

# THE JOURNAL



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**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**507 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX**

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BY A FINANCIAL GIFT FROM GERMANIA INSURANCE



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**THE JOURNAL OF**  
**THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 4**  
**WINTER (DECEMBER) 2004**  
**“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**GTHS NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 287 GTHS Christmas Market  
288 GTHS & TGS Annual Meeting  
293 President's Notes by Van Massirer  
294 Executive Director's Report by Julia Germany  
295 Treasurer's Report by Wing Evans  
298 Editor's Page  
300 Call for Historical Memorabilia by Chuck Kalteyer  
300 2004 Annual Meeting Financial Report by Julia Germany  
301 Minutes of 2004 GTHS Annual Business Meeting  
302 Minutes of May 8, 2004 GTHS Board of Directors Meeting  
307 Minutes of August 14, 2004 GTHS Board of Directors Meeting  
310 Life Members of the German-Texan Heritage Society  
311 Leave Your German Mark by Rodney Koenig  
312 Recent Memorial Gifts to the German-Texan Heritage Society  
313 In Memoriam: Thomas Ernst Pawel  
314 Leaders of German-Texan Organizations in 2004  
315 Ehrenstern Awards  
316 Deutsches Wochenende  
317 Sprechen Sie Deutsch?  
318 Tour for Wittgenstein Descendants submitted by Henry Wolff, Jr.  
320 German Heritage Tour, May 30 – June 12, 2005 submitted by Kenn Knopp  
322 The 505 Club by Chuck Kalteyer  
323 News Release: Mary El-Beheri Wins AATG Award

**FAMILY HISTORY, REUNIONS, & TRADITIONS**

- 324 Bernard Joseph Scheel Family History by Clarence Scheel  
326 Gottlieb and Wilhelmina Stieler Family by Anne Stewart and Esther Wiedenfeld  
327 Giese-Juengermann Family Reunion submitted by Dorothy G. Rothermel

- 329 Carmine School Reunion submitted by Dorothy G. Rothermel
- 331 Freier-Franke Reunion submitted by Lorchen Koehn
- 332 Nixon Reunion submitted by Gaynel Conner
- 335 When Herb Weigel Joined the Austin Saengerrunde by Frederic Weigl
- 336 Dresden, Germany and Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic by Durwood (Woody) Franke
- 341 Altenburg and Leipzig, Germany by Durwood (Woody) Franke
- 345 Grandma's Apron submitted by Van Massirer
- 346 Instructions for-Recipe Collection --- A GTHS German Heritage Project
- 349 Thoughts While Driving by Vic Mathias
- 350 Die 100<sup>th</sup> Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier
- 352 German Feather Tree Crafting submitted by Arlene Burges
- 354 Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Round Top

#### GERMAN-TEXAN GENEALOGY

- 356 Genealogy Inquiries by Liz Hicks, GTHS Genealogy Editor
- 359 Message to GTHS from Dallas Genealogical Society
- 360 All I Know is Great Grandpa Came from Germany by Elizabeth "Liz" Nitschke Hicks
- 362 Genealogy Books and Supplies
- 364 Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives
- 368 Round Top and Fayette County Genealogy Resources by Kathy Carter

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 377 Review by Ron Hunka of The Strange Career of Bilingual Education in Texas, 1836-1981
- 379 Review by Ron Hunka of The Bells in Their Silence; Travels Through Germany
- 380 Review by Ron Hunka of Treasure Hunt
- 381 Review by Ron Hunka of Lone Star Stalag; German Prisoners of War at Camp Hearne

#### ARTICLES

- 384 Frank Teich's German Mark by Susan Teich
- 393 The Role of German-Texans in Reconstruction After the Civil War (Part 2) by Kenn Knopp
- 400 UT Researchers Record Dying Dialect from Central Texans by Nathan Diebenow
- 404 The Texas German Endowment by Hans C. Boas
- 406 German Restaurants in Texas updated by Julia Germany

#### NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

- 409 "Westwood wins 6<sup>th</sup> state German contest" submitted by Margaret Hitzfeld
- 410 "One year, 1886, tops Texas' hurricane-plagued history" submitted by Julia Germany
- 411 "Area German choirs strive to preserve musical traditions"
- 413 "Language Culture Fair showcases student work"
- 413 "Restoration OK'd for courthouse"
- 414 "Howdy, Wagner!"
- 416 "Elisabet Ney Museum lands \$250,000 grant"
- 417 "Dresden recovers beautifully"
- 419 "The von Rosenberg Family Donates Memorabilia" submitted by Rodney Koenig
- 419 "Boorish Germans strive to improve manners"

# Fröhliche Weihnachten GTHS Christmas Market

Saturday  
December 4, 2004  
From 10am to 5pm

507 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Austin, Texas

Near Red River St.

Headquarters of the  
German+Texan  
Heritage Society

Live Performances of  
Traditional German  
Christmas Songs  
throughout the day

A Special Visit by  
St. Nikolaus at 2:30



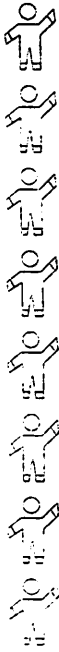
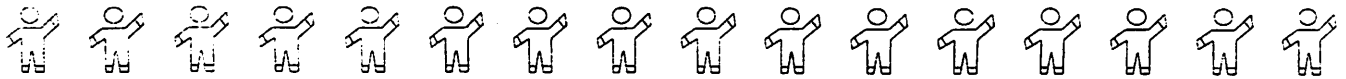
Largest selection of  
handcrafted wooden  
items imported from  
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of Germany

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Cookies

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For more information call 512/482.0927  
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# 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

## GTHS and TGS

### Co-hosts of the 2005 Annual Meeting

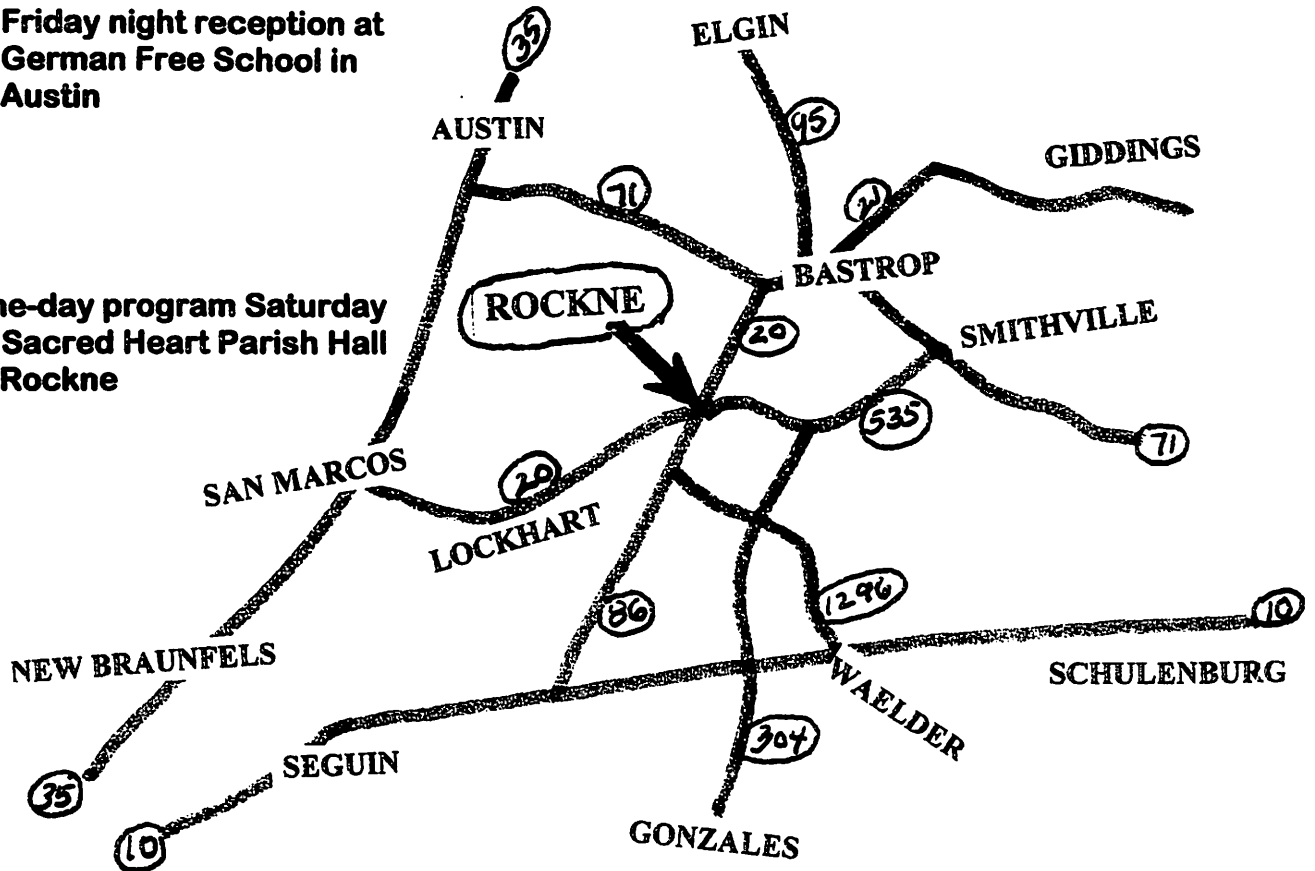
### March 12, 2005

### Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Rockne, TX

(Half-way between Bastrop and Lockhart)

**Friday night reception at  
German Free School in  
Austin**

**One-day program Saturday  
at Sacred Heart Parish Hall  
in Rockne**



**SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR**

**PROGRAM, REGISTRATION FORM, & LODGINGS**



# PROGRAM FOR SATURDAY

## TEXAS GERMAN CONVENTION

March 11-12, 2005

Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Rockne, Texas

### Fri., March 11

7:00 p.m. Reception - Food, Drinks, Entertainment, Tours - German Free School,  
507 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas

### Sat., March 12

Doors will open about 8:00 a.m.

8:00-9:30 a.m. Registration, coffee, and pastry, browse through exhibits and vendors' booths,  
buy raffle tickets, bid on silent auction items

9:30 a.m. Introductions

9:45 a.m. Rev. Bernard C. Goertz—History of Rockne

10:30 a.m. Donald Goertz, Ph.D. - Comparison of German and English, i.e.,  
"Unmasking the German in English or A Rose is a Rose and a Haus is a  
House but beware of a Gift-giving German"

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. GTHS and TGS business meetings held back to back

12:30 p.m. Lunch.

1:45 p.m. Choral music entertainment - New Braunfels Harmonie Gemischterchor

2:15 p.m. Matthias Loebe, M.D. - German Influence on American Medicine  
With Emphasis on Early Texas Physicians

3:00-3:25 p.m. Meredith McClain, Ph.D. - Plan for creating a Center for German  
Studies in Quedlinburg, Germany, starting Fall 2005 under the auspices  
Texas Tech, Texas A&M, and UT-Austin.

3:30 p.m. Announcements - Raffle winners, silent auction buyers, etc.

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

## AREA LODGINGS

### AUSTIN

Amerisuites, 7601 East Ben White Blvd., 512/386-7600  
Comfort Suites Airport, 7501 East Ben White Blvd., 512/386-6001  
Hampton Inn, 7712 East Riverside Dr. (off East Ben White Blvd.), 512/389-1616  
Hilton Hotel Airport, 9515 New Airport Dr., 512/385-6767  
La Quinta Airport, 7625 East Ben White Dr., 512/386-6800  
Best Western Seville Plaza Inn, I 35 at Ben White, 412/447-5511  
Clarion Inn, I 35 at Oltorf Blvd., 512/444-0561  
Courtyard by Marriott Austin South, I 35 at Ben White, 512/912-1122  
Fairfield Inn South, I 35 at Ben White, 512/707-8899  
Hampton Inn South, I 35 at Exit 230, 512/442-4040  
Hawthorn Suites South, I 35 at Woodward Dr., 512/440-7722  
La Quinta Inn, I 35 at Ben White, 512/443-1774  
La Quinta Inn, I 35 at Oltorf Blvd, 512/447-6661

### BASTROP

Bastrop Inn Motel, 102 Childers Drive, 512/321-3949, 800/617-8432  
Best Western Inn of the Pines, 3110 Highway 71 East, 512/321-6000  
Comfort Inn, 106 Hasler Blvd. (off Highway 71), 512/321-3303  
Days Inn, 4102 Highway 71 East, 512/321-1157  
Holiday Inn Express, 491 Agnes Street, 512/321-1900  
Tropicana Motel, 103 Highway 71 West, 512/321-2526

### GIDDINGS

Ramada Limited, 4002 East Austin (on Highway 290), 979/542-9666  
Super 8 Motel, 3556 East Austin (on Highway 290), 979/542-5791

### LOCKHART

Best Western Plum Creek Inn, Highway 181 South, 512/398-4911

### SAN MARCOS

Amerihost Inn and Suites, Interstate Highway 35 , 512/392-6800  
Best Western San Marcos, Interstate Highway 35, 512/754-7557  
Comfort Inn, Interstate Highway 35 , 512/396-5665  
Days Inn, Interstate Highway 35, 512/353-5050  
Econo Lodge, Interstate Highway 35, 512/353-5300  
Holiday Inn Express, Interstate Highway 35, 512/574-6621  
La Quinta Inn, Interstate Highway 35, 512/392—8800  
Quality Inn, Interstate Highway 35, 512/353-7770  
Ramada Limited, Interstate Highway 35, 512/395-8000  
Red Roof Inn, Interstate Highway 35, 512/754-8899  
San Marcos Microtel Inn, Interstate Highway 35, 512/ 754-7766

### SEGUIN

Best Western of Seguin, Interstate Highway 10, 830/379-9631  
Comfort Inn, North State Road 123, 830/372-3990  
Holiday Inn, North State Road 123, 830/372-0860  
Super 8 Motel, North Highway 46, 830/379-6888

REGISTRATION FORM  
TEXAS GERMAN CONVENTION  
MARCH 11-12, 2005

*Remove this page from  
the journal and return  
it to GTHS at PO Box  
684171, Austin, TX  
78768-4171*

Please print or write legibly; your nametag will be made from this information. Make copies of this sheet for additional registrants. Membership in TGS or GTHS is not a prerequisite for registration.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER OF TGS \_\_\_\_\_ WHICH CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER OF GTHS \_\_\_\_\_

Several levels of registration are available. Please read carefully, select the level desired, and indicate the fee amount in the blank. To avoid late fees, this form and all registration fees must be post marked not later than March 2, 2005. Please mail early and allow for postal delays and be aware that food cannot be guaranteed with late registration. Make your check payable to Texas German Convention, and return it and this form to German-Texan Heritage Society, P.O. Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171. For further information, call toll free 1-866-482-4847.

\_\_\_\_\_ Full registration--\$20. Increases to \$25 after March 3. Includes Friday evening activities and snacks at the German Free School in Austin, all activities on Saturday in Rockne, and the noon meal on Saturday.

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration for Friday evening activities and snacks only--\$5. Increases to \$7 after March 3.

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration for Saturday activities and the noon meal only--\$15. Increases to \$18 after March 3.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student registration for students under 22 years of age enrolled in an accredited public school, trade school, or university. Full registration--\$10. For Friday evening activities only and snacks--\$5. For Saturday activities only and the noon meal--\$8. For late registration after March 3, add \$2.

**REMOVE THIS PAGE AND RETURN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION**

**COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE  
AND RETURN IT TO GTHS, PO BOX 684171, AUSTIN, TX 78768-4171**

## President's Notes

Dear Members and Friends,

Approximately 156 persons interested in preserving German-Texan heritage met in Round Top on September 17-18 for the GTHS 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. It was a time for rekindling old acquaintances, forging new friendships and, most importantly, reflecting on our heritage. Teddy Boehm, Vice-President and Chair of the Activities Committee, is to be commended for putting together a superb program of speakers and entertainment.

If you missed this year's annual meeting, you will have a second chance next spring. Your board of directors, meeting twice with the executive board of the Texas German Society, has agreed to co-host the Texas German Convention on March 11-12, 2005, in Rockne, a few miles south of Bastrop. See more detailed information on this joint effort elsewhere in this issue of *The Journal*.

Some of you are probably aware that I am an unabashed proponent of having our two state-wide German heritage organizations work together closely as we both seek to fulfill our identical missions of preserving German-Texan heritage. Coming together for an annual meeting is one way of attaining that goal.

There is no doubt that GTHS and TGS have taken slightly different approaches in seeking to preserve our heritage. One approach is not necessarily better than the other; both are good. Declining membership in both organizations, fewer members attending annual meetings and conventions, an overall slump in monetary donations, and a general lack of interest in preserving German heritage, especially among the younger generation, have brought an increasing awareness to the officers of both organizations that we must strive together to protect our heritage, and indeed our very organizations, from extinction. It is time to set aside our petty differences and focus on compromise and our similarities.

By the time you read this, your board of directors will have had its last quarterly meeting of the year. Due to problems in the operational budget, caused mainly by the four items mentioned in the previous paragraph, we will have to trim expenses and, most likely, some services. Rest assured that we will make every effort to retain the most significant services.

As always, members of the board invite your suggestions and ideas. To contact me or a board member in your area, please see the board listing on the inside of the front cover.

Cordially,



Van D. Massirer  
President

## ED Report for Winter Journal

Guten Tag Y'All!

What does it mean when we say that the German-Texan Heritage Society (GTHS) promotes and preserves the German cultural heritage of Texas?

It means that we (GTHS) publish books on German-Texan history; that we provide German language classes for children and adults; and that we host German cultural events (Maifest, Weihnachten and German-American Day celebrations, monthly German Games Night, even Stammtisch is a cultural event). It also means that we go out into the community and give presentations on who we are and what we do; that we give talks to corporations during their cultural diversity training on what role Germans played in our shared Texas history; and it means that we take every opportunity we can to make the public aware of our Society and our mission.

Did you notice my consistent use of the word "we"? "We" is a critical component to the survival of any organization or society, and we are no different. Unfortunately, "we" is becoming an endangered species within the German-Texan Heritage Society.

In order for this Society to remain strong and true, we have to do more than just pay our membership dues. Unless, of course, our goal is to do nothing more than publish a *Journal* three or four times a year.

Working in the historic German Free School provides me a daily reminder of how this building came to exist. Did you know that it was built by hand by German immigrant VOLUNTEERS, who gave up each Saturday for a year to construct the first charter school in Austin? That this building is still useable 147 years later is a testament to the care those volunteers took when constructing it. Today it's difficult to find volunteers dedicated enough to come by once a month to perform basic maintenance on the building. This makes me very sad.

The German-Texan Heritage Society can be so much more, but not without the support of its members. We should be giving presentations in all of our communities about our local and shared heritage. We should be more involved in the preservation of historic German-Texan sites. And above all, we should be more involved with the youth in our communities to encourage them to learn the language of their ancestors and to encourage their desire to learn more about who they are and from where they came.

As it stands today, GTHS is not able to realize its full potential because only a very small handful of its members (approximately 1%) are actively involved in their Society's mission.

As we come to the close of another year, let's remember what's important to us and do all we can to leave our German mark.

Alles Gute!

julia

## Treasurer's Report To GTHS October 15, 2004

There are several comparisons to make on the 2004 Cash Flow spreadsheet that can be seen on the next pages. This spreadsheet details all of the monies received and all of the expenditures by month in the budgeted categories.

The left hand column shows the Board of Directors best estimate of the income and expenditures for the year 2004. The right hand columns show the totals so far this year, and the percentage of the budget.

The Operational Fund was budgeted at \$10,000 for 2004 compared to \$18,000 for 2003. This lowering of expectations from 2003 was because the board felt that donations would be lower. They were. For this lower expectation on the income side, the Board of Directors voted (very reluctantly) to accept a deficit budget for 2004.

The 2003 campaign resulted in the receipt of \$15,085 from 210 separate donors. This was an average donation of \$71.83 per donor.

Through September, the 2004 campaign has resulted in the receipt of \$8940 from 117 donors. This was an average of \$76.41 per donor. So you can see that the average donation was nearly the same as last year.

The major difference is that there were 93 fewer donors so far in 2004. ( $210 - 117 = 93$ )

Another major shortfall is in the sponsorship of the GTHS Journal. The Board of Directors budgeted for 2 corporate sponsorships at \$4,000 each, for a total of \$8,000. To date we have not received any.

The current membership statistics are that the GTHS has 892 addresses where 1105 individuals live. The German Free School Guild membership is 283 addresses and 366 individuals. Keep in mind that all of the German Free School Guild members are members of the GTHS first.

As I see it there are two things we need to do to improve our Operational money problems. First, we need to have more members. Second, we need to ask our current members to continue to contribute to the Operational Fund.

Please note well: The GTHS is financially secure for a few more years. We have a fairly large cash reserve in our investments. But this money is dedicated, and should not be used except in emergencies.

As Treasurer, I welcome you comments.

Wing Evans

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Wir sprechen auch Deutsch

SEE  
NEXT  
TWO  
PAGES

<b>German Texas Heritage Society</b>							
<b>2004 Cash Flow</b>							
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>
		2004					
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Dues		\$32,500.00	\$ 4,155.00	\$ 1,375.00	\$ 1,055.00	\$ 890.00	\$ 1,710.00
Corporate Membership		\$10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Meeting		\$4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operational Fund		\$10,000.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 25.00
Maifest		\$4,200.00	\$ -	\$ 46.90	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,796.00	\$ 162.95
Maifest Raffle		\$3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,915.00	\$ 1,732.54	\$ -
<b>OTHER FUND RAISING</b>		\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Market		\$6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investment Income		\$1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 253.92	\$ 0.79	\$ -	\$ 179.08
Misc. Gifts - Memorial		\$5,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 285.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
German Classes		\$5,000.00	\$ 1,505.00	\$ 441.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Book sales & Royalties		\$4,000.00	\$ 3.60	\$ 252.56	\$ 392.19	\$ 248.40	\$ 22.94
Miscellaneous		\$1,000.00	\$ 219.60	\$ 120.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 739.26	\$ 40.81
Rent		\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00
<b>FROM INVESTMENTS</b>		\$16,230.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00
<b>Total</b>		\$94,940.00	\$ 6,263.20	\$ 2,915.53	\$ 5,017.98	\$ 5,571.20	\$ 11,390.78
<b>Specific contributions &amp; Grants</b>							
<b>Grants</b>		\$20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants for Library		\$5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grants for Journal		\$8,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Advertising in Journal		\$2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other		\$10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		\$35,010.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		\$129,950.00	\$6,263.20	\$2,915.53	\$5,017.98	\$5,571.20	\$11,390.78
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Administration Staff		\$44,000.00	\$ 4,940.26	\$ 2,436.73	\$ 2,524.49	\$ 4,708.18	\$ 2,450.39
Other Administration		\$5,000.00	\$ 117.86	\$ 137.93	\$ 489.35	\$ 668.15	\$ 186.04
Supplies & Equipment		\$2,500.00	\$ 258.24	\$ 206.71	\$ 528.72	\$ 537.29	\$ 195.63
Postage		\$4,000.00	\$ 234.79	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 60.40	\$ 101.30	\$ 533.46
Telephone & Internet		\$2,000.00	\$ 285.52	\$ 53.49	\$ 53.49	\$ 293.75	\$ -
Utilities		\$3,000.00	\$ 312.44	\$ 260.11	\$ 314.23	\$ 207.45	\$ 26.67
Insurance		\$4,500.00	\$ 1,699.55	\$ 230.25	\$ 230.25	\$ 230.35	\$ 230.25
Building Maint. & Repair		\$20,000.00	\$ 604.00	\$ 2,067.00	\$ 117.00	\$ 117.00	\$ 204.09
Yard Maintenance		\$2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 320.80	\$ 421.75	\$ 578.25	\$ 176.25
Journal		\$20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 3,655.25	\$ 1,218.42	\$ -
Other Publications		\$500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional services		\$500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bank Fees		\$750.00	\$ -	\$ 35.40	\$ 63.46	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Raising		\$2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Maifest Costs		\$1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 466.69	\$ 756.95	\$ 528.85
Christmas Market costs		\$3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
German Classes		\$1,000.00	\$ 131.82	\$ 20.56	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.96	\$ -
Library expenses		\$200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23.90	\$ 203.73	\$ 17.00
Annual Meeting		\$3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach/Comm. Involv.		\$3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 370.00
Miscellaneous		\$2,000.00	\$ 256.97	\$ -	\$ 172.00	\$ 117.00	\$ -
Library Digital (Grants)		\$5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPEND.</b>		\$129,950.00	\$8,841.45	\$7,538.98	\$10,040.98	\$10,538.78	\$4,918.63
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		\$129,950.00	\$6,263.20	\$2,915.53	\$5,017.98	\$5,571.20	\$11,390.78
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>			(\$2,578.25)	(\$4,623.45)	(\$5,023.00)	(\$4,967.58)	\$6,472.15
<b>Checkbook Balance</b>			\$17,194.36	\$12,570.91	\$7,497.69	\$2,182.85	\$8,651.28



								<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>to Date</b>	<b>10/14/2004</b>	<b>Budget</b>
\$ 535.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 285.00				\$ 10,645.00		32.8
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ 70.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 1,858.00	\$ 3,332.51				\$ 5,365.51		134.1
\$ 5,900.00	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 150.00				\$ 10,365.00		103.7
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ 2,505.85		59.7
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ 3,647.54		104.2
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 647.90				\$ 647.90		10.8
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183.07	\$ -				\$ 616.86		41.1
\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 595.00	\$ -				\$ 1,005.55		20.1
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.00	\$ 1,596.45				\$ 3,958.05		79.2
\$ 166.10	\$ 403.18	\$ 83.00	\$ 174.06				\$ 1,746.03		43.7
\$ 476.73	\$ 192.04	\$ 297.17	\$ 1,353.96				\$ 3,444.57		344.5
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ 250.00		25.0
\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00				\$ 21,000.00		129.4
\$ 7,147.83	\$ 10,730.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 49,036.74		51.7
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		0.0
\$ 7,147.83	\$ 10,730.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 49,036.74		
\$ 2,379.94	\$ 4,734.81	\$ 2,579.37	\$ 2,642.32				\$ 29,396.49		66.8
\$ 69.95	\$ 69.00	\$ 229.76	\$ -				\$ 1,968.04		39.4
\$ 473.24	\$ 30.66	\$ 786.85	\$ 474.56				\$ 3,491.90		139.7
\$ 607.93	\$ 6.62	\$ 972.64	\$ -				\$ 3,887.14		97.2
\$ 368.17	\$ 143.25	\$ 151.35	\$ 319.80				\$ 1,668.82		83.4
\$ 602.45	\$ 376.16	\$ 393.48	\$ 378.96				\$ 2,871.95		95.7
\$ 230.35	\$ 230.25	\$ 230.25	\$ 230.25				\$ 3,541.75		78.7
\$ 363.38	\$ 140.00	\$ 613.67	\$ 118.06				\$ 4,344.20		21.7
\$ 195.00	\$ 464.95	\$ 226.50	\$ 239.75				\$ 2,623.25		104.9
\$ 4,477.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ 9,751.21		48.8
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ 21.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ 120.82		16.1
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ 240.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ 1,992.80		199.3
\$ -	\$ 7,244.82	\$ -	\$ 381.00				\$ 7,625.82		217.9
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.35				\$ 1,761.69		176.2
\$ 54.00	\$ 23.95	\$ 32.03	\$ -				\$ 354.61		177.3
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76.00	\$ 2,122.70				\$ 2,198.70		73.3
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113.26	\$ 157.00				\$ 760.26		25.3
\$ 59.34	\$ 93.00	\$ -	\$ 216.11				\$ 914.42		45.7
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		0.0
\$ 10,143.56	\$ 13,557.47	\$ 6,405.16	\$ 7,288.86	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 79,273.87		61.0
\$ 7,147.83	\$ 10,730.22	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 49,036.74		
(\$ 2,995.73)	(\$ 2,827.25)	(\$ 6,405.16)	(\$ 7,288.86)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	(\$ 30,237.13)		
5655.65	2912.27								

**EDITOR'S PAGE**

**TIME TO PAY GTHS DUES FOR 2005**

With January 1<sup>st</sup> almost here, this is a reminder to pay your dues for 2005. Your renewal form is the last page in this issue of the Journal. Tear that page out and mail it in. Thanks!

**THANKS TO GERMANIA INSURANCE ONCE AGAIN !**

Executive Director Julia Germany recently announced that Germania Insurance has offered a generous financial gift to GTHS for publication of this Winter issue of the Journal. Germania has been a financial backer of the Journal for many years. GTHS owes a great deal of gratitude to Germania for its long-time and continuing financial support! Thank you, Germania.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY EL-BEHARI**

Mary El-Behari, a GTHS founder, has been honored by the American Association of Teachers of German by her selection in August as the Outstanding German Educator in the United States for 2004. You will find the AATG's news release with more details on page 323 in this issue of the Journal. Congratulations, Mary!

**THANKS TO SPONSORS OF THE 2004 GTHS ANNUAL MEETING AT ROUND TOP**

Our appreciation goes to the following business firms who were sponsors of the Annual Meeting at Round Top in September: Antique Rose Emporium, Blue Bell Creameries, Heritage Texas Country Properties, Industry State Bank, Siegi Keimling, Leyco Real Estate, Round Top Chamber of Commerce, Round Top Real Estate and Round Top State Bank. Thanks to all these for their backing.

**FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE 2004 ANNUAL MEETING**

Executive Director Julia Germany recently reported 156 registrants attended the 2004 Annual Meeting held at Round Top in September. After expenses, the society netted \$2,606. In addition, the sale of gift items totaled \$1,689.13 (sale tax included).

**DO YOU NEED A GERMAN TRANSLATOR?**

Several GTHS members have asked how to find someone fluent in German offering translation services. If you need a translator, Dr. Eve Duffy, a San Antonio university professor, can translate German to English or English to German, and reads the old German script. You can reach her by e-mail at [eduffy@trinity.edu](mailto:eduffy@trinity.edu) Susan Guenther, an American living in Germany, also offers translations into or from High German. She has a web site at [www.sg-transconsult.de](http://www.sg-transconsult.de) and her e-mail address is [sguenther@sgtransconsult.de](mailto:sguenther@sgtransconsult.de) Both translators charge by the length of the document for their services.

