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID:**Format:** FICHE **Coverage:** LAND REC **Total:** 85 **Dates:** 1830'S TO 31 AUGUST 1941**Note:** SEE: FICHE #01 OF EACH VOL. FOR CO. PAGE NUMBERS, AND A KEY FOR PATENTEES**IDENTIFIED BY LETTERS OR ABBREVIATIONS. NAMES OF PATENTEES ARE ALPHABETICAL BY FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME WITHIN THE COUNTY. ABSTRACTS SHOW: ABST.#, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, CERTIF.#, PATENTEE, DATE, VOL., ACRES, CLASS AND FILE NUMBER. ALSO SEE SAME: 976.4 T355 (VOL. 1-A ONLY, MAPS).****Description:** Land grants should cover area of research. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.**German Colonization in Texas Papers, 1844-1855****Location:** The Center of American History's Research And Collections Division, University of Texas at Austin.**Library location:** 2N399 Clippings**Legal documents****Description:** Library gives brief description as "German Colonization in Texas Papers, 1844-1855".**Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.****German Emigration Company Document, 1856****Location:** The Center of American History's Research And Collections Division, University of Texas at Austin.**OCCL number:** 26758996**Library location:** 2N400**Description:** Document presented to the Texas Legislature relating to the Colonization Contract, under which terms German immigrants settled in Texas. Also relates to immigration laws and lawsuits.**Source of background for German immigration to Texas.**

Gikas, Leola Shafer. The Johann Georg and Eva Katharine Storch family : Valentine and Laura Starks, Margaretha Wilhelmina and Conrad Schuessler, Osanna Christiana and Adam Ritter of Mason County, Texas. San Antonio, Texas : L.S. Gikas, c1992

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: CS71.S8839 1992

Description: Family history of German immigrants who lived in Indianola. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Gish, Theodore, translator. Diary of Hermann Seele and Seele's Sketches. San Antonio, Texas: German-Texas Heritage Society, 1995.

Location: Available from the German-Texan Heritage Society.

ISBN 1-57 168 238 -4

Description: Provides insight into motivation of immigrant to Texas.

Hauschild, Henry J. Runge Chronicle: A German Saga of Success. Austin, Tex.: The Whitley Company, 1990. Victoria, Tex. (210 E. Forrest St., Victoria 77901) : H.J. Hauschild, 1990

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: CS71.R9418 1990

Description: Family history of German immigrants who lived in Galveston and Indianola. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Indianola Immigrant Database

Location: <http://lois2.uhv.edu/vrhc/manuscripts/indianola/home.cfm>

Description: A project of the Victoria County (Texas) Historical Commission to record individuals (Germans included) who reached Texas through the port of Indianola on the Texas coast. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Texas, 1865-1866

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C88 Drawer: D01 Roll: ID: M-0791

Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 02 Dates: 1865-1866

Note: COUNTIES COVERED ARE LISTED ALPHABETICALLY ON ROLL LABEL AND SIDE OF BOX.

COLLECTION DISTRICT #1 RECORDS DO NOT EXIST SO NOT ALL COUNTIES ARE REPRESENTED. INDIVIDUAL NAMES ARE LISTED ALPHABETICALLY, THEN POST OFFICE ADDRESS, ARTICLE TAXED OR OCCUPATION, ALSO RATE AND AMOUNT OF TAX. DP

Description: Revenue records for group under study. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to east Texas.

Justman, Dorthy E. German colonists and their descendants in Houston : including Usener and allied families. Quanah, Tex. : Nortex Offset Publications, 1974.

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: CS71.U83 1974

Description: Family history of German immigrants who lived in Houston. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Koehler, Ruth Hardt and Koehler, William Milton. Henry Christian Hardt : a genealogy, 1639-1992. Austin, Tex. : R.H. Koehler, 1992.

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: CS71.H258 1992

Description: Family history of German immigrants who settled between Hill Country and coast in Yorktown, Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Lamm Family Papers, 1907 -1944

Location: The Center of American History's Research And Collections Division, University of Texas at Austin.

OCLC number: 26516115

Library location: 2N400

Description: Contains "letter and printed record book with manuscript entries inscribed in German with the genealogy of the German-Jewish family of Ignaz Lamm form 1801-1944, with the latest entry made at Harlingen, Texas". Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Letters received by the President and Governor pertaining to colonization, 1850 -1851. Petition regarding Fisher/Miller.

Location: Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

Archive location: Box 2-9/27, folder 17, INV 9318

INV 9332

INV 9333

Description: Archives describe documents as "Chiefly petitions for appointment of commissioners to issue land certificates to colonists pursuant to acts of 1850 for relief of settlers in various colonies."

Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

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

Location: Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

Archive location: Box 2-9/27, folders 4-15

Description: Possible source of attitudes toward German immigration.

Letters sent by the Secretary of State pertaining to colonization, 1842-1845.

Location: Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

Archive location: Box 2-9/27, folder 16

Description: Possible source of attitudes toward German immigration.

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

Location: Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

Archive location: Box 2-9/27, folder 3

Description: Possible source of government policy toward immigrants.

Little, Marianne Elizabeth Hall. The history of Clemens Georg Ludwig Gottlieb Hartmann and Sophia Theresa Strieber Hartmann. Tucker, Ga. : M.E.H. Little, c1993.

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: CS71.H333 1993

Description: Family history of German immigrants who settled between Hill Country and coast in Yorktown, Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Naturalization, WPA Index to Naturalization Records found in Texas State District and County Courts, 1846-1939

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C88 Drawer: D02 Roll: ROLLS #01-10 ID: 7RA 211

Format: FILM Coverage: CITIZENSHIP Total: 10 Dates: 1846-1939

Note: NOT ALL COUNTIES INCLUDED. RECORDS ARE ALPHABETICAL BY COUNTY AND ALPHABETICAL BY NAME WITHIN COUNTY. SHOWS NAME, BIRTH/DATE/AGE, COUNTRY OF ALLEGIANCE, STATE/DISTRICT COURT, DATE OF NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS, WHETHER A PETITION, DECLARATION, OR AFFIDAVIT, WHERE PROCEEDINGS RECORDS ARE FILED AND LOCATION OF ORIGINAL RECORDS (AS OF THE 1930'S). SEE: NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP FOLDER, MICROPRINT VERTICAL FILE FOR SUMMARY OF NATURALIZATION LAWS. SEE ALSO: THE FT. WORTH NARA FOLDER, MICROPRINT VERTICAL FILE, FOR NATURALIZATION RECORDS HOUSED AT THAT LOCATION.

Description: Possibly naturalization records of German immigrants from coastal plain. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Newspapers, Early Texas Newspapers, BRAZORIA INDEPENDENT---BRAZORIA TEXAS PLANTER NEWSPAPER, 1829..1881

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C88 Drawer: D04 Roll: 132004289 ID:

Format: FILM Coverage: NEWSPAPER Total: 01 Dates: 1829..1881

Note: PART OF THE EARLY TEXAS NEWSPAPER COLLECTION, CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, UT. INCLUDES: THE INDEPENDENT: APR 15 & AUG 26, 1881, NOV 24, 1882; ADVOCATE OF THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS: FEB 22, 1834, MAR 27, 1834 (EXTRA); CONSTITUTIONAL ADVOCATE & TEXAS PUBLISHERS ADVERTISER: SEP 5, 1832, JUN 15, 1833; TEXAS GAZETTE & BRAZORIA COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER (EXTRA): JUL 23, 1832; BRAZOS COURIER: 1839-1840; TEXAS REPUBLICAN: 1834-1836; MEXICAN CITIZEN: 1831; THE PEOPLE: APR 18, 1838; TEXAS GAZETTE: 1829-1831; TEXAS PLANTER, JUL 28, 1852- JUL 18, 1855.

Description: Newspaper material for region of research. Source regarding well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Newspapers, Miscellaneous Texas Newspapers abstracts, VOL. III, 1839-1875**Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: FC04 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID:**Format:** FICHE **Coverage:** Total: 04 **Dates:** 1839-1875**Note:** NAME INDEX. INCLUDES: HOUSTON MORNING STAR, TELEGRAPH & TEXAS REGISTER,

MATAGORDA BULLETIN, COLORADO TRIBUNE, AUSTIN TEXAS DAILY BULLETIN, CORPUS CHRISTI RANCHERO, SAN ANTONIO HERALD AND WEEKLY HERALD, HERALD EXTRA, SAN ANTONIO DAILY NEWS, AND BRENHAM BANNER. ALSO SEE: VOLUMES 1-2, 976.4 K29 TEX.

Description: Newspaper material for region of research. Source regarding well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.**Newspapers, Miscellaneous Texas Newspapers abstracts, VOL. IV, 1839-1882****Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: FC04 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID:**Format:** FICHE **Coverage:** Total: 04 **Dates:** 1839-1882**Note:** NAME INDEX. INCLUDES: GALVESTON CIVILIAN AND GAZETTE, GALVESTON DAILY NEWS,

CLARKSVILLE NORTHERN STANDARD, BASTROP ADVERTISER, BELTON REVIEW, BELTON JOURNAL, AND BELTON WEEKLY JOURNAL. ALSO SEE: VOLUMES 1-2, 976.4 K29 TEX.

Description: Newspaper material for region of research. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.**Newspapers, Miscellaneous Texas Newspapers abstracts, VOL. I, 1840-1858****Location:** Clayton Library, Houston, Texas**Library location:** Cabinet: FC04 Drawer: D07 Roll: ID:**Format:** FICHE **Coverage:** Total: 04 **Dates:** 1840-1858**Note:** NAME INDEXED. INCLUDES: CLARKSVILLE NORTHERN STANDARD, MARSHALL REPUBLICAN, SAN AUGUSTINE RED LANDER, INDIANOLA BULLETIN, NATIONAL REGISTER, MATAGORDA WEEKLY DESPATCH, TEXAS UNION, TEXAS ADVOCATE, BRAZORIA PLANTER, WEEKLY GALVESTONIAN, WEEKLY HOUSTONIAN, HUNTSVILLE ITEM, AND BASTROP ADVERTISER. ALSO SEE: VOLUMES 1-2, 976.4 K29**Description:** Newspaper material for region of research. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.**Papers of the Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas (German Emigration Company), 1844 – 1846.****Location:** Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.**Archive location:** Box 2-9/28, Folder 22

INV 9421 Dr. F.B. Webb-Day book

Description: Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to east Texas.

Robinson, Robert R., Jr. Die Bremerverwandtschaft in Deutschland und in Texas = The Bremers and their kin in Germany and in Texas, Vol. 1 and 2. Wichita Falls, Tex. : Nortex Press, c1977-1979

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC: CS71.B83375 1977

ISBN: 0-89015-131-8

Description: Family history of German immigrants who lived in Houston. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Schlick Family Papers, 1831-1908

Location: The Center of American History's Research And Collections Division, University of Texas at Austin.

Library location: See collection inventory on Reference Shelves. Collection inventory lists documents as located in Box 3H15, Folder 1.

Description: Contains Schlick family personal correspondence and records. Collection includes an 1867 diary written by Ricahrd Schlick, who died that same year of yellow fever. Place is Galveston Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Ship lists, Galveston Passenger Lists, 1846-1871

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C41 Drawer: D01 Roll: ROLL #03 ID: M-0575

Format: FILM Coverage: Total: Dates: 1846-1871

Box Title: COPIES OF LISTS OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT MISCELLANEOUS

Note: (SEE: M-334 FOR AN INDEX). (ALSO SEE: FIRST FLOOR BOOKS, SHIP'S PASSENGER LISTS

FROM THE PORT OF GALVESTON, 1846-1871, 976.412 S557 TEX.) THIS ROLL SHOWS NAME, AGE,

SEX, OCCUPATION, COUNTRY FROM, COUNTRY IN WHICH SETTLEMENT WILL OCCUR, DIED ON

VOYAGE, SHIP'S NAME & AND PORT OF ORIGIN, DATE OF ARRIVAL AND TYPE OF VESSELL. (GAPS IN RECORDS). FOR GERMAN AND CZECH PASSENGERS TO THE PORTS OF GALVESTON AND INDIANOLA, 1850-1855 SEE ALSO: VOLUME I PASSENGER LISTS FOR GALVESTON, 1850-1855 B633 GALVE, FIRST FLOOR BOOKS.

Description: Passengers include German immigrants. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Ship lists, GALVESTON (TEXAS) QUARTERLY ABSTRACTS OF PASSENGER LISTS OF VESSELS, 1846-1871

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C46 Drawer: D06 Roll: ROLL #01 ID: T-507

Format: FILM **Coverage:** Total: 01 **Dates:** 1846-1871

Box Title: GALVESTON QUARTERLY ABSTRACTS OF PASSENGER LISTS

Note: SEE: (THE INDEX TO) SHIP'S PASSENGER LISTS FROM THE PORT OF GALVESTON, 1846-1871 976.412 S557 TEX. SEE SAME: ROLL #03, COPIES OF LISTS OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT MISCELLANEOUS PORTS ON THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS, AND AT PORTS ON THE GULF, 1820-1873. FOR GERMAN AND CZECH PASSENGERS TO THE PORTS OF GALVESTON AND INDIANOLA, 1850-1855 SEE ALSO: VOLUME I PASSENGER LISTS FOR GALVESTON, 1850-1855 B633 GALVE, FIRST FLOOR BOOKS.

Description: Passengers include German immigrants. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Ship lists of persons emigrating to Texas as colonists under the Fisher – Miller contracts: 1844-1846.

Location: Texas State Archives, Austin, Texas.

Archive location: Box 2-9/26, folders 8-35; also oversize box 23, folders 7-20

Description: Ship lists of German immigrants to Texas from October 18, 1843 to November 15, 1846.

Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Vaughan, Jesse Jr. The Holzwarth/Holzworth family: Württemberg, Germany, and Galveston and Harris counties, Texas, ca. AD 1600 to present. [Texas?] 1993.

Location: German-Texan Heritage Society.

LOC:CS71.H7627 1993

Description: Family history of German immigrants who lived in Galveston. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Solms-Braunfels, Carl, Prinz au, 1812-1875.; Von-Maszewski, W.M.; Solms-Braunfels, Carl, and others. Voyage to North America, 1844-45. Denton, Texas.: German-Texan Heritage and the University of North Texas Press, 2000.

Description: German immigration to Texas. Source for possible insight into German motives for immigrating to Texas.

Tax Records, Calhoun County, 1846-1888

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C89 Drawer: D06 Roll: ROLL #01 ID:

Format: FILM Coverage: TAX REC Total: 01 Dates: 1846-1888

Box Title: CALHOUN COUNTY TAX ROLLS

Note: (ROLL ENDS WITH SURNAME OF STIERNBERG). THERE ARE SEPARATE LISTS FOR EACH YEAR. SOME YEARS ARE ALPHABETICAL BY FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME. DATA CAN INCLUDE: NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS, NUMBER OF ACRES, LAND VALUE, GRANT/ABSTRACT NUMBER, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, PERSONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY, LIVESTOCK, # OF NEGROES, COUNTY AND STATE TAXES DUE.

Description: Records of region under study. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to east Texas.

Tax records, Galveston Tax Records, 1838-1884

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C89 Drawer: D08 Roll: ROLLS #01-03 ID:

Format: FILM Coverage: TAX REC Total: 03 Dates: 1838-1884

Box Title: GALVESTON COUNTY TAX ROLLS

Note: (LAST ROLL ENDS WITH SURNAME OF MAUERER). THERE ARE SEPARATE LISTS FOR EACH YEAR. SOME YEARS ARE ALPHABETICAL BY FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME. DATA CAN INCLUDE: NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS, NUMBER OF ACRES, LAND VALUE, GRANT/ABSTRACT NUMBER, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, PERSONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY, LIVESTOCK, # OF NEGROES, CITY AND STATE TAXES DUE.

Description: Records of region under study. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Tax Records, Matagorda County Records, 1846-1900

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: C90 Drawer: D08 Roll: ROLL #01 ID:

Format: FILM Coverage: TAX REC Total: 01 Dates: 1846-1900

Box Title: MATAGORDA COUNTY TAX ROLLS

Note: (ROLL ENDS WITH SURNAME OF JONES). THERE ARE SEPARATE LISTS FOR EACH YEAR. SOME YEARS ARE ALPHABETICAL BY FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME. DATA CAN INCLUDE: NAMES OF PROPERTY OWNERS, NUMBER OF ACRES, LAND VALUE, GRANT/ABSTRACT NUMBER, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, PERSONAL & MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY, LIVESTOCK, # OF NEGROES, COUNTY AND STATE TAXES DUE.

Description: Records of region under study. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

Voter Register, 1867-1870

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Cabinet: C88 Drawer: D01 Roll: ROLLS #01-12 ID:

Format: FILM Coverage: Total: 12 Dates: 1867-1870

Note: ANDERSON THRU ZAPATA COUNTIES. NO INDEX. SHOWS: NUMBER, DATE OF REGISTRATION, NAME OF REGISTRANT, PLACE OF RESIDENCE (COUNTY), PRECINCT NUMBER, NUMBER OF YEARS IN STATE, COUNTY, AND PRECINCT, NATIVE OF WHAT PLACE, HOW/WHEN/WHERE NATURALIZED, "COL." IF COLORED, AND SIGNATURE (SOME SIGNED WITH X'S). ORIGINAL LISTS ARE FOUND AT TEXAS STATE LIBRARY.