**NEW CHAIRS AT THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL**

GTHS now has eighteen new folding chairs used for meetings in the German Free School at Austin. These recently were purchased with cash donations made by six GTHS members: James Feuge of Fredericksburg, Teddy Boehm of Brenham, Dr. R.A. Neely of Bellville, and Wing Evans, Hubert Heinen and Chuck Kalteyer, all three of Austin. Thanks to the six of you!

## EDITOR'S PAGE

### **THE NEW BRAUNFELS SCHUETZEN VEREIN**

The New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein is one of the oldest still-active German shooting clubs in Texas. If you would like information about the club or a schedule of its shooting matches, call Bill Wimberley at (830) 625-8883. This year's officers are listed on page 314 in this issue of the Journal.

### **2005 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2005 Annual Meeting will be Saturday, March 12 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Rockne, with a reception and social on Friday night at the German Free School in Austin. The meeting at Rockne is billed as The German Convention because the GTHS and Texas German Society will co-host the event. The program and registration form are on pages 288-292 in this issue of the Journal.

### **GERMAN CONSULATE GENERAL**

The address for the German Consul in Texas, Gerhard Schroeder, is 1330 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1850, Houston, TX 77056. The phone is (713)627-7770. The web site is [www.germany-info.org](http://www.germany-info.org) and e-mail is [info@germanconsulatehouston.org](mailto:info@germanconsulatehouston.org)

### **GERMAN HERITAGE TOURS**

The German Heritage Foundation of Fredericksburg is sponsoring a tour of Germany, May 30 to June 12, 2005. See page 320 in this issue of the Journal for details about the tour. And see page 318 for details about a tour for descendants of immigrants from Wittgenstein to celebrate the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Erndtbrueck.

### **THE FROEHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN Y'ALL MARKET**

The annual Christmas Market at the German Free School in Austin is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Street parking is free on Saturday --- no parking meters to pay. The German Free School is located in Austin at 507 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, two blocks west of Interstate Highway 35.

### **NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Matt Tippens of Lubbock was elected to the GTHS Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting held at Round Top in September. He was elected to complete the unexpired term of Meredith McClain, also of Lubbock, who resigned from the Board. Matt's term will expire at the end of 2005.

### **VOLUNTEERS AT THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL IN AUSTIN**

Executive Director Julia German compiled a report on volunteers at the GFS in Austin. Based on 2-hours of credit for each time an individual signed in, the total volunteer hours were 1,933, and the greatest number of individual volunteer hours last year were accumulated by Muriel Vaughn 270, Wing Evans 154, Barbara Evans 152, Annette Stachowitz 139, Rolf Stachowitz 137, Helga von Schweinitz 123, Christine Mills 85, Margaret Hitzfeld 64, Chuck Kalteyer and Hubert Heinen 54 each, and Gerri West 51.

### **DECLINE IN GTHS MEMBERSHIP**

According to the Executive Director, GTHS membership has declined since last year by 166 members. Memberships in 2003 totaled 1,058 and in 2004 were 892. The loss of 166 members represents a loss of more than \$4,000 in dues (166 x \$25 = \$4,150).

## A CALL FOR HISTORICAL MEMORABILIA

From Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, Member, German Free School Board of Directors

**Do you have access to early school and/or German-Texan memorabilia, which could be exhibited at the German Free School?**

**Visitors have inquired as to displays representing the 1850s - 1880s school furnishings such as desks, benches, slates, etc., as well as German-Texan heirlooms, banners, brick-a-brack, photos, posters or beer steins that would give the feeling of early German influence to our historic headquarters.**

**If you have, or might have, access to selected items of this nature that could be loaned or donated to the Society on a permanent or rotating basis for exhibition in the German Free School building, please contact the office. The GTHS Board of Directors will make the final decision on which items to accept/display.**

**Many thanks in advance!**

### 2004 ANNUAL MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT (compiled by Executive Director Julia Germany)

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>INCOME</b>	\$5,512.00
Registration	\$5,032.00	Friday reception	\$340.00	<b>EXPENSES</b>	-\$2,909.94
Vendor tables	45.00	Saturday lunch	843.75	<b>NET</b>	\$2,602.06
Raffle	215.00	Hall rental	350.00		
Sponsors	220.00	Admissions for tours	400.00		
		Refreshments	139.15		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,512.00</b>	Supplies	256.18		
		Mailing	262.57		
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,512.00</b>	Programs	66.92		
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,909.94</b>	Exec Dir expenses	251.37		
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>2,602.06</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,909.94</b>		

**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 18, 2004  
(unapproved)**

The business meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society membership was called to order at 1:15 p.m., September 18, 2004, at Round Top, Texas, with Van Massirer, President, presiding.

Terry Smart, Secretary, read minutes of the society's 2003 business meeting which previously had been published in the GTHS Journal. The 2003 minutes were approved without additions or corrections.

President Massirer announced there was no treasurer's report due to the absence of the Treasurer, Ewing Evans. Evan's report will be published in the next issue of the GTHS Journal.

Charles Kalteyer, member of the Advisory Board, presented a report on the current operational Fund Drive. Contributions have been received from 112 donors and total \$8,455 compared to contributions in 2003 from 210 donors totaling \$15,085.

Hubert Heinen, President of the German Free School Guild, presented a report on the guild's current activities.

Janice Thompson, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented nominees for election to positions on the Board of Directors. These were:

Glen Treibs of Fredericksburg (for reelection to Position #7))  
Jean Heide of San Antonio (for election to Position #8)  
Terry Smart of San Antonio (for reelection to Position #9)  
Matt Tippens of Lubbock (to complete the term of Meredith McClain  
of Lubbock, who resigned from Position #16)

There were no nominations from the floor. The four nominees were elected.

President Massirer presented the 2004 Ehrenstern Award to four GTHS members selected by the Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding services and contributions to the society. They were:

Miriam (Mimi) Parris  
The Rev. Robert Pfennig  
Annette Stachowitz  
Philip (Phil) Lawrence Sterzing

President Massirer recognized all the previous recipients of the Ehrenstern Award who were present at the meeting.

Theresa Gold of San Antonio presented a report on a recent museum exhibition in Bavaria that included Bavarian emigration to Texas.

Theresa Gold presented a wreath to the GTHS in memory of Thomas Pawel of San Antonio.

Connie Krause of New Braunfels presented a report on plans for the annual Christmas Market to be held December 4, 2004, at the German Free School in Austin from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

President Massirer introduced the President of the Texas German Society, Andy Blaschke, who invited all GTHS members to attend a joint meeting of the two societies planned for March 12, 2005, at Rockne. President Massirer also encouraged members to attend.

President Massirer expressed thanks to Teddy Boehm of Brenham for planning and organizing the 2004 Annual Meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Terry Smart, Secretary



# German-Texan Heritage Society

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## MINUTES for 08 May 2004 GTHS Board of Directors Meeting (unapproved)

The 08 May 2004 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin by president Van Massirer. Board members present included Ben Buecker, Wing Evans, James Feuge, Hubert Heinen, Dan Schoppe, Annette Stachowitz, Janice Thompson, Glen Treibs, Henry Wolff Jr.; Executive Director: Julia Germany. Board members absent included Teddy Boehm, Ingrid Brock, Connie Krause, Carolyn Meiners and Terry Smart.

### APPROVAL OF ANNETTE STACHOWITZ & HENRY WOLFF JR FOR BOD POSITIONS – Van Massirer

W. Evans moved that Annette Stachowitz be approved for GTHS BOD Position # 13 (Guild Rep.), and that Henry Wolff Jr. be approved for GTHS BOD Position # 4 (Term: 2004-2007). H. Heinen seconded the motion. Motion approved

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 21 February 2004 BOD MEETING

H. Heinen moved that the 21 February 2004 BOD Meeting Minutes be approved with the following three corrections. W. Evans seconded the motion. Motion approved

**Old Business, first item – Correct text to read:** J. Germany reported that the Executive Director has obtained two of the three requested bids for interior restoration of German Free School. Third bid will arrive week following the 08 May GTHS BOD meeting.

**Old Business, Rental of GFS – Correction to second motion:** Remove the "t" in "least" and replace with "e" – Should read: H. Heinen moved...for preparing a lease....

**New Business, first item – Add text in bold:** T. Smart moved that the Executive Director be authorized to purchase a TV and DVD/VCR player for the German Free School **spending no more than \$600 and** using funds donated to GTHS exclusively for that purpose....

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

J. Germany, Executive Director, presented a six-page written report to the Board of Directors, with the following items discussed in detail: (1) Dues Reminder Postcard mailing to 2003 members to be mailed week of 10 May (total of 385 postcards); (2) 33% of current GTHS members also belong to the Guild; (3) Received BOD-requested printer bid from C Krause's *Footsteps* printer – CopyMax bid is not better than current printer, though we did give our envelope printing business to CopyMax; (4) New energy-efficient, programmable thermostat installed at GFS; (5) ED now member of local chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals and has attended their "Funder's Forum" workshop; (6) ED's previously announced vacation in April was postponed - no vacation days used to date; (7) purchased the TV and DVD/VCR approved by BOD at February 2004 meeting, spending \$499.61, including custom-made cart by W. Evans.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

W. Evans, Treasurer, presented (2) two-paged spreadsheets outlining GTHS Cash Flow and Investment Account balances, plus a one-page letter from GTHS Morgan Stanley Account Rep Mark Fulton in which he outlines recommendations to improve the yield on our invested monies.

H. Heinen moved that GTHS approve the recommendations presented by the Morgan Stanley Broker as presented in his 22 April 2004 letter to W. Evans. B. Buecker seconded the motion.  
Motion approved

H. Heinen then moved that GTHS give permission to W. Evans to investigate and possibly act on the possibility of moving funds as recommended by the Broker so long as it doesn't involve more than 10% of the total investment, or \$30,000. B. Buecker seconded the motion.  
Motion approved

Additional discussion included consideration of opening a separate account specifically for Anita Killen's gift, noting that the principle cannot be spent until all other resources have been exhausted. Also noted that we need to be concerned about the future protection of all our invested money and be concerned about the future of the Society if we continue to borrow from the invested money to cover operating expenses. W. Evans noted that the 2004 Operational Fund Drive would begin in June.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Committee** – V. Massirer, Chair, noted there is nothing new to report.

**Membership Committee** – J. Thompson, Chair, reported that the following positions would expire at the end of this year: # 7, # 8, # 9, and # 15. Glen Treibs is eligible for two additional four-year terms in Position # 7 since he was filling a vacated seat. Ben Buecker and Ingrid Brock (Positions # 8 and # 15) are not eligible for re-election, having served two consecutive terms. Terry Smart is eligible for one more four-year term for Position # 9. Thompson noted that the next *Journal* should include an announcement about the upcoming openings on the Board, requesting nominations for the vacant positions. Henry Wolff Jr. agreed to serve on Membership Committee.

**Activities Committee** – V. Massirer read a one-page report sent by T. Boehm, Chair, in which Chair asked if the following board members would agree to serve on Activities Committee: Hubert Heinen, Caroline Meiners and Annette Stachowitz; all agreed. Chair noted that she was asked by President to pursue a meeting with Dorothy Leyendecker of the Texas German Society to discuss the possibility of a joint GTHS-TGS annual meeting in 2005.

H. Heinen moved that GTHS pursue a joint meeting with the Texas German Society to be held in Spring 2005, with a Friday night mixer at the German Free School and a one-day program in a nearby German-Texan community. B. Buecker seconded the motion. One opposed. Motion approved

V. Massirer noted that other portions of the Activities Committee written report would be given during Old/New Business.

**Old German Free School Committee** – V. Massirer read a report sent by Committee Chair T. Boehm in which Chair noted that we need to finalize our lease agreement for the GFS as presented by R. Koenig. Chair recommends that further consideration be given to #13 and #14 of that agreement, preferring that the agreement be less specific on maximum capacity and the time that premises must be vacated. H. Heinen will follow-up with R. Koenig on these and other liability issues and give report at next Board of Directors meeting in August.

**Budget and Finance Committee** – Wing Evans, Chair, noted that this report was included with the Treasurer's Report.

### GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD REPORT

H. Heinen, Chair, reported that the Maifest was a financial success in spite of the threat of bad weather. Total Income = \$6,673.68. Total Expenses = \$2,563.56. Net Income = \$4,110.12. Wax statue of John O. Meuebach unveiled at Maifest; wax figure will remain indefinitely at the German Free School. Spring Speaker Series a success. Educational programs a success. Will offer Deutsche Samstagsschule, adult German language classes and Speaker Series in fall 2004.

### OLD BUSINESS

**GTHS Kochbuch** – J. Germany introduced Linda Wolff, Executive Director of the Texas Settlement Region. L. Wolff distributed a one-page report explaining the benefits, terms and timelines of using Morris Cookbook Publishing to produce two successful cookbooks (total of 2500 copies) for TSR. J. Germany noted that in T. Boehm's written Activities Committee report, the Chair is opposed to the Kochbuch project at this time due to the financial burden of producing the cookbooks and the slow recovery of these expenses.

W. Evans moved that GTHS proceed with the Kochbuch project by soliciting and collecting potential recipes from our members, while not committing to a publisher or deadlines at this time. D. Schoppe seconded the motion. *Motion approved*

L. Wolff will provide an announcement for the Fall 2004 issue of the *Journal*, which will include a recipe form blank. L. Wolff will make a small presentation about the Kochbuch project at the 2004 Annual Meeting in Round Top and distribute recipe form blanks.

**Vendor's Booth at the Fredericksburg Christmas Market** – J. Feuge reported that GTHS would not have a booth at the Fredericksburg Christmas market because at least 75% of the goods sold must be handcrafted by the vendor, thus eliminating GTHS. Booth cost \$200.

**Bids for Interior Painting and Repairs** – J. Germany presented three bids. The Board requested that ED have first two bidders provide revised bids including items in bid #3.

W. Evans moved that ED choose highest of three bids and write grant to Houston Endowment. H. Heinen seconded the motion. *Motion approved*

**Painting of the Repaired Area on the Garage Ceiling** – V. Massirer read a report sent by Old German Free School Committee Chair T. Boehm in which Chair noted that repairs to garage roof have been completed and that for approximately \$65 (labor and supplies) gardener will paint new sections of the garage decking (ceiling).



W. Evans moved that the Board approve purchasing the supplies necessary to paint new garage ceiling decking and that the Board approve paying M. Charles to do the painting. H. Heinen seconded the motion. *Motion approved*

**Rental Rates for the GFS** – V. Massirer referred to the rates that were proposed at the February 2003 BOD meeting and asked for approval.

W. Evans moved that the proposed rental rates be used as a rule of thumb with final determination to be made by ED. A. Stachowitz seconded the motion. *Motion approved*

**Approval of the ED's Job Description** – *Approved*

**Update on Grant Writing** – ED reported meeting with senior advisor from the Houston Endowment (HE) and discussing possibility that HE would fund additional grant to complete interior restoration project. Advisor encouraged GTHS to submit new grant.

**Special One-Issue Sponsorship Rates for the Fall Journal** – W. Evans presented one-page sponsor rate sheet for GTHS *Journal*. Board decided against special rates and agreed to use rates approved in 2003 for all issues.

**Reimbursement of Money Borrowed from Investments** – W. Evans noted there is nothing new to report at this time.

**Verein Development** – V. Massirer read a report sent by Committee Chair T. Boehm in which Chair noted that there is nothing new to report at this time on Verein development.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Consideration of Offer to Purchase Parking Lot** – J. Germany presented proposal by Steve Soward to purchase GTHS parking lot (505 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street); offering \$250,000 for the property and providing GTHS 20 parking spaces in parking garage that will be built on this property.

W. Evans moved that GTHS reject this offer. G. Treibs seconded the motion. *Motion approved*

**Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee to Study and Make Recommendations for Future Use of the Unused Portion of the Lot** – *Item tabled. Discuss at retreat.*

**Appointment/Reappointment of Standing Committees** – *Covered by Membership Committee.*

**Review Mileage Reimbursement Rate** – V. Massirer noted that over one year ago ED accepted reduced mileage reimbursement rate of 26 cents/mile, and that ED has not had a pay raise since accepting position over three years ago, and that with the increased cost of gasoline, Board should offer ED current GSA rate of 37.5 cents/mile.

W. Evans moved to increase ED's reimbursable mileage rate to 37.5 cents/mile. A. Stachowitz seconded motion. *Motion approved*

**Maifest Wrap-up and Financial Report** – H. Heinen provided this report as part of the German Free School Guild report.

**Nominees for the Ehrenstern Award** – J. Germany presented the six nominees (and those who nominated them).

J. Feuge moved that the Board approve four of six nominees: Mimi Parris (H-B. Moeller); Rev. Robert Pfennig (H. Charles Eckert); Annette Stachowitz (Helga von Schweinitz); and Philip Lawrence Sterzing (Charles F. Kalteyer). *Motion approved*

**GTHS Annual Meeting Update** – V. Massirer read a report sent by T. Boehm, Chair, in which Chair outlined the schedule of events and fees for Fri evening and Saturday. Chair requests Board approval to charge \$15 each for vendor tables. Also suggests having a wine/cheese-type reception at home of Paul and Toddy Schenck on Saturday evening. *All approved*

**GTHS/TGS Joint Annual Meeting** – V. Massirer read a report sent by T. Boehm, Chair, in which Chair noted that she has spoken with both Joycine Hannath and Flora von Roeder of TGS about a possible GTHS/TGS joint 2005 annual meeting in the Manor/Georgetown area and both were receptive. Chair invited Dorothy Leyendecker, past president of TGS, to join **2004 Activities Committee**

**GTHS Sponsorship of Meusebach Sculpture** – J. Germany reported on unveiling of Meusebach statue during Maifest, and how pleased Dr. Jenny Lind Porter is with the likeness. G. Treibs expressed gratitude from the Meusebach descendants for the GTHS effort to preserve Meusebach's German-Texan legacy.

**Display of Old School Items at the GFS** – C. Kalteyer (AB member) would like to solicit select historical memorabilia that reflects early school and German-Texan heritage to be displayed in the German Free School. Board gave C. Kalteyer approval to place a letter in next issue of the *Journal* in which he outlines appropriate items and asks members to assist in acquiring these items for the German Free School.

**Handrail for Main Stairs of GFS** – J. Thompson would like an OSHA-approved hand railing placed down the middle of the main stairwell leading to main level of German Free School. W. Evans and Charles Thompson, Architect, will further investigate possible solutions and present results at August BOD meeting.

**Possibilities for a Second Retreat** – V. Massirer outlined reasons for holding a retreat in Fredericksburg in July for the GTHS board of directors and advisory board members. Suggested that "retreat" be called "workshop." W. Evans will explore possibility of holding workshop in historic Fredericksburg home of GTHS member Karen Haschke.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Board accepted resignation of *Journal* Book Review Editor, Charles Patrick, and unanimously approved his suggested replacement, GTHS Member Ron Hunka.

## ADJOURN

W. Evans moved that the meeting adjourn. H. Wolff seconded the motion. *Motion approved*  
Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted 07 June 2004 by Julia G. Germany

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2004 MEETING**  
**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
*(UNAPPROVED)*

The August 14, 2004 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin by President Van Massirer. Directors present were Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm, Ewing (Wing) Evans, James Feuge, Hubert Heinen, Carolyn Meiners Heinsohn, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Terry L. Smart, Annette Stachowitz, Janice Warncke Thompson, Glen Treibs, and Henry Wolff Jr. Directors absent were Ingrid Brock, Bernard (Ben) Buecher, and Dan Schoppe.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

T. Smart moved approval of the May 8, 2004 Minutes with one correction: in paragraph 3 on page 5 "annual meeting planning committee" was changed to "Activities Committee" **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**REPORTS**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ewing (Wing) Evans, Treasurer, distributed a financial statement and reported (1)Dues now account for slightly more than 30% of the annual budget. (2)A recent large expenditure was for goods to be sold at the GTHS Christmas Market in December. (3)Investments presently are producing a small income. (4)Invested funds are being used to meet operating expenses.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Julia Germany, Executive Director, distributed a six-page quarterly summary of her activities and reported (1)The cost of goods recently purchased for sale at the GTHS Christmas Market in December was \$7,214 including \$688 in shipping charges and customs fees. (2)At present five students have enrolled in the fall *Samstagschule* (Saturday German School).

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Van Massirer, President, reported the new terms offered for purchase of the lot adjacent to the German Free School since Board action in May rejecting sale of the property.

Hubert Heinen moved Board approval for the Executive Committee to reopen negotiations with the prospective buyer. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Janice Warncke Thompson, Committee Chair, reported (1)The terms of office for four Board members will end December 31. They are Bernard (Ben) Buecher, Ingrid Brock, Terry L. Smart and Glen Treibs. (2)Terry L. Smart and Glen Treibs are eligible for reelection to one additional four-year term. (3)The Membership Committee is seeking nominees to fill these positions. (3)The Membership Committee will ask Board approval of nominees by telephone/e-mail prior to the September 17-18 Annual Meeting so the membership can elect directors at that time.

Hubert Heinen moved the Board direct the Membership Committee to contact the Texas German Society to ask how the GTHS can assist the TGS to increase its membership growth and to promote its activities. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

Connie Krause moved the Board direct the Membership Committee to present nominations for 2005 GTHS officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) for election by the Board at its November meeting. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm, Committee Chair, reviewed plans for the September 17-18 Annual Meeting. She announced that Dorothy Leyendecker of Columbus had assisted the committee since the last Board meeting.

Terry L. Smart moved the appointment of Dorothy Leyendecker to the 2004 Activities Committee.  
**MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**OLD GERMAN FREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm, Committee Chair, reported (1)Vandalism of the school recently has increased, including the theft of plants and misuse of the adjacent lot. (2)The roof of the attached garage was recently repaired and painted. (3)Gutters on the school roof were recently cleared and overhanging tree limbs trimmed. (4)The Executive Director recently completed a grant application seeking funds to pay for interior repairs and painting.

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ewing (Wing) Evans, Committee Chair, requested (1)all members of the Board to review the current budget and (2)to make recommendations for the 2005 Budget at the November Board meeting.

Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, committee member, was recognized to speak. He reported that GTHS has been operating for several months with an average monthly deficit amounting to more than \$3,000.

President Van Massirer charged the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee (1)to call a committee meeting and (2)to review the society's deficit and (3)to present to the Board on November 13 the committee's recommendations for what should be done.

**GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD REPORT**

Hubert Heinen, Guild President, reported upcoming activities of the Guild, including a joint meeting with the Friendship Force of Austin on October 3.

Ewing (Wing) Evans moved the Board authorize the Guild's use of the German Free School on October 3 without charge for its joint meeting with the Austin Friendship Alliance. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**OLD BUSINESS****JOINT ANNUAL MEETING WITH TGS**

President Van Massirer reported that following the Board's May meeting, he conducted a telephone/e-mail vote on a motion to approve a joint annual meeting in 2005 with the Texas German Society.  
**MOTION WAS APPROVED**

President Van Massirer reported recent TGS meetings about the joint annual meeting in 2005. The TGS changed the financial arrangements originally proposed. Hubert Heinen moved to continue planning a joint annual meeting in 2005 with the TGS. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

Hubert Heinen moved that President Van Massirer arrange a meeting of the TGHS and TGS Boards as soon as possible. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**GRANT PROPOSALS**

Julia Germany, Executive Director, reported (1)she had collected bids for interior repairs and painting of the German Free School and (2)had completed grant applications for submission to the Austin Historic Landmark Commission and the Houston Endowment.

**COOKBOOK PROJECT**

Julia Germany, Executive Director, reported (1) she has received several recipes for a proposed GTHS cookbook and (2) Linda Wolff has volunteered to prepare a submission form for inclusion in the next issue of the GTHS Journal.

**LIABILITY FOR USE OF THE GERMAN FREE SCHOOL**

Hubert Heinen announced he had no information to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OPERATIONAL FUND DRIVE**

Ewing (Wing) Evans, Budget and Finance Committee Chair, and Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, committee member, reported (1) 109 members have contributed more than \$8,000 to the 2004 Operational Fund Drive, and (2) this was a significant decline in the number of donors and the amounts contributed in previous years.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP**

Van Massirer, President, announced it had been impossible to schedule a date during June, July or August when a majority of the Board could attend a proposed workshop.

Glein Triebs moved that a workshop on long range financial planning and other goals be held on November 13 prior to the regular meeting of the Board. **MOTION WAS APPROVED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



*"ON THE SQUARE"*

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**GTHS 2004 ANNUAL MEETING**

**LIFE MEMBERS**  
**THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

(November 1, 2004)

**MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM O HEATON OF CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA**

**ANITA LOCY JOHNSON OF AUSTIN**

**SANDRA MATTHIJETZ OF LA GRANGE**

**DR. ROBERT NEELY OF BELLVILLE**

**HERTHA L. SCOTT OF MOULTON**

**ANNE STEWART OF COMFORT**

**ANNA THOMPSON OF DUBLIN**

**HELEN TRENCKMANN OF AUSTIN**

**MIRIAM YORK OF GIDDINGS**

## LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK

By Rodney Koenig

Summers are times for weddings, funerals, family reunions and other gatherings. In mid July, 2004, we traveled to Fredericksburg, Texas, for the wedding of our architect's daughter, Kate Adams. Her parents, Joseph and Gail Adams are the architects of several lovely homes between Kerrville and Fredericksburg and also the creators of Kairos Celebration Barn, a lovely venue between Kerrville and Fredericksburg, which was the venue for the wedding reception. Mary and I traveled to this wedding with Susan and Leonard Teich, who are also clients of Adams' Architecture. Joseph and Gail Adams, as architects, have left their mark throughout Texas but particularly in the German hill country between Fredericksburg and Kerrville. We enjoyed the trip to and from Fredericksburg and were pleased to have been made a part of Kate Adams' and Jonathan Carlson's wedding.

On the trip to the hill country wedding, we had a most enjoyable visit with Susan and Leonard Teich. The Teich family has interesting German connections in Texas, particularly to Frank Teich, whose German Granite Mark has been left all over the state of Texas. The state capital in Austin, the Sam Houston Monument in Hermann Park in Houston, the Dick Dowling Statute in Houston and numerous other monuments which are set forth in the marvelous article written by Susan Teich will expand further on the Granite German Mark left by Frank Teich. When I think of Frank Teich, I also think of Charles Umlauf and Elizabeth Ney, two other important German Texan artists who have also left their mark on our state.

On Saturday, July 3, 2004, we traveled to Camp Lutherhill just north of La Grange, Texas. A groundbreaking for the new Carby Chapel at Lutherhill was the occasion for our trip. My mother's sister was Mae Oeding Carby, who was married to Werner Carby. Werner's brother, Ewald Carby, originally of Fayette County, then of Houston and Bishop, Texas, and finally of Schulenburg, Texas, had donated significant funds to help accomplish the building of the Carby Chapel at Camp Lutherhill. Ewald Carby's gift to Lutherhill earmarked for the new Chapel will allow continuing to expand Camp Lutherhill. Ewald Carby has left his German Mark in the form of a Chapel at Camp Lutherhill.

How will you leave your German Mark? Will you leave it in stone as Frank Teich and Elizabeth Ney have done? Will you leave it in bronze as Charles Umlauf has done? Will you leave a Chapel as Ewald Carby has done? However you leave your German Mark, please consider taking action to leave your mark either through your Will or beneficiary designation. You might leave your mark by capturing stories of your German ancestors in Texas. You might leave your German Mark by creating a scholarship fund at your favorite university or by creating a lectureship to sponsor annual lectures on German Texan Heritage. You might leave your German Mark by capturing genealogy for your immediate family or by creating a love of German Heritage in your children, nieces and nephews or other family members. However you leave your mark, resolve to take action now to Leave Your German Mark. For help in these areas, contact any Board member, Executive Director, Julia Germany, or Rodney Koenig at 713-651-5333 or [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com).

**RECENT MEMORIAL GIFTS TO  
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

**IN MEMORY OF ELLA HESS**

**By Herta Sokolyk**

**IN MEMORY OF ELVA KOENIG**

**By Rodney Koenig**

**IN MEMORY OF ANITA SCHMEDES KILLEN**

**By Jo Peebles Adams for purchase of a DVD/VCR player for the German Free School**

**IN MEMORY OF AGNES GOHLKE MASSIRER**

**By Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Neeley**

**IN MEMORY OF MERLE SHIELDS SNIVELY**

**By Mary Jane Sims**



## IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS ERNST PAWEL

Thomas Ernst Pawel went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, August 22, 2004 at the age of 78. He died suddenly after suffering a brain hemorrhage, at home, on Saturday, August 21, 2004. Tom Pawel was born in Leipzig, Germany, December 20 1925 to Dr. Ernst and Charlotte Pawel and emigrated to the United States, with his parents, in 1937. Tom arrived in the United States speaking only German - a language he spoke with great relish, retaining his native regional accent, throughout his life. He was the nephew of Otto Zuhr, Mayor of West Berlin. He served in the United States Army during World War II and became a U.S. Citizen. A graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Graduate School of Business, he moved to Texas in the 1950s where he founded Concord Oil Company in 1956. An avid athlete and supporter of athletics, Tom was a generous benefactor to the Modern Pentathlon and regular participant in marathons, triathlons, and 10K races throughout the region, including a second place finish, for his age group, in the Combat Medic 10K held on July 24, 2004. He gained recognition as a businessman of vision when he donated 1500 acres of the Briggs Ranch to establish the Texas Research Park. When Citicorp decided to locate U.S. Customer Service Operations in San Antonio, Mr. Pawel was approached for a similar donation resulting in locating those corporate facilities in close proximity. Always thoughtful of his German heritage, Mr. Pawel was selected and served as the Honorary Consul for Germany in San Antonio for over a decade. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the San Antonio Plaza Club and active in numerous professional organizations supporting economic development and the oil and gas industry. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Nancy Ray Pawel; sister, Renate (Ronnie) Guttman; children, Margaret Pawel Moore, Elizabeth (Lisa) Pawel and husband Rick Schlesinger; Charlotte Pawel Jonas and husband James; grandchildren, Zachary Pawel Schlesinger, Margaret Elizabeth (M.E.) Jonas, William James Jonas, IV, Myles Standish Jonas and Alden Anderegg Jonas. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may send memorials to Boysville, 8555 E. Loop 1604 N., San Antonio, TX 78109; Texas Research Park Foundation, 14815 Omnicron Drive, San Antonio, TX 78245; St. Mary's Hall, P.O. Box 33430, San Antonio, TX 78265 or Treehouse Day Program for Autistic Children, 271 E. Lullwood, San Antonio, TX 78212. A Memorial Service will be held at St. David's Episcopal Church, 1300 Wiltshire, San Antonio, TX on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. For personal acknowledgments, please sign the on-line guest book at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) under the obituary section. Mission Park Funeral Chapels North.



from San Antonio Express-News, August 25, 2004

## LEADERS OF GERMAN-TEXAN ORGANIZATIONS IN 2004

### 2004 Officers and Board of Directors of the New Braunfels Schuetzen Verein

Bill Wimberly, President  
 Scott McCash, Vice President  
 Danny Ikels, Range Officer  
 Gay Wimberly, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Robert Flugrath, King  
 Lou Ann Wimberly, Queen

Harry Montegue  
 Boogie Vivrous  
 Jason Walker  
 Mike Williams  
 Charlie Wimberly

### 2004 Officers and Board of Directors of the Beethoven Maennerchor of San Antonio

Claus Heide, President  
 Roy Snyder, Vice President  
 Fritz Boedeker, Secretary  
 Robert Blaes, Treasurer  
 Georg Seidel, Chair, Finance Committee  
 John Botter, Chair, Music Committee  
 Edward Bradshaw, Chair, Membership

Roger Apolinar, CoChair, Bar Committee  
 Edward Koegel, CoChair, Bar Committee  
 Helmut Hartmann, CoChair, Food Committee  
 Donald Wunderlich, CoChair, Food Committee  
 Albert Kuenst, Chair, Buildings & Grounds  
 Sam van der Weide, Chair, Publicity

### 2004 Board of Directors of the German Free School Guild of Austin

Hubert Heinen, President  
 Gerri West, Secretary  
 Julia Germany, Exec Director  
 Rolf Stachowitz, Communications  
 Annette Stachowitz, Education  
 Chuck Kalteyer, Fund Development

Muriel Vaughn, Historian  
 Barbara Evans, Hospitality  
 Doug Wixson, Library  
 Siegi Keimling, Membership & Marketing  
 Wing Evans, Special Events  
 Christa Rabago, Volunteer Operations

# Chrenstern Awards

This award has been presented to the individuals listed below in recognition of their outstanding services and their outstanding contributions to the German-Texan Heritage Society.