Description: Voter Registration of German immigrants who lived in Coastal Plain should be included. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

U.S. District Court, Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the U.S. District Court, South Texas

Location: Clayton Library, Houston, Texas

Library location: Cabinet: FC01 Drawer: D01 Roll: ID: Format: FICHE Coverage: COURT REC Total: 02 Dates: Note: THE ORIGINAL RECORDS ARE FOUND AT FORT WORTH NATIONAL ARCHIVES BRANCH, RECORD GROUP 21. CONTAINS DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT COURTS. INCLUDES: BROWNSVILLE, CORPUS CHRISTI, GALVESTON, HOUSTON, LAREDO, AND VICTORIA DISTRICTS. ALSO CONTAINS CONFEDERATE COURT RECORDS FROM 1861-1865. THIS INVENTORY WAS DATED APRIL 30, 1990.

description: U.S. District Court records cover area and time frame of study. Probably German immigrants were involved in some court procedures. Source regarding numbers and well being of German immigrants to the Coastal Plain of Texas.

**submitted by
Dorothy Noak Rothermel
of Brenham**

BROOMTOWN, TEXAS
by Rudolph A. Engelking, Jr.
Sealy, Texas

Ferdinand Friedrich Engelking (1810-1885) was born in Schlüsselburg, Westphalia, Prussia. He earned his degree in law from Halle University. While serving as a law clerk at Nieheim, he became acquainted with Robert Justus Kleberg, friend and future son-in-law of the von Roeders at Bredenborn, Westphalia.

Ludwig Sigismund Anton von Roeder, his wife, and family immigrated to Texas in 1834 where they settled on their land grant at what is Cat Spring in Austin County, Texas. In 1839, Ferdinand Engelking also immigrated to America and joined the von Roeder family at Cat Spring. In 1842 he married Caroline (Lina), the youngest von Roeder daughter. The young couple acquired 177 acres of land from another von Roeder son-in-law, Louis Kleberg, near Millheim in Austin County.

From 1843 to 1869 Ferdinand and Lina Engelking had 16 children—nine boys and seven girls (seven boys and four girls grew to maturity). Son No. 2, Friedrich (Fritz), married Anna Trenckmann, a daughter of Andreas Trenckmann, also of Millheim. They bought 320 acres about six miles northwest of Sealy. The family had seven children—three boys and four girls. The three boys were Hugo, Paul, and Rudolph.

Ferdinand and Lina Engelking's youngest son, Ferdinand, Jr., was born in 1869. All of the sons had done farm work to help support the family. On a summer day in 1882, a tragic accident occurred to young Ferdinand while he and his brothers were working with the family hay crop. The newmown hay was raked up with a buck rake, wooden device that slides along the ground, drawn by two horses. The newmown hay was moved up to a site where the hay was being stacked around a 15-foot pole. At the time, this was how hay was preserved for winter feeding.

Two of the boys were at the pole to stomp down the hay while Ferdinand and a brother were on the ground to pitch it to the boys who were stomping. When the stack came to a point near the top of the pole, the boys on top would throw their pitchforks to the ground. In those days, a pitchfork consisted of two prongs spaced about 4 inches apart. When one of the brothers on top threw his fork to the ground, the two prongs of the fork landed squarely in Ferdinand's eyes. This unfortunate accident totally blinded him.

After a short recovery time, Ferdinand was taken to the Blind Institute in Austin. There he studied music and became an excellent violinist, piano player, piano tuner, and also learned the craft of broom making. When he returned to his home in 1886, there was very little opportunity in the music field, so he decided to establish a broom factory.

Ferdinand acquired the necessary machinery, all hand operated. The broomcorn for the brooms was raised on the Engelking land at Millheim. He, of course, needed help. That was when his three nephews, his brother Fritz' sons, agreed to help their blind uncle. They helped him acquire the material he needed and how to finish a marketable broom. Demand for the brooms was apparently very good.

In 1896, Ferdinand learned of a demand for his musical skills in Taylor, Texas. He decided to quit the broom business and move there where the next year he married. He lived there for a number of years.

His three nephews, bought the broom-making equipment and moved it to their home, about six miles northwest of Sealy. The Engelking brothers decided that if they were going to make brooms, they needed to build a modern factory. So Rudolph made a trip to St. Louis to survey a well

known broom factory. He saw what equipment was needed and how an ongoing factory operates. While in St. Louis, he hired an experienced broom factory foreman and an excellent broom maker to come with him to Texas.

The first requirement was a huge gasoline engine connected to a shaft that extended through a new factory building. Along the shaft of the factory, they installed the necessary equipment to run an online operation to manufacture brooms.

The new setup required employees. Initially, about ten people were employed, mostly nearby neighbors and young boys from Sealy. With instruction from the factory foreman and the experienced broom maker, the new employees became very efficient at their stations and brooms began pouring out. The Engelking brothers started a large mail campaign, soliciting orders from grocers and wholesale firms; the response was overwhelming.

By the end of 1897, everything was on the upswing. A long wagon, with two or four horses, was dispatched to Sealy almost daily, loaded with brooms consigned to customers according to their orders. The brooms were delivered to the Katy and Santa Fe freight depots, and incoming raw materials were picked up and hauled back to the broom factory.

In 1898, things began to happen. First, Hugo Engelking wanted out of the business. His ambition was to be a farmer and rancher. Mailwise, the broom factory was served by a rural route from Peters, Texas. A U.S. Post Office representative approached Paul and Rudolph with a proposal to establish a post office in the broom factory community. Paul and Rudolph agreed. When the necessary postal equipment was delivered, they named the new post office Broomtown, Texas.

Frieda Engelking Vandergrift, Paul's and Rudolph's sister, was appointed postmistress. She held this job from 1898 to 1904 when she and her husband moved to Cuero. Subsequently, Rudolph was appointed postmaster. He served until 1914 when the post office was closed.

In October 1904, Paul Engelking was killed by a stray bullet while sitting in a barber's chair getting a haircut. A man entered a saloon next to the barber shop, grabbed the hat off of a man sitting at the bar, threw the hat to the ceiling and fired at the hat as it was descending to the floor. The bullet penetrated one or two walls and hit Paul squarely in the heart. Sealy was noted for frequent gun play and was often referred to as "Six Shooter Junction."

The tragedy left Rudolph as sole owner of the broom factory. Problems began to increase. Broomcorn and broom handles were arriving in carload lots and other broom factory supplies came by local freight. This required almost daily trips to Sealy to deliver brooms consigned to customers and to pick up incoming freight for the factory. All of this was by wagon with either two or four horses, depending on the load. This means of supplying material for the factory became rather expensive.

In 1911 or 1912, Rudolph Engelking (commonly referred to as R.A.) bought property on the south side of Sealy, along both sides of the Santa Fe Railroad and made plans to move the factory there. In 1914, the new factory, with plenty of warehouse space, was ready for the move. Five rent houses for the employees had also been acquired in Sealy. In May that year, the move from Broomtown was completed—lock, stock, and barrel. This wiped Broomtown off the map.

After the move, the broom factory name was changed from Engelking Brothers to Sealy Broom Company, and mail service was through the Sealy post office. As sole owner of the factory, R.A. Engelking ran the company until his death in 1956.

His son, R.A., Jr., the new owner was the Postmaster at Sealy; therefore, his wife, Gladys, ran the company until March 1964 when a tornado destroyed it. What was left of it burned. The property was sold, and the Sealy Broom Company, once the creator of a whole town, ceased to exist.

Submitted by Jean Heide:

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940

Folklore:	No. of words	1600
Miss Effie Cowan, P.W.	File No.	240.
McLennon County, Texas	page	No. 1.
District No. 8.		

Reference:

Interview with Mrs. Ernestine Weiss Faudie, Riesel, Texas.

(White Pioneer)

"I was born in Dambaw Province, Possen, Germany. My father was named Frederich Weiss, and followed his ancestor Louis Weiss who came with the colony that settled at Fredricksburg, Texas. My father netted near Brenham, Texas in the year 1853, the year that I was born, as I was a five month old Infant when they left Germany,

"There were farms and ranches where they settled and over At the colony of Fredricksburg there was quite a little town, I have the list of names of the men who were In Business, among them was Louis Weiss who was a tinner, the records show that, thirty eight men operated ten different types of industrial business the town: This town and New Braunfels were the main German settlements when my father came to Texas in 1853. The Germans around Brenham had drifted from these places to other settlements.

"To the colony at Brenham my father came and this is where I was raised; we had the ordinary little schools and the teachers were mostly the one teacher schools. They were paid very little but then it was something to even have a school. So it is Dot surprising that the young people married early and raised their families in large numbers, to what they do now.

"I was seventeen when I married William Hamburg. We came to the little settlement called Sandy Creek where the town of Riesel is today, but at that time there was nothing but ranches and the farms over near the Brazos river. We lived there for a few tears and the grasshoppers came and ate up our crops so we moved back to Brenham and lived there for twelve years. Then in 1890 we came back to this part of the country and lived at the Perry settlement until late years.

"I reared nine children by my first husband, they are: Mrs John Scharlach who has lived by the Methodist Church in the Myers settlement on the Mart-Waco road, for the

past forty years: Mrs. Fred Wittling of Perry, deceased, and Mrs Louis Bohmfalk, whose husband was a Methodist minister. No deceased: Mrs. Arthur Grebe of Mart and William Hamburg and Albert of Dallas; Mrs Ida Buese and another son, Fred of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

“My first husband died in 1900 and in 1908 I married Judge J. Faudie who is living with me now. My father and two brothers to come with him from Germany and were in the Confederate army. Their names were August and Fritz Weiss. They were sent back home from the war on furlough, but had to return and August was captured by the Yankees and taken prisoner and made to walk all the way to prison. He was later exchanged and came home. The other brother Fritz, came home after the war was over and took tuberculosis and died from this which he contracted in the army.

“When any of the soldiers on either side came thru our place they took anything they could find, the rebels felt that they had a right to it for they were fighting for us. They took our horses and killed our hogs and cows to eat, and took our corn. When the blockade was on and we could not get coffee we made it out of sweet potatoes. We cut them up and dried them and boiled them and drank this for coffee.

“There was a grist mill close by our place and they ground the meal real fine and crushed corn. We cooked over a fire place with a big dutch oven. We spun and wove the cotton thread to make our clothes. And speaking of the soldiers I remember an incident that is amusing now but at the time, to the neighbor it was anything but amusing. When a group of soldiers passed this neighbor, she tied a hog to the bed post so they would not see it, but they stopped for a drink of water and heard the hog grunting and so came into the room and took the hog and barbecued it, out in the yard and ate it before the neighbor’s very eyes.

“When we first came to this country we lived in a log cabin, but we had it made good and comfortable and we did not mind that; we were so happy to have all the land that we could cultivate and the stock which was so plentiful, so different from where we lived in Germany. When the war, which they caled the civil war, came I remember that my brother-in-law, Henry Hamburg, did not want to fight, as he did not believe in war and so he went to Mexico and then up to the North where he stayed until the war was over.

“My family came to the Perry settlement in 18x0 and there was a big ranch, called the Stone Rancy, they had lots of cattle and horses and the cowboys would round up the cattle twice a year and take them to the markets. I think they took them to Houston or Galveston and shipped them by way of the Gulf to New York and the foreign markets. We lived in the Schlimbach settlement; the community was thinnly settled but

we were a settlement of people from the old country and we kept up our interest, thro the papers in the old country, and our way of living, also our mother tongue and so we did not feel so isolated for Germany altho we bacame naturalized American citizens soon after coming to this country.

"I will tell you the story of the Indianola flood the came in 1875. My brother-in-law who did not go to the was, Henry Hamburg, came back when it was over and became a Methodist minister, (most of the churches were either Lutheran oor Methodist then). He was in charge of the Methodist church at this place when the big storm came, he and his wife both were drowned and most of the inhabitants. At that time and during the Civil War, Indianola was an important port of Texas and it meant to Texas what Galveston does now.

"There were just a few of the buildings left when the storm was over. A few feet of the outside wall was all that remained of the once big department store of Lichtenstein's and Alexander's. After the flood Mrs Lichtenstein moved to Corpus Christi and went into business. The court house, which in those days was at least fifty or sixty feet from the bay, has later been washed almost entirely away by the water of Matagorda Bay. It is said the the walls of these two buildings and a few crumbling cement cisterns and a few old safes that were in the store is all that is left as a reminder of the once second most important port of Texas.

"The story of Indianola reads like a story book for children. They claim that La Salle was the first to make came there while he was trying to find the mouth of the Mississippi River. However, it was made the County seat of Calhoun County in 1846. Many of the buildings and underground cistern were made of concrete so this is why those the storm left stood. It was said that the stage left twice a week for California and the prairie schooners carried the overland freight and the Morgan Line steamers were used for passengers and freight by water.

"Another story is that gold and silver bullion was brought from Chihuahua, Mexico, for shipment to the min at New Orleans. Instead of the horses and carriages the ox-wagons were familiar sights on the street of this little coast town. It is said thet hides and tallow were among the more immportant commodities. After the cattle were kille and skinned the carcasses were hauled beyond the city limits and dumped, and the fresh beef was used for fattening hogs and the people in the town were welcome to all the meat they wanted at the slaughter house.

"Natural ice from New England was shipped by steamer from Boston, army goods were shipped from Baltimore thro Indianola to the forts aat El Paso and San Antonio. The number of people in the town in 1875 were close to 3,500 and town lots sold for a

good price. So the town was one of the best in Texas until Sept. 16, 1875 when the tropical storm came. The citizens hurried to the business buildings and private houses that were known to be the stoutest, but only a few escaped with their lives.

"It was said that many were forced out of the second stories when the water rose in them and had to seek safety in hastily constructed rafts which they made from the sections of the floors and walls of the houses they were in. Some of them were thoughtful enough to have ropes and they were lashed to the rafts by them, but many were drowned when the buildings they were in collapsed and the people were crushed or drowned.

"There were many stories of heroism that were told by those who were saved. They told about the two prisoners named William Taylor and Joe Blackburn, who were both up for first degree murder. They had been placed in the court house and during the height of the storm both frequently swam through the court house windows to rescue some drowning person. After the storm was over desolation met the eye everywhere. My brother-in-law, his family, and his home had disappeared and were never seen again, although my husband hoped for months to hear of him.

"Capital was timid about investing again and most of those who lived through this storm moved away to escape another like fate. And so when the second hurricane came in 1886 and was said to be even greater intensity the few people who were left read the signs in time to evacuate the town and the havoc was not as destructive to the lives of the inhabitants.

"After the storm of 1886 the old port of Indianola was abandoned. I have told you this true story of the coastal storms to show you what the old pioneers had to contend with, not only the pests of the insects in their corn, or the hardships of the lack of comforts of life, but the very elements of nature, the droughts, the floods, and the unsettled condition of the country, even to desperadoes and murderers but never for an instant did we lose our faith in the future which was always before us, to look into when the time should come when we could lie down to our sleep and not feel that any calamity would befall us.

"And now in my old age I look back over the past from the time that I can remember and think of the many friends and kinsmen who came over here from the old country, and who have passed on the far away land and I say in my heart to them all:

"Auf-weider-se-hen."

(Till we meet again!).

Note: The following article was forwarded by Dr. Joe Frantz to Dr. Glen Lich at Baylor University in 1990, while Dr. Frantz taught at Corpus Christi State University. Dr. Frantz was the first holder of the Walter Prescott Webb Chair of History and Ideas at the University of Texas at Austin. A more complete bio of Joe Bertram Frantz (1917-1993) is set out in the Handbook of Texas. Permission to publish this article was granted to Rodney C. Koenig for GTHS Journal use by Betsy C. Frantz, the widow of Dr. Frantz and Independent Executrix of his Estate.

GERMANS IN TEXAS

This study will necessarily be briefer than the oral presentation I gave two months ago at Baylor University. That study backed up each theme with examples. The auditors were locked in with no escape. A reader has the option of not reading, and therefore I must present each theme and move on with alacrity.

Later Americans have prated considerably about having immigrated to New World shores in search of religious and political freedom. It salves their consciences—makes them feel that no matter how careless, high-handed, and dissolute, their forbears had character and purpose. Some truth persists in this viewpoint, but not total truth. Immigrants came seeking wealth, and the colonies were born in an atmosphere of profit-seeking that has never diminished.

Thus a group of minor nobles in Mainz formed an Adelsverein to improve economic opportunity in an overpopulated Germany, to find new profits through land—acquisition, distribution, and speculation. The purpose was primarily to garner wealth for themselves and for lower-class Germans. Both the nobles and the ordinary Germans came to Texas seeking profit and progress. They might not have been the ideal Germans for a raw frontier, because many of them were craftsmen in a region that put little value on craft. They brought a touch of innocence that caused them to succeed where they had little business succeeding.

The Germans established themselves around New or Neu Braunfels, named for their patron noble. Before long a group moved on up into the Texas Hill Country, domain of the

fierce Comanche, generally hailed as the least tractable of the native Americans. John Meusebach, as he Anglicized his name, called on the hostile Indians. As the two groups confronted each other, Meusebach threw down his weapons and ordered his companions to follow suit. Then he told the Indians the obvious: he meant no harm. After some parleying the Germans and Indians agreed to meet again.

At the next meeting the Indians came to the Germans. As they entered the presence of their German rivals, the Indians dropped their arms as their token of peaceful intentions. The result was a treaty that was never broken by either side, an event unique in Texas history and perhaps in the whole of North American white-Indian relations. An unanticipated result, a century later, is one of the region's biggest tourist attractions—the lighting of the Easter fires to commemorate the continuing peace between the two groups who never took the time to become enemies.

Religion played its part, as it did in almost every settlement that made up the United States. But the Germans showed little of the disharmony that fractured feeling in many of the other ethnic communities. German Lutherans farmed or traded alongside German Catholics with a minimum of friction, unlike, for instance, Pennsylvania, where Irish Catholics so disdained Polish Catholics that the two warring factions impeded labor unionization throughout most of the latter 19th century. German Texas experienced none of the religious antagonisms that plagued such presumably civilized communities as Saint Louis or such Texas towns as Houston and Galveston.

From the first New Braunfels set aside a portion of the new community for a school building. Education became a requirement for the other German settlements. The Germans also brought discipline and community encouragement to the arts, an attitude that has prevailed into the late 20 century. It is no accident that the University of Texas, with its 400-piece marching

band, has twice in the past two decades turned to New Braunfels and Fredericksburg high schools for its band leaders, nor that those two schools regularly win the state band competitions. When Sidney Lanier, the great 19th century Southern poet, visited San Antonio, he stayed longer than he intended because of the string quartets and other chamber music groups he found among the Germans living in that Alamo city.

Like the Hispanic citizens, the Germans added a touch of bilingualism to the Texas scene. Both New Braunfels and Fredericksburg were the sites of German-language newspapers, while church services were conducted in German all over Teutonic Texas. Also, the Germans brought to Texas a radical belief for that frontier era—a belief that women deserved an education as much as men. That very first school in New Braunfels was coeducational, a practice that Anglo communities would look on as an invitation to sexual license. The Germans also arrived early on the higher education scene with the establishment of Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, one of the older continuing church-related schools in Texas.

Likewise the German-Texans quickly built a reputation for honest dealing. Trained from their German heritage to be thrifty, to be hesitant to incur debts, and to obtain maximum use of whatever materials God had given them, they still set a pattern that the remainder of Texas is loath to follow today. A Stonewall (another German community known better for its Anglo native son, Lyndon B. Johnson) German washes her aluminum paper after every using, making one package last a year for a family of six; mends sox, patches pants and underwear as if she were on poverty row; and never trashes any object that might have utility a decade hence. She may be comparatively well-off, but her German mother and German grandmother taught her the benefits of saving so that thriftiness becomes inbred. Meanwhile her Anglo neighbor in another Texas town is throwing out trash as if it were so many falling autumn leaves.

Another theme that deserves scrutiny is the Texas Germans' attitude toward slavery. The Germans had drifted into Texas before the Adelsverein had been conceived as an organized effort at resettlement. Texas had slaves, even though the Mexicans had abolished slavery in 1829, seven years before the Texans had taken over the region. But the Germans had settled in a country that was not amenable to slavery, so that the institution of involuntary servitude never became a Texas-German way of life. When Texas joined the United States in the middle 1840s, present and future German-Texans naturally transferred their allegiance to the Union. Then when the South committed its near-suicide of leaving the Union, the Germans felt no loyalty to this new organism known as the Confederacy. Some did serve, but many others remained loyal to the United States of America to which they had either migrated or in which they had lived for fifteen or so years.

But the Confederates didn't believe in freedom of choice any more than the Union, and Texas Confederates harassed the Unionist Germans regularly. As one Confederate captain declared, "the God damn Dutchmen are Unionists to a man"; he promised to "hang all I suspect of being anti-Confederates." Such attitudes drove some of the undecided Germans to declare for the Union, thereby reinforcing the distrust of the Germans, who mainly wanted to be left alone to farm and trade. Sixty-five of them, heavily from the town of Comfort though representing several German communities, departed for Mexico rather than endure further mistrust and confrontation.

The Rebel captain ordered a contingent to turn them back. The Confederates caught the Germans on the upper Nueces River about 200 miles from their Hill Country base. Unsuspecting, the Germans were enjoying an animated discussion of various philosophical and political matters. Most of the men and boys seemed to have no clear idea what the Civil War was about. When they retired, they posted no guard.

Without warning, the Confederates attacked the camp, firing at will. They murdered 19 Germans, while their cavalry stomped six more into eternity. Later, Confederate General James W. Throckmorton observed that the Germans seemed more ignorant than traitorous. The bloody massacre simply confirmed the Germans' conviction that the United States, rather than Texas and the Confederacy, was now their Vaterland.

And so the Germans-in-Texas decades passed. In World War I a German named Pershing (nee Pforching), not a Texan but a general who enhanced his reputation chasing Pancho Villa along the Texas-Mexican border, would become an American military hero. And a generation later, a Fredericksburg born-and-bred German, Chester Nimitz, would become commander-in-chief of United States naval forces against Japan, while Walter Krueger, a native German, would command one of General Douglas MacArthur's armies in the Pacific, while Dwight Eisenhower, a native Texan, would lead the Allied army in its battles against the Axis armies. And Eisenhower would become the first person of German-American ancestry to be selected President of the United States.

Such is in part the story of what grew out of the efforts of the early Germans who came in individually as well as collectively through the efforts of the Adelsverein. Altogether the Adelsverein introduced 7,380 Germans into Texas in the late 1840s, most of them into the Hill Country, where 150 years has only strengthened their influence upon the thought, activity, and culture of Texas. For their emphasis on education, good moral behavior, cleanliness, thrift, religion, practicality, honest dealings, and cultural attainment, the State of Texas can only say "Danke" for 150 years of contribution to the richness and variety of life in the United States in both its past and present.

Joe B. Frantz
CCSU
April 30, 1990

A GERMAN STATE IN THE NEW WORLD....

The Adelsverein's Texas Colonization Scheme: 1842-1847

Also known as the Adelsverein, The Society, or the Mainzer Verein, this association of German noblemen had its main office in Mainz am Rhein. When referring to the organization in Texas it was called the Texas Verein. It was founded in 1842 in Biebrich am Rhein, across the river from Mainz, to get rid of revolutionaries, paupers, and other malcontents. It must not be forgotten that as the immigrants were unloaded off the ships, bales of precious cotton and other warm-weather products such as corn were loaded onto the ships. These ships paid their tribute at the ports at Liverpool and at Bremen. At its general meeting in Mainz on March 25, 1844, the Society adopted an even broader mission statement than "assisting" German immigrants to Texas: "The improvement of the conditions of the working classes and a decrease of pauperism; the opening of new markets for the products of German industries; and the development of maritime commerce." (1) The Adelsverein was a stock company and open only to certain invited and titled noblemen. Establishing a German state loyal to the Prussian king in the New World was never written down. Rather the term used was "the opening of a German trade colony in the New World." Many immigrants and German leaders have referred to the importance of relieving over-population problems in Germany with the establishment of a German colony, republic, or state in Texas or North America, not failing to mention many other advantages such a project would have, particularly financial gains.

The list of stockholders in the Adelsverein grew from 1842 to 1846. When Texas was taken in as a state of the Union their interest began to wane and many resigned. By the end of 1847 it dissolved. As the Adelsverein members dropped out, the interest of individual Germans in resettling in Texas continued to grow significantly. For more than four years the Adelsverein contracted with more than fifty ships to take immigrants to Texas. Adelsverein members or stockholders listed in various histories were:

Prince Victor von Leiningen: President (1844). The village of Leiningen was founded in 1847 in his honor above Friedrichsburg on the Llano River inside the proposed Fisher-Miller Land Grant.

Count Carl von Castell: Vice-president and member of the society's executive committee and its business director. He was the adjutant to Duke Adolph of Nassau. Still existing today is the village of Castell on the Llano River, named in honor of the count, which served as a way station to the Fisher-Müller Land Grant. Other villages along the Llano were Leiningen, Meerholz, and Schoenburg.

Duke Adolph von Nassau, founder and named Grand Protector of the Adelsverein, lived in Schloss Biebrich on the Rhein River now a part of Wiesbaden and neighboring city of Kastel. Friedrichsburg's Marktplatz, Adolph's Platz, was named in his honor. Unfortunately, this given name was dropped in subsequent years. It is unfortunate since Duke Adolph had an admirable reputation and today's Marktplatz in Friedrichsburg is a beautiful park and historical museum in the center of the city. Today it is called simply the Marktplatz or Market Square.

Duke of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha

Prince Carl von Leiningen-Armorbach: director. The Texas German port, Carlshaven, was founded and named by Prince Solms-Braunfels in honor of the three Adelsverein directors whose given names were Carl.... Prince Carl Solms-Braunfels, Count Carl von Castell, and Count Carl von Leiningen-Armorbach.

Duke of Meiningen

Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt

Landgrave of Hessen-Homburg

Count Joseph von Boos-Waldeck was authorized by the Adelsverein to go to Texas in 1842 to buy land for way stations and to prepare for the coming immigrants. Bought Nassau Hof Plantation near La Grange as way station between Galveston and the Fisher-Miller Land Grant. Ignored by Prince Solms and later sold. Solms created a port south of Port Lavaca first called Carlshaven and later Indianola, with the immigrant route going to Victoria, Gonzales, Seguin, New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, and Castell, Bettina, Leiningen, Meerholz, Schoenburg on the Llano River. Returning to Germany Boos-Waldeck reported unfavorably about the sending immigrants to Texas. When his advice was ignored he resigned from the Adelsverein.

Count Christian of Leiningen, alternative member of executive committee

Count Friedrich of Leiningen, alternative member of executive committee

Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, first Commissioner General of the society in Texas, married princess Sophie of Salm-Salm on December 31, 1845, after resigning his position and duties to oversee the German colonization in Texas. Texas became a U.S. state on December 29, 1845. When Prince Solms saw this he knew that a royal (feudal) colony and independent German state could not be carved out of West Texas even with the help of Mexico. Carl and Sophie lived in the Castle Rheingrafenstein overlooking Bad Muenster -Eberburg in the Rheinland-Pfalz. Prince Carl's so-called Texas Militias: were not brought with him or by his replacement Baron von Meusebach from Germany to Texas. Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels put together his own personal militia (a small group of armed body-guards) from those who got off the ships in Carlshaven. For example: Lieutenant Oscar von Claren (1812-1845, also referred in other histories as D. Claren from the Kingdom of Hannover) was put in charge. Another group of armed militia was organized to accompany batches of new immigrants from Carlshaven (Indianola) along the trek to New Braunfels. Their cannon was bought after New Braunfels was founded. By March 27, 1845, the prince talks about "the 13 men of the company (militia) in New Braunfels, the month of New Braunfel's founding. "On April 9th I started on the defenses of the fort and on the 28th we dedicated it with the thunder of cannon..." (2)

Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Preussen-Hohenzollern (1794-1863), Prince of Prussia, the nephew of Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, a military officer living in Duesseldorf, later purchasing and moving to the Rhein River castle, Schloss Burg Rheinstein, and where he and his family resided and are buried in the Gothic chapel vaults. As the highest ranking royalty to join the Adelsverein the City of Friedrichsburg, Texas, was named after him by John O. Meusebach.

Prince of Schoenburg-Waldenburg (one of the communities along the Llano River was named Schoenburg in his honor in 1847)

Prince Moritz of Nassau

Prince of Neuwied

Prince of Colloredo-Mansfeld

Prince Alexander zu Solms-Braunfels

Count Christian von Neu-Leiningen-Westerburg, presiding officer at the organizational meeting at Biebrich am Rhein

Count Victor von Alt-Leiningen-Westerburg (sent by the Adelsverein to Texas to prepare the way for the immigrants sponsored by the Adelsverein.

Count Friedrich von Alt-Leiningen-Westerburg

Count Ysenburg-Meerholz (In 1847 the community of Meerholz was named in his honor along the Llano River by the Darmstaedter Forty.)

Count Hatzfeld

Count Knyphausen

Count Remuesse

Count Lilienberg

Count Colloredo-Mansfeld,

(3), (4)

Closely associated non-voting members and strategic clients of the Adelsverein:

Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, king from 1840-1861. Occasionally some writers and researchers falsely assume that the city of Fredericksburg, Texas, was named in his honor. However, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig von Hohenzollern, a nephew of the king, is the namesake of the city of Friedrichsburg, Texas and so named by strong recommendation by John O. Meusebach. Meusebach was credited with founding Friedrichsburg. Prince Friedrich was the highest ranking member-stockholder of the Adelsverein. King Friedrich demurred from direct membership "to see how things would go first."

L. H. Flersheim, the Adelsverein's banker in Frankfurt am Main

Alexander Bourgeois d'Orvanne, French opportunist who contracted for land with the Republic of Texas in 1844. The Adelsverein was to have settled its colonists in Texas in this area. But his contracts expired prior to the arrival of the German colonists. Texas officials refused to renew the land grant. Prince Solms then severed all relations with d'Orvanne.

Ambrose Lanfear, the Society's banker in New Orleans was of great assistance to Meusebach as the Texas Verein's debts soared and the Adelsverein financial support began waning.

Diedrich Hermann Klaener, agent hired to tend to the Society's business affairs in the Port of Galveston and help arriving immigrants who had contracted with the Society. He was to get the settlers safely from Galveston, transfer them to smaller ships which sailed down the Texas Gulf coast to the Port of Carlshaven created by Prince Solms-Braunfels specifically for the purpose of having a German port which would not cause too much curiosity by Republic of Texas or later state of Texas or United States leaders. The Prussians were intending to develop an independent German republic or state in West Central Texas. Their port, Carlshaven was later called Indian Point and then Indianola. Two hurricanes wiped out Indianola in the latter part of the 1800's. (5)

Heinrich Franz Fischer (Henry Francis Fisher) & Burchardt Mueller (B. Miller), partners were Germans long in Texas who contracted with the Republic of Texas for the Fisher-Miller Land Grant north of the Llano River, northwest to the Colorado River, and west to the Concho River. Gradually, Miller bowed out of his obligations, and later Fisher did the same, but not without squeezing as many payments from the Texas Verein as they could before being fired. Upon Texas' admission as a state the contact failed to be renewed and the Society gave up on sending a large body of immigrants up into the grant past Castell (now in Llano County). Then the Society dissolved itself in 1847. Assuring the immigrants town and outlots below the Llano River in other parts of Texas would be far too costly than the free land of the Fisher-Miller Land Grant. Meusebach succeeded to getting the immigrants town lots, outlots, and other lands in the Hill Country.

Friedrich Wilhelm Carl Groos (1827-1812), born in Strass-Ebersbach, Hessen-Nassau, he came to Texas in 1848 with his father, three brothers, and four sisters. The family farmed in Fayette County near Nassau Hof owned by the Adelsverein for a number of years. Moving to San Antonio in 1850, Friedrich W. C. Groos rapidly advanced as a merchant and freighter. With his brothers, Gustav and Carl W. A. Groos their business connections extended to the Texas port cities and into Mexico. Many Texas Germans placed their funds in his care in Matamoros and in Monterey, Mexico, especially as the Civil War approached. After the Civil War he moved his family from Monterey back to San Antonio. Gradually the firm F. Groos & Co. let go of the mercantile business and went exclusively into banking and business development. After his first wife, Gertrude, died in 1873, he married Anna Siemering sister of August Siemering. August Siemering was an eminent teacher-journalist, founder of *The Free Press of Texas*, and ardent advocate of Union loyalty and social justice causes. Groos died in 1912. The Groos Bank of San Antonio remains prominent and successful to this day. It played a key role protecting and enhancing the finances of the Texas Germans throughout the various conflicts and crises. (6)

THE DREAM OF A GERMAN STATE ...

The respected German-Texan professor and scholar, Rudolph L. Biesele (1886-1960), was one of the first turn of the Century or "modern" historians to make in-depth research on both sides of the ocean and point to the overriding goal of many Germans to plant in at least a semi-tropical, far-away land a true "German" country or state. (7) It was not only an impulse to see the world; but such a place was dreamed about where one could speak German, enjoy the German culture and traditions, luxuriate in unique German pursuits, and reap the rewards of hard work and enterprise. Germany was just too small a land to satisfy its ever-burgeoning population. Little by little Germans found their way to Texas where they experienced ideal climate most of the year, fertile fields producing harvest at least twice a year, ample springs of water, variety of wildlife available the year around, and reported that the native Indians could be befriended and the Indian culture enjoyed as well. (8) A few of these early Germans fought at the Alamo and also helped Texas become an independent republic at the Battle of San Jacinto.

But, after the Mexicans were defeated on Texas soil between Galveston and Houston, there remained a constant fear that the Mexicans would eventually try again to retake their northernmost territory. And, there were also more than 6,000 Indians of various tribes, but mostly Comanches, still living in various parts of Texas and particularly the Hill Country. Texas officials were very eager to award land grants to healthy, gun-toting individuals no matter from whence they came. German representatives at the port of Galveston relayed these anxieties to their leaders in Germany. The Adelsverein members were quick to

send their representatives to the hotbeds of the revolutionists such as at the schools in Giessen, Darmstadt, Tuebingen, Jena, etc. to convince them about the opportunities awaiting them at the "new German Colony in Texas". At Darmstadt a "Group of Forty" signed up with Prince Solms-Braunfels who, as the Commissioner of the Texas Verein, would be in Texas to guarantee their welfare.

By 1844, the Adelsverein sent out new releases about the new German Colony in Texas which appeared all over Germany. Its office in Mainz began signing up the immigrants, issuing documents guaranteeing town lots in its first settlement, New Braunfels; and in 1846, its second settlement, Friedrichsburg. Both these towns staging places enroute to the main land grant, the Fisher-Miller Land Grant, thirty miles northwest of Fredericksburg above the Llano River up, to the Colorado River, and over to the Concho River. The Fisher-Miller Land Grant was not settled in time with Texas officials canceling the agreement. Then Germans began settling all over the Hill Country and down to the Gulf Coast, in Galveston, Houston, Victoria, San Antonio and in between them all.