## 1984

Daphne Garrett \*  
Gilbert Jordan \*  
Leola Tiedt \*

## 1994

Dora "Dat" Morrow \*

## 2000

Teresa Schwausch Chavez  
Ewing "Wing" Evans  
Christa Prewitt

## 1985

Theresa Gold  
Irma Guenther \*  
Dona Reeves-Marquardt  
Anna Thompson

## 1995

Frances Heimer Copeland  
Patsy Hand  
Rodney Koenig  
W. M. Von-Maszewski

## 2002

Connie Schneider Krause  
Michael G. Krause

## 1988

Mary El-Beheri

## 1996

Ann Lindemann  
Helga Von-Schweinitz

## 2003

Christine Mills  
Dr. Robert Neely  
Muriel Vaughan

## 1990

Elizabeth Lehmann

## 1997

Helgard Suhr-Hollis

## 2004

Mimi Parris  
Rev. Robert Pfennig  
Annette Stachowitz  
Philip Lawrence Sterzing

## 1991

Lisa Kahn  
Miriam York

## 1998

Charles Kalteyer

## 1999

Arlene Burges  
Ted Gish  
Anita Killen \*

\* Deceased



# Deutsches Wochenende

You are cordially invited to attend a weekend event dedicated to German-speaking and relaxation.

- Who:** German speakers at all levels (beginners to native speakers). Students, faculty and members of the community welcome.
- What:** Socializing, German practice, hiking, canoeing, campfire (weather permitting), games, German movies, and available quiet time for homework.
- When:** Starts at 5pm, Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and ends at 11am, Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- Where:** Bastrop State Park, Group Barracks Facility
- How much?** \$30.00/person, which includes park entrance fee, accommodations and food.

For more information and/or a registration packet, contact Ann Keller-Lally at [kellerlallya@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:kellerlallya@mail.utexas.edu).

*Deadline for registration is Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005.*

Sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin German Club

# Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

**Looking for conversation hours around UT  
so you can work on your German?  
You are in luck!**

**Mahlzeit:** German conversation time. **Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00pm**, at the tables between the TX Union and the Tower. Look for the German flag sign. For more info on this happening, email David King at *davidone@mail.utexas.edu*.

**Deutschübende Gesellschaft:** German conversation time. **Wednesdays after 6:30pm at Scholz Garten**, 1607 San Jacinto Blvd. For more info, check the official website:  
<http://www.geocities.com/utgermanclub/deutschuebende.html>

**Stammtisch:** German conversation time follows a short (5-10 min.) meeting of the UT German Club. **Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm**, at the **Cactus Café** (in the TX Union). Look for the German flag sign. For more info, email Ann Keller-Lally at *kellerlallya@mail.utexas.edu*

**Bis bald!**

## Texas Descendants of Wittgenstein Immigrants To Celebrate 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Erndtbrueck by Henry Wolff, Jr.

Plans are being made for a group of Texas descendants of immigrants from Kreis Wittgenstein to participate in the celebration of the village of Erndtbrueck's 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2006.

Erndtbrueck is northwest of Frankfurt in the old state of Westphalia and the now combined counties of Siegen-Wittgenstein, an area from which numerous immigrants came to Texas from Germany during the mid-1850s.

Many from Erndtbrueck and other villages in Wittgenstein settled in and around Shelby in Austin, Fayette and Washington counties, with the early Adelsverein immigrants at Fredericksburg in Gillespie County, and the then new town of Yorktown in DeWitt County.

There are thousands of descendants of these families living in Texas and elsewhere in the United States today, according to Henry Wolff, Jr., a member of the GTHS board who has been researching his family while also documenting all immigrants from Wittgenstein to Texas.

With the help of other family researchers in Texas and Germany, he has identified some 50 families and more than 300 individual immigrants who settled in Texas.

Wolff and another family researcher, Eugene Voelkel of Bryan, are planning a tour for Wittgenstein family descendants and others interested in attending the celebration.

"We would like to see as many descendants of the Wittgenstein families -- those with family connections to Erndtbrueck and other nearby villages -- attend the celebration either individually or with us," Wolff notes.

The Round Top Brass Band has received an invitation to perform during the celebration.

Both Wolff and Voelkel have visited Wittgenstein on previous occasions and have family contacts there.

"It is a beautiful area," Wolff notes, "and our plans are to spend the first week in and around Erndtbrueck."

There will be an official celebration in Erndtbrueck on Wednesday, May 24, with a parade on May 28.

Time will be available for tours of Wittgenstein and some of the various villages from which immigrants came to Texas.

Tentative plans are for the group to spend a second week touring other interesting places from the Rhine River to the Black Forest.

There will be a stop at Remagen to see where the American forces first crossed the Rhine during World II, followed by a visit to the beautiful Rhine village of Bacharach where participants can visit the hilltop castle and take a short cruise on the river. Two nights in Bacharach will be followed by a lunch stop in Heidelberg on the way to Freiburg and the Black Forest.

From Freiburg the group will visit either the Black Forest village of Triburg or Titisee on the way to the medieval walled city of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. There will be plenty of time to tour the crime museum, take in the night watchman's tour, or simply enjoy one of the most interesting of the ancient towns of Germany before heading back to Frankfurt and the flight home.

While the final plans and costs for the tour will not be available until spring of 2005, plans are to depart Houston on Monday, May 22, 2006, and return on Monday, June 5.

Those interested in being kept informed may contact Voelkel at 979-774-4405, e-mail [ejvoelke@alpha1.net](mailto:ejvoelke@alpha1.net), or Wolff at 361-575-3689, e-mail [wolfhaus@txcr.net](mailto:wolfhaus@txcr.net).

In addition to the Voelkel and Wolf families – the latter being the original family spelling – some other family names from Wittgenstein include:

Menn, Birkelbach, Treude, Weyand, Althaus, Goebel, Wied, Riedesel, Wunderlich, Bernhausen, Schlabach, Sassmannshausen (Sassman in Texas), Marburger, Hassler, Konrad, Basse, Becker, Eckhardt, Dornhoefer, Hofius, Homrighausen, Jacobi, Knebel, Martin, Schmidt, Bald, Geistweidt, Spies, Afflerbach and Muesse.

They came from Erndtbrueck and other such villages as Zinse, Grossenbach, Wolmensdorf, Bernhausen, Lutzel, Feudingen, Schameder, Laasphe and Birkelbach.

The Wittgenstein immigrants included the Rev. Heinrich Basse, first protestant pastor at Fredericksburg; the early Texas physician Dr. Christian Althaus, and Gillespie County's first sheriff, Ludwig Martin. One of the founders of Yorktown, Charles Eckhardt, came from Laasphe.

Many of the immigrants became farmers and ranchers in Texas where land was plentiful in the mid-1800s, leaving behind relatives and their homeland in the wooded hills and tranquil valleys of Kreis Wittgenstein.

Today, on tombstones in the cemeteries of Erndtbrueck, on monuments to war dead, and in the signs on local businesses, one sees many of same names that we know so well today in Texas.

The 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be a celebration for those who remained in Germany as well as for those in Texas who can trace their ancestry to the quiet village nestled among the wooded hills of Wittgenstein. Most of the immigrants would never see their homeland again after the treacherous journey to begin a new life in America.

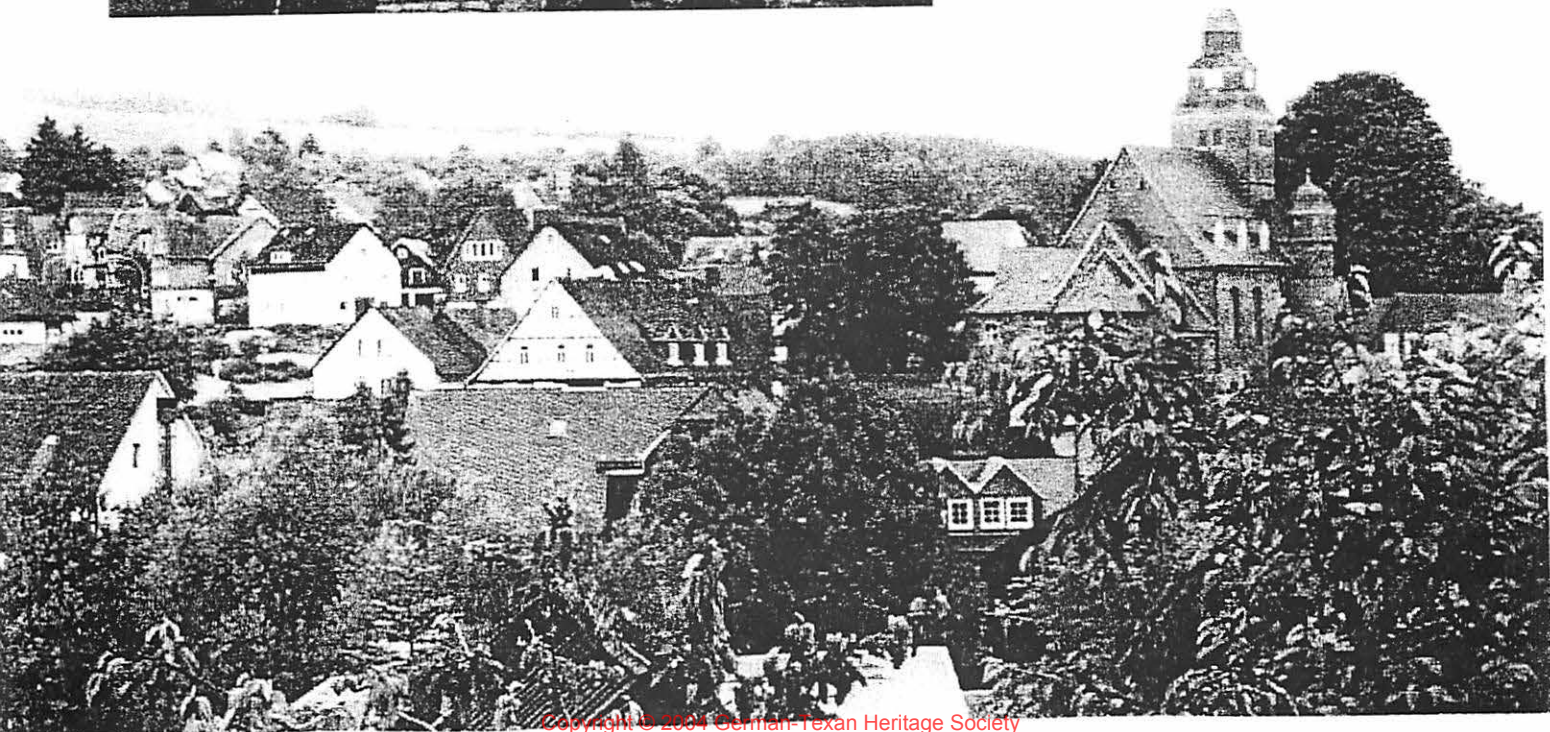
The celebration provides an opportunity for their descendants to visit the ancestral homeland.



During a visit in 2003, GTHS Board of Directors member Henry Wolff, Jr. (left) a journalist from Victoria who has been documenting the immigrants that came to Texas from Wittgenstein, visits with Burgermeister Heinz-Josef Linten in Erndtebrueck.



The Evangelische Church stands out Among the homes and businesses of Erndtebrueck, where there are many distant relatives of the immigrants that came to Texas from the village in the 1800s.



## GERMAN HERITAGE TOUR, MAY 30 – JUNE 12, 2005

**Sponsor:** German Heritage Foundation, International Friends & Partners Project

**Coordinator:** Kenn Knopp, Director, German Heritage Foundation, 407 N. Cora Street, Fredericksburg TX 78624.  
Telephone: 830-997-7273. email: [kenknopp@ktc.com](mailto:kenknopp@ktc.com)

**Tour Technicians:** Bob & Cathy Weidmann, Weidmann Specialty Tours, 204 N. Acorn Street, Fredericksburg TX 78624.

Telephone: 830-997-7516 or 830-990-8849. Email: [wst@austin.rr.com](mailto:wst@austin.rr.com)

**Schedule:** Leave Fredericksburg on bus May 30 to SAT (San Antonio Airport) leave for East Coast, Depart International

Airport for overnight flight to FRA (Frankfurt, Germany) and return on June 12, 2005. Cost: Approximately \$2500 per person. Hopefully the cost can be reduced or kept at \$2500 per person, two to a room. Includes roundtrip flight, daily bus service, hotel room (2 to the room will be cheaper), breakfast each day. Lunch & Supper not included since most people like being on their own. Entry fees to castles, museums, concerts, etc are also not included since people have such different tastes and do not always want to go in some of these places and like to bummel on their own. Porterage if you cannot carry or roll your luggage you must tip the porter at least 2 Euros (about \$2) to your room and to the bus.

Advance deposit \$200 per person to guarantee reservation. Monthly payments until fully paid by March 1, 2005. If trip must be cancelled this must be done before March 1, 2005. Otherwise, the tour technicians will do their best to get all payment deposits back such as airlines, bus, and hotels which all require advance payments. But after March 1, refunds cannot be guaranteed. Please send initial \$200 per person deposit and other subsequent payments to: Weidmann Specialty Tours, 204 N. Acorn St., Fredericksburg TX 78624.

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**PROPOSED ITINERARY:** Tour sponsors reserve the right to change the itinerary at any time to protect the overall cost.

(This itinerary has not been finalized and must remain open until all hotel offers and other considerations are in!)

**Saturday May 28, Day 1:** Board bus in Fredericksburg for SAT Airport. Or you leave from your closest airport. Hook up with over night international flight to Frankfurt.

**Sunday May 29, Day 2:** Arrives FRA Frankfurt around 11 a.m. Board bus at airport...for scenic drive into Hessen with lunch on your own & bummel in old town Marburg and Cathedral. Board bus at 3 p.m. to go to Kassel, Kurhessen, visit the famous Hermes Denkmal and early evening arrival in the beautiful city center and overnight stay. Kassel is home of Ingrid Stengel's mother.

**Monday May 30, Day 3:** Leave Kassel for Hannover for lunch and two hour bummel. At 2 p.m. leave Hannover for in the ancient city of Celle (not disturbed by the wars); at 5 p.m.. leave for the wonderful Lueneburger Heide and romantic Lueneburg.

**Tuesday May 31, Day 4:** Leave lovely Lueneburg going through the Harz Mountain Region famous for its woodcarvings stopping for a 2-hour lunch at a country Landhaus & Woodcarvings before going on to Berlin, the new and re-built capital of Germany Two night stay in Berlin!

**Wednesday June 1, Day 5:** There will be a tour of the capitol buildings and Check Point Charlie Museum. Or one can Bummel around the city on his or her own. One of the great stores of the world is: Haus des Westens (similar but larger than Dallas' Niemann-Marcus is downtown). 2nd night in Berlin.

**Thursday June 2, Day 6:** Leave Berlin for two hour lunch in "Treasure City of Germany", Dresden; then into Bavaria for overnight in Nuremberg historic district one of the most beautiful downtowns in the world.

**Friday June 3, Day 7:** Leave Nuremberg with 2 hour lunch in unbelievable Ulm and plenty of time to visit (and climb?) the tallest church steeple and bell tower in the world, the Ulm Lutheran Cathedral. Then pull yourself away from Ulm as we head through Bavaria to the Bodensee, Lake Konstanz, entering Switzerland via Bregenz with overnight in romanesque Romanshorn am Bodensee, Switzerland.

**Saturday June 4, Day 8:** From Romanshorn enter Germany at Konstanz thru Stockach and into the Black Forest-Vorgessen and the Schwaebische Albe to Lichtenstein-Honau and everyone's favorite Landhotel, Martha Walker's "Adler Hotel" underneath the Lichtenstein Castle (near Reutlingen). Great food. Martha raises her own brook trout! Great walk from the hotel up to the castle and back. Bus will take those not able to do the walk UP the big mountain and, of course DOWN. We should arrive about 1:30 p.m. and Mrs. Walker will be pleased to still



offer lunch. Those who have gotten a lunch-snack along the way can still have a great supper there in the p.m.--after the walk! Overnight in Hotel Adler, Lichtenstein-Honau, Schwabia.

**Sunday June 5, Day 9:** Optional tour to Reutlingen through lunch; tour Historic University City of Tuebingen and back to Hotel Adler in early evening. Those who want to can stay at the Hotel Adler in Lichtenstein-Honau, go on walks, walk to Lichtenstein Castle if not already done so. Second night in Hotel Adler.

**Monday June 6, Day 10:** Leave Adler Hotel-Lichtenstein-Honau arriving in Heidelberg Historic District for 2-hour lunch. Bus will go along the Rhine River to Castle Burg Rheinstein the home and burial place of Prince Friedrich von Preussen von Hohenzollern (Fredericksburg's namesake. He was the nephew of King Frederick!) and then overnight stay in Boppard on the Rhein. No cars or busses allowed up to Castle Burg Rheinstein and the walk is long and winding UP the mountain...and then back DOWN! Those who do not want to do the walk will stay on the bus and will be left off in Bingen nearby for afternoon snack and sightseeing for two hours. Then bus will go pick up the group at the bottom of the mountain of Castle Burg Rheinstein... and we will go to Boppard on the Rhein to stay overnight with a free evening in Boppard at a delightful hotel overlooking the Rhein River.

**Tuesday June 7, Day 11:** Leave Boppard to board ship for Rhein Cruise. Bus meets the group, go to Ruedesheim, Germany's most famous wine city for lunch. Then cut across the Nassau district and arrive in Fredericksburg's beautiful Sister City of Montabaur, Westwerwald, for a walk in its downtown area and meet with our sister city group there. Return to Boppard for overnight.

**Wednesday June 8, Day 12:** Arrive at Frankfurt-am-Main Airport for morning flight back to U.S. and your airport, or to SAT (San Antonio) Take bus at airport back to Fredericksburg.



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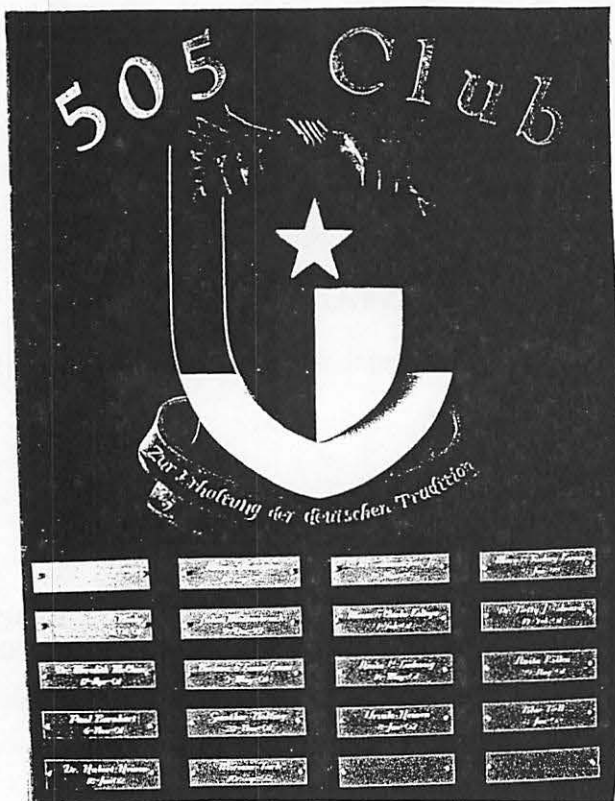
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**THE 505 CLUB**  
by Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer



The 505 is the street address of the vacant lot next to the GTHS headquarters building in Austin. The beautiful black walnut plaque in the adjacent photo is proudly displayed in your headquarters office showing the names of those special people who have donated the equivalent of at least one monthly payment (\$1,792.43) for purchase of the lot. These donations represented 34% of the purchase price of the lot (\$99,900), which was paid off in October of 2002. The balance of monthly payments that paid off the 5-year note were made from GTHS capital funds. We would like to replace as much of those funds as us possible with your thoughtful generosity.

The 505 Club is still open for membership.

Your donation of \$1,792.43 or more will Allow placement of your name on this beautiful plaque as a proud member of the 505 Cub.

**THE 505 CLUB MEMBERS**

(October 1, 2004)

ESTHER MILLER STRANGE  
ANNA THOMPSON  
CARL SCHUMACHER, JR.  
MARY & RODNEY KOENIG  
DR. ROBERT A. NEELY  
JULIA MELLENBRUCH  
ALICEAN & CHARLES F. KALTEYER  
DR. BETTY J. EDWARDS  
DR. MEREDITH McCLAIN

BARBARA & EWING EVANS  
ANNA C. LADEWIG  
ANITA SCHEMEDES KILLEN  
PAUL F. BARNHART  
GUNTHER NOELTING  
URUSLA HEINEN  
DR. HUBERT HEINEN  
MIRIAM YORK  
KIM PEOPLES BACON

BLUE BELL CREAMERIES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 2004**

**Mary Mathis El-Beheri Wins AATG Outstanding German Educator and  
Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Scholarship**

The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) will present its annual Outstanding German Educator and Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Scholarship to **Mary Mathis El-Beheri** of the Douglas Mac Arthur High School, North East Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas.

This prestigious award is given in recognition of personal innovation, talent, and leadership, which reflect uncommon excellence. The Outstanding German Educator Award, AATG's highest honor, has been presented annually since 1989. Recipients are nominated by their chapter presidents in recognition of: service to the language teaching profession; participation in professional organizations; contribution to German language education; and continued growth as a German educator. Mary is the first Texan to win this honor.

In the past, recipients received a one-week Berlin seminar as well as roundtrip transportation sponsored by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation. The Berlin State House of Representatives started this foundation to support friendly German-American ties in the future. It was named after that location that has had such an important place in the city's history. The Foundation supports projects including schoolteacher exchange and is non-partisan.

The presentation ceremony will take place on November 20, during the AATG's Annual Meeting in Chicago, and will be attended by approximately 500 AATG members.

Mary is founding president of the German-Texan Heritage Society and served as *Journal* editor for 12 years. She is Founder and Director of the Texas State German Contest (1981- present), Director of the Central Texas Sprachfest (1976-present), Webmaster of the South Texas Chapter of the AATG website, and the webmaster for 10 German-related websites. She writes the column "Techie Tips" for the Texas Foreign Language Association Bulletin. She does presentations for at least one meeting a year. Mary teaches German and Health Online. This fall she begins her 41<sup>st</sup> year as an educator.



American Association  
of Teachers of German  
112 Haddontowne Ct. #104  
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email: <http://www.aatg.org>

## Bernhard Joseph Scheel Family History

Bernhard Joseph Scheel came to Texas from Michelsrombach, Hessen, Germany (Near Fulda) in 1867. He settled his family in the Anhalt / Honey Creek area between New Braunfels and Boerne, Texas where he patented 160 acres of ranch land. Clarence Anthony Scheel, a great great grandson of Bernhard, is now in the final stages of writing a History of the Scheel family that he has titled: Bernhard Joseph Scheel, His Family in Texas and in Germany, 1625 to 2004. This is the culmination of Clarence's family research begun in Michelsrombach in 1964 which continued over the past 40 years.

The book will cover seven generations of Scheel Family Ancestors from 1625 to 1867 in Germany. Then the book will list all direct descendants of Bernhard Joseph Scheel from 1867 to 2004 that have been identified. As of this time, more than 4200 direct descendants and slightly fewer spouses have been identified. The book will be professionally hard bound and contain more than 400 photos.

Bernhard Joseph Scheel had nine children who lived to adulthood. His five sons were Rupertus (Robert), Wilhelm, Friedrich (Fritz), Hermann and Karlmann (Karl). His four daughters were: Karolina, who married Adam Joseph Schneider and Eugen Seibert Sr.; Philippina, who married Wilhelm Ulit; Petronella, who married Wilhelm Luersen; and Maria Franziska, who married Ferdinand Kaupert. These nine children produced 96 grandchildren for Bernhard—most of them lived to be adults and married. Rupertus, Friedrich and Hermann settled in the Anhalt / Honey Creek area; Carolina, Philippina, Wilhelm, and Petronella settled in the vicinity of New Braunfels; Karlmann settled in the Uhland / Lockhart area; and Maria Franziska settled in San Antonio. Most of their descendants remained in Texas and most of the Scheels in Texas are descendants of Bernhard Joseph. There was one smaller Scheel Family in the La Grange area whose members were not descendants of Bernhard Joseph.

In addition to the family names Scheel, Schneider, Seibert, Ulit, Luersen and Kaupert from Bernhard's children, many other family names appear in the book in great numbers. Names with at least 15 family members include: Albrecht, Bechtold, Beierle, Bose, Boubel, Connor, Dietert, Erben, Friesenhahn, Georg, Gerbermann, Haas, Harborth, Hell, Hilbert, Jonas, Keller, Kirchner, Klar, Kraft, Krueger, Laubach, Marsh, Moos, Niemitz, Ott, Pape, Poole, Preiss, Rheinlaender, Schmidt, Schuh, Schumann, Schwab, Snell, Stapper, Strittmatter, Syring, Timmermann, Tschoepe, Voges, Wahl, Walleck, Wenzel, Williams and Wurz. More than 1500 other family names are included in the book, most of them of German descent.

Clarence is now taking pre-publishing orders for the book at \$30 each. Shipping and handling within Texas is \$4.00 each. Orders can be made in writing to Clarence Scheel, 21019 Cedar Branch, Garden Ridge, TX 78266 or via email at [Scheel3@aol.com](mailto:Scheel3@aol.com). Clarence can also be reached at 210 651 0573. Clarence estimates that the book will be ready for delivery in approximately May 2005.

“ ‘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.’

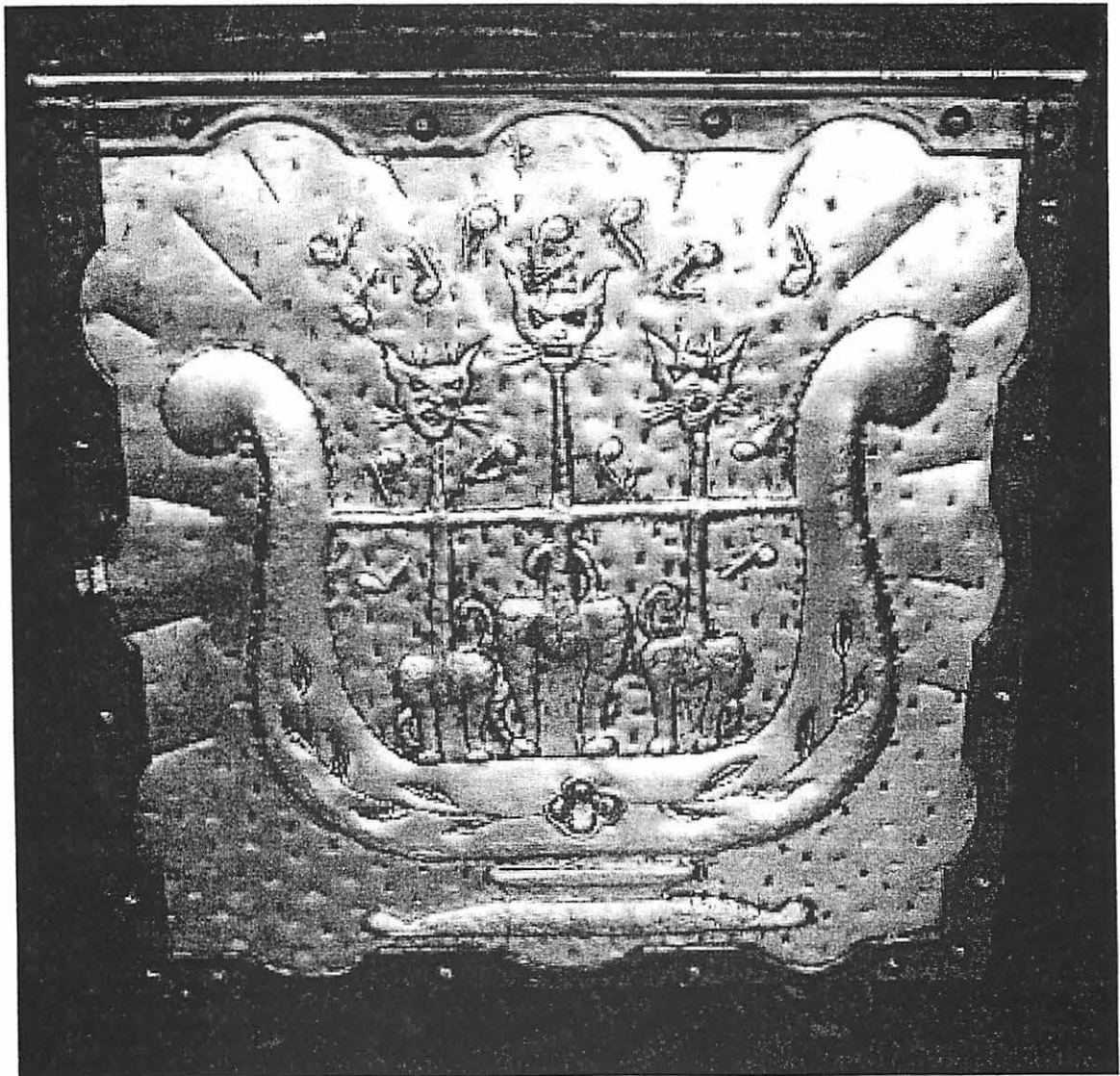
“I stayed with the Saengerrunde for thirty-five years or more. I was in many concerts and Saengerfests, and I enjoyed my association with this group tremendously. Whenever the quality of our singing was important and a singer who didn’t know me well stood beside me, he would sometimes look puzzled and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

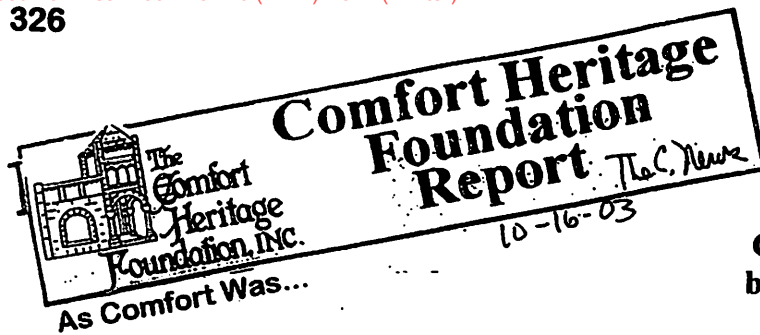
“ ‘Why did I not hear you sing?’

“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.”





# Comfort Heritage Foundation Report

10-16-03

## Gottlieb and Wilhelmine Stieler Family by Anne Stewart and Esther Wiedenfeld

What family with six children would leave their homeland and sail to an unknown territory? Was it a lust for land, freedom of religion, speech or free from a continuous war?

The Gottlieb Stieler family was one of those that left a comfortable living in Oranienbaum, Germany, with their children in 1856 and came to Comfort to settle in a wilderness.

Gottlieb was a trained government forester who provided well for his family. After arriving in the Texas Hill Country, then called German West Texas, they purchased 65 acres about 2 miles north of Comfort. As an immigrant from Germany, this amount of acreage was quite a bit of land. Gottlieb must have been in 7th heaven to be the owner of so much land covered with trees. That dream, however, was soon shattered.

The Indians were ever on the lookout for saddle horses. Cattle were good to eat. It didn't rain for months. And their children were not receiving any education. They had to walk through unsettled land to reach the small school house in town.

Wilhelmine Urban Stieler was most unhappy. It was hard for her to adjust to the primitive setting in which she found herself. There were none of the aspects for a refined social culture. But before the Stieler family realized this, they were embroiled in another conflict, that of the Bürgerkrieg, the Civil War.

Heinrich, the oldest child, was just 16 years old when the news reached Comfort about the outbreak of the war. Recruited by his brother-in-law, Henry Schwethelm and good friend, Theodore Bruckisch, Heinrich joined the local Union sympathizers. He volunteered to fight with the North, and when the other local men decided to leave Ger-

man West Texas and travel to Mexico, Heinrich decided to meet with them to join the Federal forces in New Orleans.

The group was over-taken by a pursuing Confederate force and a fire fight took place early Sunday morning, August 10, 1862, on the Nueces River. Some of the group of German Unionists were killed, others taken prisoner and several escaped the site. These men who were able to get away from the carnage of the battle and later the slaughter of the prisoners went in two directions: south to the Mexican border and north to home. Heinrich and his friend, Theodore, left together but later separated after an argument as to which was the best direction to go.

Both young men made it as far as Kerrville when they were betrayed and handed over to the Confederates.

Here they were summarily hung with several Anglo-Celts from the Harper area and Wilhelm Boerner also of Comfort.

Sergeant Hopkins and his squad rode in from the Nueces encounter the next day. "We got in a day late from the fight with the bushwhackers on the Nueces. Eight men hung in the trees near the creek." The Confederates sent word to the Stieler family: "We have killed you boy. You can come and get him."

Comfort had received the awful news from the Nueces in less than a week but were still uncertain as to the exact status of each of the men involved. The Stielers learned their tragic news early in September. Gottlieb was away hauling freight for the Confederacy. Minna, the second child in the family, was upset and impulsive as are most teenagers. Since her father was not at home and men could not travel without an officially issued permit, she would go and bury her brother.

Finally after much soul-searching, Mrs. Stieler decided to accompany her daughter. The younger boys were probably left with their neighbors, the Johann Kargers. They "packed a lunch", saddled their horses and departed. Upon their arrival at the Confederate camp they quickly realized that they would not be able to carry out their intended mission. The bodies were deteriorating in the August heat. The military was not entirely cooperative, even vindictive. The mother in particular received harsh treatment. The landscape proved intractable. They covered the bodies with rocks and brush to protect them from the weather and wild varmints.

The women returned to Comfort, bent in body and broken in spirit. This effected Mrs. Stieler profoundly. She never fully recovered and remained isolated from local social activities. Minna married her sweetheart, Henry Heinen. Gottlieb and his sons carried on the family life and traditions. Mr. and Mrs. Stieler are both buried in the Comfort Cemetery.

*Information: A 100 years of Comfort by Guido Ransleben. Mrs. Bernadette Stieler Kunz, Anne Stewart, Schellhase-family.com, Sgt. Hopkins' Diary of the Civil War, San Antonio Express-News, 1923.*

After a great deal of research we have been unable to produce a photo of either of the Stielers. If you know where we might obtain one, please contact Esther Wiedenfeld or Anne Stewart.

German ancestry is claimed by more Americans than any other national heritage. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, some 42.8 million Americans – about 15% of the population – considered German to be their primary ancestry. (from "The Ambassador" Summer-Fall 2004)

submitted by  
Dorothy G. Rothermel

## GIESE-JUENGERMANN FAMILY REUNION HELD AT ROUND TOP

The descendants of Anna Marie Giese met for their annual reunion at the American Legion Hall in Round Top, Texas on September 11, 2004. Forty-eight persons were in attendance. Representing the Johannes and Anna Marie Juengermann Giese, Sr. family were descendants from Frederick and Anna Cybilla Giese Ponfick family, Otto and Frieda Ahnert Giese family, and Johann Henry and Bertha Spies Giese family. Representing the Ludwig and Louise Caroline Naegeli Giese family were descendants from Gustav and Augusta Giese Wied family; Gustav and Ida Scharenburg Giese family; and William and Erna Giese Finck family. Representing the Johan Ernst Matthias and Anna Marie Giese Juengermann family were descendants from Johann Henrich and Lelene Heins Juengermann family. Family members came from Brenham, Round Top, Wallis, San Antonio, Devine, Arlington, Nursery, Gonzales, Eules, Colleyville, Richardson, Sherman and Austin. Gussie Mae Giese Dean offered the prayer before the meal. A covered dish dinner was enjoyed, with the special attention being given to German prepared dishes.. The host families for 2004 were: Jack and Esther Juengermann of San Antonio and Jim and Kate Juengermann of Arlington.

Anna Marie Giese, born 1795, in Hesse, Germany, left the Port of Hamburg, Germany October, 1850 and arrived at the port of Galveston, Texas about December 23, 1850 with four of her children. Her children were all born in Germany before their departure for Texas: [1] Johan Adam Giese, born, October 31, 1824; [2] Johannes Giese, born in Buchhasungen on November 22, 1825; [3] Ludwig Giese, born in Birlebach, Prussia on October 22, 1830 ; and [4] Anna Marie Giese, born in Cassel on January 21, 1840. Anna Marie Giese, the matriarch of the Giese-Juengermann descendants, died March 12, 1874 and is buried at Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery in Round Top. Her sons, Johan Adam and Ludwig Giese, both served in the Confederate Army ; and both are buried at Haw Creek Cemetery; Johannes Giese is buried at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cemetery at Round Top and the fourth child, Anna Marie Giese Juengermann, is buried at Haw Creek Cemetery.

Jim and Kate Juengermann of Arlington made special table decorations of family trees. Cut outs from a duplicate family tree representing each ancestral family were hung on the branches of a small tree. This family tree information was researched and prepared by John Henry Juengermann in 1975. Each family will bring their tree back for the 2005 reunion with additions that have occurred during the year. Family history charts, notes, stories, and pictures were among the items on display . A Texas star quilt square , table covers with hand crocheted edging, and the 1975 family tree were viewed with much interest. Also on display, were hand decorated eggs by Joan Rothermel of Brenham and wood burned pictures of local buildings such as the Round Top and La Grange Court House. These wood burned pictures were donated by Bob Heinsohn of La Grange and one of Joan Rothermel's decorated eggs were donated for the auction.

The afternoon meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance ; Dolores Giese Neumann, president, of San Antonio, presiding. Diana Giese Rhodes, secretary, of Nursery presented the 2003 reunion report. Rose Anderson Thomas, treasurer, of Austin presented the financial report.

Dolores Neumann recognized the following persons:

1. Scott and Laurie Noak Scantlin of Devine and Carolyn Meiners Heinsohn of La Grange were in attendance for the first time.

2. John and Helena Juengermann Fair traveled the longest distance from Sherman.

3. Quintin M. Juengermann of Arlington was the youngest member present.

**4. Oldest Giese-Juengermann descendant present:**

Giese-Female: Paula Giese Heinsohn of La Grange

Giese-Male: James Rothermel of Brenham

Juengermann-Female: Helena Juengermann Fair of Sherman

Juengermann-Male: Jack Juengermann of San Antonio

**5. Births since the last reunion:**

[1] Katherine Frances Norman, April 28, 2004. Parents are Dan and Carol Rhodes Norman of Austin.

[2]. Cora Lea Jackson, February 16, 2004. Parents are Scott and Heather Neumann Jackson of Tucson, Arizona.

[3] Morgan DeLane Becka, February 20, 2004. Parents are Seth Aaron and Melinda Blinka Becka of Bryan.

**6. Marriages since the last reunion:**

[1] Benjamin Clayton Giese and Alison Kalinowski, July 10, 2004. Parents are Lester and Burdine Giese of Victoria.

[2] Seth Aaron Becka and Melanie Blinka, October 18, 2003 of Bryan. Grant Lane Becka and Natasha Powell, May 8, 2004 of Bryan. Parent for Seth Aaron Becka and Grant Lane Becka is Carol Ann Kieke Becka Hamilton of Bryan.

7. Wilton and Dolores Giese Neumann of San Antonio and James and Dorothy Ann Rothermel of Brenham were recognized as couples being married the longest - 57 years.

8. Corey D. Bayles will be a West Point graduate in May, 2005. He is the son of James and Anna Marie Mattison Bayles of Conroe.

**9. The following deaths were reported:**

[1] Myrtis Howell Windwehen, wife of Karl Robert Windwehen, died April 1, 2004

[2] Jack F. Rhodes, Jr. of Nursery, husband of Diana Giese Rhodes, died April 6, 2004

[3] Frieda Mae Kuehn Guelker of Burton, wife of Walter Guelker, died June 17, 2004

[4] Barbara Pace Sydow of Houston, wife of Charles Henry Sydow, Jr., died January 22, 2004.

The following officers were elected for the 2005 reunion:

[1] President - Dolores Giese Neumann of San Antonio

[2] Vice-President - John Henry Juengermann of Euless

[3] Secretary - Diana Giese Rhodes of Nursery

[4] Treasurer - Rose Anderson Thomas of Austin



The 2005 Giese-Juengermann reunion will be held on the second Saturday, September 10, 2005 at the American Legion Hall in Round Top. The following families will serve as hosts: Nelson and Evelyn Noak Kieke of Wallis, William Noak of Round Top and Paula Giese Heinsohn of La Grange. Dolores Giese Neumann gave the closing prayer, especially remembering those of the Giese-Juengermann family and others in the service of their country and for the opportunity of this family gathering.

Submitted by:

Dorothy G. Rothermel

2504 Brookbend Dr.

Brenham, Texas 77833-9245

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*submitted by  
Dorothy G. Rothermel*

### CARMINE SCHOOL REUNION

The Carmine School reunion was held Saturday, July 10, 2004 at the Carmine Hall. In attendance this year were forty-two former students, a teacher and guests. Otto L. Fuchs, Jr. of Carmine offered the prayer prior to the serving of the covered dish dinner.

Over the years since the reunions have been held, pictures of former classes are enjoyed at each reunion. One of the earliest pictures available was about the year 1898. Robert Mathias was the teacher. On April 11, 1898, Robert Mathias entered into a teaching contract between the trustees of the Carmine School District. They were: W.J.H. Umland, Julius Menke, W. Matthies, Henry Weyand, Otto Schuddemagen; Carl Sommerfelt, Oscar Wagner, H. Brau, and Mrs. J. Handley. Mr. Mathias was promised in this contract to receive the sum of \$300.00 for a period of seven months for teaching the children assigned to him. Research and conversations with residents of the Carmine community show the following teachers were employed by the school district for the years 1898 to 1944:

Leona Rummel Weyand, Sophia Mauer, Mary Bielefeldt, R.L. Davis, Olivia Winnesdoerfer, Alfred Giese, Mattie Sump, Miss Stuermer, Hattie Klander Schlinder, Lena Schorlemeyer, Miss Persattick, A.L. Smith, Elfrieda Ginsel, Mr. & Mrs. Tipton, A. B. Smith, Paul Jett, Jim Jett, Nora Weinert, Awalt Harzke, Otto Banik, Lorine Roski, W.F. Graeber and Arnold Keilers.

Dorothy Noak Rothermel of Brenham presided over the afternoon meeting. LeVerne Jaeger Hinze of Burton read the minutes of the 2003 reunion and presented the financial report. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States and to The Texas Flag. God Bless America was sung in honor of the service men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces. Shirley Fuchs Mueller and Carolyn Rothermel Fuchs led the group in singing songs for the meeting.

Mrs. Nora Weinert Braun of La Grange was the oldest former student present as well as a former teacher. "Miss Nora's" first teaching class in 1928 had the following students in the first grade: Pearlie Schoenberg, Ida Bell Light, Lillie Siebel, Myrtle Priebe, Kervin Jacob, Lloyd Gerland and Gladys Kuhn. Lorine Roski Falke of Giddings, a former teacher was unable to attend.

Fritz Baack of Palestine attended for the first time and also traveled the farthest distance to be at the reunion. Shirley Fuchs Mueller of Brenham was the youngest former student present. The Marth family has the largest number of former students in attendance. They were [1] Ruth Marth Schneider of Carmine [2] William and Dorothy Marth of Carmine [3] R.J. and Anna Dell Marth of Houston.

The following couples have been married for 50 years or more: Otto L. and Carolyn Fuchs, Jr. of Carmine; Frank and Lucile Knebel Burttschell of Sweeny; Marvin and Mildred Light Otto of La Grange; Wallace and Sydonia Hoermann Levy of Ledbetter; Barney and Joyce Neumann Eilers of Carmine; Nelson and Evelyn Kieke of Wallis; Nolan and Mabel

Schoenberg Schmidt of Carmine; Clinton and Nevilee Wagner Marburger of Burton; Alfred and Gladys Baack of Shelby and Tom and Dorothy Noak Rothermel of Brenham. The class of 1943 had the largest number of former students in attendance: Otto L. Fuchs, Jr. of Carmine; Nevilee Wagner Marburger of Burton; Mildred Light Otto of La Grange; and Lois Haber Thaler of Burton.

The members of the last first grade class to be a part of the Carmine School District before consolidation in 1943-44 were: James Schoenberg, Barbara Jean Mueller Jacob; Lois Ullrich Wunderlich; Sarah Ruth Hoppe Eilers, and Gus Arndt, Jr..

The following former students were deceased since the last reunion: Gladys Jaster Krause, Willis Jaster, Richard Zwernemann Jr., Lorine Jacob Diess, Evangeline Siebel Schaffer, Ruby Eichler Kiel, and Nancy Blackburn Kartous. Amazing Grace was sung in memory of the deceased students.

Committee members for organizing this reunion were: Joyce Eilers, Mabel Schmidt, Lucile Burttschell, LeVerne Hinze; Jocie Braun, Barbara Jacob, Ora Lee Ashmore, Gladys Koether and Dorothy Rothermel.

Door prizes were awarded. The next reunion will meet on the second Saturday, July, 2005 at the Carmine Hall. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and Bless Be The Tie That Binds.

FREIER-FRANKE REUNION

This year's reunion would have been going for 20 years; but there were a couple of years that there were no meetings, making this the 18th-year reunion. The reunion was held Saturday, July 10, 2004, at the Texas Star Cafe in New Ulm, with 31 present, counting family and guests. The cafe made a buffet-style lunch that was very delicious. Members of the families brought desserts (which were also very delicious). It was decided to have next year's reunion the same time and the same place next year (with the same menu).

**Concerns & Celebrations:** Louise Frank had knee surgery and is in rehab in Houston. A card was signed by all to be taken to her. Tyler Frank was honored in school and had his picture in the New Ulm paper. There were two deaths since last year: Joel Franke and Max Franke. A moment of silence was held in their memory.

Members present were descendants of Joachim and Wilhelmine Hoppe Freier and of Rudolph and Louise Schwarz (Krueger) Franke Sr. Joachim's and Wilhelmine's children were Anna Freier (Henry) Schuette; Otto (Minnie Hartmann) Freier and his twin Hermann (who died young); Minnie Freier (William) Gaskamp; and Mary Freier (Edwin) Franke. Rudolph's and Louise's children were Rudolph (Ida Buenger) Franke Jr., Carl/Charles (Agnes Bittner) Franke; Emma Franke (William) Schramm; and Edwin (Mary Freier) Franke.

Of the Edwin and Mary Freier Franke, descendants attending were: their daughters -- Almeida Bravenec and Norma Franke; their grandchildren -- Judy Rudloff, Charlie (& Virginia) Pavlovsky, Wilbert Frank Jr.; their great-grandchildren -- Laura (& Joel) Hopper, Joan Caffey, Linda Davenport, Kimberly Korth; their great-great-grandchildren, Marc & Karla Hopper, Jennifer Caffey, Christi Rose. Emma and William Schramm's son, Ed (& Jarvis) Schramm was present. A.C. Burkhalter Jr., son of Nora Franke Burkhalter and grandson of Rudolph and Ida Buenger Franke Jr., represented his family. Otto Freier's descendants in attendance were granddaughter Lorchen Freier (& Jerry) Koehn, and great-great-grandchildren, Melynda & James Eckermann. The William and Minnie Freier Gaskamp family were represented by daughters, Viola Lawson and Leona Boenker and granddaughter Janet (& Verde Pomykal).

The Austin-Koblentz Sister City Committee has been active in promoting education exchange from elementary school through graduate school. The Austin City Council approved the sister-city relationship with the German city in June 1991



MINUTES OF THE 105TH CONSECUTIVE NIXON REUNION - DOSS, TX  
SUNDAY, 8/9/04

The weather was absolutely wonderful: cool & cloudy.  
 President Sanford Musgrove called our meeting to order at 11:30 am, and asked James Nixon to open the reunion with a prayer.  
 Walt Gray led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, & Roy Farrar led us in singing America the Beautiful & My Country Tis of Thee.  
 An inspirational message was read by Sherry Musgrove.  
 Sanford's first official duty was to appoint Carol Nixon as Parliamentarian & suggested that he could be our next president.  
 The oldest woman in attendance was Florence Nixon Hinton - 87.  
 The oldest man was Elgin Mund - 90.  
 The youngest person in attendance was Abby Panther - 2.  
 Married the longest: James & Tressie Garner - 62 years.  
 Newlyweds: Elgin & Linda Mund - 6 mos.  
 Lois & Walt Gray traveled the farthest - Florida.  
 First timers: Lois & Walt Gray, Mike Lampkin, Raymond Maupin, Nancy Schoenfeld & Audrey Wells.  
 Deaths since the reunion last August: Robert Andrew "Andy" Nixon (Florence Hinton's brother), Toni Gayle Amos (dtr. of Lucille Nixon Amos), Kenneth L. Nixon (Will Nixon's grandson), Landon Nixon (son of Lester Paul Nixon), Mrs. Rubin Mund, Steve Mund, Walter R. Dale (Louise Gibson's husband), and Lorene Burke Ewing (George Nixon's granddtr.). James Nixon led in the singing of Precious Memories.  
 Sanford introduced the elected officers & the cemetery committee. The cemetery committee consists of Erwin & George Baethge & A. J. Goins. A.J. said that cows had gotten into the cemetery because the gate either wasn't closed or wasn't closed properly, & to be sure the gate is secure when the last person leaves.  
 Sanford asked if there were any corrections or additions to the 2003 minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved.  
 Secretary, Gaynel Conner's report: She reminded everyone to be sure & sign in & get door prize tickets. She also said she brought blank family information forms for anyone who had additions or changes to make in their family history, and to give the completed ones to our Historian, Annetta White. Thanks to Annetta for bringing the books & pictures she's put together on our family. She's put a lot of time & hard work into our family history.  
 Gaynel then told everyone that she had brought a current Journal from the German-Texan Heritage Society, based in downtown Austin, for anyone who is interested in joining. The mailing address is PO Box 684171, Austin, Tx 78768-4171. The GTHS 25th annual meeting will be held in Round Top, TX, Sept. 17-18, 2004. Gaynel asked if it's absolutely necessary to mail out the minutes to everyone on the list, over 200, & 35 were returned by the Post Ofc. She does send out the post cards as a reminder of when/where the reunion will be, & she will bring copies of the minutes to the reunion & she does e-mail the minutes to those she has an address for. Some said they'd like to get the minutes in the mail, so she asked those to write a note next to their name in the sign in book & she'd send them a copy.

Gaynel also said that she & Mikel always spend the Sat. before the reunion in Fredericksburg, & would love for anyone in the family to join them for a day of shopping & a wonderful German supper.

Treasurer, Jack Nixon, reported \$673.80 in the General Fund & \$332.00 in the Cemetery Fund. He thanked the 3 members of the Cemetery Committee for donating the \$75 back to the cemetery fund that he paid each one of them last year. He also said that in addition to the \$200 rental fee, he had to pay a \$150 clean-up deposit, so we should be sure & clean the area up before we leave.

Two hats were passed & \$247 was collected for the General Fund & \$237 was collected for the Cemetery Fund (the \$237 includes money from the Silent Auction -- see below).

No Old Business.

New Business: Bob Nixon told us about a website, [nixonnow.com](http://nixonnow.com), that has all sorts of Nixon memorabilia. Bob also moved that the Executive Committee be given the authority to move money from one account to the other if needed. This would include the newly appointed Parliamentarian. Motion was seconded & approved.

Elaine Simmons asked if someone else would take care of setting up the tables for lunch next year. Sherry Musgrove & Linda Nixon volunteered to do this necessary chore.

Sanford asked for a round of thank you applause for Elaine for doing this job for 2 years. Bob Nixon said the Nixon website is still going strong. If you want to see it, contact him or Ron for a password.

Linda Nixon reported that we have two items for a silent auction today in addition to the door prizes, & asked if we wanted to do a silent auction again next year. She explained how it works & said food & handmade items are the best, so anyone who wants to, can bring items for this great money making project for the cemetery fund next year. Linda said she'd bring the auction sign-up forms. It was decided that we'd do this project next year.

Sanford asked Carol Nixon to say the closing prayer, & Sanford closed the meeting at 12:10 with the blessing.


As usual, we all enjoyed a delicious meal & awesome desserts.

After lunch, Sanford reminded everyone about the two handmade wooden Nixon plaques that Roy Farrar made & donated for the silent auction. There were 31 door prizes this year, donated by Gaynel Conner, Linda Nixon & Sherry Musgrove. Thanks to them, & thanks to Lavella Nixon for helping give away the door prizes. Thanks, also, to Linda Nixon for furnishing the tickets for the door prize drawings. The door prizes consisted of everything from soap, candles, a Texas charm bracelet, a summer purse & Christmas decorations to a boot shaped barb wire display & a tabletop fountain.

Winners: Jack Baethge, Joe Bob Simmons, Mike Lampkin, Yve Nixon, Marlene Cornehl, Phil Nixon, Walt Gray, Jack Nixon, Joyce Lyn Nixon, Carol Nixon, Farris Nixon, Gretchen Mund Beck, Linda Nixon, Paula Baethge, Nancy Schoenfeld, Bob Nixon, James Nixon, Sandy Beck, Adrienne Nixon, Henry George Baethge, Bonnie Machen, Eddie Nixon, Geneva Bolado, Audrey Wells, Sam Bolado, Marjorie Farrar, Florence Hinton, Raymond Machen, Lavella Nixon, Julie Beck Pew & Harvey Althaus. Sanford then announced that there was only 5 min. left on the silent auction. The bidding was fast & furious, but Sherry Musgrove won one plaque for \$36, & Audrey Wells won the other one for \$35. This amount was added to the cemetery fund. We all had a lot of

fun & look forward to seeing one another next year -- same time, same place.  
Everyone helped clean up, then some went to the cemetery & some went to the old home  
place on Squaw Creek.

Respectfully submitted,



Gaynel Conner  
Secretary

Secy. Note: I received a note from Florence Hinton the week after the reunion listing 3  
deaths that weren't reported at the Reunion: William Burl Cox, grandson of W.T. Nixon;  
James Carrell Harrell, husband of Bernice Louise Gibson; Gladys Daisy Daniels Faull,  
wife of Otto Wilbert Faull.

My great grandfather, Andrew Jackson Nixon II, married Lois Christine Strackbein on  
August 26, 1862. For 80 years, the Nixon family had been part of the westward  
movement of American pioneers. Lois was born October 22, 1846 in Frohnhausen,  
County of Dillkreis in the province of Nassau, Germany. With her parents, Frederick &  
Elise, nee Martin, Lois came to America on the ship Reform, leaving Bremen, April 17,  
1851. They arrived at Galveston on June 18, 1851. Both families had settled near  
Fredericksburg, so A.J. & Lois built their house on Squaw Creek in 1869, & it's still  
occupied by a Nixon descendant.

When I was a child, the Nixon Reunion was held on the banks of Squaw Creek (about  
15 miles West of Fredericksburg). Just across the creek is the Nixon cemetery which  
received an historical marker in 1993.

The Nixon Reunion is held every year on the second Sunday in August in Doss, Tx.

www.VictoriaAdvocate.com

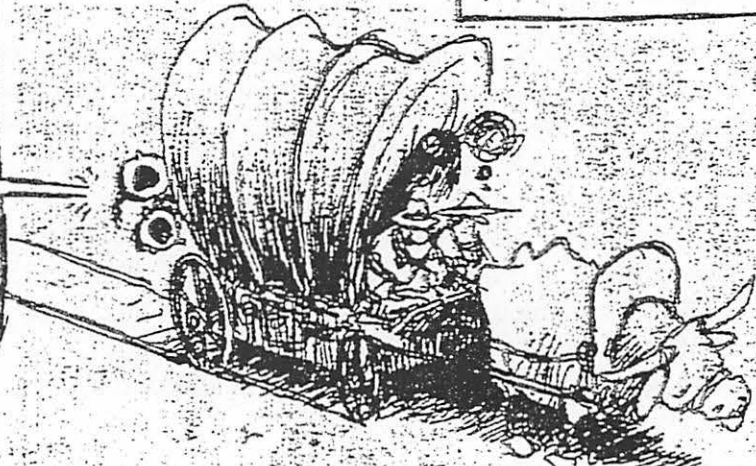
### NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley Miller

VIEV/063-75

THE MOST  
SEVERE TEST OF  
PIONEER  
ENDURANCE

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WILEY@NON-SEQUITUR.COM

Submitted by Frances Hartmann

## 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 iron smith and a great story teller, 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,

**Dresden, Germany and Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic**  
**by Durwood (Woody) Franke**  
**and submitted by Lorchen Koehn**

We had tried to get to Dresden a year ago last summer but the flooding of the Elbe River had closed the city to all visitors. At that time we were content to spend our time in Leipzig and Altenburg where my great-great-grandfather, Ernst August Franke, was born in 1806. On this trip we finally were able to make it to Dresden and other places Ernst Franke wrote about in his travels. Tuesday, November 11, was a holiday so I took off Monday for a four-day weekend. At the last moment we decided we should take off Friday noon to get down the road a way.

So on my birthday, Friday, November 7, we headed east of Brussels through Aachen and Koln (Cologne) to Geissen, Germany. The scenery past Koln was of a pretty autumn countryside with reds, yellows, oranges, and brown colors mixed in with evergreen pines. As it became dark early we were treated to a beautiful full moonrise ahead of us. In Geissen we found the US military base, gassed up the car and found our guest housing on base. The base at Geissen is pretty basic and we were tired so we ordered a pizza and salad delivered to our room and ate dinner in front of the TV.

Saturday morning we woke fairly early and were on the road by 8:00 am. We stopped at one of the ever-present McDonalds and had an Egg McMuffin for breakfast. We headed east along autobahns A5 to A7 to A4 where we zipped past Erfurt (Buchenwald monument in the distance), Weimar, Jena, Gera, Chemnitz and finally to Dresden where we arrived about noon. Driving German autobahns is not as nice as it used to be. Maybe it's because we were in former East Germany where rebuilding is at a fast pace but it seemed that there is much heavier traffic than before with open borders and construction about every 30 miles so that we had to constantly slow down to two very narrow lanes. And so many trucks!