The first Adelsverein commissioner in Texas, Prince Solms-Braunfels, only within a few months of seeing to the establishment of New Braunfels and starting a contingent of "German soldiers" realized that his dream of a Prussian controlled German state in the unsettled Texas territory would not be an easy accomplishment. The United States quickly annexed Texas; and even Texas officials reluctantly acquiesced and accepted being part of the United States. It seems that one too many loud-mouthed Germans in Galveston revealed the "German-controlled Colony" idea while enjoying Galveston port's numerous brew pubs. Once it was confirmed that Texas was to become a part of the United States, Prince Solms immediately resigned his position and asked the Adelsverein leaders to replace him. His reports confirmed that he was greatly disappointed in the Texas frontier mentality, including the attitude of the new German Texans who truly enjoyed their new-found freedoms and became anathema to the feudalistic and the Prussian imperialistic traditions.

A few months later, Baron Ottfried Hans von Meusebach, a born Hessian, was appointed the Adelsverein second commissioner in Texas. He was not a military man but highly trained in finance, jurisprudence, botany, and geology. Everyone was surprised how he fell in love with Texas, the Hill Country, and individual freedom. When it came time for him to decide about becoming a U. S. citizen he did so enthusiastically, changing his name to John O. Meusebach, and took on the motto: "Texas Forever!" which is on his tombstone in the Meusebach-Marschall Cemetery in Cherry Springs outside of Fredericksburg. To him, revolting against the Republic of Texas, or helping to form the German dominated State of West Texas was not particularly important to him, according to his descendants (9)

However, when the secret society forerunner to the Klu Klux Klan, the Knights of the Golden Circle, began organizing and promoting secession from the Union, Meusebach felt that surely the government of the United States would quickly repulse any effort of secession. He encouraged steadfast loyalty to the Union. Even upon retirement he named the community he founded above Friedrichsburg near the Llano River "Loyal Valley." However, many German Texans, especially in the Hill Country, based in Friedrichsburg, did not intend to put up with being a part of the Confederate States of America for long. Like Meusebach, they, too, felt the U.S. military would quickly come to overrun the Confederate forces. They would then join the Union military to take Texas back from Confederate or Southern domination.

But, by 1861, the year that the Texas vote approved secession and withdrawal from the union, such German Texan leaders as Jacob Kuechler of Friedrichsburg and Eduard Degener of Sisterdale began backing a plan to secede, by force if necessary, from the Confederacy and to create the State of West Texas which would be part of the United States.

THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE OF WEST TEXAS

"...commences at a point in the Gulf of Mexico three miles from the shore opposite the middle of the main channel of Pass Caballo, thence up the middle of said channel and of Matagorda Bay to the mouth of Colorado River, thence up the middle of the main channel of said river, with its meanders to the point where said river is intersected by the thirty-second parallel of North latitude, thence along said parallel to a point () miles west from said river, thence in a straight line to the junction of the Pecos River and Rio Grande, thence down the main channel of the Rio Grande, with its meanders, to the Gulf of Mexico, thence along parallel to the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, three miles from the land to the place of beginning." (10)

ABOUT JACOB KUECHLER (1823-1893)

Born in 1823 in Hessen Darmstadt, he graduated from the University of Giessen studying civil engineering and forestry. He came to Texas in 1847 with the Darmstaedter Forty, a diverse group of intellectuals from various universities, who made a deal with the Adelsverein to develop German settlements on the Llano River at the beginning of the Fisher-Miller Land Grant the Adelsverein hoped to develop. The aim of the Forty were to develop the Llano River communities as way stations into the Fisher-Miller Land Grant area in the same way that New Braunfels and Friedrichsburg were settled. After a year these communities gave up on the Llano River and the settlers scattered. Kuechler moved to Friedrichsburg where he served as the Gillespie County surveyor. In Friedrichsburg he became a close friend of August Siemering, a teacher and journalist of similar ideals who would play an important role in publicizing the convictions and goals of the Hill Country Germans. In 1856 Kuechler married Marie Petri, sister of the eminent Friedrichsburg artist, Richard Petri. As a trained forester Kuechler researched the effects of the droughts in Texas. His findings were published the *Texas Staats-Zeitung* of San Antonio in 1859 and the *Texas Almanac* in 1861. As the Civil War approached Kuechler assisted German Unionists to flee into Mexico. He survived the Confederate ambush that killed most of the Germans enroute to Mexico. The next four years he spent in Northern Mexico as a surveyor and where he befriended the important German-Texan banker, Friedrich W. C. Groos. It was during this time it is thought he and his cohorts, all Unionists, planned the ways that the German part of Texas, considered as "West Texas" would one way or another leave the Confederacy and re-join the Union by establishing the State of West Texas. When the South lost the war in 1865 and Texas was again a part of the United States the idea of the State of West Texas was gradually abandoned, though the idea persisted for more than a decade longer.

Returning to Texas after the Civil War, Kuechler was a customs official in San Antonio before being elected as a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention in 1868-69. It was during this time that Kuechler and his erudite associates put into final form with its excellent English, the *Constitution of the State of West Texas*. From 1870 to 1874 he was appointed commissioner of the General Land Office in Austin an important state position. As the political winds changed with the Democrats gradually taking over again, he returned to surveying and directed surveying for the various railroad companies. He and his wife and family continued to live in Austin where he died on April 4, 1893. (11)

ABOUT EDUARD DEGENER

From Braunschweig (Brunswick), he first resided in San Antonio where he was elected to Congress from the San Antonio region. He then became a leader in *Der freie Verein*, The Society of the Free, in the intellectual haven of Sisterdale, an idyllic and highly learned Latin-speaking community halfway between San Antonio and Friedrichsburg. Latin was the language of the classrooms German colleges during that time. Many of the Forty from the failed communities along the Llano River went to live in Sisterdale and then later in 1854 to the Freethinker anti-religion community of Comfort. In Sisterdale Degener was surrounded by a collection of the most educated Germans imaginable:

Nicolaus Zink, official surveyor for the Adelsverein who first lived in Friedrichsburg but founded Sisterdale in 1847; Baron Ottomar von Behr from Anhalt-Coethen; Edgar von Westphalen from Trier, the brother-in-law of Karl Marx; the great Dr. Julius Froebel born in 1806 in Greisheim an ardent proponent of reform in Germany and participant in the Frankfurt Democratic Assembly of 1848 after which he fled Germany. Opposed to slavery and peonage, Texas eventually disgusted him. He died in 1893 in Switserland and was extensively published. (12)

Also at the Stammtisch in Sisterdale were Ludwig von Donop of Detmold; the published educator and naturalist, Professor Dr. Ernst Kapp; Gustav Theissen; Dr. C. D. Adolf Douai; Dr. W. I. Runge; Fritz Kraemer; the teacher-journalist August Siemering; and Emil, Julius, and Rudolph Dresel from Geisenheim. Eduard Degener was a prominent member of the Sisterdale Stammtisch. (13) Most of this group were loyal Unionists and no doubt helped Degener and Jacob Kuechler of nearby Friedrichsburg to put together the Constitution of the State of West Texas. (14)

Eduard Degener served as the head of the Advisory Board of the Union Loyal League, the militia of German Texans who were devoted believers in the United States under one flag. Also, his abolitionist views against slavery were widely known. The only two sons of Eduard and Marie Degener of Sisterdale

were both killed by Confederate troops at the Nueces River on August 10, 1862, when they were enroute to Mexico in hopes of joining up with the Union forces. They were Hugo Degener, age 20, a lieutenant in the Union Loyal League of the Kendall County militia. And Hilmar Degener, age 22, also a member of the same Union Loyal League militia.

ABOUT AUGUST SIEMERING

August Siemering in 1847 was a teacher and journalist in Friedrichsburg. He moved to Sisterdale in 1848 and then to San Antonio during the Civil War. There he founded *The Texas Free Press*. Among his many causes, he wrote about the need for the creation of the State of West Texas and urged more Germans to come to Texas and to live within the German Belt to make sure their votes would prevent the reoccurrence of such things as chattel slavery, secession, and to assure voting rights for all persons including Negroes. Eventually his newspaper became what is today the *San Antonio Express-News*. He was closely associated with Jacob Kuechler, Eduard Degener, John O. Meusebach and other German Texan leaders who were politically active in civil and individual rights and social justice causes. All these leaders played a part in creating the goals and tenets of the Constitution of the State of West Texas. Its evolution probably started with the Adelige, the noblemen, who wanted the Germans to live within an region they could militarily defend. Repulsed by the vote of the majority of Texas in 1861 in which slavery and secession were approved by the vast majority of Texans these German ideologues began to continue to hone the Consitution and add points within it that would make it suitable as a state within the United States, that is, the Union. When the Germans of the Hill Country were awarded with high positions in the Reconstruction government of Texas when the South surrendered in 1865, the idea of dividing Texas into two separate states began to take hold, especially the Hill Country Germans.

The final draft of the document *The Constitution of the State of West Texas* was "prepared by authorization of the resolution of the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869 appointing commissioners to present the Federal Congress a request for the division of Texas into two more states." (15)

SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 1. Bill of Rights. Sec. 4..."no human authority ought, in any case whatever, to control or interfere with the rights of conscience in matters of religion;... and should make no laws prescribing a special observance of any religious days or customs."

Sec. 13... Every person shall have the right to keep and bear arms, in the lawful defense of himself or the government, under such regulations as the Legislature may prescribe.

Sec. 15. No person shall ever be imprisoned for debt.

Sec. 17. The military shall at all times be subordinate to the civil authority.

Sec. 18. ...the law of primogeniture or entailments shall never be allowed

Sec. 21...no citizen shall ever be deprived of any right, privilege, or immunity, nor be exempted from any burden, or duty, on account of race, color, or previous condition.

Sec. 22. Importation "of coolies" or any system of "peonage" or where the helpless are reduced to practical bondage shall never be authorized;...and neither slavery or involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime... shall ever exist in this State.

Article III. Sec 29. The first session of the Legislature (of the State of West Texas), after the acceptance of this Constitution by the Congress of the United States, shall be held in the city of San Antonio, Bexar County, and thereafter until the year 1871, after which year the seat of government shall be permanently located by a vote of the people.

Article IV. Sec. 22... Capital offenses shall be punished by imprisonment to hard labor for life...(no death penalty)

Sec. 23. The Grand Jury system is hereby dispensed with in this State. The prosecution of offenses in this State shall be by information or presentment of the District Attorney or Attorney General, who are given the same authority heretofore exercised by Grand Juries. These officers are required to institute examinations in regard to any offenses that may be brought to their notice.

Sec. 24. In all trials by Jury, the agreement of three-fourths of the Jurymen shall be sufficient to find a verdict.

Article V. Sec. 4. The Governor shall hold his office for the term of four years...but shall not be eligible for more than eight years in any term of twelve years;...be at least twenty-five years of age...

Sec. 6. He shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of the State, except when they are called into the actual service of the United States...

Sec. 17. Every bill which shall have passed both Houses of the Legislature shall be presented to the Governor for his approval. If he disapproves he shall return it, with his objections, to that House in which it originated; which House shall enter the objections at large upon the journals of the House, and proceed to reconsider it. If...two-thirds shall agree to pass the bill it shall be sent with the objections to the other House...for its reconsideration. If approved by two-thirds of that House it shall become law.

Article VI. Sec. 2. Any person who conscientiously has scruples about bearing arms shall not be compelled to do so, but shall pay an equivalent for personal service.

Article VII. Sec. 3. Members of the Legislature and all officers before they enter upon the duties of their offices shall take the following oath or affirmation: I (A. B.) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent on me as (...) ("so help me God is not included.)

Sec. 6. All persons shall be deprived of the right of suffrage, or holding any office of trust or profit under this State upon fighting a duel with deadly weapons, or commit any assault upon any person with deadly weapons, or sending or accepting a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, either within this State or out of it, or who shall act as second, or knowingly aid and assist in any manner those thus offending.

Sec. 17. No lottery shall be authorized by this State; and the buying or selling of lottery tickets within this State is prohibited.

Sec. 18. No divorce shall be granted by the Legislature.

Sec. 37. Persons living together as husband and wife and were precluded from the rites of matrimony and continued to live together until the death of one of the parties, shall be considered as having been legally married...the co-habitation shall be considered as having been legally married, and children... shall be deemed legitimate.

Sec. 50. All Usury laws are abolished in this State... the Legislature would regulate these laws.

Article VIII. Sec. 1. Male persons of legal age are prohibited from the voting registry if... they voluntarily aided the rebellion (Confederacy) in any manner; ...they are disfranchised for crime or for rebellion under the laws of the United States or of any State; ...were editors of newspapers or ministers of the Gospel who approved of, or aided the said rebellion (Confederacy), by writing, preaching, speaking or publishing their views in favor thereof; ...or since the close of the said rebellion have continued to be members of any secret organization (Knights of the Golden Circle, Sons of the South, or Klu Klux Klan) or any other name....

Sec. 3. Immigrants to this State, from Europe or elsewhere, as well as residents of this State, who may settle on any part of the public lands of this State, every head of a family whether male or female shall have one hundred and sixty acres; and every male person over the age of eighteen years, shall have eighty acres of public lands....each such applicant shall pay all expenses of surveying, and make proof as the Legislature may require, that he or she has resided on the land to be donated, for three years preceeding the issuance of the patent.

Article XII. Sec. 1. ...the Legislature of this State makes suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of a system of Public Free Schools, for the gratuitous instruction of all the inhabitants of this State between the ages of six and eighteen years.

Sec. 5... When any of the scholastic inhabitants have received a certificate of competency by being taught by any private teacher, they are exempt for the operation of the laws requiring attendance in the Public Free Schools of the State...

Sec. 8... Public Lands may be sold as the Legislature may prescribe and proceeds shall be added to the Public School Fund.

Ordinance, State Air to Railroads, Sec. 1. The Legislature is authorized to provide for the guaranty, by the State, of mortgage bonds, bearing seven per cent interest for the following Railroad lines:

1. From Columbus, via Gonzales to San Antonio, with branches to Seguin and Hallettsville.

2. From (Port) Lavaca via Texana to Wharton.
 3. From Victoria to San Antonio and thence to Fredericksburg and Fort Mason, in a northwesterly direct to the northwest frontier of the State.
 4. Railroad line diagonally across the State, from northeast to southwest, being intended as a link in the International Railroad through Mexico to the Pacific.
 5. From Victoria to Goliad.
 6. From Corpus Christi, to some point east of the Rio Grande to tap the International Railroad
 7. From Brownsville to Point Isabelle.
 8. From San Antonio, via New Braunfels, to the Colorado River, opposite Austin, provided that if the International Railroad takes this route, then this line is dispensed with. (16)
- What happened at the Constitutional Convention in Austin and the details of how the State of West Texas never saw the light of day must be left to even more research.

In February of 2003, Prince Johannes von Sachsen-Altenburg, the Duke of Saxony and rightful heir, came to New Braunfels, Texas, where he gave a presentation to the German-American Society there concerning the plans he discovered in his family archives about the plan to create a German state in Texas. According to the prince, the Adelsverein, or German nobles, helped finance the early Germany settlements in Texas beginning in 1845 (New Braunfels) and 1846 (Friedrichsburg) and had it as their goal to establish a foothold and then break free of the Republic of Texas, and to set up an independent German republic or state. Things got more complicated when the United States annexed Texas the last month of 1845. (17) However, that Texas can legally divide itself into additional states is an idea that Texans speak of now and then. A group calling itself "The Republic of Texas" meets regularly across Texas (18) in hopes that one day Texas can not only secede again from the Union but be an independant nation once again.

Needless to say, most Germans in the Texas Hill Country do not cherish yet another turmoil and no doubt more killings should these things be attempted. Most recall the motto of John O. Meusebach: They then recall some of their heroes: Jesus Christ, John O. Meusebach, Sam Houston, Abraham Lincoln, Lyndon B. & Lady Bird Johnson, and all the pioneer settlers who risked everything to get to Texas and to stick with it through thick or thin. They then recall the motto of John O. Meusebach: "Tenax Propositi".... "Texas Forever!" A visit to Meusebach's grave in Cherry Springs off Texas Highway 87 is a solemn pilgrimage indeed.

Notes:

- (1) Biesele, Rudolph L.; *The History of the German Settlements in Texas*, German Texan Heritage Society Publishers, Austin Texas, 1930 & 1987, p. 86. Biesele names many Germans who had traveled to Texas and who thought Texas would be an ideal place to establish a true German state in the New World.
- (2) Geue, Chester W. & Ethel H., *A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847*, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, MD, 1982; "Prince Solms' Report to the Adelsverein General Assembly Scheduled to Meet in Wiesbaden on 28th of July 1845" p. 10; and his 10th report dated 27 March, 1845 on Comal Creek, p.66
- (3) Tetzlaff, Otto W., editor & translator; *The Emigrant to Texas, A Handbook and Guide--1846*, C. Schuenemann Book Store Publisher, Bremen, Germany, 1846. p. 61-62
- (4) Wolf, Linda; *Indianola and Matagorda Island: 1837-1887*; Eakin Press, Austin, Texas, 1999, pp. 66+, pp. 73+
- (5) Eickhoff, Anton; *In den Neuen Heimath, Geschichtlich Mittheilungen ueber die deutschen Einwanderer in allen Theilen der Union*; E. Steiger & Co., New York, 1884, pp. 323-324. Copy provided by Wilhelm Schulze-Selmig, Froendenberg, Germany D-58730 to the author in March 2004.
- (6) York, Miriam; "Groos, Friedrich Wilhelm Carl", *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association, 2002, <http://www.tshu.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/GG/fgrh.html>
- (7) Biesele, Rudolph L; *ibid*, pp. 1-3.
- (8) The most popular events through the years in Friedrichsburg were the participation of the Comanche Indians from their Oklahoma lands during special celebrations. The Inter-Tribal Indian Pow-Wow is now held annually the second weekend of May in Friedrichsburg where the German-Indian

Peace Treaty of 1847, never broken, is celebrated. Three to four hundred Indians dressed in their traditional, colorful attire dance and perform ceremonies the Friday and Saturday of that weekend. Their rain dance one year was credited with breaking a long drought. A drenching rain occurred almost immediately after their ceremonial rain dance.

(9) Personal interview with Meusebach's great-grandson, Bill Marschall (von Bieberstein) at his home in Fredericksburg, March, 2004.

(10) Rossignol, Steve; Historical Research Collection, private, Blanco, Texas, 2004. Shared with the author a copy of *Constitution of the State of West Texas* he obtained from the University of North Texas Library, Denton, Texas, 2004, and another copy of the constitution from the American History Library of the University of Texas-Austin, said to be written by Jacob Kuechler and Eduard Degener circa 1861-1868. The document from the University of Texas-Austin is inscribed: "Present by Hon. Edu. Degener to (not legible), Austin, 7 January 1869. In the constitution document: Page 19, Article VII. General Provisions, Sec. 1: Boundaries of the State of West Texas

(11) McGuire, James Patrick; *Jacob Kuechler (1823-1893)*, Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association, 2002.

(12) Geue, Chester & Ethel H.; *ibid*, p.14

(13) Geue, Chester & Ethel H.; *ibid*, Degener, p. 87

(14) Biesele, Rudolph L; *ibid*, p. 171, p. 199. Also internet: Julius Froebel in Google Search and in Virtualology.com

(15) University of Texas researchers, Ernest W. Winkler & Llerena Friend (Nr.2123), cite the New York Public Library Bulletin of Feb. 1937, p. 93. More information of the Constitution of West Texas is also referred to in the University of Texas-Austin Tarlton Law Library, Rare Book Collection: KFT 1601 1868 A3. Also, the Texas Collection Library, Center for American History: TZ JK 4825 1869 A38; TZ JK 4825 1869 A38 c.2, inscribed by Alexander Dienst; TZZ JK 4825 1869 A38; TZZ JK 4825 1869 A38 c.3, autographed by Swante Palm.

Internet: <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/constitution/text.bib.html/#1868>

(16) Rossignol, Steve; *ibid*. pp.1-35

(17) Graf, Klaus; editor, *Archivalia*, "A German State in Texas?", internet: www.twoday.net/

(18) Republic of Texas, Provisional Government: internet: <http://www.republic-of-texas.net/> as April 3, 2004. Index includes: Calendar of Events, Plans and Powers, Document Archives, History of Texas, Defense Forces, About the Republic of Texas, How to Volunteer, etc.

Resource locations:

Archiv des Vereins zum Schutz deutscher Einwanderer in Texas (Archives of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas); Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, Box 12, Folder 77 in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. This seems to be a German language file.

In den Neuen Heimath, by Anton Eickhoff, Steiger & Co Publishers, New York, 1884, is at the Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg, Texas, German Heritage Archives

Solms-Braunfels Archives, Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

Sophienburg Archives, Old Postoffice Building, Downtown, New Braunfels, Texas.

Gillespie County Historical Society Archives, Fredericksburg, Texas. Pioneer Museum grounds.

Library, University of North Texas, Denton; location of an original copy of *The Constitution of the State of West Texas*.

Tarlton Law Library; and the Texas Collection Library, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin the location of the Constitution of the State of West Texas document with Eduard Degener's name inscribed and dated January 7, 1869 at the time of the Reconstruction Constitutional Convention of the Texas Legislature in Austin in 1869.

Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg, Library, German Heritage Collection, includes a copy of the Constitution of the State of West Texas; also resources in the Jack McGuire Historical Collection; Wanda S. Merchant, Special Projects Coordinator, 102 E. San Antonio Street, Fredericksburg Tx 78624. email: wanda.merchant@ttu.edu

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ANGLO AND GERMAN LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS

The following is a bit of folklore from an article written by Gilbert J. Jordan for the Fall 1986 issue of the Journal.

“Folklore has also played an interesting role among the German settlers. I myself have collected.....several books full of these treasures, some of which are based on Anglo-German linguistic problems. Here is one such folkloric tale about sheriff Klaerner of Fredericksburg.

The Sheriff let it be known that he had a good horse for sale. When an Anglo buyer came to see the horse, Klaerner said “Dat’s a goot horse all right, but I must tell you, he don’t look goot.”

Said the Anglo buyer: “Looks good to me. I’ll take him.” He paid for the sleek horse and led him home. A few days later he brought back the horse and said, “Say, Herr Klaerner, that horse is blind as a bat and can’t see a darn thing. I want my money back.”

Said the sheriff: “I tolt you dat horse don’t look goot.”



60th NOAK REUNION AT ROUND TOP

The descendants of Peter August and Johanna Wilhelmine Mitzscherling Noack [Noak] met for their 60th reunion on March 14, 2004 at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall with 86 descendants and 1 guest in attendance. Texas families in attendance came from: Round Top, Carmine, Brenham, Wallis, La Grange, Austin, Lufkin, and Houston, Katy, Hallettsville, College Station, Victoria, and Flatonia. This year descendants of the Rev. Peter Herman Noack Greif family came from out of state to attend the reunion. They were: Ron and Helen Greif from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Ron and Nancy Greif Holzer from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Charles and Marilyn Greif Bauer and Chris Bauer from Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Helmuth Stahlecker, Jr. and Karen Stahlecker from Woodstock, Illinois and Dolores Stahlecker from Skokie, Illinois.

Family members who were present this year are descendants of the following children of Peter and Johanna Noack: [1] Gustav Noak [2] Marie Noak Weigelt [3] Paul Noak [4] Peter Herman Noack Greif. Peter and Johanna Noack and three of their children, Marie, Gustav, and Paul immigrated from Struppen, Germany arriving at Serbin, Lee Co., Texas in January of 1871. Johann Noack, a brother of Peter, sponsored his brother and family to make the trip to America. Peter Herman, John, and Otto were born at Serbin after their arrival in Texas.

Before the catered noon meal was served, Evelyn Kieke of Wallis and William Noak of Round Top led the common table prayer in German. After the meal, Robert Leonhardt of Houston called the meeting to order. In the absence of secretary Ira Nell McCoy, Lanette Williams of Carmine read the minutes from last year's meeting and also gave the treasurer's report.

Three births were reported since the last reunion. They were: [1] Morgan Delane Becka, born February 20, 2004. Parents are: Seth and Melanie Becka. Grandmother is: Carol Kieke Becka Hamilton. Great-grandparents are: Nelson and Evelyn Noak Kieke [2] Kaley Marie Laprise born on November 24, 2003. Parent: Laura Bauer Laprise. Grandparents are: Charles and Marilyn Greif Bauer. [3] Alexandria Ann Harris born on March 26, 2003. Parents are: Matt and Stephanie Neumann Harris. Grandparents are: Earl and Shirley Goehring Neumann. Great-grandparent is Nola Goehring. The youngest member present was Garrett Noak. He is the 2 year old son of Greg and Christy Noak of La Grange. Grandparents are Wayne and Sherry Noak of La Grange. Nola

Noak Goehring, 84, of Round Top was the longest living female present and her brother, Nolan Noak, 82, of Carmine was the longest living male present.

Two marriages were reported since the last reunion. They are: [1] Seth Becka to Melanie Blinka on October 18, 2003. The parent is Carol Kieke Becka Hamilton [2] David Noak II to Mystery Walther in May of 2003. Parents are David and Mary Noak of La Grange The most recently married couple present was Mike and Marsha Noak, 3 years, of Flatonia. Kermit and Delores Noak are the parents. The couple present married the longest was Fred and Vernell Renck Weber, 56 years, of Austin. The award for traveling the farthest was shared among the Stahlecker family with an estimate of 1250 miles from Skokie, Illinois and Woodstock, Illinois.

The five deaths reported since the last reunion were: Frances Menn of Brenham, Debra Jaster of Houston, Elvis Hinze of Carmine, Vera Weigelt of Giddings, and Vernon Smith of Taylor . A moment of silent prayer was offered for them and their immediate families. Four family members, Nelson Noak, Sr. and Milton Noak , both of La Grange, Viola Franke of Hondo and Adolph Menn of Brenham were reported as residents of nursing homes or rehab centers. John Noack of Conway, Arkansas is recuperating at home after a serious accident.

The host families for 2005 will be members of the Paul and Hulda Hinze Noak family. Mindy Lawrence of Houston was elected secretary and Lanette Williams of Carmine was re-elected treasurer.

Submitted by:
Dorothy Noak Rothermel
Brenham, Texas

ROTHERMEL REUNION AT BURTON

The 13th Rothermel reunion was held March 14, 2004 at the Burton Fire Department Center. Forty-two persons were in attendance. Hosts for the 2004 reunion were: Raymond and Annie Laurie Rothermel Thaler of Brenham, Ellen Rothermel Stuart of Dallas, and Sarah Rothermel Duncan of Richmond. A catered meal was served at noon. Offering the prayer prior to the meal was Ray Thaler of Brenham. Rothermel descendants came from Brenham, Burton, Carmine, Pasadena, Houston, Richmond, Dallas, Sugarland, La Marque, Early, Fort Worth, Elgin, and Bryan/College Station.

Descendants representing the Andreas and Anna Marie Meier Rothermel at the reunion were from the family of Anton and Mary Vogelsang Rothermel and Bernhardt and Minnie Elminia Price Rothermel. In attendance also, were members of the ancestral family of William Rothermel of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One guest in attendance is a descendant of the ancestral family John Friedrich and Maria Ann Krumm Brey Ernst, Jr..

Printed handouts dating from 1708 to 1851 with information about the births, marriages, and deaths of Rothermel descendants were given to each family. This information was recorded at St. Nikolaus Catholic Church in Rotenberg, Germany. Other information given to everyone :[1] death certificate information about Anton Rothermel [brother of Andreas], who died in San Antonio, Texas , August 4, 1888. He died in San Antonio at Santa Rosa Hospital while on a business trip to this city. His cause of death was malaria fever... He is buried in a Lutheran Cemetery according to the information on a death certificate.; [2] a copy of the Rothermel Coat of Arms. This Coat of Arms was adopted by the Rothermel Association of Pennsylvania in 1988. It has been used by the Rothermels in a certain area of Pennsylvania for 100 years or more and is said to go back to 1300 A.D..

Dave Moore of Early, Texas traveled the farthest distance. James Rothermel of Brenham was the oldest male Rothermel in attendance. Nathalie Rothermel Landua of Brenham was the oldest female Rothermel present. Wm. Coleman and Laurie Rothermel Satterfield of Elgin have been married the shortest time of four years. James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel of Brenham have been married the longest time of 56 years and 5 months. Tom and Dorothy Rothermel of Brenham have been married 56 years and 2 months.

Births since the last reunion are: [1] Skyler Ashley, born March 11, 2003 in Brownwood, Texas. Parents are: Grey and Rebecca Ashley. Grandparents are: Dave and Andrea Moore of Early, Texas. Great-grandparent: Betty Moore of Fort Worth, Texas. [2] Connor Mills Duncan, born October 8, 2002 in Richmond, Texas. Parents are: Karen and William Rothermel Duncan. Grandparent: Sarah Rothermel Duncan of Richmond, Texas. [3] Shelby Lynn Moore, born December 5, 2003 in Early, Texas. Parent: Christy Moore. Grandparents: Dave and Andrea Moore of Early, Texas. Great-grandparent: Betty Moore of Fort Worth.

[4] Eric Flores born January 6, 2004 in Brenham, Texas. Parent: Lauren Smith . Grandparent: Laurell Landua Smith, Brenham, Texas. Great-grandparent: Nathalie Rothermel Landua, Brenham, Texas.

Deaths since the last reunion were: [1] Herschel Mills Duncan, Jr. - died: August 31, 2002, Richmond, Texas. He was the husband of Sarah Rothermel Duncan, Richmond, Texas. [2] Alice Marie Rothermel - died: September 27, 2002 at the VA Hospital in Boise, Idaho. She was born January 2, 1916 in Cleburne, Texas. Her parents were: Charles and Della Dunaway Rothermel. Her ancestral family: Joseph and Lena Marie Louise Severin Rothermel. [3] Robert Lewis Shoemaker - died: July 3, 2003 in Levelland, Texas. He was born September 21, 1932 in O'Donnell, Texas. His parents were: James Lloyd and Chloe Rothermel Shoemaker. His ancestral family: Bernhardt and Minnie Elmina Price Rothermel.

Door prizes were won by: Lindsay Thaler, Ron Murphy, Nathalie Landua, Annie Laurie Thaler, E.J. Pomykal, Laurie Satterfield, James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel and Tom and Dorothy Rothermel.

Hosts for the 2005 reunion will be Laurell Landua Smith of Burton, Charles Landua of Burton, James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel of Brenham.

Submitted by:
Dorothy Noak Rothermel

GIESECKE FAMILY REUNION, AUGUST 2003
by Susan K. Giesecke

Over 200 descendants of George Christian Friedrich Giesecke (1795-1871) and his wife Ernestine Stahrenberg Giesecke gathered at Landa Haus in new Braunfels on Sunday, August 17, 2003 to honor the courage of the original 20 immigrants who arrived in Galveston in December of 1846. They left Clausthal, in the Harz Mountain region of Germany, in September.

One member of each branch of the family notified and coordinated their relatives. The descendant families are:

Elwine Giesecke Schlick, coordinated by Barbara Boese
 Albert Giesecke, coordinated by Diana Fraser
 Emma Gieseck Jahn, coordinated by Gary and Jackie Romberg
 Bertha Giesecke Brandt, coordinated by Arno Krebs
 Adolph Giesecke, coordinated by Adolph "Buddy" Giesecke
 Pauline Giesecke Cornitius, coordinated by Noel Giesecke
 Ernestine Giesecke Ohlendorf, coordinated by Geoge Ohlendorf
 Julia Giesecke, coordinated by Linda and John Nicholas

The exhibits were very interesting. Walter Franklin brought antique rifles. An antique trunk was sent from California by Morton Giesecke, along with a drafting drawing and a pipe owned by GCF. A picture of a sailing ship similar to the Ferninard was secured by Linda Nicholas.

Jeff Giesecke Butler developed a complete family tree listing over 400 descendants of George Christian and Ernestine Giesecke. It was 32 feet long! Billy Fraser served as a great Master of Ceremonies. Charlie Geren read the words read in 1947 at the first reunion, written by his grandfather, Fredrick Ernst Giesecke, Professor at Texas A&M. Preston Geren secured a wonderful band, the "Bells of Joy," to entertain, while George Ohlendorf secured the caterer and Acey Key prepared the traditional molasses cookies for desert.

In addition to honoring the ancestors, the most amazing part of this gathering was the renewal of relationships and friendships between people who share a common heritage. It was wonderful to share family stories and items, to discover the importance of family and heritage, and to recall the wonder of the family's development in this great country.

Family of early St. Joseph's benefactor gather yearly for Mass

FROM
SAN ANTONIO
EXPRESS-NEWS
MARCH 28, 2004

As the popular Internet list says, "You know you're from San Antonio if (among many other things) you know where St. Joseph's Church is." The church tucked between two sections of Rivercenter mall also has been called St. Joske's, after the department store formerly in what is now Dillard's.

Two groups of San Antonians in particular are likely to know about the church at 623 E. Commerce: downtown workers in need of a place to attend Mass and German Americans with an ancestral connection.

Among the latter are the descendants of Franz Ignatz Meyer (aka Francois Ignace in his native Alsace, Francisco Ignacio in his early days in San Antonio and F.I. Meyer on his Alamo Plaza business premises), who helped found and furnish



PAULA ALLEN

St. Joseph's. Accounts differ on what year the church was founded — 1858, when future parishioners met at Meyer's Hall (a meeting room over Meyer's successful wine shop)? Or 1859, when the "brush-filled site" (according to a parish his-

story) was purchased for \$591.65? Or 1868, when the cornerstone was laid, or 1871, when the church was completed and blessed?

Why St. Joseph's was founded is more clear-cut. In 1835 and 1836, there was "a tremendous movement of Germans into South and Central Texas followed by a regular flood of German families looking for new homes from 1848 through the 1850s and 1860s," says "St. Joseph's: A 125 Year History" (published by the church in 1993).

One of the advantages of the Latin Mass was that the words of the liturgy were familiar to Catholic worshippers in any setting. But the Germans who

were new to Texas may not have gotten much out of homilies preached in Spanish (as they were at San Fernando) or in English (as at St. Mary's). A church for the Catholics in this community would need a full-time, German-speaking priest as pastor.

After some false starts (including a proposal to use the Alamo church, a diminution of resources during the Civil War and a tropical storm that delayed building in 1868), the church was built within walking distance or a short ride from where most German American San Antonians lived, along South Alamo Street and in what's now the King William Historic District.

F.I. Meyer was "one of the most energetic proponents (of the church), long before it came into being," writes Ray Neumann in a centennial history of St. Joseph's. The prosperous wine merchant donated the main altar and statues of the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph and St. Ignatius, says his great-grand-

daughter Martha Seng Klein, 90.

His name also has been found inscribed on one of the church bells, and he may be best remembered for his gift of a statue of Mary. On the left as you enter the church, this is a statue of Mary with the dead Jesus, a large Pieta on its own altar, known as the Altar of the Sorrowful Mother Mary.

The statue was made in Germany, says Klein, and is thought to be a replica of one at a shrine in Germany to which Mrs. Meyer was devoted.

The Meyer family's donations of religious art were made during the pastorate of the Rev. Henry Pefferkorn, an artist-priest credited with two paintings above the side altars and for encouraging the enhancement of the church.

Around 1880, says Klein, Pefferkorn "promised that a Mass would be celebrated every year on the Friday before Good Friday for the Meyer family and their descendants." The date was chosen because it was the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

(the subject of the large statue) — at least as traditionally observed in German-speaking countries. Revisions to the church calendar have moved the feast to another traditional date, Sept. 15.