We checked into our very nice Radisson hotel built in an old historic building. Soon we were walking and looking for a place to eat. We had a nice lunch of goulash soup, bratwurst and Paulaner beer, which we shared in a restaurant called Gansedieb. Thus fortified, we were able to continue with our sightseeing. It was cold with a stiff wind but clear skies and bright sunshine. I should point out here that Dresden has had some bad luck over the years. I don't know the complete history but in 1760 much of the city was destroyed in the Seven Years War. I think Napoleon also won a major battle in Dresden. In recent times, the Allies bombed it the night of February 13, 1945, just a few months before the end of the war. In that bombing a firestorm destroyed 75% of the city and over 100,000 people were killed – most incinerated. Then Dresden lived under 50 years of communist regulations and last summer suffered its worst flooding in history. So, it's amazing that the city has been rebuilt so well. It's known in Europe as "the Florence of the Elbe".

We walked to the nearby Kreuzkirche (or church of the cross) and took a quick look inside. This church is the oldest in Dresden and is still undergoing reconstruction from



damage during World War II. From here it was a short walk across the old market place to the Zwinger Museum. The Zwinger is the best example of German Baroque architecture and was built in the early 1700s under the reign of Augustus II (known as Augustus the Strong): From its concept it was used as an art gallery and Augustus the Strong and his son collected some of the best art of their day. Luckily much of the art was safely hidden in 1945 and not destroyed. The Zwinger is shaped in a square with different galleries along each side. The first part we visited is called the Semper Gallery or Old Masters Gallery. Unfortunately we didn't have time to take it in slowly but did see tapestries by Raphael, paintings by Italian, Dutch, Spanish and German masters such as Rembrandt, Ruben, Jan van Eyck, Vermeer, Tintoretto, Titian, Botticelli, El Greco, and Raphael's most famous painting, *Sistine Madonna*.

In another gallery we saw suits of armor and weapons such as lances, swords, and early muskets. They were the top of the line with encrusted jewels in the sword handles, ornate ironwork and armor plates for horses and a special children's armor section. A special section on jousting had two life size models of horses with riders in armor, shields and lances about to make contact. It was the best display of armor we have seen anywhere.

From there we moved across the Zwinger to the Porcelain Collection, which was of more interest to Rita than to me. However, I did find the history of Meissen porcelain interesting and the work was of the best craftsmanship. Next we visited the Salon of Mathematics and Physics in the Zwinger, which had an interesting, but small, display of globes, thermometers, barometers, astrolabes, and mainly clocks and watches. The clocks were most intricate and displayed much more than mere time.

We left the Zwinger and made our way to another museum called the Albertinum, a one-time arsenal that was transformed into a museum in 1884. Our main objective in the Albertinum is called the Green Vault Collection (*Grünes Gewölbe*) and is an exhibit of jewels and treasury collected by the kings of Saxony, especially Augustus the Strong. I also saw a ring and book that belonged to Martin Luther. There was much gold, silver, emeralds, rubies, pearls, and precious stones of all sorts.

From the Albertinum we walked along the riverbank and then viewed the outside of the Semper Opera House, the Dresden cathedral, the Dresden Schloss (castle), and the mosaic of Meissen tiles called the Furstenzug. The Furstenzug was built in 1906 and shows a chronological parade of the rulers of Saxony on horseback. It is longer than a football field and about 50 feet high alongside the Dresden Schloss exterior.

By now it was dark and we were tired and hungry. We found a restaurant in the square between the opera, cathedral, and castle. The square is called Theaterplatz and the restaurant is called Schinkelwache cafe. It was formerly a guardhouse. We each had fish; Rita had salmon and I had sea trout. We had a local Saxon white wine and desserts, which were the restaurant's best achievements.

While walking back to our hotel we came across a new shopping area with a large, new shopping mall. We were surprised to find most shops open until 9:00 pm, which is not

common in Germany for a Saturday. I think it may have been a special promotion night for shopping and not the usual case. Back at our hotel we noticed that we were given a room with a Jacuzzi tub for two so we filled it and relaxed in what they called an 'air bath'.

Sunday we were out of our room about 9:00 am and just had coffee and croissants in the lobby 'grab and run breakfast' which was free. Again it was sunny with a cold easterly breeze but we walked to the riverbank and the Bruhische Terrace for good views of the east bank of Dresden. We crossed the Elbe River on the Carolabrücke Bridge and stopped for photos of the Dresden waterfront.

On this side of the Elbe we were the first to arrive at the Museum of Saxon Arts and Crafts when it opened at 10:00 am. Since my great-great-grandfather was a cobbler I had hoped they would have something on this craft but they didn't. It was still interesting since they had furniture, clothes, toys and other crafts from all areas of Saxony. Saxon furniture was similar to Bavarian furniture in that it was brightly colored, usually with a date painted on, and sometimes the name of the builder or owner of the furniture. Most of the furniture was dated in the late 1700s and early 1800s so it was representative of the type of furniture my ancestor probably was raised with.

After we finished at the museum we walked a little further along and viewed the gilded statue of Augustus the Strong on horseback before re-crossing the Elbe back into Dresden city center. We walked around the cathedral to the Schloss once more and viewed the inner courtyard called Langer Gang. We had a good lunch at the Paulaner café associated with the very nice Kempinski Hotel. I had my wiener schnitzel and Rita had sauerbraten. For dessert I had apple strudel and Rita had a local dessert, which was a semmelknodel with vanilla sauce.

We walked back to the Zwinger and climbed to the rooftop terrace where we took more photos in the bright sunlight. We walked past the Wall Pavilion and viewed the Nymphenbad which is a fountain called the Bath of the Nymphs. Next we walked to the nearby Semper Opera House and took a tour of the interior. The tour was conducted only in German so we didn't get much from the narration. After that we walked to the Hilton Hotel and looked at current Meissen porcelain and I was surprised how expensive it was. We had a cup of tea at an outside table in the sunshine and waited for a tour of the Frauenkirche, one of the most beautiful Lutheran churches in Europe, which was destroyed in the 1945 bombing. It is being restored and should be completed in 2006. Our tour took us into the restored basement but we couldn't see anything of the church interior except photos taken in the late 1930s. We went back to our hotel to rest and later in the evening returned to the Gansedieb restaurant for a light snack and glass of wine.

Monday we had a big breakfast brunch in our hotel, checked out and were away about 9:30 am. We drove south out of Dresden and found beautiful, old neighborhoods along the Elbe River that were big mansions appearing to have been built in the late 1800s. We made our way to Pillnitz where we could see the chateau from the road but we didn't have time to take a tour. We drove further south into the region known as *Sächsische*

*Schweiz* or Swiss Saxony. As we climbed up into the hills the sky became more overcast and we were enveloped in a low fog bank. We made it to the national park and overlook called the Bastei. We parked the car and walked out to this lookout, which had terrific views of the Elbe River (see our website). It was cold, damp and windy – we zipped up our coats, put up our hoods and put on our gloves. The rocky cliffs were picturesque but we had to hurry back to the car with no time for a hike. Maybe some other time.

The road took us downhill to Bad Schandau and we crossed the Elbe River once more. We saw the fortress castle called Konigstein by the roadside. We drove nearly back into Dresden and at Heidenau took a scenic road to Altenberg near the Czech border. This is not the same Altenberg where my ancestor was born. We hit fog and frost that was sticking to the trees and to the road in some places. We took scenic, curvy back roads through Rehefeld, Holzgau, Rechenberg-Bienenmuhle, Neuhausen, and finally our destination of Seiffen. Seiffen got us into the Christmas mood since it is a small village where the art of Christmas woodcarving started. There are dozens of shops selling wooden toys, nutcrackers, incense smokers, candle pyramids, and the Erzgebirgean arches known as *Schwibbogen*. After a little shopping and a bratwurst at a sidewalk trailer we headed back on the road.

We headed west through Olbernhau to Zoblit where Ernst August Franke said he went for a cure. In his diary he wrote, "On June 30, 1824, I started my voyage to Dresden. After spending one year in this beautiful city I took ill but soon recovered after taking some health baths in Zoblit and Karlsbad." Zoblit is a small village and we couldn't see any sign of a cure house but this is the region where many thermal springs exist. We pressed on towards the Czech Republic through Marienberg, Annaberg-Buchholz and the border town of Oberwiesenthal.

We crossed into the Czech Republic and down the mountain pass to the town of Bozi Dar and saw our first prostitute trying to flag us down from the roadside. Rita saw many more prostitutes on her first trip here last year – apparently it is a thriving business. We drove to Karlovy Vary in the dark and promptly got lost upon arrival. Every American I know who has driven to Karlovy Vary got lost in town. It took us about an hour, stopping to ask several people with limited English skills, stopping at a gasoline station and buying a better map before we found good directions to the Pupp Hotel where we checked into our room.

We had a very good meal with a Czech red wine in the grand, formal dining room of our hotel. Service was first class with waitresses decked out in little French maids costumes. After our meal we took a little walk in the pedestrian walk area free of traffic. It was also free of people as this is not the main season for tourists. Karlovy Vary has a 600-year history of balneology, as they call it, or health baths for various cures. King Charles IV founded the town in 1350 and, when my ancestor came here, it was a part of Germany known as Karlsbad. Charles, Carl, Karola, and Karl are all interchangeable. The town has 12 curative thermal springs, which cure "disorders of the digestive system, metabolic disorders and disorders of the locomotive organs." We saw several old cure houses and dozens of thermal fountains, which had signs giving the temperature of each spring.

Tuesday morning we set our alarms and woke early since we had a long drive ahead of us. We had a good breakfast buffet in our hotel formal dining room again and then set out for a walk to see Karlovy Vary in daylight and take photos. There still were very few people out, mostly locals it seemed. But most of us had our little drinking cups and I sampled about a dozen springs, filling my gut with rust no doubt. I feel like a better person for it!

We checked out and were on the road about 9:30 navigating our way out of town much better than into town. We retraced our drive to the border but turned west on scenic, windy roads to Tellerhauser, Ehrenzipfel, Rittersgrun, Pohla and the big town of Schwarzenberg. This road was all that much more scenic since we had a heavy frost overnight and the forest were filled with perfect evergreen Christmas trees that looked as if they were flocked with snow. This area of Germany had much mining of all sorts but the road we were on was called the Silver Road. In Aue we looked for the Esso station that couldn't be found, hit a roadblock sign, and had to backtrack with a small amount of gasoline. I should explain that in Germany we get Esso gasoline coupons we can use for half the normal price. We headed north to Stollberg where we entered the autobahn towards Chemnitz then turned west on autobahn A4 again where we finally found an Esso station with our low gasoline light flashing. The rest of the trip was a long drive retracing our path to Brussels where we arrived about 8:30 pm. Early to bed and late to rise but back to work the next day.

We enjoyed the trip and found much more we would like to have seen and explored. Dresden's highlights are compactly located and can be seen in a short time but it may be a few years before restoration of all the major monuments is completed. I would really like to come back in about five years and spend more time in both Saxony and Bohemia – maybe in the late summer.

**THIS ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY A GENEROUS  
FINANCIAL GIFT FROM GERMANIA INSURANCE**



**Altenburg and Leipzig, Germany**  
**by Durwood (Woody) Franke**  
**and submitted by Lorchen Koehn**

I document these trips to assist me in my advancing years, and they have already been of great help. We have traveled so much over the years that often I cannot remember the details of previous trips without consulting my dairies or travelogs. So bear with me while I detail our journey to the land of my ancestors in eastern Germany.

Rita and I had traveled to this area before. In 1977 when we were camping around Europe for three months, we drove from Nurnberg to West Berlin, passing within a short distance of Altenburg and Leipzig. But at that time we didn't have the information about where the Franke family originated. The East Germans didn't give us freedom of movement and we had only four hours to make the crossing from the border to West Berlin. In August 1983 we had learned much more about my family background and we visited Altenburg for the first time. We met the genealogist Gerhard Porzig who was our guide around the city. Then again we visited in summer of 1999 when Rita met me in Amsterdam (I was on a business trip) and we rented a car. Altenburg was improving from the Soviet era when a large Russian air force base was located on its outskirts.

This time even more improvements can be seen in this part of what was East Germany. Mainly the old buildings are being restored to life and the stores have all the food and products of the West which they did not have before. With this progress come the many Burger Kings and McDonalds along with tattoos, body piercing, and loud rap music blaring from car radios. But it is progress nevertheless.

On Thursday morning, August 15, Rita and I woke early to get in line for tickets at Brussels' Hotel de Ville in order to see the flower carpet put down in the Grand Place every two years. It was beautiful this year and as we left the crowds were starting to descend on the Grand Place.

We were away by 10:00 am and headed east past Aachen and Koln, Germany. We thought we were making good time when we ran into major construction on Autobahn A-45 near Siegen. It took an hour to move about ten miles. From there we drove past Giessen, Alsfeld, Bad Hersfeld and Eisenach only stopping for gasoline and the occasional bathroom break. The drive was a tension creator as traffic was heavy and there was construction every few miles, which slowed traffic down considerably. The scenery was great but the drive was not. We zoomed on past Erfurt, Weimar and Jena then turned north on A-9 to Leipzig. We arrived later than expected at about 8:00 pm and found our way into the city center just fine. We checked into our nice Marriott Hotel then quickly walked into the old Markt or Market square. From our guidebook we chose the historical 16<sup>th</sup> century wine cellar called Auerbachs Keller.

(Ernst Franke)

It was a good choice and I kept wondering if my great-great-grandfather had stopped in for a beer or glass of wine in the past. We started with glasses of local Ur-Krostitzer beer (since 1534) – I ordered dark while Rita had pilsner. We chose "Saxon specialties" for

our meals. I had a peppered pork cutlet baked in a dish of sauerkraut and mashed potatoes covered with cheese. Rita had beef roulade with red cabbage and potato dumplings (kartofel knudel). Rita had a local red wine and I had a local white wine from Freyburg, a short distance east of Leipzig. For dessert we shared a local dish of grilled quark cheese served with a vanilla custard sauce and cinnamon ice cream. The meal was delicious and we had to walk around the busy town center for a while afterwards.

Since Leipzig is a university town, it has plenty of restaurants and nightlife. We found most of our hotel and restaurant staff spoke good English, which wasn't true in Altenburg. But I would recommend you wait another two to three years before visiting Leipzig, even though it is a beautiful city. It will get better. Much of the downtown area is under construction with new buildings for museums and markets. The streets are blockaded and torn up in many areas. But the old buildings are getting nicely restored and it is a beautiful city to visit even now.

We had intended to drive to Dresden the next day but watching the TV news it sounded as if the flooding there would not get better but only worse. So we called the hotel in Dresden to cancel and then booked ourselves for another night in Leipzig.

Friday morning we ate breakfast in our hotel and then drove to Altenburg. Taking what documentation I had on my ancestors, we walked streets where ancestors lived hundreds of years ago. We parked on Wall Strasse where there are a few remains of the old city walls. We walked up Kesselgasse where my ancestor, Johann Christian Rothe, master butcher of the Ducal Court, resided. We walked down Hillgasse (next street over) where my ancestors Michael Mahn, rope maker, and Valtin (butcher) and Anna Maria Rothe lived.

We walked to the market square and then to St. Bartholomew church where most of my early ancestors were baptized, married and buried. This is the oldest church in Altenburg. St. Bartholomew was built in 1459 and a Roman crypt was discovered under the late Romanesque building. Martin Luther visited Altenburg several times and performed at least one marriage in St. Bartholomew.

We went to the church offices and rang the bell. A lady came out to greet us but didn't speak English. Or so she said. It turned out her English was better than she admitted and between our German and my genealogy family tree, she understood what we wanted – copies of the old church records. The cost per page was about \$3 and I had all the page numbers and book numbers so I knew what I wanted. The only problem was that their copy machine was broken. But we did look at one of the books and saw the baptism of my great-great-grandfather Ernst August Franke in 1806. It was quite a thrill and she let me photograph the page. We left our address and money with her and she agreed to make some further copies of other records when their machine is repaired.

Next we went into St. Bartholomew and toured the crypt and interior. The caretaker let me take a few photos. I hiked up the stairs to the bell tower for a great view of Altenburg. Rita declined to make the hike on 300-year-old stairs. Next we walked to the

Ratskeller in the Rathouse (court house) and had lunch. We had eaten there twice before and find it the best place in town. I had a Thuringer bratwurst with sauerkraut and mashed potatoes. Rita had a salad and dish of baked spatzle noodles with cheese and mushrooms. We had a local Altenburger beer with our good meal.

We left Altenburg and drove on a little further south to Ronneburg where the Frankes originated before Altenburg. The oldest records I have of the Frankes is a Martin Franke born in Ronneburg in 1666. So we found St. Marien church and knocked on the door of the church office. A young man in his late 30s or early 40s came down and greeted us. We were quite surprised when we asked if he spoke English that he said yes he did. He was Pastor Tiedemann who had lived a year in Milwaukee. He was very friendly and gave us a tour of St. Marien. But he did not have the old records as they were kept elsewhere and the office was not open. But we exchanged addresses and he promised to get copies of the records I need and mail them to us.

We walked around Ronneburg but couldn't find much of historical or cultural note. Ronneburg was a mining town that suffered neglect under the Russians. The Russians mined the local uranium in a way that may have caused problems with future drinking water. When we visited Ronneburg in 1983 it was a town of about 14,000 people and today, with the mining stopped, it has dropped to about 5,800. Pastor Tiedemann told us stories of dropping church attendance, joblessness, and bickering between church members who used to belong to the Communist Party and those who didn't. Ronneburg is in sad shape today.

We drove back to Leipzig via Altenburg and Kotteritz where we met Gerhard Porzig in 1983 but we couldn't find his house. He was old then and we suspect he has died. We sent him Christmas cards several years in a row and they were unanswered. He was always good about writing to us.

We walked more around Leipzig and had a great meal outdoors at the Coffe Baum (coffee tree) restaurant, a historical guesthouse dating back to 1645. It was a warm night and there were hundreds of people dining outdoors at sidewalk cafes. It was fun and exciting. As much as I hate to admit it, we both ordered the seniors meal of a small portion of pork tenderloin with lots of vegetables. It was good and not as huge as previous meals. Again we had local beer with the meal. We shared a nice apple strudel for dessert.

Sunday we woke early and walked into the city center of Leipzig once more. We found a good bagel place and had a light breakfast there. This was unheard of just 20 years ago. We walked to the beautiful St. Nikolai church with columns that looked like palm trees. Next we went to St. Thomas church where Johann S. Bach is buried. We walked around town taking more photos of the pretty Alte Borse (old stock exchange) and Altes Rathaus (old court house). We walked to the Neues Rathaus (yep, newer one but built around 1900). Then back to the hotel to check out and get on the road.

We decided to take back roads instead of fighting the traffic on the autobahns. We drove to the pretty town of Naumburg and parked. We visited the cathedral called Dom St. Peter and St. Paul, a very old (13<sup>th</sup> century), historical cathedral. We also walked to the Markt or Market center with a town hall built in 1517 and a cluster of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century houses.

Then we drove west on highway 87 in pretty wine making country. We went over an old bridge in Bad Kosen and saw signs indicating Napoleonic battles of 1806 and 1813. It got me thinking about Ernst August Franke's diary in which he says he was orphaned in 1813. I wonder if his father was killed in the famous battle of Leipzig in 1813? I will have to research this further. We drove through Eckartsberga, Sommerda, Strausfurt, Bad Tennstedt, and Bad Langensalza to Muhlhausen where we parked again and walked this pretty walled city. This old town has its walls still intact and many old half-timbered houses. We had delicious ice cream dishes at a sidewalk café in the market square. We visited the Marienkirche (church) and the Blasiuskirche where J. S. Bach played the organ in 1707-08. Then back into the car and on the road again. We crossed the border from Thuringen into Hesse where the old East/West Germany border used to be located. We drove through beautiful towns full of half-timbered houses in Wanfried and Frieda. At Eschwege we drove along the Weser River to Witzenhausen then into the hills through Hundelshausen, Trubenhausen, Spangenberg and Homberg. A beautiful area we must revisit.

We stopped in Marburg and visited the old pilgrim church of St. Elizabeth where she is buried. This church dates back to 1235 and Marburg was one of the great pilgrimage centers of the West where pilgrims came to view the relics of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. We hiked up to the old town and had a good dinner at Zur Sonne (the Sun), a 17<sup>th</sup> century guesthouse. We had pork schnitzel with mushrooms and melted cheese on egg spatzles. It was very good and I had a local Frankish white wine while Rita had a Baden white wine. No dessert tonight, just coffee.

As many times before, over dinner we looked at the map and decided we could make it home by driving late into the night. Rather than spend another night out we did that. We drove through pretty countryside on back roads through Biedenkopf to Dillenburg as the sun was setting. At Dillenburg we got back on autobahn A-45 and retraced our steps back home. The traffic was much lighter at night and no major construction to slow us down. We arrived home about midnight and collapsed into bed.

### **WINE AT OKTOBERFEST !!!**

**Munich, Germany -- The world's biggest beer festival, the Munich Oktoberfest, has broken with tradition to allow the sale of mulled wine to warm up drinkers during an unusually cold spell. Organizers permitted the sale of the sweet, warm beverage at the 171<sup>st</sup> annual Oktoberfest, which was hit by rain and gale force winds, but they made clear it was an exception. There were more than 3.1 million visitors, despite the cold temperatures of around 59 degrees Fahrenheit. (from Reuters News Service in Houston Chronicle)**



**GRANDMA'S APRON**  
**Submitted by Van Massirer**

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a hot pad when removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears. In the chicken-coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow when Grandma bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas were shelled it carried the hulls outdoors. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in fruit that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before anyone invents something to replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

*—Van Massirer attached a note saying "The story triggered a flood of memories from my childhood when I watched my grandmother as she toiled in the kitchen. In my memories, she always wore an apron, except when she went to church on Sunday morning. My mother also often wore an apron, and following her recent death, I found her apron collection ironed, neatly folded, and stored in a drawer in her kitchen cabinet. Some of her aprons are 'plain Janes,' but most of them are quite ornate, with lace, ruffles, and embroidered flowers and other designs."*

---

*Round Top State Bank was a sponsor  
of the 2004 GTHS Annual Meeting at  
Round Top*

**ROUND TOP STATE BANK**

**301 N. Washington St.**

**P.O. Box 36**

**Round Top, TX 78954**

**[www.roundtopstatebank.com](http://www.roundtopstatebank.com)**

**Phone 979-249-3151 Fax 979-249-3122**

***GTHS has begun a new project — to compile a book that will preserve German-Texan recipes. Please join the project by sending us one of your family's recipes.***

## Instructions for Heritage Note

We know that people love to read cookbooks as much as they love preparing the recipes. To make this cookbook a treasured keepsake we are allowing room for a "heritage notes." These cannot be longer than 375 characters (that's about 50 words). Here are six examples that you can use as a guide to write your heritage note.

1. *The recipe has been handed down in the family from an ancestor who settled in Texas prior to December 31, 1901. Example:*

This recipe was brought from Westphalia Germany by Ursula Zimmermann who immigrated to Texas with her son and daughter-in-law, Jacob Zimmermann and Anna Maria Rauch. They arrived at Indianola in December 1844 aboard the York and settled in Victoria County near the present-day location of Inez. (311 characters including spaces)

2. *The recipe is modern but you are a descendant of someone who settled in Texas.*

This recipe contributed by Henry Wolff Jr., a descendant of Christian Wolf who immigrated from Erndtebruck, Wittgenstein, Germany to Shelby, Austin County, Texas.

3. *This recipe is from a cookbook published by a church (or community) in Texas or Germany.*

This recipe was contributed by Mrs. Joe Frank to the "Sweets and Meats ... And Other Good Things to Eat" cookbook that was compiled and published for Trinity Parish Guild in Victoria about 1904. (192 characters including spaces)

4. *This recipe is a favorite served in a Texas bed and breakfast or a German Gasthaus.*

This recipe is a favorite of guests at the Friendly Oaks Bed and Breakfast in Victoria, Texas. Bill and CeeBee McLeod operate the B&B in a home that was built for F.E. Welder in 1916. (183 characters including spaces)

5. *This recipe was used (or is still used) in a Texas or German restaurant or café.*

Fred Montier, son of an 1839 immigrant to Texas, opened a bakery in Port Lavaca in 1896. In 1904 the bakery became the Montier Café. The café was especially known for its crabmeat omelets. (190 characters including spaces).

6. *This recipe was contributed by or is a favorite of a Texas writer or artist.*

This recipe is a favorite of naturalist Roland "Ro" Wauer of Victoria who writes the "Nature's Notes" column for the *Victoria Advocate* newspaper. He has also published numerous books for those interested in nature, birds, and butterflies. (202 characters including spaces)

### German Texan Heritage Society

P.O. Box 684171  
Austin, Texas 78768-4171

Telephone (512) 482-0927 or 1(866) 482-GTHS (4847)

Fax number: (512) 482-0636

E-Mail: [GermanTexans@aol.com](mailto:GermanTexans@aol.com)

➔ Please remove this page from your journal for return to the GTHS



# German-Texan Heritage Society

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## Recipe Collection Sheet

*Follow instructions to the right*

For office use only

Recipe No.

Category (check one):  
 Appetizers & Beverage  
 Soups & Salads  
 Vegetables and Side Dishes  
 Main Dishes  
 Breads & Rolls  
 Desserts  
 Cookies & Candies  
 This & That

Recipe Title ▲

Submitted By ▲

Address ▲

Phone Number (include area code) ▲

E-mail address ▲

**Ingredients:** (use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg. env. C. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.)

**Directions:**

**Heritage Note:**

Not more than 375 characters (letters and spaces) - about 50 words

## Collection Sheet Instructions

Type or print clearly in ink not pencil and place only one recipe per form.

If more room is needed, use another sheet of equal size and staple together.

List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions. Split into two columns.

Include container sizes (e.g., 16 oz. pkg., 24-oz. can).

Keep directions in paragraph form not steps.

Use names of ingredients in the directions (e.g., "Combine flour and sugar." DO NOT use statements like "Combine first three ingredients"

Include temperatures, and cooking, chilling, baking and/or freezing times.

If you submit more than one recipe remain consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe that you contribute.

Your recipe should fit one of the stated categories.

Not more than two recipes from any one person, immediate family or bed and breakfast.

See reverse side for instructions to write Heritage Note

**Complete the form on the other side of this page and return it to the GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171. For more information about this new German Heritage project, phone (512) 482-0636 or fax (512) 482-0636 or e-mail [GermanTexans@aol.com](mailto:GermanTexans@aol.com)**

# Thoughts While Thinking

By Vic Mathias

Last month I went to a family reunion. We talked about Grandpa. That was natural, I guess. He is the guy whose family was reunioneing.

It's also natural, I suppose, that I got to thinking about him again this past month. Thanksgiving, you know. He really gave me a lot to be thankful for and helped teach me to whom those thanks really should go.

Grandpa was a farmer who set his plow into a piece of dirt about 1900 and hung in there for about fifty years before slowing down. But it was another side of his many faceted life that we were discussing at the reunion.

Take yourself back in time, if you will, to that period before electricity brought the miracle of refrigeration to rural Texas. To the time when going to town — and to the store — was a half-day job.

Fresh milk meant direct from the cow — that day.

Fresh eggs meant that the hens had been cackling and you robbed the nest — that day.

Fresh vegetables meant you gathered them from the garden — that day.

But what about a steak, or a roast, or hamburger? It too had to be fresh because there was no deep freeze or no refrigerator. But you couldn't butcher a cow every day. That would be just a little much.

The solution: The Beef Club.

Even one beef a week was more than a family could handle. But if several families got together and shared a beef once a week, that made sense. That way each family could have fresh beef at least once a week — and not have to eat the whole thing at once.

But someone had to get the whole plan organized, find the right number of people to share the beef, see to it that the beef was slaughtered at the desired time and then equitably divided.

For this important job, his friends and neighbors chose Grandpa.

The "butcher house" stood in a grove of live oak trees just outside the northeast corner of the yard. It was a modest building, to say the least. Perhaps eight feet wide and twelve feet long, it could boast of no stainless steel band saws or air conditioning. It also had no floor, except for solid Mother Earth. The work area consisted of a "work bench" down one side and half way across the front and two sturdy butcher blocks cut from giant pecan trees. Around the walls, at eye-level height, were numerous meat hooks that held the sections of beef as they were divided. Ventilation came only when the wind blew through the screened sides. Sections of the wall were propped out and open in hopes that a cooling breeze would come.

The operation of the "beef club" itself was an intricate thing but worked for many years. Grandpa was the benevolent dictator of one for more than thirty years. It worked this way.

Approximately thirty farmers in the area would agree to furnish one beef each during the seven-month period. This meant thirty weeks with fresh beef. Early Saturday morning Grandpa would grab his trusty 32 caliber rifle and head for his car and trailer which were carefully made ready the day before. First a Model T Ford and traller. Later a Model A Ford. But sometimes a wagon and team when the roads were too muddy for the car. And sometimes it rained on Saturday too.

So off Grandpa went to the farmer who was furnishing the beef that week. The critter was rather unceremoniously skinned and quartered under some available tree and loaded on the trailer. Here it was quickly covered with a white cloth and the trip home to the butcher house began immediately. By one o'clock, the beef must be cut up and ready for the club members to pick up their share.

As the first club members began arriving, Grandpa filled their fresh and clean flour sacks with an appropriate share. This was weighed on a "cotton scale" with a meat tray hanging below. The "cotton scale" was the only logical one to use since each farmer understood it and knew that "what you see is what you get."

The amount of meat each member received was recorded on a large chart week by week. If the member received more meat during the year than his "beef" had produced, he would pay the difference at a pre-agreed price, usually ranging from 10¢ to 15¢ per pound.

The success of any beef club though depended on the man who was chosen to operate it. Everyone can't have all sirloin or all T-bone or roasts. The butcher had to be a "benevolent dictator" that had the complete trust of the members who knew they would be treated fairly.

But there were those special occasions when Mrs. Schmidt or Mrs. Jonas was expecting company and would really like to have a nice roast. Or the Fredericks are having out-of-town kinfolk coming and would sure appreciate a few steaks. A word to Grandpa the week before usually took care of the situation. Without making a note, somehow when he was filling the sack the following Saturday, the right cuts just happened to be there.

Beef clubs are no more today. But they played an important part in the development of Texas and in the lives of the many touched by a man I called Grandpa.

He too was part of that history.

Perhaps you can remember a Grandpa too!