"The family was used to the other date, so we kept it," says

Klein.

Klein, who has been attending for at least 70 years, says that when she found out about the Mass, "my parents and I developed quite a mailing list and started to send out notices."

In recent years, family members have met for dinner after the Mass. "As the older ones die out, their children don't know all those other people," says Klein. "Some years, most everybody who comes is a stranger to everyone else."

Family members may bring old photographs or video cameras to the after party; some have compiled family trees to share. For this reason, says Klein, "this Mass is a treasure."

Like the dinner, the religious service is private, says a spokeswoman for the church, "although we don't lock the doors or anything."

Intentions are offered for members of the Meyer family, and the priest's homily always acknowledges their ancestors' contributions. The family takes up a special collection and presents the pastor with an offering in support of the church.

A descendent of Franz I. Meyer (above, with family) says a St. Joseph's priest "promised that a Mass would be celebrated every year on the Friday before Good Friday for the Meyer family and their descendants."

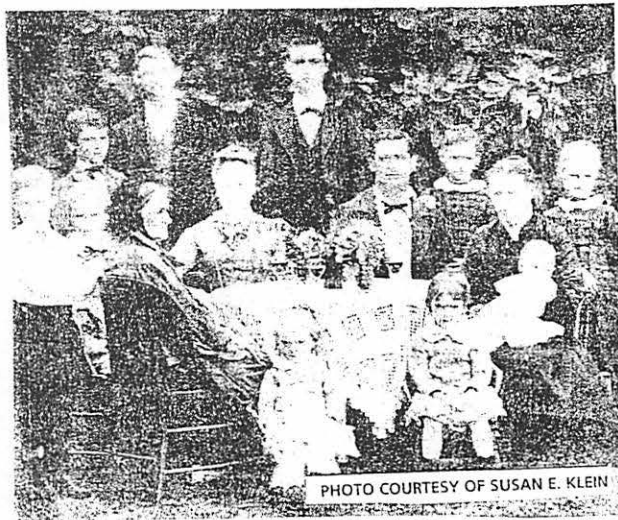


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN E. KLEIN

THE GLORY OF BAROQUE DRESDEN — AN EXHIBITION

information from Vicy L. Wilkinson

Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange

Until September of 2004, the Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange is sponsoring an exhibition entitled "The Glory of Baroque Dresden" at Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. This exhibition was opened by German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder. It includes over 400 works of art from the German city of Dresden. It is the first major North American exhibit of Dresden's art treasures since the collapse of the former Communist East Germany in 1989. Information and pictures can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.germany.info/photos>



“Tell Us Your Story...”

A Program for the Trenckmann Library of the GTHS.

This program is designed to pull in all the delightful stories that have been handed down from our pioneer ancestors into one place where anyone can have easy access to them. Each story might be included in the GTHS Journal and many past articles should be included in this database. If we do not tell these stories and put them in a place where they can be kept and read, they will be forever lost. I think it is worth a little effort to preserve them.

Wing

Principles:

- 1 GTHS member to write story handed down from ancestors, or other sources, even current events qualify since these can be first person, factual, verified and will soon become history.
- 2 I expect a wide range of sources, from parents, grand parents, family friends, yourself, and history.
- 3 I expect a wide range of subjects, such as:
 - a. Customs: Christmas, Easter, breakfast, lunch, dinner, courting, marriage, caring for children, caring for parents, etc.
 - b. Geneology.
 - c. Relationships.
 - d. Jokes.
 - e. Recipes.
 - f. Foods: Plant or animal.
 - 1) Foods the pioneers brought/imported from Europe.
 - 2) Foods they found here.
 - 3) Foods other immigrants brought that were used in Texas.
 - 4) Food preparation/preservation.
 - 5) Hunting: Game taken, how prepared, preserved, etc.
 - g. “Old Wives Tales”.
 - h. Music.
- 4 I hope to see in small bits and pieces the whole of the German-Texan Culture.
- 5 GTHS to receive story and give it unique number. Probably date received, with a suffix for Nth story received that day, e.g., 07212002.14, (the fourteenth story received on July 21, 2002).
- 6 Story to be scanned into digital format.
- 7 Story to be kept on Trenckmann Library computer.
- 8 A searchable index must be maintained in the Trenckmann Library. Database for each story should have author, subject, and an index of names of the people in the story.
- 9 This index should be linked to our web site.
- 10 Each story should be accessible from the web site.
- 11 Available as a CD annually for modest cost.

This is an ambitious project and will need a lot of individuals to create it. Start by a story from your life. If you have ideas that will improve this program, please send them to me.

THE DOXOLOGY
submitted by Mrs. Frances Hartman

Mrs. Frances Hartman of Yorktown submitted the information below along with a note saying "I am sharing some information I gathered on the 'Doxology' and its composer, Bishop Thomas Ken. Some time ago, while paging through an old German hymnal, I found the 'Doxology' in German. Since I had never seen or heard this before, I was very surprised and wondered if there are others who might like to see and sing it..."

Bishop Thomas Ken, born 1637, was England's first hymn-writer. He holds the honor of writing the so-called "long-meter" doxology, which is even now the most favored doxology of the Christian Church.

However, in its first composition it was the closing stanza in three of Ken's hymns. They were, "Awake My Soul and with the Sun," "Glory to Thee, My God This Night," and the "Midnight Hymn." These appeared in a pamphlet ca 1693.

The original stanza:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above y'angelick host,*
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Altered in 1712 to "ye heavenly host."

Bishop Ken became an orphan as a young child, and was reared by his brother-in-law, Izaak Walton, a great fisherman. In 1679, King Charles II appointed Ken to be the chaplain at the Royal Court at The Hague, later, one of the king's own chaplains, and eventually bishop of Bath and Wells.

Upon Charles' death, the papist James II became king and Ken and six other bishops were incarcerated in the Tower of London. Ken was acquitted and spent the rest of his years in "quiet retreat." His biographer said that in these late years the bishop often suffered from insomnia, and "solaced himself by writing hymns which he described as 'Anodynes, or Alleviation of Pain.'"

I some remission of my woes
Feel, while I hymns compose.

And when my pains begin to rage
I them with hymns assuage.

Ken died in 1711 and at his sunrise funeral, his friends sang his "Awake My Soul."

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run.
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

THE DOXOLOGY

1. Ehr' sei dem Vater.

FRANC.



Ehr' sei dem Vater und dem Sohn, Dem heil'gen Geist in einem Thron;
Der heiligen Dreifaltigkeit, Sei Lob und Preis in Ewigkeit.

Ehr' sei dem Vater.

Ehr' sei dem Vater und dem Sohn, Dem heil'gen Geist in einem Thron;
Der heiligen Dreifaltigkeit, Sei Lob und Preis in Ewigkeit.

This is from Perlen und Bluethen (Pearls and Blossoms), a songbook for Sunday Schools and Christian Youth organizations, published by Geo. F. Rosche & Co., Chicago, Ill., copyright 1890, 1892, and 1920, editors C. N. Weiss and Geo. F. Rosche.

La Doxologia : A Dios El Padre

A Dios el Padre celestial, Al Hijo nuestro Redentor,
Y al eternal Consolador, Unidos todos alabad.

The Spanish words add a tri-lingual touch to Ken's doxology. It is from Cantos Espirituales (Spiritual Songs), edited by J. W. Treat, Professor of Spanish at Abilene Christian College, Abilene, TX, copyright 1947-1965.

WHEN HERB WEIGL JOINED THE AUSTIN SAENGERRUNDE

By

Frederic Weigl

My father, Herbert Weigl, Sr., was born in Bavaria in 1910, but his family immigrated to Austin, Texas, in late 1913, shortly before the start of World War I. After nearly a decade of hardship getting settled in Texas, my grandfather, Fortunat Weigl, founded the F. Weigl Iron Works in Austin in 1922. With only short gaps during the depression and World War II, my father worked at the iron works until it closed in 1976, being co-owner with my uncle, F. Lee Weigl, for the last two decades of its operation. My father was a gifted ornamental ironsmith and a great storyteller, but he was not much of a singer. Nevertheless, he decided to join the Austin Saengerrunde when he was in his mid-twenties. He often told the story of his experience with the Saengerrunde and even made a tape recording of the story for a slide presentation about the Weigl family iron works being assembled by W. George Allen for the Austin Public Library in 1975. The following is a slightly edited version of his tape.

“After the Great Depression in 1933 or 1934, when things were working a little bit better for most of us, I decided to join the Austin Saengerrunde, a men’s singing group at that time. They sang in German, mostly old German songs. They needed members just then and several people I knew sang with them, so I applied for membership one day.

“After a few social visits, my audition came. An applicant had to be accepted by the director as a singer before he could become an active member. I did the best I could, but the old professor looked kind of pained and said,

“ ‘Well, I suppose you’ll do, but you’ll have to sing with the first basso section. You’ll do the least harm there, and perhaps you might improve as time goes by.’

“We practiced hard for a few weeks. When the time for the first concert came we had a dress rehearsal which went quite well, so we celebrated with a party, had a few beers, and discussed the upcoming Saengerfest. The old professor came over to me, pulled me aside, and said,

“ ‘We’re kind of low on members, and I sure want you on the stage when our turn in the competition comes, but please be sure to sing in such a manner that no one will hear you, not even the guy standing beside you.’

“I had come to the same conclusion during the rehearsals, so it did not hurt my feelings. But one of the other singers in my group overheard this, and being a little more kindhearted than many people, he thought I might be hurt. He tried to console me. He said,

“ ‘We can’t all always sing perfectly in tune or in pitch. Some of us just don’t have that gift; no matter how hard we try. Just think how much feeling the tomcats put into their singing. They can’t help the way it sounds.’

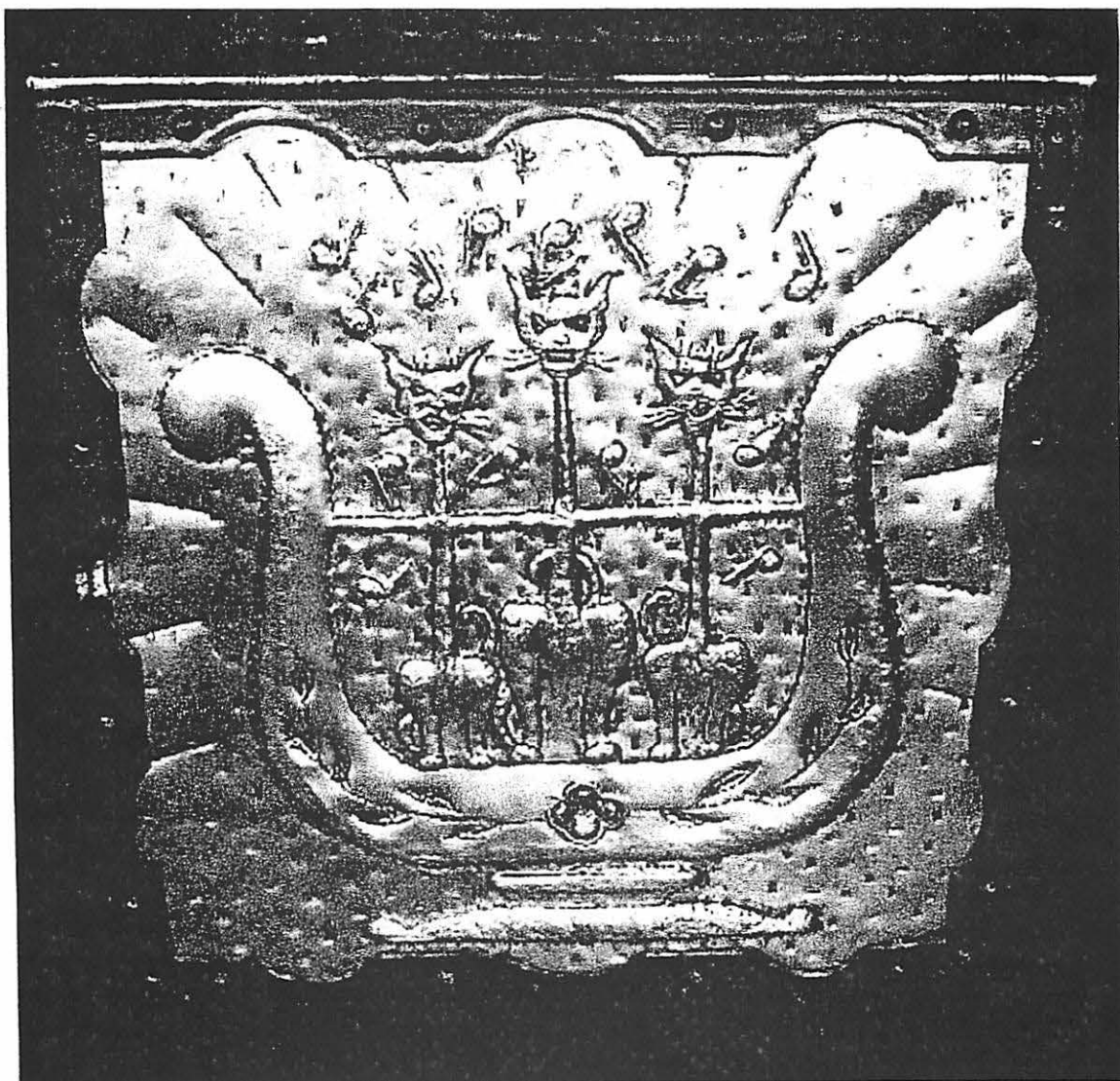
“I stayed with the Saengerrunde for thirty-five years or more. I was in many concerts and Saengerfests, and I enjoyed my association with this group tremendously. Whenever the quality of our singing was important and a singer who didn’t know me well stood beside me, he would sometimes look puzzled and ask,

“ ‘Why did I not hear you sing?’

“I’d smile and say,

“ ‘I belong to the tomcats’ union, and we’re on strike right now.’

“The lyre is a symbol of music and song, and our Saengerrunde badge had one on it. I always felt that to be symbolic of my talent mine should be slightly altered like the one I put on my favorite record cabinet.”



A Pilgrimage To My Ancestral Home

By Brother Carl Tiedt, C.S.C.

Two of my great grandparents came from, Sudetenland, Czech Republic, and from two villages a half mile apart in the area of Schoenhengstergau in the farthest eastern part of the province of Bohemia. In the summer of 2003, I went on a bus tour to these villages near Wildenschwert, now named Usti nad Orlici. All names were changed since the expulsion of all Germans in 1945. This was the decision of Churchill, Truman and Stalin at Potsdam, that all Germans had to repatriated at the end of World War II. The two villages were named Knappendorf and Hertersdorf. My great father, Ferdinand Veith came from Knappendorf, now Knapovec, and my great father, George Skalitzky came from Hertersdorf, now Horni Houzovec. When they came to America they both settled in Wisconsin, George and his wife, Theresie Duskova, in Amherst Junction near Portage, WI, and Ferdinand Veith and his wife, Amelia Springer, in Waterloo county, WI about 80miles apart. Both families were large. My grandfather, John Skalitzky, came to the Waterloo area to visit an Aunt, Theresa Skalitzky Blaska, the wife of Johann Blaska. It is there that he met Anna Veith, my grandmother, the daughter of Ferdinand Veith. So my grandparent married and settled in Sun Prairie, WI. which is about 15 miles from Waterloo.

I first heard of the origins of these two lines of my family from my aunt, Sister Grace Ann Skalitzky, S.S.N.D., and clarifications through the Czechoslovakian State Regional Archives in Samrsk in Nov. 1980. Then in the summer of 1985 my Mother and I visited the area of Knappendorf and Hertersdorf with its Church of St. Peter and Paul. The church was in poor condition because the Russians were still occupying the country.

It was sometime between 1985 and 1990 that I first heard of the monthly newspaper, Schoenhengster Heimat, at a talk presented to the German descendants in the Waterloo area by Ed Langer, a member of the state recognized historical association, The Island Church Foundation. This was the Waterloo church that was built by the Sudetenland Germans in the 1850's. It was built of logs covered with vertical board and batten, painted white. It was located on a prominence surrounded by a marsh, thus its nick name, "Island Church. Its real name was St. Stanislaus in honor of St. Stanislaus of Prague. There was a school built near the church and staffed by Sisters until the catholic parish in the village of Waterloo became more important and the pastor and school were moved there.

Because the immigrants of Knappendorf and Hertersdorf were part of the presentation, I wrote the editor the monthly paper, and for the first time corresponded with Rudy Plotz, who was from Hertersdorf and had a mother whose name was Skalitzky.

I completed a Family Tree book in 1993. Rudy became a friend, but I did not visit him in 1995 because I was traveling with my Sister, Alma and my Brother in Law, Curt Moodie. We traveled into the Czech Republic, and again visited the Church in Knappendorf. My friendship with Rudy Plotz was not close enough for him to invite us to visit him in West Phalia. The Church of Its. Peter and Paul was now refurbished and a sign near the outdoor cross in front of the church said that it was accomplished through a foundation called : "A Church In Need" and donations past inhabitants of the area..

Rudy had organized tours to Schoenhengstergau and named them pilgrimages to honor a special statue, named, "Weinende Mutter Gottes." This statue was a copy of the statue of Our Lady of LaSalette, France. The Blessed Mother gave the children of LaSalette the message: "Do Penance for your sins, or the world will be destroyed." Because the statue was commissioned by the last priest of the parish, Pastor Joseph Willer, and because it seems tp express sympathy for sinners and the oppressed - The Sudeten people were expelled in 1945 and not remunerated - this personification of Mary is really revered by the catholic people from Schoenhengstergau.

Rudolf Plotz in his youth studied machine shop in Landskon, and had a factory job in Zwitau. The calamitous events in his life occurred after World War II. He was 17 in 1945 when on July 13 he was taken prisoner by the Czech partisans, and abducted to Landskon, and with many other comrades deported on cattle cars to a Russian gulag in Siberia. In the Altai mountains he worked in a lumber camp, until a log fell on his leg. As a severely injured inmate, he was sent to the Focsani Camp in Rumania, and then was given freedom to be nursed by a aunt in Vienna. In 1949 he settled with his parents and brother in West Phalia. They had left Hertersdorf one day earlier than Rudolph, and they had escaped without any harm.

With the Hormann firm in Steinhagen, Germany, Rudy began work as a wholesaler, and in a few years was promoted to foreman and deputy business leader in the department of business and technology. To his dislike he was responsible for 500 employees in Fiesen, Saarland. There he used new techniques in the machine production for metals. From 1969-72, he was employed in a branch factory in Genk, Belgium as Management planner and advisor. This employment helped him gain immense technical knowledge and a broad outlook. A traumatic autobahn accident ended of his professional career in 1965. He suffered severe breast, stomach and vertebrae injuries from being catapulted out of a car. It terminated 57 years of productive labor.

Then he began work with a monthly-published newspaper, Schoenhengster Heimat. The newspaper published family tree searches and articles about Sudetenlanders. In one article, written by Rudy it states: "The East (the Czech Republic) needs Schoenhengstergau and the Harvest and Reaping Fest of Knappendorf." As a historian and competent dialect researcher, he brings to Czech native citizens an account of customs of the region. And in this same village of Knappendorf, the Czech Catholics are now restarting the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul. A spokes man, Franz Gauglitz in 1991, is quoted in saying: "that Plotz is the "Initiator of this occasion. To him and his wife, Elsa and other helpers goes special thanks for saving the church"

I kept corresponding via E-Mail with Rudy, and even volunteered to advertise to the American Germans to join him on a pilgrimage back to Czech Republic.

From 1995 to 2001, I had a special assignment to take care of my Mother in my home town of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Because I was so committed to my Mother's care I could not accompany anyone who wanted to go on any of these pilgrimages, so I had to wait until Nov. 6 of 2001; when Mother passed away, to be able to visit Rudy. Then he invited me to stay with him in Halle, West Phalia.

I arrived on July 12, 2003 at the Paderborn airport, and Rudy, and his daughter, Christiana, and grandson, Nils, met me and showed me the Cathedral of Paderborn built under Charlemagne's patronage. It is significant that the Germans who first settled in Schoenhengstergau were invited through the sponsorship of Bishop Heinrich of Olmeutz and Paderborn monks from this area, of Dortmund and Eifel by the Czech. royalty to a Schoenhenster monastery in the twelfth century.

July 13 is the anniversary of the expulsion of the Germans, was celebrated with a Mass at St. Boniface church in Zellig. After the mass, I was honored, by being proclaimed honorary "Geistliche Rat" to the association of the Weinende Mutter Gottes under the name of Brother Aloysius, Carl Urban Tiedt of St. Edward's University, Austin Texas. This ceremony took place at the side of the church where a memorial made with a wrought iron cross brought back from Schoenhengster. At the same ceremony I met for the first time, Analiese Foreacker of Austin, Texas who was traveling with her Aunt, brother, nephew and granddaughter on our pilgrimage to Knappendorf. All but her granddaughter were from Germany. Analiese became my translator when Deutsch was spoken too rapidly.

The rest of the day was spent at a dinner and in visiting at Hotel Bechtel; in Bechtel. I was introduced, and many of the names of the participants had the same names as those of the Germans in Sun Prairie and Waterloo, Wisconsin. One lady, Frau Marie Blaschke, whose Mother I had written to in Feb. 23, 1988 for information for my family tree book, entitled:

Tiedt-Knoblauch and Skalitzky-Veith Family Tree." about their expulsion from Czechoslovakia was among the group.

Because I descended from the same families of Knappendorf and Hertersdorf, I was treated very kindly. I made speeches in the churches at Zellig and Knappendorf. They expressed my pleasure in participating in the pilgrimage, and my sympathy in their losing their home, but I also stressed the Blessed Mother's message to do penance for one's sins.

Analiase Foreaker, a member of the Damen Chor of the Saengerrunde of Austin, of which I am a member of the Maennen Chor, translated my speeches into German at both of these services.

We left Bechtel on the evening of 13th and boarded the bus around 9.00 P.M. and rode through the night. By morning we arrived at Hotel Usti nad Orlici, and received keys for our rooms, and we had a free afternoon to rest up. I walked up the city centrum, where there were beautiful flowers, shade trees and park benches. I met a group of ladies, fellow pilgrims, who were all related to the Skalitzkys. Elsa Plotz was the 5th person in the party.

During the first day, July 14, we visited two cemeteries with memorials at Hilbeten and Landskron. There had been a massacre at Landskron. Both memorials were in honor of the Sudetenlanders. At no time did I feel that neither the people on the bus nor the Czech people whom we met in our travels or in the hotel were embittered toward each other. The past was forgotten, and both sides were not dwelling on past wrongs.

The next day we visited a ski resort and weather station in the Schwartz Mountains. By noon we were in Grulich and at a Redemptorist Monastery where we had a dinner in the visitors' center: It was the only place in all of Europe that I had the traditional American German meal of sauer kraut, pork, gravy and potatoes. By evening we were back in Knappendorf for a evening Mass with two celebrants: the Czech Pastor, Pawel Kolita, and a German speaking, Viet Nameese priest, Johann Ding. The Mass was in Latin to solve the differences in language. Father Ding was a Viet Nameese who spoke fluent German. He was my bus partner, and never revealed his own Viet Nameese sufferings. The Mass was enriched by the parish organist, who played German hymns and sang solo. "The Ave Maria" by Gounod.

That evening we had the formal dinner in the Usti nad Orlici Hotel. The main course, Kolatschen, was a plate of meat cutlets, with various kinds of breads and wine. We were entertained by a four piece accordion band. An ethnic dance group directed by Frau Kunz, author and researcher of Schoenhengster culture of Moravian Truebau, performed for us the native dances. The men wore red vests and red knickers; the women wore black vests and blackskirts embroidered with gold, and white blouses with flowing sleeves, fore arm length. The girls had red ribbons gathering their hair in the back; the boys wore black boas and full length white shirt, and white stockings.

I was delighted with the dessert. It was a pastry, just like my grandmother, Anna Veith Skalitzky made. - Krauflie, a filled biscuit, with apple or poppy seed conserve, and raised bread dough. Then followed dance for all present, with polkas and waltzes.

On July 16, we first went to the grave of Pastor Willer in Dittersbach, and then to villages of Horni Houzovec (Hertersdorf) where I saw the ancestral home, House No. 9 of George Skalitzky at the beginning of the road as it inclined down through the village, until it joined the roads through Knappendorf. At this point the road divided: with one road inclining up to the Church of Its. Peter and Paul, and the other road following the creek at the bottom of the steep valley.

The bus was driven along the lower road, and the home of Ferdinand was almost in line with steps leading up to the church. The day was spent walking and about the two villages with a prayer service to Our Weeping Mother of God late in the afternoon. Father Ding conducted the prayers and rosary. Our trip back to Schrechsbach was accomplished during the day on the 17th. It was dark by time we arrived at Rudy's home in Halle.

Book Review by Charles Patrick, GTHS Book Review Editor

Title: *Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother*
Author: Irma Goeth Guenther (translator and researcher)
Publisher: Eakin Press, Austin, TX
Publication Date: 1982
Hardcover, 260 pages with black and white pictures and illustrations
ISBN number: 0-89015-341-8
Availability and price: contact Eakin Press at 1-800-880-8642 or e-mail:
sales@eakinpress.com

Earlier in the year when I received my copy of the TGS (Texas German Society) Reporter, I noticed one page that contained a reprint (1930's) of a song entitled "The German Backwoodsman". The lyrics were an English translation that Adolf Fuchs had made from the original German words by Hoffmann von Fallersleben, the well-known nineteenth-century German lyricist and poet, and set to a familiar German folksong. I immediately realized that this song was one of the original "Texanische Lieder" (Songs of Texas) composed by Fallersleben in the fall of 1845 for Pastor Adolf Fuchs and his family just weeks before they set sail for Texas.

Many years ago I acquired a copy of "Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother" and found this book to be fascinating reading not only because it dealt with the German experience in Texas but also because parts of it describe the beginnings of German music in Texas. (I am an amateur musician and singer myself.) The author, Irma Goeth Guenther, was a great-granddaughter of Pastor Fuchs and incorporated into her book a translation of an earlier book of personal recollections and family history (*Was Grossmutter Erzaehlt*) that was published in German in 1915 by her grandmother Otilie Fuchs Goeth one of Adolf Fuch's daughters. In her book Mrs. Guenther added her own personal research along with a large number photographs and illustrations.

I met Irma Guenther several times in Austin in the late 1980's and 1990's and discussed her book with her. I had already read the German book that her grandmother Otilie Fuchs Goeth had written and told her that I considered her expanded book to be one of the best available on the subject of Germans in Texas. I was actually so fascinated by what she had written that I did my own independent research into the "Texanische Lieder" that had been written for her ancestors in 1845. I was able to find a collection of all the songs (poems) and a number of the melodies to which they were to be sung. The song "The German Backwoodsman" (German original: "Der deutsche Hinterwälder") that appeared in the recent issue of the TGS Reporter now has become the eighth melody of the "Texanische Lieder" that I have located.

In Mrs. Guenther's book, one of the "Texanische Lieder", "Der Stern von Texas" (The Star of Texas), occupies a place of particular importance. This song

is without a doubt the crown jewel of this collection of poems and it was intended by Fallersleben to be sung to the melody of an older march entitled "Nach Sevilla" that dates from 1815. Though Mrs. Guenther provided a fine translation of the original German words along with the song's history and significance, the melody did not appear in her book. I thought this was odd because Mrs. Guenther was herself an accomplished musician. After reading the rousing German original in the appendix and her English translation of this song about immigration to Texas and a new and freer life here for German settlers, I decided that I needed to find the original melody so I could hear for myself what Fallersleben and Fuchs had sung when Fuchs and his family left Germany for Texas in 1845.

After much searching in various libraries I found a book that contained many of the songs and poems that Hoffmann von Fallersleben had written including the melodies written out in musical notation. "Der Stern von Texas" was among them. The last time I spoke with Mrs. Guenther was in Austin at an exhibit at the Elizabeth Ney Museum many years ago and I promised her that I would send her a copy of what I had found. Apparently she had not found the original melody to this song while doing the research for her book.

I learned to play the melody to "Der Stern von Texas" on my accordion and later began to sing the original German lyrics as well. In March of this year I attended the annual convention of the Texas German Society in La Grange where I had an exhibit highlighting my research about Hoffmann von Fallersleben and his "Texansische Lieder" (Songs of Texas). I also sang "Der Stern von Texas" in German during the breaks as I stood next to my exhibit. For those readers who were not there or who would like to learn this rousing march tune themselves, which I highly recommend, I have included a copy in this issue of the GTHS Journal.

For anyone interested in the German experience in Texas, "Memoirs of a Texas Pioneer Grandmother" easily qualifies a one of those essential books that should be read. Unfortunately this book is presently out of print. In a telephone conversation with Jennifer Molenaar, an editor at Eakin Press, however, I was told that a reprint of this book might be possible if enough people express an interest in buying copies (see information above).

Der Stern von Texas

1. Hin nach Texas! hin nach Texas!
Wo der Stern im blauen Felde
Eine neue Welt verkündet,
Jedes Herz für Recht und Freiheit
Und für Wahrheit froh entzündet –
|: Dahin sehnt mein Herz sich ganz. :|
2. Hin nach Texas! hin nach Texas!
Wo der Fluch der Überlieferung
Und der alte Köhlerglaube
Vor der reinen Menschenliebe
Endlich wird zu Asch' und Staube –
|: Dahin sehnt mein Herz sich ganz. :|
3. Hin nach Texas! hin nach Texas!
Wo die Pflugschar wird das Zeichen
Der Versöhnung und Erhebung,
Dass die Menschheit wieder feiert
Ihren Maitag der Belebung –
|: Dahin sehnt mein Herz sich ganz. :|
4. Hin nach Texas! hin nach Texas!
Gold'ner Stern, du bist der Bote
Unsers neuen schön'ren Lebens:
Denn was freie Herzen hoffen,
Hofften sie noch nie vergebens.
|: Sei gegrüsst, du gold'ner Stern! :|

Text: A. H. Hoffmann von Fallersleben
10.10.1845

Musik: Nach Sevilla, nach Sevilla –
Luise Reichardt vor 1815

The Star of Texas

1. On to Texas! On to Texas!
Where the star in a field of blue
Proclaims of a new world,
A world of justice, freedom and truth,
An inspiration to every heart and soul,
There where my heart longs to be.
2. On to Texas! On to Texas!
Where the curse of ancient tradition,
And of obsolete blind faith,
Are long reduced to ashes and dust,
Giving way to true love of humanity,
There where my heart longs to be.
3. On to Texas! On to Texas!
Where the plowshare symbolizes
The day of reconciliation and exaltation,
And humanity may fete its restoration
In a Mayday celebration.
There where my heart longs to be.
4. On to Texas! On to Texas!
Oh golden star, you our harbinger
Of our new and better life,
For the hopes of a truly free man,
Have never yet been in vain.
I salute you, oh golden star!

English translation: Irma Goeth Guenther, 1982

Hin nach Texas, hin nach Texas, wo der Stern im blauen Felde ei-
ne neu-e Welt verkündet, jedes Herz für Recht u. Freiheit u. für Wahrheit
froh entzündet - dahin sehnt mein Herz sich ganz, dahin sehnt Herz sich ganz.

Deutsch in Texas by Marcus Nicolini:

I am happy telling you that beginning this week, my Ph.D. dissertation on the German language in Texas ("Deutsch in Texas") is available in book stores. It would be great if you could put the book title on GTHS's Web site and announce it in the members information. Scholars and Universities get a 20 % prize off if they order directly at the Lit-Publishing House, www.lit-verlag.de.

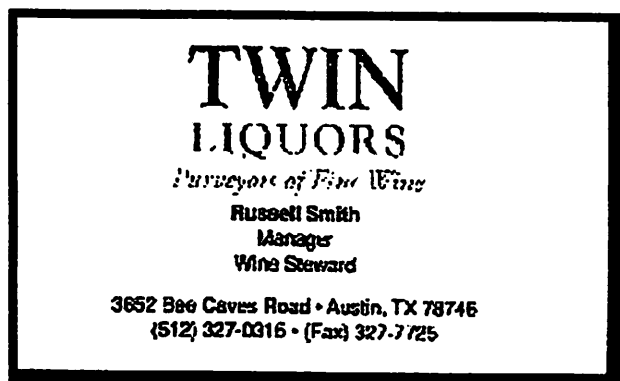
Perhaps the book might be interesting even for your library in Austin? We are still working hard on making the book even available by Amazon.com. I owe many information in research to the fantastic library of the GTHS. Let me in brief add the bibliographical data and a short summary of the german-written book. Your efforts to make my research - the first time a complete history of the German language in Texas has been published, even though in German - public to readers interested in Texan-Americana are deeply appreciated.

Take care and - howdy!

Yours Marcus

Marcus Nicolini: *Deutsch in Texas*

(*Studien und Quellen zur Sprachwissenschaft* Vol. 1), Münster: LIT Publishing House; 248 p., 24.90 EUR (appr. 22 US \$ plus postal fee), ISBN 3-8258-7541-5
Infos: <http://www.gmx.net/virenschutz>



Provided Wine and Personnel for the Maifest Wine Tasting

from San Antonio *Express-News*,
March 13, 2004

Prince says Germans wanted mini-state here

Duke of Saxony to give lecture on 19th century history tonight in New Braunfels.

BY ROGER CROTEAU
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

NEW BRAUNFELS — Newly discovered documents bolster a theory that early German settlers planned to break away from the Republic of Texas and

form their own mini-state, according to a German prince who will present his findings at a lecture tonight.

Prince Johannes von Sachsen-Altenburg, Duke of Saxony, who presented his findings to an audience of hundreds last year in New Braunfels, will return for a second lecture.

He said it includes new insights gleaned from archives in the former East Germany.

"I have promised the Daughters of the Republic of Texas that this won't be a repeat performance of last year," Sachsen-

Altenburg said. "Even repeat visitors will get at least half a dose of new material."

Among the new details, he said, is that Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, the founder of New Braunfels, had selected the Old Spanish Fort on the San Saba River at present-day Menard as the planned capital for a break-away German Republic.

Sachsen-Altenburg said documents he discovered in Europe prove his theory that an insider group of German aristocrats, closely associated with the English royal family, formed a se-

cret plan in late 1830 to form a non-slavery colony under the protection of England, France, Belgium and the German states.

Actual colonization, which didn't begin until the 1840s, ran into numerous problems and the plan fell apart when Texas joined the United States.

Sachsen-Altenburg is a historian who has produced several television shows and written three dozen books.

He is writing a book about the German scheme to form a colony in Texas, which he

hopes to publish later this year.

"The problem is that I've written too much," he said. "My original manuscript was 1,100 pages and to get it published, I am trying to get it down to 500 pages.

"It's painful to cut out all that research. Right now it is around 600 pages."