## DIE 100ste DEUTSCHE WEIHNACHTSFEIER

The German Weihnachtsfeier Society of San Antonio is made up of a number of historically German organizations in San Antonio, which include representatives from Bethany Congregational Church (UCC), the German Language Departments at Trinity University and certain area public and private high schools, the Beethoven Männerchor, San Antonio Liederkranz, and Hermann's Sons German Band. This year we will hold the 100th Annual German Christmas Candlelight Celebration (Die 100ste. Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier). The service will be held in the Margarite Parker Chapel at Trinity University, 715 Stadium Drive, in San Antonio 78212, on Sunday, December 12, 2004. A 30-minute prelude by the Hermann Sons German Band will begin at 5:00 p.m. and be followed by the main part of Candlelight Celebration at 5:30 p.m. The Beethoven Männerchor and the San Antonio Liederkranz will combine this year and provide the choral music for this centennial celebration. The concert and program are entirely in the German language, wherein the story of the Nativity is told through Scripture, German Christmas poetry, and prayers. (There is no sermon.) The music, which includes both choral and congregational singing, incorporates traditional German Christmas carols and hymns. The prelude will include pieces of music played in Germany at Christmas time. This German Christmas Celebration is opened to the public, and the admission is free!

The San Antonio Liederkranz was established in 1892, and the Beethoven Männerchor is the oldest German singing society in Texas, being established in San Antonio in 1867.

In the past, even tour groups from Germany have attended this German cultural event as well as individuals from all over Texas and other parts of the United States, Canada and South America, and by people of both Protestant and Catholic faiths. In the past, even representatives from the diplomatic corps of the Federal Republic of Germany have attended.

Should you have any questions, please contact me. The long history of this beautiful and majestic German Service and its standing in the wider German community in the San Antonio area is an interesting one. Beginning in 1904 with the German Evangelical Friedens Church of San Antonio, this German Christmas observance has become the oldest continual annual German Christmas Candlelight Celebration in Texas.

["Die Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier" has also been mentioned in the book, *Christmas in Texas* by Elizabeth Silverthorne (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1990), page 67, in the chapter dealing with German Texans.]

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Contact Telephone: 210/826-0255, John B. Culver: or e-mail: [jbculver@grandecom.net](mailto:jbculver@grandecom.net).  
210/534-4481, Carolyn A. Gisler: or e-mail: [txgisler@swbell.net](mailto:txgisler@swbell.net).

# Die 100ste Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier



## The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual German Christmas Candlelight Celebration

*featuring the Combined Voices of the*

### Beethoven Männerchor

&

### San Antonio Liederfranz

*Including the sound of the*

### Hermann Sons

### German Band

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

### 5:00 p.m.

*To be held at the*

### MARGARITE B. PARKER CHAPEL

*(Next to the tall Bell Tower)*

### TRINITY UNIVERSITY

### 1 Trinity Place, San Antonio 78212

*(715 Stadium Drive)*

*Sponsored by*

**The German Weihnachtsfeier Society  
of San Antonio**

Telephone: (210) 826-0255 or (210) 342-5765

E-mail Addresses: [jbculver@grandecom.net](mailto:jbculver@grandecom.net)

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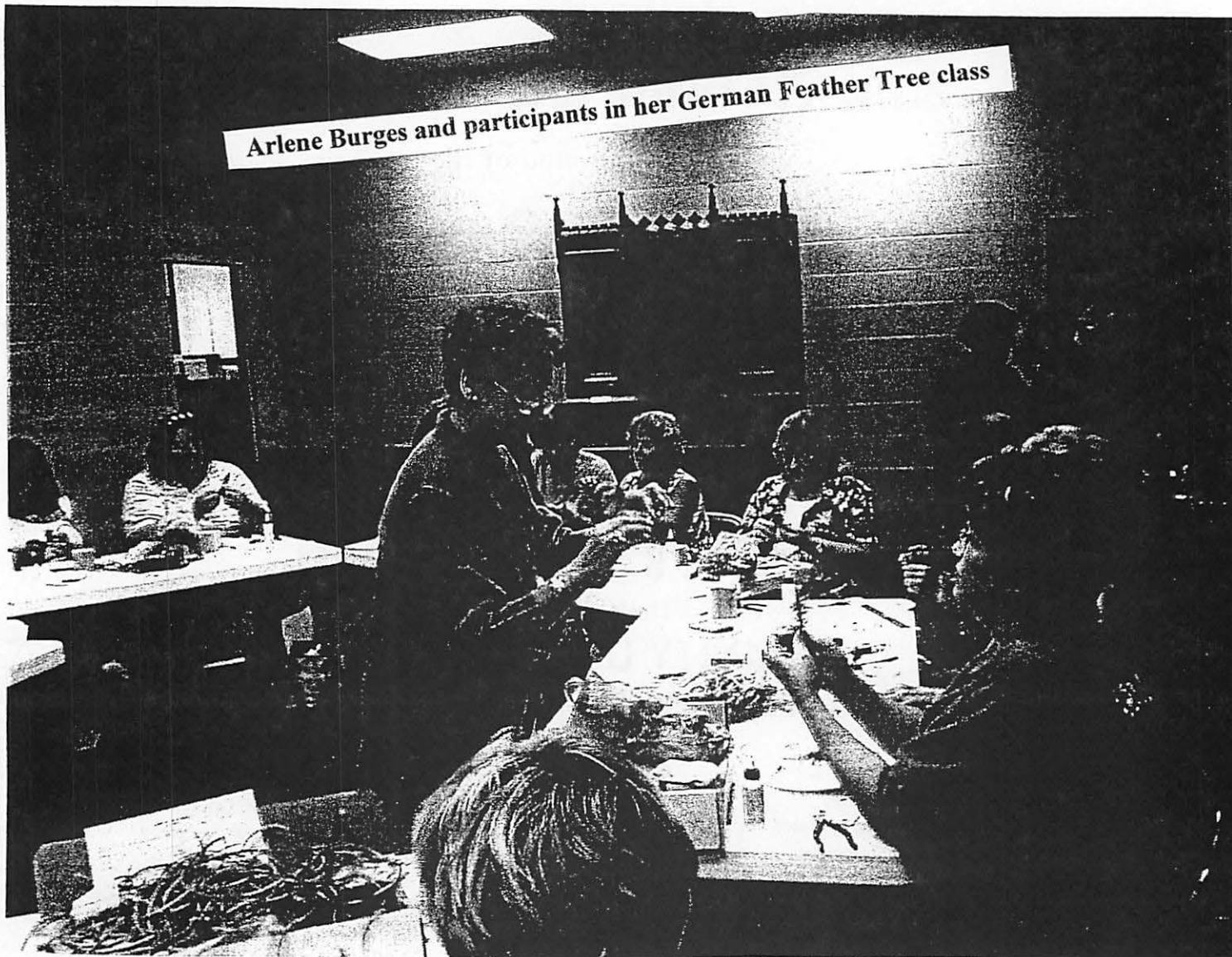
#### **DIE DEUTSCHE WEIHNACHTSFEIER**

The Weihnachtsfeier simply tells the Christmas Story through Scripture, German Christmas poetry, prayers, choral and congregational singing, and instrumental music. There is no sermon. Admission is free.

## GERMAN FEATHER TREE CRAFTING submitted by Arlene Burges

On Aug. 5th., 2004, Arlene Burges, GTHS/GFSG member, was invited to give a German Feather Tree class at the Sophienburg Museum in New Braunfels as part of their educational outreach program. The feather tree was thought to have been devised by German artisans in the 19th. century due to forestry laws prohibiting the cutting down of evergreen trees. More colorful, however, is the suggestion that F.W. Woolworth had them imported along with glass-blown ornaments from Lauscha, and sold in his stores. The trees gained in popularity during the Victorian era and were produced by Germany, Japan and the United States.

Fifteen students attended the class. Arlene was assisted by Bonne Burton, the Museum Director, and Connie Krause, GTHS member.





# The Sophienburg

New Braunfels Archives and Museum of History

## Educational Outreach Program

8-5-04

### Feather Tree Crafting

Thursday, August 5, 2004 @ 6:30 pm

Arlene Burgess of the German-Texas Heritage Society will share this traditional German craft, teaching you the skills to create your own goose feather Christmas tree. Class fee includes the price of a 25 inch feather tree kit.

**Class Fee: \$ 55**

Reservations must be made in advance.

For information & reservation call:

**(830) 629-1572**



From the  
New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung  
July 30, 2004



DAVID INGRAM/Herald-Zeitung

### DON'T MISS

## SOPHIENBURG PROGRAM

Laura Burgess looks over feather trees as she prepares for a Sophienburg education outreach program. The program will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Sophienburg Meeting Room. The program will be feather tree crafting, and will be taught by Arlene Burges. Participants will get to create their own goose feather 25-inch Christmas tree. Cost is \$55, and is open to adults age 18 and older. For information, call 629-1572.

left to right:  
Connie Krause  
Arlene Burges  
Bonnie Burton



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Round Top, TX  
Dedicated October 28, 1866**

The history actually begins before dedication: Carl Siegismund Bauer, born September 14, 1792 at Annaberg Sachsen, Germany planned and directed the building of the church. He died at Round Top on January 27, 1873. He also planned and built the Conrad Schueddemagen home on Highway 237. This home has been restored and has a Texas Historical Marker and may be viewed. It is located just a block from the church.

Helping to build Bethlehem Lutheran Church were Mr. Bauer's two sons and son-in-law. Son, Carl Ehrgott Bauer (1828-1904) who emigrated to Texas in 1848. He was a Civil War Veteran with a marker on his grave. He and his wife, Wilhelmine, are buried in the Hills Cemetery, FR 106, near Round Top. Son, Carl Traugott Bauer (1830-1869) served in the Civil War and was wounded. He is buried in the church cemetery near his father; he also has a Civil War marker. Son-in-law Conrad Schueddemagen (1811-1900) sold the land for the church and cemetery to the Round Top congregation in 1865. He served as trustee of the church from 1867-1900. His wife, Wilhelmine Bauer Schueddemagen, served as treasurer for 30 years (1867-1897.)

The church was built of native limestone for \$2,400. This amount was collected through free will offerings and this debt was paid within a few years.

The inside furnishings such as heater, altar covering, big pulpit Bible, the Crucifix, large and small bells were donated.

The pipe organ was hand built into the balcony and donated by Traugott Wantke. It is built from cedar grown in the area. There are 408 pipes and 51 keys. It was dedicated January 13, 1867. It's first restoration was in 1966 for the church's Centennial Celebration by Rubin S. Frels of Victoria. It was restored by Friedemann Bushbeck in 1998. It is still being played at church services and other special occasions.



During the years 1867-1874 the stone wall around the cemetery was built. Then in 1873 the iron reinforcements were put in place. In 1881-1882 the buttresses were added and later plastered. In 1889 walkways were built in the cemetery. In 1894 a cedar floor was put in the church which covered the rock walk or aisle to the altar. This floor has been repaired several times and was again replaced during the Restoration in 1991.

Lutheranism came to Round Top as early as 1855. It is believed Pastor J. G. Lieb came to the area about May 1856. The First Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas began its convention that year and reported Lieb as Pastor in Round Top, including 11 baptized, 113 communions, 7 weddings, no school. Then in 1860 the report shows Lieb as Pastor, 2 congregations, 47 members, 22 baptized, 3 confirmed, 5 marriages, 300 communions, 1 burial, 2 church buildings, 1 station, 2 week day schools and 1 Sunday School.

Pastor Otto Hahn served Round Top from 1853-1860. Pastor Lieb is listed as serving from 1858-1860 when he also served St. John's Lutheran. Pastor Adam Neuthard came from Baden Germany, landed in Galveston and arrived at Round Top on December 28, 1860. He was installed as Pastor of Round Top by Pastor Lieb in January, 1861. Pastor Neuthard established a Theological Seminary on a small scale. He purchased block 27 in Round Top and continued 2 churches, 1 station and 2 schools. He also organized other small church groups in the surrounding communities and preached the Word of God regardless of church affiliation, to everyone who would listen. This policy required that the church withdraw from the Synod. Pastor Neuthard supplied the spiritual and educational needs of the Round Top community for 41 years. He died February 6, 1902 and was buried in the church cemetery.

After the Civil War, the Bethlehem Lutheran Church boarding school and two and a half story home were also finished. The cornerstone of the church was laid on May 6, 1866 and the church was dedicated October 28, 1866.

The first constitution was dated 1867. A new constitution was adopted in 1954. When the Lutheran Synods merged in 1988, a new constitution was adopted and is still in effect.

It is interesting to note that two men rang the little and large bells at the same time for services. They were also rung on Saturday evenings at 6 p.m. and also when a member of the congregation died.

Wall Hangings: The first design (on left facing the altar) was taken from the American Quilting Book printed in 1800. Members and June Painter embroidered flowers. Rickrack by Delia Sacks and Lydia Nagel. Ornate pole by Sherry Peck.

The second hanging (on right facing altar) design comes from the time of Charlemagne and was the frontice page of 1875 Art Book. June Painter did the majority of the work. Her husband, artist James Painter, started the figure of Christ and June finished it. It took 13 years to complete.

The third hanging (front wall to left) was done for the 125th Anniversary of Bethlehem. Its symbols are Peace, Justice and Creation.

#### Pastors who have served Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Otto Hahn .....	1853-60
J. G. Lieb .....	1856-60
J. Adam Neuthard .....	1861-1902
Jakob Graul, Sr. ....	1867-1900*
F. A. Bracher .....	1902-07
John W. Harder .....	1907-16
H. Falkenberg .....	1916-26
August Dziewas .....	1926-28
John Wendt .....	1928-29
Emil A. F. Hagemann .....	1929-30
Walter Kralik .....	1930-48
A. B. Weiss .....	1948-57
Otto Fehler .....	1957-62
Martin H. Obst .....	1963-67
Ronald Haseley .....	1967-75
Milroy Gregor .....	1974-88
Craig Storlie .....	1989-93
Paula Hépola-Anderson .....	1995-96
Arnon L. Lundborg .....	1997 - 2001
John David Nedbalek .....	2001-
*Winedale	

*Almost twenty years ago, scholar Joseph Wilson wrote: "In Texas, as elsewhere, we talk Texas English, not British English or even Boston English. No one expects us to say *cahn't* or *tomahito*. We ought to view Texas German similarly and proudly say, *Yes we know they say schoen in Germany but here we say scheen!*"*

*(quote from "Texas German and Other Immigrant Languages" in Eagle in the New World edited by Theodore Gish and Richard Spuler, 1986)*

**GENEALOGY SECTION BY LIZ HICKS, GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR**

**GENEALOGY INQUIRIES**

**IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT WILL ASSIST ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SUBMITTERS OF GENEALOGICAL 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, E-MAIL: [erootrot@usa.net](mailto:erootrot@usa.net) OR 746 Edgebrook Drive, Houston, TX 77034-2030. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT INQUIRIES.**

EINKAUF-THOMAS

Wendy West, [wendydendy@austin.rr.com](mailto:wendydendy@austin.rr.com), I am trying to find info. on my maternal family Einkauf of Lavaca County. My grandfather was Alvin Thomas and I believe his mother was an Einkauf.

▶ **REPLY:** Wendy, you did not mention any dates in your query. I checked the Social Security Death Index for Texas for Alvin Thomas. This resulted in 17 matches, none in Lavaca Co. I checked 1930 Census for Alvin Thomas, none listed in Lavaca Co. There are several Einkaufs listed on the 1930 Lavaca Co. Census. The oldest being a John Einkauf age 64 (born 1865) Texas residing Precinct 1, Lavaca Co., TX.

HOFFMAN-HARDT-WOLF-HEIDRICH-RHIENS-HAIBACH, KOPP, MUELLER, PAULI, HAINZ, BERNHARD, RUECKER, ERNST, LUTTENBACH, KEINE, SCHRIEBER, GAEBER, LOHMEYER, SIEBE, WENDT, ENGLE, OBERHOFF, MUEGE, MELCHER

Russell Gibson, [rustygibson@txucom.net](mailto:rustygibson@txucom.net), I am currently researching these surnames. If anyone can help on any of these it would be greatly appreciated.

SCHNEIDER

Jerrie Ann Yeager, 10048 Regent Row, Fort Worth, TX 76126, [jerriey@charter.net](mailto:jerriey@charter.net), Would like to exchange info. on Eward Schneider (arrived in TX 1843, Indianola). Resided Comal County & others, had 13 children; 15 siblings, some of whom also immigrated.

GASS-BALTZER-ADAMS

Robert Gass, [gasswatt@yahoo.com](mailto:gasswatt@yahoo.com), just wanted to see if there are any other members of GTHS from the midwest. My G-grandparents were from the Black Forest region and settled in Illinois in the 1860's. My family has lived in Texas since 1969. I am German, Alsatian & Norwegian with a little bit of English and Irish on my Mom's side.

## GENEALOGY SECTION BY LIZ HICKS, GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR

### EBERLING ROAD OR LANE

James Oliver, biggestdaddy@yahoo.com, I'm curious about a Raod in Comal County called "Eberling Road". It appears in the Handbook of Texas Online in reference to "Freiheit". Would anyone have access to old Comal County Road Maps? I would love to know if this old route went from New Braunfels to the Old Eberling Farm near Marion? I would like to know where this farm was located or any info. related to this farm. My GGGGFather was Carl Conrad Eberling who arrived January 15, 1846.

REPLY: From printed 1996 version of the Handbook of Texas, Eberling Lane is referred to in Describing a "store opened near the school [Freiheit] at the intersection of Eberling Lane and Prairie Lea Road". The county map I have shows Freiheit just NE of New Braunfels on FM 1101 near the New Braunfels airport. Try library in New Braunfels or Center for American History at UT-Austin, or Texas Highway Dept. for old maps.

For location of the Eberling land/farm you will need to look in the index to deeds for the County it was located in (Comal or Guadalupe). Then get the deed(s) as there will be a physical description of the land in the deed(s).

I found in "History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas 1844-1846" by Oscar Haas the following reference to Eberling, page 61: "Recorded Deaths of 1845-1846-Eberling, Carl 52 native of Nassau, buried New Braunfels Cemetery; Eberling, Catherine age 49, native of Nassau, buried New Braunfels Cemetery. It is possible Carl Eberling was an original patentee of Comal Co. You can have the Texas General Land Office do a search for a small fee. If he had a patent, you can get the survey and a map showing the location of the patent.

You might also contact the nursing homes in New Braunfels and have them ask their residents if Anyone knows where Eberling Road or Lane was.

### CARLOS MOSER

Joel Greenberg, 6806 Daugherty, St., Austin, TX 78757, joe@joelandkaren.com, I am doing research on the Old Ore Terminal and Aerial Tramway in Big Bend National Park. This was a six mile long cableway used to haul ore from Mexican mines into the US in the early 1900's. The del Carmen Co. built the terminal and tramway. A Carlos Moser was the promoter. He was a German Jewish mining Engineer. I would like to track down more info. on Mr. Moser. I am hoping to find descendants that I can interview for a radio documentary.

## GENEALOGY SECTION BY LIZ HICKS, GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR

► **REPLY:** A check of the index to Texas Deaths 1903-1940 turned up one Carlos Moser who died in El Paso County, Marsh-2, 1915, death Certificate #5354. You can get a copy of this death cert. From the TX Dept. Of Health, bureau of Vital Statistics in Austin for \$9.00. I found Carlos Moser listed in the Concordia Cemetery Records Volume 1, El Paso, Texas, compiled by Dorothy Diamond Collier. "Moser, Carlos, 58 years old, died April 2, 1915 at Rhalston Hospital, buried April 15, 1915 in Jewish Section, Grave 16, Block 18, Mt. Sanai, cause of death-heart trouble, undertaker McBean &S&H. Also, Found Carlos J. Moser on the 1910 Texas Census, residing in a hotel run/owned by a John M. Chambers in Precinct 3, Brewster County, TX page 299. Carlos Moser age 52 born 1857 married, married 2 yrs., born Germany, Father born Germany, Mother born Germany, says he immigrated in 1881 and is naturalized, lists occupation as a Miner, works in Mines on own. Wife, Aimee L. Moser age 29, No children are listed.

I would contact Sul Ross State University, Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, POB C-109, Alpine, TX 79832-0001 as they list special interests-Big Bend region, Special Collection-Archives of the Big Bend.

### CAMP BOWIE-NAZI PRISONERS OF WAR

John D. Templin, johndavidtemplin@yahoo.com, I am doing research for a project that will benefit my home town. Brownwood, TX is where Camp Bowie was during WWII. Many prisoners of war were held there. In fact, there were so many able bodied men, the German POWs became quite a formatable workforce thoughtout the county. I have found info. on 5 of them that died which held at Camp Bowie. Through the death certificates I have the basic info. They were buried in a small county cemetery that was already on land that was appropriated for the camp, Jenkins Springs Cemetery. However, the graves of these soldiers do not seem to be there now. How can I find out what happened to them? I would like to find the info. about when their remains were moved, also where they were moved to. I would like to find descendants of these soldiers too. Can you help me with info. on where to find sources for Germany genealogy?

► **REPLY:** I would start with local sources first-namely the funeral homes in Brownwood and vicinity who would have been involved in overseeing the moving of the bodies/graves. Is it possible the graves are still there, but tombstones have been removed/lost? Since German POWs would be under Federal jurisdiction, you will need to find government documents for this. Richard Paul Walker presented a study "Prisoners of War in Texas During WWII" for his degree of doctor of philosophy from North Texas State University in 1980. His Bibliography lists many sources most from the Office of The Provost Marshal General record group 389, Annual Narrative Report County Agents' Reports Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M 1941-1945, National Archives-Record

**GENEALOGY SECTION BY LIZ HICKS, GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR**

Group  
160 Army Service Records. Camp Bowie is mentioned in Dr. Walker's dissertation. Also, --  
Camp Bowie is mentioned in the Richard Fenner Burges Papers, 1897-1941, found in the manuscript collection at the Center for American History at UT-Austin.

According to "Nazi Prisoners of War in America" by Arnold Kramer (ISBN 0-8128-2571-3), 1979, "Since the personnel records of all POWs in the United States were eventually returned to the Federal Republic of Germany, former prisoners can also locate one another by applying to the WAST Records Center, Eichborndamm 167-209, 1 West Berlin 52." This is obviously an old address. I would do a google search at the German version of google ([www.google.de](http://www.google.de)) for this records Center, etc. (click on Englisch).

---

Subj: **Dallas Genealogical Society German Interest Group**  
Date: 9/16/04 10:16:37 AM Central Daylight Time  
From: [John@johnwylie.com](mailto:John@johnwylie.com)  
Reply-to: [john@johnwylie.com](mailto:john@johnwylie.com)  
To: [germantexans@aol.com](mailto:germantexans@aol.com)  
CC: [elke.hedstrom@home.com](mailto:elke.hedstrom@home.com), [tresatatyrek@comcast.net](mailto:tresatatyrek@comcast.net)

**Message recently sent to  
GTHS Executive Director,  
Julia Germany.**

Dear Ms Germany, 9/16/2004

For some time I've wanted to explore establishing a German Interest Group within the Dallas Genealogical Society. As VP for Education, I believe that among our thousand members, we have many genealogists with German ancestors, myself included. Like me, many have little idea of where or how to research that part of our heritage. Visiting the GTHS booth at the FGS National Conference in Austin last week was interesting. One of the ladies at that booth suggested that I contact you.

At our Board meeting this week I raised the concept and got a consensus to proceed. With your experience you may have better suggestions, but this is what I currently have in mind. In 2005 DGS host a German Ancestors Research Workshop. Based on the reception of that event and using the list of enrollees, we would propose creating a German Interest Group with DGS. We already have two such groups, a Computer Interest Group and an African American Genealogical Interest Group. DGS supports these groups with leadership, funds and facilities.

Perhaps you, or someone you suggest, could contact me to suggest program offerings for our workshop and other organizations in the DFW area that we might contact.

Sincerely,

John Wylie  
DGS VP for Education

John Wylie Consulting - Professional Genealogists  
[john@johnwylie.com](mailto:john@johnwylie.com) [www.johnwylie.com](http://www.johnwylie.com)  
2662 Carrington Lane, Grand Prairie TX 75052  
972-206-2723

## ALL I KNOW IS GREAT GRANDPA CAME FROM GERMANY (How To Research Your German Ancestor)

*This was part of a presentation by Elizabeth "Liz" Nitschke Hicks at the GTHS Annual Meeting  
— — held at Round Top in September*

Pick an Ancestor - Start with what you know and work back. Ask relatives for any information (family bible, recollections/stories). Please know info. may not be correct, but look for CLUES in the information they have. "No Man is An Island" applies to ethnic research. Research the neighborhood as well as the cemetery where your ancestor is buried. Consider variations of spelling of your ancestor's surname.

Records that will "prove" and provide additional information on ancestor:

Death Certificate (Law creating Vital records in Texas passed in 1903)  
Texas Dept. Of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> St., PO Box 12040,  
Austin, TX 78711-2040 website: [www.tdh.state.tx.us/bvs](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bvs)

Funeral Home Records - Ask how far back their records go, if not early enough for you ask who might have the records. You want the ledger sheets for the deceased. To find funeral home use "Yellow Book of Funeral Directors" any present day funeral home will have a copy.

Cemetery Records - Pay attention to those buried around your ancestor. Look for clues such as fraternal insignia on tombstone, type of tombstone (ex. Woodsmen of the World), info. that can lead you to additional information.

Church Records - Baptism/Christening, Marriage, Confirmation, Death, Membership. To locate church, determine where your ancestor lived (Deeds). Use map(s) and look for church within wagon, buggy, horse, walking distance. County Historical Society or present day church of denomination may be of assistance.

Newspapers - Regular (Houston Chronicle), Denominational (Texas Baptist), German language  
Look for obit for your ancestor and don't forget his kids as sometimes the kid's obits will say something like Carl Lange was the son of Johann Lange who came from Lunzenau, Germany in 1855. Look for ship's list in Newspapers (Port of Departure and Port of Arrival).

Organizational Records - Fraternal (Masons, Sons of Hermann, etc.)  
Insurance (Wooden of the World)  
Occupation (Grange-Agricultural Society, Railroad)  
Look for enrollment/membership information.

Military Records - enlistment and pension files  
WWI Draft Registration cards

Social Security - May not apply to immigrant, but look for SS File for children.

Family Heirlooms - Look on back of picture(s) as may give name and location of Photographer (worked for me).

County Histories - even if no information about your ancestor, look for info. on his neighbors. Where did they come from? He may have come with them.



**Census Records** - Find your ancestor on the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 census as the Question was asked as to date he/she emigrated. It is important to compare date given as may vary from census to census. don't forget those neighbors, check date for them as may have come with your ancestor. ALWAYS make a note of the households atleast 10 households before and after your ancestor on any census as may be relatives or at least people from the same place as your ancestor. Use Community approach when researching ethnic ancestor(s).

If you see NA on a census this means your ancestor was naturalized. The date should also appear. PA means papers filed (declaration) . AL means he/she is an alien and not naturalized. Your ancestor could have been naturalized in ANY court of record (police court, probate, district, county). I've even found recorded in deed books. Usually the declaration of intent will give you the most genealogical information.

You are more likely to determine your immigrant ancestor's place of origin from records here than from Passenger Lists. However, using the date given by your ancestor on the census Your may try to find him on a passenger list.

Hamburg Passenger Lists (Direct & Indirect) 1850-1934,

[www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm](http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm) (index is free)

Filby's Passenger Lists (books) at most large libraries (Clayton Library, Houston)

German To America (multi volume approx. 1850-1888 on going) -many errors and omissions

German emigration lists on-line: [att.net/~wie-monster/el/html](http://att.net/~wie-monster/el/html)

Cyndi's List- Immigration and Naturalization: [www.cyndislist.com/immigrat/htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/immigrat/htm)

"They Came in Ships" John P. Colletta, Ph.D., a guide to finding your immigrant ancestor's arrival record

"A New Land Beckoned" German Immigration To Texas 1844-1847 by Chester W. & Ethel H. Geue

"New Homes In A New Land" German Immigration to Texas 1847-1861 by Ethel H. Geue

"Ships Passenger Lists Port of Galveston, TX 1846-1871" (ISBN 0-89308-343-7)

National Archives microfilm-a few examples:

M-1357 Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Galveston, TX 1896-1906,

M -1358 Same 1906-1951

M-1359 Pass. Lists of Vessels Arriv. Galveston, Houston, Brownsville, Port Arthur, Sabine and Texas City, Texas 1896-1948

T527 - Index to Pass. Lists of Vessels arriv. New Orleans before 1900

M259- Passenger Lists of Vessels arriv. At New Orleans, Louisiana 1820-1902

**NUCMC** - National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections to find anything and everything like Funeral Home Records, Church Records, Family Papers, Society/Organization records, etc., etc. Do a search at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) for "NUCMC". This is a free site, but is incomplete. You can use ArchivesUSA for NUCMC but this is not a free site (access through most libraries in Texas-not complete either). For book version (my favorite) find yearly catalogs and indices. These can be found at large University Libraries such as UT, University of Houston, etc. The early manuscript collection holdings for UT-Austin (Center for American History, formerly Barker History Center) have been published in "The University of Texas Archives, a Guide to the Historical Manuscript Collections in the University of Texas Library" Compiled and Edited by Chester V. Kielman.

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## ORIGINS

Dear German Texan Heritage Society,

Enclosed is a flyer listing the German books that Origins has published and offers for sale. We hope that you will include this flyer in an upcoming Journal issue.

ORIGINS is a bookstore in Janesville, Wisconsin dedicated to genealogy. Since opening in 1993, Wendy Uncapher and Linda Herrick have expanded their inventory to include a wide range of books, maps, forms, and pedigree charts. For those who understand the importance of preserving old papers and heirlooms, Origins carries a line of archival materials including acid free papers, mylar sheets, pens, mounting corners, repair tapes and labels. One department that makes Origins unique is their line of novelty items for genealogists. Check out the postcards, Christmas cards, coffee mug, magnifier, mouse pad, and flag pins.

Origins has written and published or reprinted over 50 books, and they have designed over 30 unique forms and charts for genealogy. German genealogical research is their speciality, and they carry numerous books, maps and atlases to aid the German researcher.

Visit Origins at their bookstore at 1521 E. Racine St., Janesville, WI 53545. Hours are 9:00-5:00 Monday-Friday and most Saturdays 11:00-3:00. Phone orders are accepted with MasterCard, Visa or Discover at 608-757-2777. Check out Origins' online catalog at <http://www.OriginsBooks.com>.

Linda Herrick  
Wendy Uncapher

<http://www.OriginsBooks.com>

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W. Uncapher. Condensed history of the German states with maps showing land divisions by kreis (county) for a time period when most emigrants left Germany. Explains where Prussia was. List of Kreise and many maps.

8.5" x 11", perfect-bound, 137 pg., 2004 BK161 \$18.00

**German Maps & Facts for Genealogy**

W. Uncapher & L. Herrick. Facts, with over 100 maps, of things that affected German life (migration, population, wars, transportation, elevation, farming, religion, settlements, German states, Prussia, etc.). There is a map of each state showing important towns and rivers.

8.5" x 11", perfect-bound, 74 pg., 2002 BK163 \$14.00

**How to Read and Understand Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs**

The most complete explanation of this German gazetteer. Word and abbreviation glossary, lesson on reading Gothic type and explains how to understand the contents correctly.

8.5" x 11", saddle-stitched, 24 pg., 2003 BK464 \$8.00

**Alsace-Lorraine Atlantic Bridge to Germany**

L. Herrick & W. Uncapher. Includes over 5,600 places with most located on 44 pages of historic maps from the late 1800s. Dates of available records at Family History Library are noted. Includes history, background, websites, etc. for Alsace-Lorraine. Places identified by German and French names. (*first volume of the new series*)

8.5" x 11", perfect-bound, 192 pg., 2003 BK531 \$20.00

**Baden Atlantic Bridge to Germany**

L. Herrick & W. Uncapher. Includes over 7,200 places with most located on 52 pages of historic maps from 1886-1913. Dates of available records at Family History Library are noted. Includes history, background, websites, etc. for Baden. (*second volume of the new series*)

8.5" x 11", perfect-bound, 152 pg., 2004 BK532 \$20.00

**Life in Germany**

Reprint of selected portions of three works on German life. *The Rural and Domestic Life of Germany* by Wm. Howitt 1842; *German Experiences: Addressed to the English; Both Stayers at Home and Goers Abroad* by Wm. Howitt 1844; *German Life in Town and Country* by Wm. H. Dawson 1901.

8.5" x 11", perfect-bound, 49 pages BK164 \$10.00

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## Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives

855 South Jefferson La Grange, TX 78945  
979-968-3765 979-968-6418

Fax: 979-968-5357 E-mail: [library@fais.net](mailto:library@fais.net)

Internet: [lagrange.fais.net/museum](http://lagrange.fais.net/museum)

Fayette County GenWeb: <http://rootsweb.com/~txfayett/>

Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 10-6; Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-1; Sunday 1-5.

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Mention of creating a local museum & archives in La Grange was first made in the 1950's, but not until the community was designated as an American Bicentennial city in 1976 did the dream start becoming a reality. The city chose as its project the construction of a Library / Museum / Archives because its citizens agreed that an appropriate statement to the future would be an affirmation of the heritage of its peoples. The Museum/Archives attains its purpose of preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting the history of Fayette County through the process of collecting, cataloging, and recording the artifacts and papers that are donated.

The \$311,000 facility was dedicated in April 1978. Individuals and several foundations donated many of the funds for construction. The first major gifts to the museum and archives were donated in 1976. Today, the facility cares for well over 100,000 items and will soon feature an automated catalog. The Museum offers changing exhibitions and the archives offers a wide variety of historical and genealogical materials.

The mission statement of the Museum & Archives is to interpret the history of Fayette County, man and his environment, through the preservation and care of artifacts for use in display, education, public service, and research. Acquisitions must meet several requirements and, once accepted, it is intended that the objects have permanency in the collections as long as they retain their integrity and remain in keeping with the mission statement. The facility will not accept any item/s whose ownership is in question. Loans of items to the facility shall not be accepted except for a specific exhibit or research project. Access to the Archives will be allowed on a liberal basis subject to the policy of use, and be pursuant to a scholarly and ethical interest, and applicable to any state and federal law governing their use. Regulations for the use of Archive materials are available to all users.

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Changing Museum exhibits & Artifact collection

## Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives

### MICROFILM HOLDINGS – TEXAS CENSUS

**1850 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Anderson, Angelina, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Collin, Comal, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Tarrant, Fannin, Fort Bend, Galveston, Guadalupe, Gillespie, Goliad, Grayson, Grimes, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Matagorda, Medina, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Wharton, & Williamson Counties

1850 Mortality Schedules: includes Comal thru Wharton Counties

1850 Slave Schedules: includes 43 Counties

**1860 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Anderson, Angelina, Atascosa, Bandera, Bell, Bexar, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Cooke, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Gillespie, Goliad, Grayson, Grimes, Karnes, Kaufman, Kerr, Kinney, Lamar, Lampasas, Leon, Uvalde, Van Zandt, Victoria, & Walker Counties

1860 Mortality Schedules: includes Anderson thru Titus Counties

1860 Slave Schedules: includes 21 Counties

**1870 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Bandera, Bee, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Fort Bend, Gillespie, Goliad, Lampasas, & Webb Counties

1870 Mortality Schedules: includes Anderson thru Medina Counties

**1880 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, LEE, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Anderson (part), Angelina, Aransas, Archer, Atascosa, Armstrong, Briscoe, Randall, Swisher, Bandera, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke (part), Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fisher, Fort Bend, Franklin, Freestone, Frio, Scurry, Gray, Hutchinson, Roberts, Grayson (part), Lampasas (part), Leon (part), Walker, Waller, Webb, Wharton, Wichita, & Williamson (part) Counties

1880 Mortality Schedules: includes Cherokee (part) thru Grayson Counties

**1890 Special Census—Union Veterans & Widows of Union Veterans in the Civil War (includes 52 Counties)**

**1900 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, LEE, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Archer, Armstrong, Atascosa, Bailey, Lamb, Bandera, Baylor, Collingsworth, Gray, Comal, Comanche (part), Fannin, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Fort Bend, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Grayson (part), Lamar (part), Lampasas, La Salle, Leon, & Limestone (part) Counties

**1910 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, LEE, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Aransas, Archer, Atascosa, Bailey, Bandera, Bee, Baylor, Brazos, Collin (part), Collingsworth, Comal, Grayson (part), Lamar (part), Lamb, Lampasas, Lubbock, Liberty, Limestone (part), Ward, & Webb Counties

## Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives

**1920 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, LEE, & WASHINGTON  
also includes: Anderson, Baylor, Brazoria, Cherokee, Cochran, Coke, Coryell, Crockett, Fannin (part), Gaines, Goliad, Gregg, King, Kleberg, La Salle, Kinney, Lamb, Lampasas, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Leon, Limestone (part), Waller, & Wilbarger Counties

**1930 Counties:** AUSTIN, BASTROP, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, LAVACA, LEE, & WASHINGTON  
also includes Anderson, Andrews, Armstrong, Baylor, Bee, Bailey, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Bandera, Bell (part), Concho, Comanche, Cottle, Freestone, Fisher, Floyd, Fannin (part), Grayson (part), La Salle, Lipscomb, Ward & Wise Counties

### MICROFILM HOLDINGS – OTHER

#### FAYETTE COUNTY RECORDS

Tax Rolls 1837-1979

Scholastic Census 1876-1877, 1897-1904

Marriage Licenses 1838-1923 (indexed) (1838-1995 index on paper)

Occupation Licenses 1840-1872

Probate Records 1838-1918 (some naturalization & guardianship records included, indexed)

#### MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: La Grange – 1885, 1890, 1896, 1901, 1906, and 1912

Flatonia – 1885, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906, 1912

Schulenburg – 1889, 1894, 1901, 1906, 1912

Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Round Top – various records 1867-1967

Texas Birth Indexes 1903-1934

Texas Death Indexes 1904-1945

#### NEWSPAPERS

La Grange Journal – 2-18-1880 thru 5-18-1882, 3-8-1883 thru 1916, 1918 thru 1953, 1955 thru 1982.  
(1954, 1983 to 11-5-1986 in hard copy)

Fayette County Record – 12-16-1873, 1-6-1874, 5-18-1876

Fayette County Record – (1910-1912, 1924-1943 incomplete), 1944 thru 1984 (1985 to present in hard copy)

Banner Press – (1987 to present in hard copy)

Flatonia Argus – 1912 thru 1914, 1916, 1919 thru 1922, 1932-1933, 1935 thru 1945, 1947 thru 1975,  
1979 -1980, (1981 to present in hard copy)

Schulenburg Argus – 1877-1878

Schulenburg Sticker – 1915-1916, 1921 thru 1932, 1934 thru March 1946, 1947 thru 1962, (1964-1970,  
1972-1979, 1981 to present in hard copy, some issues missing)

La Grange Svoboda, Czech language. 1885-1918

La Grange Deutsche-Zeitung, German language, 1898-1901, 1904-1912, 1920-1926

La Grange Intelligencer – 7-4-1844

La Grange New Era – 12-1-1871

The Texas Monument – 7-20-1850 thru 11-7-1854 (various issues)

The True Issue – 12-15-1855 thru 11-12-1864 (17 various issues)

State Rights Democrat – 2-21-1861 thru 2-4-1870 (various issues)

#### ARCHIVE HOLDINGS

Texas Census Index Books – 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880

Fayette County History books (7 titles)

Fayette County Marriage Licenses Index 1838-1995

Fayette County Commissioner Court Minutes 1838-1869

## Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives

Fayette County School Records  
Fayette County Cities & Towns Files  
Fayette County Historical Commission Records  
Family Records & printed Histories  
Walter Freytag Collection of General & Genealogical Research  
La Grange City, Business & Organization Records  
La Grange 1950 Property Tax Roll with photos  
La Grange School Collection including Yearbooks (various years)  
Cemetery Records with indexes  
Church Records  
Business & Organization Records  
Vertical Files on various subjects  
Maps & Photographs  
Crayton Studio Negative Collection, 4800 subjects from 1940-1960's, indexed  
Texas Collection (Texana books and materials) & Foreign Language Book Collection  
Journals (history & genealogy) various titles

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Available for purchase at Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives:

*Fayette County: Past & Present*

La Grange High School Students & Marjorie L. Williams. : 1976

*Chronicles of Fayette: the Reminiscences of Julia Lee Sinks*

Julia Lee. Sinks : 1975

*An Early History of Fayette County*

Leonie Rummel Weyand and Houston Wade. : 1936

These two titles are currently out-of-print.

*Fayette County, Texas Heritage*

Fayette County History Book Committee : Curtis Media, c1996.

*Fayette County [Texas] Her History and Her People.*

Frank F. Lotto : 1902

Fayette County History Books

## Genealogical and Historical Resources in Fayette County

Fayette County GenWeb page

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txfayett/>

Texas Escapes—Fun site about small towns all across Texas, especially Fayette County

<http://texasescapes.com/default.htm>

For more info on the TexShare databases

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/texshare/pl/index.html>

German-Texas Heritage Society Annual Meeting  
September 17-18, 2004  
Round Top, Texas

Friday September 17

5:00 – 5:45 Program: "Round Top and Fayette County Genealogy Resources" by Kathy Carter

Thank you and good evening. I feel quite privileged to be your first presenter. I hope to enlighten you on the beginnings of Fayette County and Round Top, touch on the German influence in this area and finish up by letting you know about the sources of genealogical materials in the county, especially those at the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives in La Grange, as well as those out on the World Wide Web.

Fayette County has the distinction of being, geographically, one of the few crossroads of Texas from time immortal. Native Americans from all points of the southwest routinely met in this area. Evidence of this comes from the diversity of stone artifacts that have been found locally. In fact, several rare incised stones were found in this area about 25 or so years ago. They are the largest stones of this type known to exist in Texas and represent some of the earliest Indian art found in Central Texas. I'll tell you where you will be able to see them a later.

In 1686, the French explorer, La Salle, traveled through this area on his way from the coast to East Texas. He entered the county near present day Schulenburg, crossed the Colorado River just above La Grange and continued on out of the county crossing over Cummins Creek near present day Round Top. La Salle would use this route several more times before his death. This route eventually became known as the La Bahia Road.

Formal settlement of the area began when Stephen F. Austin's colonists began arriving in 1821. Townsend's, the precursor of Round



Top, was settled by Anglos and was situated near the La Bahia Road. It was named for Stephen Townsend and his large family who moved here from Florida. He established Florida Chapel, a Presbyterian Church, and today all that remains is the Florida Chapel Cemetery about a mile or so southwest of here.

The first distinctly German settlement in what would become Fayette County was established by Joseph Biegel. He received his league of land from the Mexican government in 1832. He sold off pieces of his land to the families of Gross, Wertzner, Meitzen, Meyer, Scherrer, Hildebrandt, & December and an agricultural community of German, Swiss, and Alsatian families developed. At one time Biegel was a prosperous settlement consisting of 50 or 60 houses. A busy grist mill, cotton gin and saw mill were in operation. Helmuth Kroll opened a general store and a commercial area developed around the store. Today Biegel's community lies under the waters of the Fayette Power Plant reservoir. However, the Biegel home, built of twenty-foot logs, was saved and moved to the Winedale Historical Center.

These new settlers faced many trials including bands of marauding Indians who would raid the homesteads. Several tragic encounters occurred within a few miles of here. In 1835, Amos Alexander and his son were ambushed and killed while crossing a small creek. They were on their way home to Bastrop from the coast where they had gone to buy supplies. Two years later, J.G. Robison, who lived near Florida Chapel, was killed within a mile of his home. Indian depredations into the area continued and the settlers often banded together and organized fighting parties to chase away the Indians.

If fighting off Indians was not enough, the colonist's political unrest increased as Mexico became a dictatorship. Residents of this area were instrumental in all of the major events and battles of the Texas Revolution.

Successive tragedies at the Alamo, Goliad and Gonzalez as Santa Anna's Army advanced and Sam Houston's Texian Army retreated gave rise to panic in the settlements. The families abandoned their

homes and fled along the La Bahia Road in order to get out of harm's way. The Texian Army passed through present day Fayette County on their march to San Jacinto. More than fifty Fayette County men participated in the Battle of San Jacinto, including Joel Robison of Townsend's Settlement. He was one of the captors of General Santa Anna. The Townsend family had the distinction of sending more men to the Battle of San Jacinto than any other family.

On December 14, 1837 the Congress of the Republic of Texas established Fayette County. It was named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette (the French Hero of the American Revolution) and created from the counties of Colorado and Mina. The new county seat was named La Grange after Lafayette's chateau in France.

In 1842 the Society of German Noblemen, the Mainzer Adelsverein, and other land agents in Germany publicized the availability of Texas land including Fayette County. This was the beginning of widespread German immigration to the area. Count Boos-Waldeck, agent for the Adelsverein, purchased a league of land near Townsend's for 75 cents per acre. A working plantation and two-story manor house was developed and built. The farm was used only as a pleasure retreat for the officers and as a hideaway from their creditors. Though the majority of German immigrants were not slave holders, the society owned 25 slaves. Due to inexperience and mismanagement, the farm was not successful and eventually the entire league of land and all its improvements were sold for four cents an acre in order to satisfy the debts of the society. Currently, the league is divided into privately owned farms and ranches. A state historical marker is the only reminder of the farm.

Alwin Soergel, a member of the Adelsverein, settled in the area, bringing with him the Germanic traditions that still characterize the area today. He built a house on a high hill and it featured a tall octagonal tower. Soergel's house was along the road traveled by the Sawyer and Risher stage line from Brenham to Austin. Legend has it that the stage drivers could see the tower for miles and would announce to their passengers that they would soon be arriving at the

house with the Round Top. Whatever the truth may be, the town was recognized as Round Top by the U.S. Postal service in 1846.

In 1850 Round Top had a population of 150, almost all of German descent, with two stores, two blacksmith shops, two taverns, a post office, and tri-weekly stagecoach service. The large German presence led to the establishment of the first Lutheran congregation in the county, Bethlehem Lutheran. The pastor established a school, and was a master of the Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, and German languages. He served his church and students for nearly 40 years. Round Top grew into a thriving mercantile and agricultural community. Among the business buildings still standing is Charles Schiege's cigar factory. Some of the other prominent German settlers in the early days of Round Top were the Bauer, Schueddemagen, Weyand, Rummel, Fricke, Henkel, Hellmuth, Umland, Kneip & von Rosenberg families.

The legacy of Fayette County during the War of Northern Aggression split the county in two. When the citizens of Texas were allowed to vote on whether to secede from the Union, Fayette County was one of the few counties that voted NOT to secede. The vote against secession was influenced heavily by the German immigrants, who had come to America to escape the constant revolutions and military drafts of their homeland. However, Round Top served as a recruiting station during the war and several hundred men from Fayette County, many of them of German and Czech descent, volunteered for active duty and served honorably.

Local politician Robert Zapp was elected to the Texas Legislature in 1869. The first bill he introduced was to incorporate the town of Round Top. This was accomplished in 1870.

Now that we know a little bit about how Fayette County and Round Top came to be, how do we go about finding out about the lives of the people who settled here?

Naturally, the first place I would suggest you start your search is at the Fayette Public Library and Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives.

That is quite a long name so we usually refer to it as the LMA (or as I call it, Ellie Mae). Our facility is unique especially for a rural community. All three entities are housed in one building and all the staff is cross-trained in order to assist visitors in all three areas. The mission of the LMA is to preserve the history and promote the cultural heritage of the community; to promote education and love of reading for all; to provide the tools for research, past, present & future; and to enhance the quality of life for the diverse population.

Library service has been available to the citizens of La Grange since 1899. The city chose as its American Bicentennial project the construction of a combination library, museum, and archives. Dedicated in 1978, the facility now houses a 20,000+ volume library collection and extensive computer lab. The museum & archives is responsible for nearly 1200 collections consisting of at least 95,000 items. The three dimensional artifact collections represent a wide variety of objects used by the residents of the county. I'll talk more about the research collections a little later.

In 1998, after 20 years of growth, it became quite apparent that we were rapidly filling up every inch of the 9,000 square foot building. A long range planning committee was formed, strategic directions were set, and architectural plans were prepared. In 2000, a capital campaign committee was organized with the ambitious goal of raising \$1.1 million for the complete renovation and expansion of the facility. At this moment, we are only a few months away from moving back into our "new LMA". I'm sure my city manager would want you to know that we are ON TIME and UNDER BUDGET!!

The first floor library will nearly triple in size and a large community meeting room has been added. In the past, the Archives vault and tiny public research room were on the first floor and the exhibit space and artifact storage areas were on the second level. Now, both of these will be on the second floor accessible by stairs and a real honest to goodness ELEVATOR. The public research area will be adjacent to the exhibits in a new space covering over 2500 square feet. A second state-of-the-art vault and greatly expanded artifact storage areas will also be on the second floor.

With all that new room, what will we have available to genealogists and historians?

We start with 75+ rolls of census microfilm for Fayette County and each of its surrounding counties. They cover every census year from 1850 through 1930 with the exception of the lost census of 1890. Slave and mortality schedules are included. Searching census records, once a time consuming and tedious process has become much easier since print and Internet indexes are now available. Two digital film readers with printers are available to make copies of whatever you find. Two additional microfilm readers are also available.

Microfilmed and hard copy of county newspapers dating from 1844 to the present is used on a daily basis. The German language paper, the "Duestche Zeitung and the Czech language paper, the Svoboda are also included in the collection. Newspapers are our best source for finding birth, marriage and death notices. They also give us insight into what was happening in our communities and beyond. In one of our research projects we used just one of these papers, The La Grange Journal, to document the date of construction for just about every building located in downtown La Grange.

Microfilmed and hard copies of County records such as the property tax rolls, probate records, marriage licenses, and school records along with the Texas birth and death records are very popular in tracing ancestors and their personal activities. One of our most used resources is the printed marriage license index covering the years 1838 through 1995.

Founded in 1867, the Sanborn Map Company was the primary American publisher of fire insurance maps for nearly 100 years. Our Sanborn Map collection is a valuable historical tool for anyone who wants to learn about the history, growth, and development of the Fayette County communities of La Grange, Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Fayetteville. They are large-scale maps containing information such as the outline of each building, the size, shape, height and type of construction materials used to build them. The maps also show

street names, property boundaries, building use, and sometimes house and block numbers. These maps have been vital in helping to prepare applications for the Texas Main Street Program, National Register Building nominations, Texas Historical Markers and the Fayette County Courthouse Renovation Project.

The Cemetery Research project has identified over 250 burial sites across the county. More than 30,000 tombstone inscriptions have been recorded and are available in individual cemetery reports and in a combined database. Our staff has used these reports along with many of our other resources to provide the life histories of over 60 individuals buried in the Old La Grange City Cemetery. These stories are presented to the public by La Grange High School students during the annual "Ghosts and Gravestones" tour. I've brought some flyers for this year's tour in case you might be interested in attending one of our haunted evenings!

Our collection also includes Fayette County Commissioners Court Records, community, school and church histories, business and organization records along with our ubiquitous Vertical File that has a little bit of everything that doesn't fit into any of our other categories!!

The map and photograph collection has over 5000 images of people, places, objects and events from all over the county. Just about every photographer known to have worked in the county is represented in the collection. A special collection of negatives from a local photographer features 4800 subjects photographed from the 1940's through the 1960's. The collection is fully indexed and available for check-out on a limited basis. Many of the negatives are wedding portraits and, just as today, the photographer always took more shots than the couple could afford to buy. Now their children can check out the negatives, have prints made, and surprise their parents on milestone anniversaries with an entire wedding album.

The Texas Collection consists of a non-circulating library of over 900 volumes of Texana covering not only local history but a wide variety of statewide subjects and topics.

I have saved the best; most used and definitely most treasured collection for last. They are our family papers, records and histories. A person or family might be represented by a single sheet of paper or by a multi-volume computer generated book. Hundreds of persons and families were researched by Walter Freytag, a driving force behind the creation of the Archives. Mr. Freytag spent more than 40 years of his life wandering through cemeteries, reading old, brittle newspapers and court documents and corresponding with people from all over the world. He made a folder for each contact. He started donating parts of his vast collection to the archives from the very beginning and after his death; the rest of it was transferred to us. As the years have gone by, many researchers who gleaned valuable information from his records have generously donated their work to the Archives.

Donated is the key word here. You see, our facility is owned and operated by the City of La Grange and we work under a tight budget. The budget allows us to purchase the necessary materials needed to care for, preserve and exhibit our collections. It doesn't allow us to purchase many items for the collection, be they books, microfilm, family histories or objects. Just about every single item in our collections have been donated to the Museum and Archives. If it weren't for generous researchers, genealogists and historians like you who are willing to share their work, there would be no Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives.

But you have shared with us and we continue to add new materials and objects. In the last year we have begun the process of re-cataloging our collection on computer. It will take a few years to accomplish that task, but our goal is to have an on-line searchable catalog available on the Internet.

All of the materials I have talked about are accessible to you. I have brought along our brochure that lists all of our contact and holdings information. But please remember that for the next few months most all of the collections are in protected off-site storage and will not be available until we move back into our building. Give us a call

or e-mail us in the meantime and we will help you as best as we can. Come see us in the springtime and we will be ready for your visit.

Before I go, I want to let you know that the Museum and Archives in La Grange is not the only place to find genealogical resources in Fayette County. The Round Top Historical Society sits not even a half-mile from here. They have a wonderful collection and I hope you get the chance to stop by and visit them.

Along with our brochure, I have brought along a listing of all the history resources in the county, including the date and place where the Indian artifacts will be on display.

If you will indulge me for a few more moments, I'd like to tell you about two invaluable sources for Fayette County information and genealogy resources on the Internet. The first is the Fayette County GenWeb page. The web address is on our brochure. I think it is one of the best sites you will ever visit. It has just about anything and everything you need to know about Fayette County.

The second site is only available to Texas residents. It is provided by the Texas State Library and Archive Commission through their TexShare Database program. Contact your local public library and ask them how you can gain access to the History and Genealogy databases. You won't be disappointed. All you need is a Library card!

Thank you again for having me. I hope we still have a few minutes left for questions.

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Museums in Fayette County include.....

Kreische Brewery Museum and Historic Site  
414 State Loop 92  
La Grange, TX 78945  
(979) 968-5658  
Email: [mhkb-statepark@fais.net](mailto:mhkb-statepark@fais.net)

Fayetteville Area Museum  
217 N. Washington  
P.O. Box 488  
Fayetteville, Texas 78940  
(979) 378-2231



*The Strange Career of Bilingual Education in Texas, 1836-1981*

Carlos Kevin Blanton

Texas A&amp;M University Press, College Station

2004

Hardcover, 204 pages with black and white photos

Price 29.95

ISBN 1-58544-310-7

Carlos Kevin Blanton is an assistant professor of history at Texas A&M. The material of this book is, perhaps, not the stuff of popular history for the general reader. Rather, it is a detailed study of the language of the classroom in the Republic and State of Texas during the period of the title. Certainly, Dr. Blanton's approach is historically thorough, but some readers may find his book, at times, tedious. However, for the reader who perseveres, he or she will be rewarded in a number of cases by interesting insights into the ebb and flow of views about bilingual education from the days of the Republic of Texas up to the relatively recent present. *Bilingual* here, by the way, does not refer just to English and Spanish, but also to English vis-à-vis German, Czech, Polish, and Dutch as well.

Going back to the earliest history of Anglos in Texas, Blanton informs us that Stephen F. Austin proposed a school to "Mexicanize" the Anglo children by teaching them Spanish along with English. Thus, Austin became one of the first proponents of bilingual education in Texas. Austin was not alone in his advocacy, as a representative from a colonists' convention in 1832 petitioned the legislature of Coahuila to support schools that would be taught in the English and Castilian languages.

Naturally, as 19<sup>th</sup> century immigrant groups came to Texas and joined the earlier Mexican settlers, each of them preferred to have schools taught all or in part in its native language. This pattern was followed from about 1850 to 1900. The largest European immigrant group was the Germans. One example of such a school likely was Austin's German Free School, the former building of which now houses the headquarters of the German-Texan Heritage Society. This school was chartered in 1858 by the Texas legislature. Classes were taught in English and probably in German, as a second language.

Blanton writes that during this period Czech was used for instruction in both public and private schools. The Czechs who came to Texas in smaller numbers than the Germans found themselves in a minority position with regard to them, just as they had in Europe. As a result, Czechs wanted the schools to help preserve their language and culture. A school superintendent in Fayette County, in a 1905-1906 report, noted the rivalry between the Czechs and Germans and counseled that it might be best to let the two groups maintain their separate schools.

Toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, along with the various European immigrants, there was also a large influx of immigrants from Mexico. Blanton states that between 1887 and 1910, the Mexican descent population in Texas increased from about 80,000 to 300,000. Within this ethnic group, parochial schools were an important factor in bilingual

education. Bilingual parochial schools in Brownsville, Laredo, San Antonio, and El Paso, as well as in other towns, flourished and offered substantive education in both Spanish and English.

The approximately fifty year "golden age" of bilingual education in Texas was followed by a gradual demise, some of which might have been expected as the various immigrant groups became assimilated. However, a period of more deliberate effort in the Texas educational system to inculcate all immigrants groups in English followed.

What Blanton describes as "English-Only pedagogy" became dominant in educational theory in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It held that translation hindered learning a second language. This approach ultimately resulted in an effort to eliminate languages other than English from the classroom.

The outbreak of World War I brought about a "sharp anti-immigrant, anti-German response". In 1918 a bill was introduced in the state legislature saying that the English-language heritage of "the great Anglo-Saxon races" should be preserved at the expense of spending thousands of dollars to teach the language of the German enemy. Between 1914 and 1922, the number of high school students studying German dropped from about 4,000 to about 300. After the war, the emphasis on "Americanization" lost support on the national scene, but ironically it gained strength in Texas. However, Blanton points out, the focus changed from an anti-German emphasis to an anti-Mexican American one as immigrants from Mexico continued to come into Texas in large numbers in the 1920s.

Although the intent of English-Only instruction was to assimilate immigrant children as quickly as possible, it became "a crude excuse to segregate Mexican Americans and label them inferior, to which end it was undoubtedly applied". In Laredo, in the latter part of the decade of the 1920s, about ten years after the implementation of English-Only instruction, 81 percent of the students were classified as "overage" or held over beyond their normal grade level. Eagle Pass and Brownsville also had failure rates exceeding 70 percent, and El Paso fared a little better with a 52 percent failure rate.

The English-Only model held sway until the 1950s and 1960s when it began to fall apart under challenges from organizations such as LULAC and the American GI Forum. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Bilingual Education Act into law in January 1968. It brought about the return of bilingual education in Texas and promoted the "integration for language minorities, mostly Hispanic, into the mainstream of American life". Johnson, it might be noted, was not without insight into this matter, as his first job had been teacher in a segregated, Mexican American school in Cotulla, Texas.

On the whole, Blanton succeeds in this book by reminding us of how well intentioned, but destructive, educational policies in the past need not be repeated in the future.

## BOOK REVIEWS BY RON HUNKA, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

### *The Bells in Their Silence: Travels Through Germany*

Michael Gorra

Princeton University Press: Princeton and Oxford

2004

Hardcover, 226 pages

Price 24.95

ISBN 0-691-11765-9

As a professor of English at Smith College, Michael Gorra writes book reviews for the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and other magazines as well. This book is based on his experience on sabbatical in Germany in the 1997-1998 academic year, accompanying his wife, the leader of a study-abroad program in Hamburg.

There are several aspects of this work that disappoint, some more than others. For example, one wonders why the book is subtitled *Travels Through Germany* when the writer explains that he and his wife were "not so much travelers as residents and spent most of our time in Hamburg itself, walking the same streets, visiting and revisiting the same places". Further, in the preface, he tells us that he has included nothing about the Rhine or southern Germany at all. One would think that the title of a book ought to more accurately reflect its contents.

Another issue in this book is Gorra's German language proficiency. He writes, "my language never came easy and it never stopped seeming strange". Fluency in German may not be an absolute requirement for writing an insightful book about Germany, but, certainly, it would help.

Apart from these issues, Gorra has an irksome habit of relying too frequently on literary references to describe his experiences. For example, upon visiting the site of the Buchenwald concentration camp, he writes, "What I saw resembled nothing so much as the landscape that Auden described in "The Shield of Achilles"". Elsewhere, regarding the appropriate architectural form of replacement for the Berlin wall, Gora reflects "that reconstruction remains grounded in reference to the Third Reich: a battle traced by Ladd in *The Ghosts of Berlin* and Michael Z. Wise in *Capital Dilemma*, by Jane Kramer's *New Yorker* reporting or James Young in *At Memory's Edge*". Although such comparisons in moderation might be apropos, Gorra uses them to the degree that the reader finds the practice tiresome.