His lecture is set for 7 tonight at the New Braunfels Presbyterian Church Activity Center, 373 Howard St. Tickets will be \$5 at the door.

rcroteau@express-news.net

Page 2 January 8, 2004 News-Bulletin

Book Details historic Castroville

"Castroville 1844-1899"
 Illustrated by Three Pioneer Families
 The Pichots, Pingenots and Ihnkens
 by Yvonne Chandler Ludwig
 available
 exclusively at the
 Seven Stallions Gallery
 501 Madrid Street, Castroville

Continued from pg. 1

"Their memory should be preserved," said Ludwig, and "accuracy is so important, so much is lost because it's not being written down."

So began what Ludwig describes as a "labor of love." Extensive research went into the book which encompasses numerous family pictures, maps, and legal papers as well as family stories.

Ludwig is the author of a science book, four pictorial books, and "From Alsace to Texas..." She began writing Castroville, Texas 1844-1899 in June of 2000, at first writing four to six hours a day. Gradually she began writing eight to 12 hours a day until the book's completion on Nov.14.

Will the book be controversial?

"It's informative" said Ludwig "and one of a kind, an accurate history of Castroville through the lives of these three families."

So, according to Ludwig's book, which notorious pioneers don't really lie in the graves identified as theirs in the St. Louis Cemetery? You will have to read it to find out!



LOTS OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION: Yvonne Chandler Ludwig sits in the Seven Stallions Gallery as she holds her new book, "Castroville, Texas 1844-1899." (Photo by Bobbie Nance)

Ludwig's book chronicles pioneers' lives in city

**BOBBIE NANCE
 STAFF WRITER**

Was the Moyer church really the first one built in Castroville and when did the first women actually arrive in the newly settled town? Yvonne Chandler Ludwig said there is a lot of erroneous information circulating about the history of Castroville and her new book, "Castroville, Texas 1844-1899," aims to set the record straight. The book begins with Castroville's inception, focusing on the lives of three families, the Pichots, Pingenots and Ihnkens and their collateral families.

The 677-page book includes information on how and why the families came to the area and describes important events that show the tenacity needed to survive. The book also includes enlightening information on the three families' descendants. It concludes by covering the Castroville of today.

Ludwig descends from the Ihnkens, and while researching her family history in 1978, she kept running into conflicting information about Castroville's early settlers and events, she said.

See "Book," page 2

from the "Our Town" section of the Fredericksburg Standard Radio-Post, April 14, 2004

Friday Concert Honors Composer

*Fredericksburg Native Son
Frank Valentin Van Der Stucken*

Delayed from an earlier date this month due to scheduling conflicts, the annual Frank Valentin Van Der Stucken Music Festival will be held this Friday (April 16) at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall, 210 West San Antonio Street.

The concert is free with *gemuetlichkeit* and refreshments starting at 6:30 p.m.

Included on the program are special compositions by Van der Stucken, who was born in Fredericksburg (at 123 E. Main Street) in 1858.

Mark Hierholzer will direct the Fredericksburg Chorale, the Arion German Men's Chorus and the Hermann Sons Mixed Chorus of Fredericksburg.

A joint performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Hallelujah" from *The Mount of Olives* is planned.

Dr. Larry Woltz of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, one of the founders of the Van Der Stucken festival, will be master of ceremonies.

At piano forte, he will also play Van der Stucken's major work, "Pax Triumphans, The Triumph of Peace", written by Van der Stucken to celebrate the end of the Spanish-American War.

The Arion Maennerchor will sing Van der Stucken's "Mutter ... Mother", "Wer hat dich, du schoener Wald (Who Made You, You Beautiful Forest)" by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, and "Verheissung ... Promise" from *The Magic Flute* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, arranged by Carl Reinecke. Van der Stucken studied under Reinecke beginning in 1876.

The Fredericksburg Chorale will sing four songs written, composed and directed by Mark Hierholzer: "Ecstasy", "Kingdoms of the Air", "The Narrow Street" and "Time is Lost", along with selections from Mozart's operas.

The Hermann Sons Mixed Chorus will sing "Uebers Jar

(Over the Year)" by Van der Stucken, "O Taeler Weit, O Hoehe (O Valleys Wide, O Ridges)" by Mendelssohn and "Praege Deine Liebe (The Imprint of Your Love)" by C. Jasper.

The concert will conclude as the choirs and audience sing the Van der Stucken traditional, "Nun Danket Alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)".

The man for whom the festival is named was born in Fredericksburg and later moved to Belgium, where he became a composer and conductor.

More information about this year's festival is available by writing VDS Fest, 204 N. Acorn Street, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. CDs may be ordered for \$20 and cassettes for \$15, post-paid, including shipping and handling. E-mail contact is at wst@austin.rr.clm.

LIFE MADE HARD FOR CITIZENS WITH FOREIGN ANCESTRY
 by Henry Wolff Jr., in the Victoria Advocate, March 17, 2004

It would certainly come in handy today if I had a better knowledge of the German language.

While not a big problem when visiting in Germany where so many now know some English, it would make it a lot easier to read documents from Germany and letters from older distant relatives who were not taught English as today in the German schools.



Yet, I can understand why my American born parents, both from German speaking families, did not want me to know German. There was the matter of my beginning school during World War II and their memories of the anti-German sentiment during the previous war concerning anything German, including the language.

It was these same memories that made my mother worry about my father's black hair when it fell over his forehead, she fearing that someone might think that he looked like Hitler. Remembering how everything German was suppressed by the councils of defense during World War I also likely had something to do with her hiding a number of little "Made in Japan" whatnot figurines at the back of a dresser drawer after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

It is fairly well known how Japanese Americans were mistreated in this country during World War II with the internment camps, especially on the West Coast where all seemed to be suspect, but the anti-German sentiments that prevailed during World War I are lesser known. It was a time when councils of defense at the local, state and national levels vehemently promoted patriotism by suppressing all German culture. As with the Japanese during World War II, many loyal German-Americans were suspected of disloyalty during the previous war. Something as simple as speaking German could be considered suspicious behavior.

While it is understandable for any country to concern itself with loyalty, and particularly during times of war, hopefully such hardships will never again be imposed on otherwise loyal Americans of foreign ancestry. I can certainly understand why my parents did not want me running around school popping off in German or even having a German accent, though the latter was fairly evident at the time regardless of the language that I was speaking.

A Goliad County Council of Defense pamphlet reprinted in the current spring issue of the German-Texan Heritage Society's Journal shows how vehement the anti-German sentiment had become in 1918. These were the same sentiments that resulted in the Goliad County community of Germantown changing its name to Schroeder for the first soldier from the community to be killed in action, Paul Schroeder. During the meeting to change the name, it is said that someone in the audience pointed out that Schroeder was still a good German name.

The lengthy pamphlet is devoted to the idea that German was "the hateful language of our hateful enemy."

Among problems detailed are those the neighboring Victoria Council of Defense was having with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - "the German Lutheran Church" in Victoria - wanting to continue using the German language in some of its sermons because of a number of older German speaking members of the congregation.

This was a major concern of the councils throughout the United States, that to speak German was not being loyal to America and the Lutheran churches were particularly targeted. As an example, the pastor of the Lutheran church at Arneckeville in DeWitt County, J. M. Bergner, was jailed for over six months on suspicions of disloyalty.

Another native German-American, Goliad County treasurer Emil Bergmann greatly upset the Goliad Community Council of Defense when he made a comment in a public meeting that he "would rather die, rather be shot tonight, than be deprived of the right to talk to his mother in the German language."

The councils considered it a patriotic duty for citizens, apparently whether they could speak English or not, to refrain from the use of the German language "in private conversation, in business dealings, in sermons and public addresses."

"He who willfully persists in speaking the German language when requested by recognized authority to stop doing so places himself in the attitude of giving aid and comfort to the enemy," the council warned, "and the courts might hold him or her answerable to the law for treasonable conduct."

An official of the Victoria Council of Defense compared the German language "as having a similar trademark to the 'poison gas, shrapnel and other bric-abrac of hell' - Made in Germany." It was felt that public sympathy for anything German would manifest itself in a corresponding lack of sympathy for something American and there should "be no more talk of the Old Country."

The Victoria council determined there was no justification that Trinity Lutheran Church's 51 sons in the U.S. Army might want their fathers, mothers and grandparents to have their sermons preached in German. Instead, the council's reply was that those having a sympathy for anything German, language or otherwise, should quickly "be smoked out of their holes" for the better of the public welfare.

The council also noted that the pastor of the church had admitted that funeral rites were conducted in German - "and a German sermon was preached over his body" - for a soldier buried at Victoria.

The idea that anything and everything German was unpatriotic created a terrible time for immigrant and native-born German Americans during that short but terrible conflict.

While I take great pride today in my German ancestry, my parents were wise in wanting me to be as American as I could be.



Sleger

**STEGER -
LUEDTKE
FAMILY
REUNION**

12 June 2004

**RABB HOUSE
Hwy. 79
Round Rock, Texas**



Luedtke

Please mark your calendars for our annual Steger-Luedtke Family Reunion. Be sure to bring bathing suits for those that wish to go swimming. Lets make this Reunion the largest and most fun ever!

***** 12 June 2004 *** * * * * * 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 PM *****

Invite first time attendees. Bring photos of your ancestors and your family. By all means bring stories and oral histories of your family.

Chinese Auction – don't forget to bring a wrapped gag gift or two. Lots of laughs! Will the Black Cocktail Dresses, Flamingo, and Plymouth Hubcap show up this year?

Awards for first time attendees, person or persons that travel the greatest distance to attend the reunion, and we will crown our King and Queen. Those interested in dominos, bring your lucky set and we will have a tournament.

Please bring a dish of food per family for the noon meal. Coffee, tea (iced and hot), and eating utensils will be provided.

If you need directions or further information please contact us:

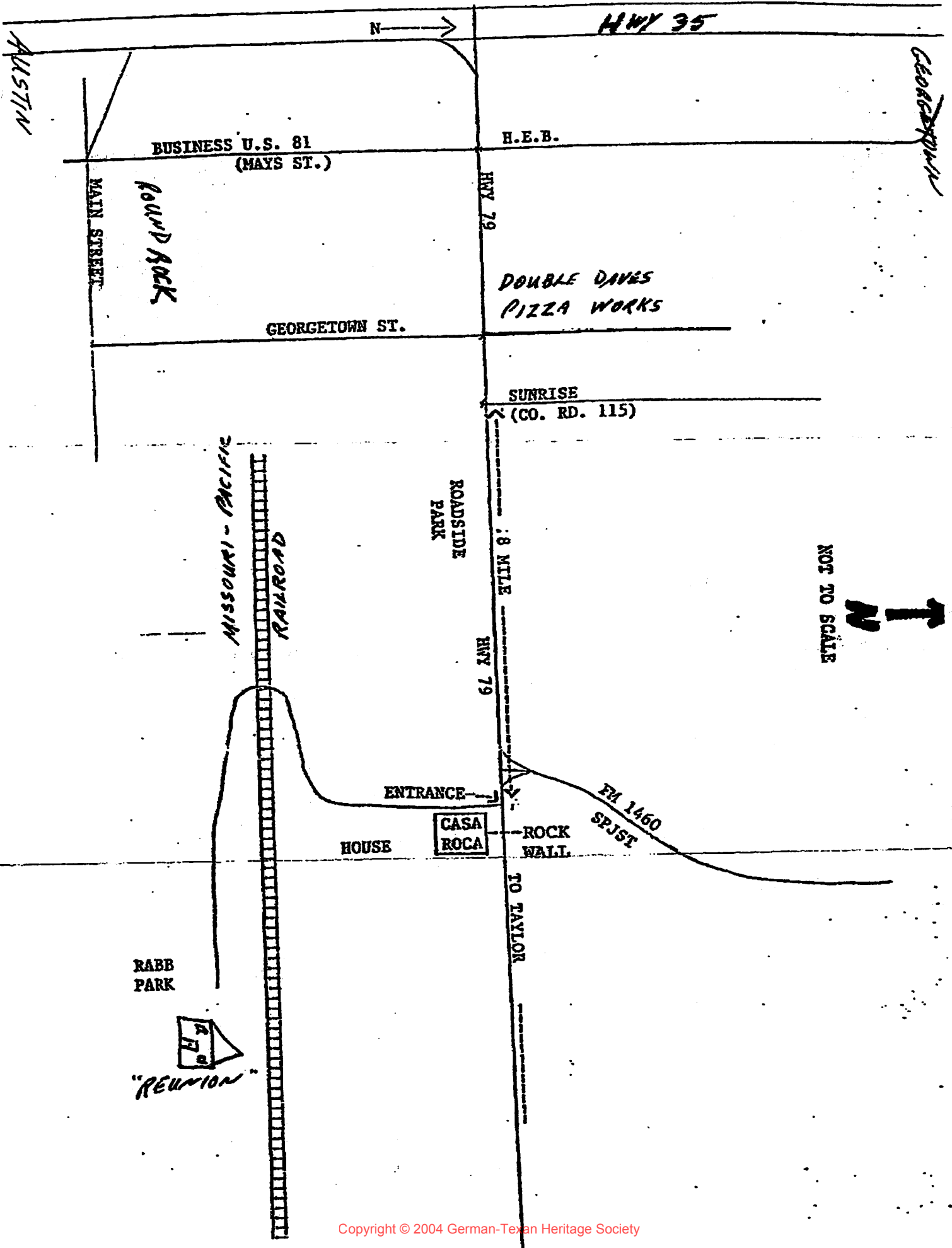
Faye & Alton Steger 512.255.0632

Carolyn & Robert Luedtke 512.794.0606

In order to help with the cost of renting the Rabb House, a \$10.00 donation per family or \$5.00 donation per individual would be greatly appreciated.

We are proud of our family, just ask us! See you at the Rabb House in Round Rock, Texas on
12 June 2004

God Bless,



**Richard D. Culbertson
6428 Arthur Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76134**

May 8, 2004

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

Dear Sir:

I am a member of your German-Texan Heritage Society and would like to place a genealogical query in your publication.

GRAFF, SESSELMAN, SCHWARTZ, ECCELL, KUNZE

Seeking ancestry of the above families. Anton Graff was born 27 May 1821 in Achern, Germany and died ca. 1878-1887 in Victoria County, Texas. He married Ursuline Sesselman, who was born 1838 in Bavaria, Germany and died 20 February 1870. Their son Otto Graff was born 21 November 1867 in Victoria, Texas and died on 21 December 1938. He married Ida Marie Schwartz, who was born 26 June 1868 and died 26 February 1957, and their daughter was Annie Marie Graff who was born on 19 September 1895 in Kinney County, Texas and died 15 January 1969, and married on 17 October 1914 to Louis Charles Kunze, who was born 1 July 1892 in San Antonio, Texas and died 23 March 1952. He was the son of Louis Ernest Kunze, born 3 March 1863, died 5 March 1932 and his wife Rosa Eccell, who was born 15 February 1871 and died 29 April 1912.

The Web of Family

Hubert Heinen, President, German Free School Guild

Most members of the German-Texan Heritage Society are caught up in the web of family. We understand our cultural heritage in relation to our family history. Genealogy appeals to many of us; others are more taken with anecdotes about family members. Collecting letters, mementos, heirlooms, establishes for us our continuity with our past and (through our children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews) our future. The German Free School Guild, through its many activities and aided by the tireless service of many volunteers, provides a nexus for the web of family. By maintaining and refining the accessibility of the Trenckmann library, we make resources for research available that augment private collections and those at public archives. Increasingly, we strive to guide those who turn to us for assistance to the resources they need. By maintaining the GTHS Web site, we make members and non-members alike aware of "what is out there." Suggestions from you about useful links and further information are greatly appreciated.

Although we have quite a number of books, pamphlets, and documents pertaining to German-Texan and German-American matters, there are many gaps in our collection. If you come across an item that you think we should have, please call it to our attention (or, even better, donate it). Memoirs, family histories, local histories, scrapbooks and albums, church and school histories, festival programs of singing societies, *Schützen-* and *Turnvereine* or *Kegelclubs*, histories of stores or other businesses founded by German-Texans; all these are invaluable. A large number of unpublished M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations contain invaluable information. Many of our members immigrated to the United States after WW II and their memoirs, collected letters, short stories, or interviews given descendants are beginning to appear more and more. <http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~urband/WundBk.htm>

What's that all about? Descendants of Heinrich and Elise Wunderlich put together a delightful family history and posted it on the Web. Check out the URL. Henry Wolff, a new member of the GTHS Board of Directors, who writes a column for the *Victoria Advocate*, has utilized this source (in addition to interviews and other research) for articles; others of us can benefit from it as well. Rolf Stachowitz, the GFS Guild vice-president for communications, who is also our webmaster, is pursuing a grant to make a considerable portion of our resources (especially the back issues of the Journal) accessible via the Internet. Wouldn't it be great if more such stories, articles, and books were available at the click of a mouse?

As summer approaches, so do visits to elderly relatives (or, conversely, younger ones). Family reunions are a great place to start. Take your tape cassette recorder or your video camcorder along. Review family pictures. (Who are the people in this picture, and what are they doing?) Ask about special experiences. (See Wing Evans's article elsewhere in this issue.) Videos of typical activities (cooking, knitting, woodworking, tending one's hunting rifle, nine-pin bowling, and so on) make wonderful keepsake vignettes, especially if the participants later reminisce about the importance of such activities in their lives. When such records are made, pass them around. Especially if they are contextualized (what else is/was going on at the time?), they are of interest not only to family members, but also to others. Send us a copy, and offer one to your local history organization. And last, but not least, spread the word about the GTHS.

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Send announcements, articles, news of reunions, meeting dates, newspaper clippings, and other information relating to German heritage to:

GTHS
Journal Editor
Post Office 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
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ISSUE

Spring 2004 (March 1)
Summer 2004 (June 1)
Fall 2004 (September 1)
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January 20
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July 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.

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