In some instances, however, Gorra's expertise in literature is employed more effectively, such as with regard to his insight into the city of Luebeck from his familiarity with Thomas Mann's novel *Buddenbrooks*. His comparison with one of the Buddenbrooks son's disenchantment with entering the family mercantile business to his own decision not to enter his family fruit and vegetable wholesale business in Connecticut is an observation to which the writer brings genuine personal insight.

Those who have firsthand knowledge of Germany may find the most disagreeable part of Gorra's work his disproportionate focus on Germany's Nazi times. He writes for example, "I began to wonder what it meant to have fun in a place where so much wrong had happened". Also, he states, "the words "enjoy" and "Germany" don't, for an American, seem to belong together". These views reflect presumptions that call into question the writer's objectivity about Germany.

While it is a lesson of history that the wrongs of Germany's past ought not be minimized or forgotten--Germany is still working to atone for its past--Gorra speaks with little moral authority and limited experience on this subject. His views of Germany seem based more on reading than experience and more often than not influenced by books such as *Hitler's Willing Executioners*.

## BOOK REVIEWS BY RON HUNKA, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

I doubt that most Americans who have lived in Germany or spent much time there will be in agreement with Michael Gorra's views of or judgments about it. For those who would wish to look more objectively at Germany or to reflect upon favorable aspects of the quality of life previously experienced there, they will find little satisfaction in this book.

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### *Treasure Hunt: A New York Times Reporter Tracks the Quedlinburg Hoard*

William H. Honan

Fromm International Publishing Corporation, New York

1997

Hardcover, 297 pages with black and white photos

Price 24.95

ISBN 0-88064-174-6

This book is the story of how an American army officer, working alone, carried out one of the greatest art thefts of WWII by gaining access to a cave in Quedlinburg, Germany where Nazis had stashed a hoard of German medieval art treasures and reliquaries dating back to the ninth century. One of the most amazing aspects of this story is that the man, Joe Tom Meador, from the tiny, northeast Texas town of Whitewright, using relatively simple tactics, got away with the theft and died before ever being found out.

Lying in the former East Germany, Quedlinburg is today a UNESCO World Heritage Center, and it was for centuries the seat of German kings of the Ottonian dynasty. Among the approximately 1,200 half-timbered houses, a castle, and various churches, the large, Romanesque St. Servatius Abbey dominates the town. It is the abbey that was at the center of the great theft carried out by Meador. For hundreds of years, the treasures had resided there before being hidden in the cave. The treasure consisted of twelve antiquities that included two priceless, manuscript gospels with gold covers encrusted with jewels and an imposing ivory comb, highlighted with gold, garnets, and pearls, that had belonged to Henry I, the Holy Roman Emperor.

In terms of monetary value, the booty that Meador stole from Quedlinburg had an estimated value of approximately 200 million dollars. The oldest manuscript, the Samuhel Gospel, was crafted five centuries earlier than the Gutenberg Bibles. The other manuscript, the so-called Evangelistar, was written in 1513.

After a request for assistance from a German investigator, Willi Korte, *New York Times* reporter, William H. Honan, became interested in the story of the treasures. Afterward, the two men worked together to solve the crime. Although this book is not a work of fiction, it has the ingredients of a very good mystery novel. So interestingly is the narrative spun, that one finds oneself wanting to follow the story to its conclusion with as few interruptions as possible.

There is a good deal to be learned from this book about skillful investigative reporting, an art dealer's world of sometimes questionable ethics, and the developmental life history of a sociopath who put his needs above the rights of the German people to part of their cultural heritage. A question that not uncommonly arises when a newsworthy crime is brought to light relates to the background of the individual who carried it out. Honan, through his expert detective skills and painstaking research efforts, makes clear that Joe Tom Meador's act of stealing the treasures of Quedlinburg was not a crime of

## BOOK REVIEWS BY RON HUNKA, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

inspiration, but that it followed a pattern of fraud, misrepresentation, and theft throughout his life. For example, Meador's military record shows that he was court-martialed and convicted for theft of personal belongings of a countess from a villa where American officers stayed after the war. Earlier in his life, he had been expelled from an art school for theft. People interviewed for the book also remembered Meador's proclivity for stealing throughout his life. In addition, Honan found that Meador's father had a history of misrepresentation and cheating in his farm equipment dealership in Whitewright. After Meador's death, his brother and sister behaved in a reprehensible manner in trying to maximize their profit from the sale of the stolen antiquities.

It seems for every crime and misdeed, there is a perpetrator's rationalization. In Joe Tom Meador's case, he often told friends that "he needed" whatever items he happened to be stealing at the time. In his brother and sister's case, the rationalization seems to have been that when Meador stole the items many other soldiers were also looting items from the ruins of wartime Germany and that had Meador not stolen the treasures they would have fallen into the hands of the Russians. It is doubtful that few will read this book without concluding that Meador stole from a lifetime habit and that he acted for no other reason than personal greed and gratification. His brother and sister were clearly fruit from the same tree. They knew about the crime and chose to profit from it.

This book will likely be appealing to a good many readers who are interested in Germany and its history, as well as human nature in general.

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*Lone Star Stalag: German Prisoners of War at Camp Hearne*

Michael R. Waters

Texas A&M University Press, College Station

2004

Hardcover, 283 pages with black and white photos

ISBN 1-58544-318-2

The subject of this book may have some familiarity to the reader from Heino Erichsen's earlier work, *Reluctant Warrior*, which dealt in part with his time as a German prisoner of war in Camp Hearne, Texas during World War II. Mr. Erichsen was also a speaker at the German-Texan Heritage Society several years ago.

*Lone Star Stalag* differs from *Reluctant Warrior* in the way that a historical work differs from a memoir. While the latter consists mainly of Erichsen's recollections and impressions about being a prisoner in Texas, the former more thoroughly and systematically deals with the experience of German prisoners, American military personnel, and the people of Hearne as a whole. The information in this book was derived from three sources, archaeological excavation at the campsite (the author is an archaeologist), records and publications of the time, and interviews conducted recently in the U.S. and Germany.

## BOOK REVIEWS BY RON HUNKA, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Part of the reason that the prison camp was built at Hearne related to a lobbying effort by local civic leaders who thought it would bring prosperity to the town. Construction began in December 1942. Camp Hearne was one of the first and largest POW camps in the United States. It was laid out on about 60 acres that contained 250 temporary buildings. About 500 American soldiers were assigned to guard the prisoners and run the camp. The first prisoners arrived in June 1943. In October 1943, Camp Hearne's prisoner population reached a high of 4,702 men.

The first prisoners to arrive in Hearne were 400 enlisted men and noncommissioned officers from the Afrika Corps. When they arrived, the Army blocked local roads and asked the townsfolk to remain in their homes. Those who took a look at the prisoners were surprised at how young they were. At first, these young men had no idea how they would be treated, but it soon became clear that the Americans were not going to mistreat them. By treating the Germans well, it was hoped that American prisoners in Germany would receive good treatment as well. The hot Texas summer, however, did not agree with the prisoners. But most of the prisoners were glad to be out of the war and were grateful to be held in the United States versus some other countries.

This book documents some of the worst and best aspects of the history of the camp. The worst incident was the night some Nazis beat to death one of the other Germans for his suspected American sympathies. One prisoner was also shot to death trying to escape, and there were several suicides at the camp. Another negative was that the Nazis also found a way of subverting the poorly supervised prison mail system, which served all the camps in the U. S., to organize demonstrations simultaneously in camps across the country and to intimidate and keep tabs on non-Nazi German prisoners elsewhere in the United States.

Some of the more positive aspects of camp life related to the production of numerous concerts and plays by the prisoners that were attended by American military personnel, townspeople, and some government officials such as Olin Teague and state representative Lyndon Johnson. Each of the three camp compounds had its own orchestra, and the combined orchestra was facetiously dubbed the "Philharmonic Orchestra of Hearne". Another indication that some of the prisoners had not lost their sense of humor was their favorite radio tune, *Don't Fence Me In*. A number of professional musicians played in the camp bands, and one of the directors had previously conducted the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra.

The Germans also enjoyed participating in soccer and had a number of camp teams. The championship team of the camp was allowed to play teams from other camps. The prisoners also constructed fountains, miniature castles, statues and other landscaping features, as well as a theater for their concerts and plays.

Prisoners were also given the opportunity to take courses to help pass the time. These included topics such as business, bookkeeping, and jurisprudence. Interestingly, one of the prisoners, who after the war had a successful banking career, culminating in his

## BOOK REVIEWS BY RON HUNKA, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

becoming chairman of the board of a German bank, credited the courses he took at Camp Hearne with laying the foundation for his career. There were also languages courses such as English, French, and Spanish. Oddly enough, the most popular "elective" was a course called "Professional Soldiering".

Many excellent photographs in the book seem to show generally good conditions and morale among the prisoners. The cover illustration of the book is a watercolor of the camp that was painted by one of the prisoners.

In the final edition of the camp newspaper, *Der Spiegel*, POWs Max Weiss and Walter Karg wrote reflectively on the outlook of the prisoners about returning home:

An enormous task is waiting for us. Infinitely much misery and distress must be overcome, old hatred be buried, charity be rendered, wounds be healed, ruins be removed, new morals be found or re-established.

After the war ended in Europe, and the Germans left Camp Hearne, it was used for Japanese prisoners, who were only housed there for a few months toward the end of 1945. Compared to the Germans, the Japanese were small men. An elderly lady from Hearne, having seen the small stature of the prisoners, worried that they might crawl through the fence. The American feelings toward the Japanese prisoners were quite different from those toward the Germans. The Japanese, one American, interviewed later, said, were regarded as "the most terrible thing there was". The bombing of Pearl Harbor and the Bataan Death March were still fresh in the American memory at that time.

With the exception of Chapter 5 in which the author, consistent with his archaeological training, includes photos and lengthy lists of many of the 1400 artifacts that were found or dug up at the camp site (everything from military insignia to toothbrush handle fragments), the average reader and particularly the membership of the German-Texan Heritage Society will find this a most interesting and worthwhile book to read. Among its many other accomplishments is that it also reminds the reader that history is not always so remote in time or distance.

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*For GTHS members who read German, Marcus Nicolini sent word that his Ph.D. dissertation on the German language in Texas has recently been published in Germany"*

Marcus Nicolini, Deutsch in Texas (Studien und Quellen zur Sprachwissenschaft, Vol. 1). Munster, LIT Publishing House, 248 pages, ISBN 3-8258-7541-5. Price 24.90 Euros

*If interested in obtaining a copy, the book can be ordered online at [www.lit-verlag.de](http://www.lit-verlag.de)*

*While in Texas, Nicolini used the library at the German Free School for his research.*

## Frank Teich's German Mark

by Susan Teich

Frank Teich left his German mark in granite on the State of Texas. He used hard, gray granite from a quarry outside of Llano to decorate public buildings, cemeteries, and parks throughout the State, and, in so doing, popularized the use of Texas granite by others, making him widely remembered as "The Father of the Granite Industry of Texas."

The sixth of ten children, Frank was born 1856 in Lobenstein, Thuringia, Germany, to Catherine Teich nee Horn and Frederick Teich, a postmaster, horticulturist, writer, and poet.

As a child, Frank carved lifelike images with his pocketknife and received private art classes from the age of ten. At age fourteen, he progressed to the study of wood and ivory carving at the Medical Art Center in Nuremberg. At graduation, his father bought him an apprenticeship in Dresden, for \$300, to the famous German sculptor Johannes Schilling. During the apprenticeship, Frank worked on the national monument *Die Wacht em Rhine*, later erected in Coblenz. Frank's final art studies in Germany were with the Franciscan Brothers at Deddelbach am Main. He studied the design of religious figures and mausoleums. He also became seriously ill, his family thought from over-study, and, to recuperate, he left the Brothers to travel by foot throughout Germany, making sketches and studying celebrated works of art. His one great adventure during this journey was an accidental meeting with Richard Wagner, the composer, who stopped to watch him sketch, then presented him with a card admitting him to an opera rehearsal.

In 1878, Frank immigrated to the United States with no knowledge of English, lived initially with grandparents in Wisconsin, then traveled broadly about the country. In Chicago, where the Cook County Courthouse was under construction, he showed the superintendent his drawings and was hired to supervise a crew of stonecutters for the Courthouse. Once that work was completed, Frank Teich moved to St. Louis. There, he worked until he had saved \$600, enough to travel to California. In California, he worked in a land office and traveled about the state until the discovery of gold in South Dakota. Putting together a crew of Chinese workers in San Francisco, Frank



took them to the mining district of the Black Hills. From there, he returned to St. Louis, where he worked until he had saved enough money to travel to Texas. Texas became his permanent home.

It was 1883 when Frank Teich arrived in Texas, and the year in which he was hired to supervise the building of the San Antonio National Bank and the San Antonio City Hall. When a frost caused cracks in the limestone gathered for construction of the Bank, an affordable substitute was needed. Frank located granite at Bear Mountain, just north of Fredericksburg. It had to be cut and then carried over 80 miles of trail by ox-drawn sleds. The result was the first use of Texas granite for building construction. Until that time, it was not known that Texas had granite of commercial quality in sufficient quantities to make its use practical.

That same year, the foundation of the new Capitol in Austin was completed, using imported granite. Gustav Wilke, contractor for construction of the Capitol, hired Frank to be superintendent of the cutting and placement of stone for the remainder of the building. The plans approved by the Building Committee called for the use of Texas limestone, and Frank was commissioned to go look for a source. After inspecting every known quarry in the State, Frank reported that it was not possible to obtain enough Texas limestone of sufficient quality and thickness to support the immense weight of the Capitol. He requested permission to use granite instead. The added cost of using granite alarmed the Building Committee, as well as the Legislature, which would have to approve the expenditure. Frank's proposal was considered for six years before the work in granite proceeded! At one point in his campaign for granite, Frank personally escorted legislators for a three-day visit to Texas granite quarries near Burnet by narrow gauge railroad. The Capitol has the appearance we now take for granted due largely to Frank's efforts.

There is a famous photograph of the *Goddess of Liberty*, taken shortly before it was hoisted to the top of the Capitol, surrounded by construction workers. Frank stands in it with his crew. There have been rumors, even in print, that Frank Teich designed and built the mold for the original *Goddess of Liberty* and that it was then lost at sea after being cast in Europe. [Fry, Dale. (1992) *Goddess of Mystery and Other Central Texas Stories* (pp. 8-9). Tow, Texas: H. C. Ogden Press.] According to this rumor, there was not time to build another mold and send it abroad for casting, since the Capitol was near completion; therefore, a ready-made mold was found in Chicago

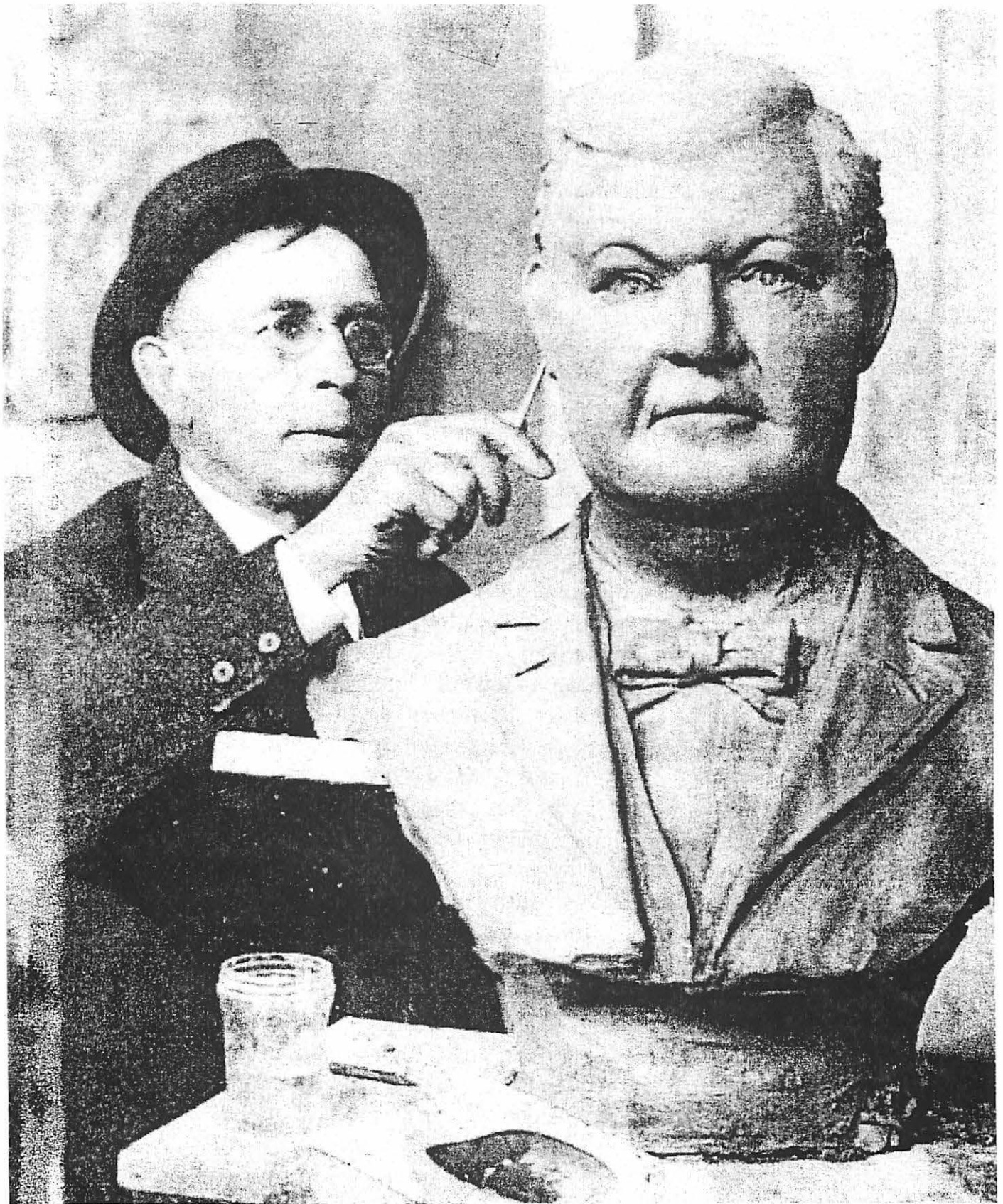
and the casting was done on the grounds of the Capitol. There is no reliable substantiation of the rumor to date, although it would explain why, in fact, the statue was cast on the Capitol grounds using a mold hastily procured from the Chicago architecture firm of Friedley and Voshardt. To add to the confusion, the designer of the cast that actually was used remains unknown, prompting the statue's nickname "Goddess of Mystery". In any event, it was Frank, as superintendent of the stonecutters, who was responsible for hoisting the huge statue to the top of the Capitol. Years later, as an old man, he still muttered whenever he passed the Capitol that the *Goddess* was "the most difficult woman" he had ever known.

Looking away from the *Goddess*, and onto the lawn of the Capitol, Frank's name appears at the base of two of the most conspicuous monuments. He created both the base of the *Fireman' Save My Child Monument* and its original stone statue, replaced in 1905 by a bronze one. He also created the base of the *Monument to the Confederacy*, supporting five figures. The Texas State Capitol forecourt is also by him.

Elsewhere in Austin, Frank's work includes a shoulder bust of Land Commissioner James Thomas Robinson for the rotunda of the Texas General Land Office, a statue of Governor Elisha Pease, in the Texas State Cemetery, and the parlor mantelpiece of the Driskill Hotel.

After completion of the Capitol, Frank began searching west Texas on horseback for a source of granite that could be easily transported, and he found it --- a quarry fronting a rail line two miles outside of Llano. The Llano gray granite resembled the popular (and expensive) Vermont gray granite, and had the advantage of being a harder material.

In 1901, the Teich Monument Works was born. It was not Frank's first stone-cutting enterprise in Texas. Back in San Antonio, he had opened a stone works near the old Aransas Pass Passenger Depot, then moved the operation to a site that now holds the Medical Arts Building. At about the same time that Frank began his search for a sustainable source of granite in Texas, ill health prompted his doctors to recommend that he move to the country for fresher air. For that reason, Frank relocated his granite operations, first to a quarry outside Fredericksburg, then to the site near Llano. More precisely, the Teich Monument Works was located on the north side of the Llano River and east of the city. It grew into an enterprise employing as many as 200 workers at one time. Many of the workers lived



Frank Teich in his Llano (Texas) studio working on a bust of Thomas McClosky of San Angelo

at a hotel close to the quarry or in one of the nearby cottages that, with the hotel, comprised a settlement known as "Teichville, Texas." From there, Frank Teich supplied innumerable portrait statues, granite bases for bronze statues, cemetery monuments, and building ornaments. He traveled extensively presenting his designs to promote business, and his work appears in Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Pennsylvania, as well as in Mexico and Germany. His family later recalled that "his suitcase was never unpacked". Even at age eighty, he traveled alone to Mexico for a project. He became known, not only as "The Father of the Granite Industry of Texas," but also, as "The Sculptor of the Hill Country."

Frank Teich's most popular design was his Confederate soldier statue, which became a sentinel throughout Texas, including locations at Bay City (Town Square), Dallas (Pioneer Park Cemetery and Greenwood Cemetery), Gainesville (Leonard Park), Gonzales (Confederate Heroes Square), Greenville (Hunt County Courthouse grounds), Jefferson (Marion County Courthouse grounds), Longview (Gregg County Courthouse grounds), Marshall (Peter Whetstone Square), Rockdale, San Antonio (Travis Park), and Scottsville (Scottsville Cemetery). The monument in Greenwood Cemetery includes not just the usual Confederate Soldier, but also life-sized figures of President Jefferson Davis, General Robert E. Lee, General Albert Sidney Johnston, and Lieutenant-General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson. It is generally acknowledged that at least one-third of all Confederate memorial monuments in Texas were created by Frank Teich. [Little, Carol Morris. (1996) *A Comprehensive Guide to Outdoor Sculpture in Texas* (p. 7). Austin: University of Texas Press.] He did so much work for The Daughters of the Confederacy that the Dallas Chapter made him an honorary member. His success with this patron came from his belief, shared with them, that the hard and gray qualities of Texas granite best symbolized the qualities of the Confederate soldiers and was the best material to use in creating memorials for them.

The "bread and butter" of Frank's business was Memorial Art, and some particularly notable pieces in Texas include: the "*Shanghai*" *Pierce Memorial* in Blessing (Hawley Cemetery Road); the *Standing Angel Monument* in Dallas (Greenwood Cemetery); the side-by-side *Breckenridge S. Walker Mausoleum* and *Connell Mausoleum* in Fort Worth (Greenwood Cemetery); a fifty-foot obelisk over the grave of Governor J. W. Henderson in Houston (Glenwood Cemetery); the *Thomas McCloskey Monument* in San Angelo (Fairmount Cemetery); the *Statue of Grief* for William Scott Youree,

Scottsville (Scott Family Cemetery); *General John Summerfield Griffith Memorial* in Terrell (Oakland Cemetery); and the memorials for Governor Richard Coke and Dr. David Richard Wallace in Waco (Oakwood Cemetery). He also created the Memorial Chapel in Laredo.

Frank Teich designed and created a statue of Dick Dowling which was Houston's first public work of art when it was unveiled in front of the old City Hall on Market Square in 1905. Frank's commission was \$1,900. The Dowling statue has since been moved to 1800 N. MacGregor Way in Hermann Park, where currently, it is the site of an annual St. Patrick's Day celebration by the Dick Dowling Irish Heritage Society. The Society safeguards preservation of the statue. Also in Herman Park, are two other works by Frank Teich. He constructed the large arch that bears his name and serves as the base of the *Sam Houston Monument*, completed in 1925 in Hermann Park. A 1996 interview with one of Frank's surviving former employees, then aged ninety, regarding construction of the arch, provided crucial information for restoration work done in that year. Facing the *Sam Houston Monument* across a long, reflecting pool is the *Pioneer Monument*, also created by Frank Teich, and unveiled in 1936 to commemorate the founding of the City of Houston. The *Hermann Park Lions*--- two, life-sized figures in gray Texas granite --- were for many years located behind the Museum of Natural Science, in Hermann Park, but reportedly were put into storage in 1993. Their whereabouts are unknown currently, but this writer is searching for them with the intent of restoring them to Hermann Park.

Other assorted Texas landmarks that he left behind are the *American Doughboy Statue* in Llano (Llano County Courthouse grounds), the *LaSalle Monument* in Navasota (downtown, on Texas 90), the Orange First Presbyterian (Lutcher Memorial) Church in Orange (902 West Green Avenue), and, in San Antonio, *Moses* fountain (Fountain Park), St. Mary's Church altar, the Kampmann Building, the *Mahncke Memorial* in San Antonio (Brackenridge Park), an additional memorial each to Maylor, Barchay and Chittim, and the Yoakum residence. In Fort Worth, Frank Teich was foreman of the granite construction in building the Tarrant County Courthouse. Outside of Texas, his work appears in Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. In Mexico, he created the altar for a church in Durango when he was in his eightieth year. As a youth still in Germany, Frank carved a bedstead for Otto von Bismarck and did some wood carving for the yacht of Kaiser Wilhelm I.

In 1887, Frank Teich married Elvina Lang Elbers, daughter of the rancher George Lang. (As an aside, Mr. Lang died in 1898 in the Yukon during the Alaska Gold Rush while driving a herd of cattle from Idaho to Alaska.) Elvina was the widow of Postmaster Hermann Elbers of San Antonio. After 1901, Frank and Elvina lived in a large, white house in Teichville and there raised daughters Katherine (Katie) and Frances (Frankie), as well as Elvina's two daughters from her marriage to Elbers.

By 1935, the Teich Monument Works operated out of ten quarries and kept five finishing plants busy. Frank's son-in-law Linden Foster worked for him and they had an office in Houston. Then, on September 17, 1936, at about 1:00 A.M., a devastating fire began in one of the shops and spread to other buildings. *The Llano News* reported that about \$4,000 of finished new work was lost in the fire, including a bust of Johann von Meusebach, that was ready to ship the next day. In addition to the finished work, \$1,000 worth of raw stock was destroyed. The total damage was estimated at \$50,000, and none of it was insured. The fire was ruled an arson, because a gas cap had been removed from the car inside the shop and gas drained out around the shop to start the fire. The family believed that it was started by the husband of a maid who had been dismissed from the Teich household. The Llano Fire Department was able to save only Frank's studio, office, and home. Frank watched as the fire destroyed so much of what he had worked to build, and his health declined rapidly afterward. Frank Teich died in 1938.

The Teich Monument Works resumed operations seven months after the fire at a reduced capacity under the management of Linden Foster. Now, the property is a privately owned ranch. The sign on the fence at the entrance still proclaims "Teichville, Texas."

Frank Teich's granddaughter Linda Fay was staying with him on the night the Monument Works burned. (She recalls that with her that night was her childhood friend Sheba Brill, sister of Nellie Connelly.) Linda Fay still lives in Llano. Frank Teich's great-grandnephew Leonard Teich (the husband of this writer), lives now in Houston.

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## **The Role of German-Texans in Reconstruction After the Civil War (Part 2)**

### **By Kenn Knopp**

**Jacob Kuechler & Eduard Degener... Texas-German Leaders of Reconstruction: 1865-1875,  
Supporters of the State of West Texas & its Capital in San Antonio  
August Siemering & the San Antonio Express-News, Champions of Civil Rights for All**

When the American Civil War came to an end in 1865 after four full years of conflict and bitterness, Texas still had much property and unsettled lands available in and around Friedrichsburg, the Hill Country, and in the vast regions of the proposed State of West Texas. The author's forebears came to Friedrichsburg in 1868 from Eitelborn, Westerwald, Germany, to take advantage of the free land and the personal freedom that was promised. Johann Knopp, born in 1815, was 53 years old when he came to Texas. He had already raised two sets of children with two wives. When his second wife also died he talked his sons into going to Friedrichsburg. Now that the Civil War was over he felt he and his six sons would not have to risk their lives. He hated the Prussian wars of expediency in Germany and the Prussian rulers who had taken over their beloved Hessen-Nassau. Now that Texas was able to shake itself free from the Confederate dictatorship, he and his boys could get on with family-building and take advantage of the free land offered to them in Gillespie County Texas. Three of his sons came to Friedrichsburg first and wrote to their father that the Texas Hill Country was indeed beautiful and was wide open for development.

In 1868 Eitelborn was in Hessen-Nassau but was realigned after World War II. Today Eitelborn is in the Rheinland-Pfalz and is a village belonging to the Westerwald Kreis, similar to county, with nearby Montabaur its governmental center. Johann Knopp and his six sons did well in Friedrichsburg in retail businesses, some in farming and ranching, and in buying and selling commodities such as cotton. The years that the Knopps came from Germany cotton growing was becoming an important cash crop. As the immigrants got off the ships at Indianola harbor, they were replaced by bales of cotton and other commodities that could not be grown in Europe. Every year the first Sunday in June the Knopps stemming from Johann Knopp gather in Lady Bird Johnson Park in Fredericksburg for a family reunion to enjoy a pot luck lunch, refreshments, exchanging family stories and updating events and dates.

When the news reached Germany that the South had been defeated in the Civil War in 1865 and Texas was again to rejoin the United States interest in emigrating to Texas once again picked up. It had now been twenty years since the first Germans had come to Friedrichsburg. Relatives and friends in Germany were still curious to know about the opportunities available in Texas. Since so many thousands of Germans who were interested in democracy and individual opportunities had left Germany since the failure of the Paulskirche Democratic Congress of 1846-48, the revolution all but collapsed. And from Friedrichsburg there also came the good news that the peace treaty between the Germans of Friedrichsburg and the Comanches and the Delaware Indians that was signed in Friedrichsburg on May 9, 1847, was still holding. Family members now wrote to their relatives and friends in Germany that with the Civil War over it was again a good time to come to Friedrichsburg.

#### **GERMAN UNION LOYALISTS IN FAVOR AFTER CIVIL WAR**

The Union loyalists, representing the majority of Germans in Friedrichsburg, the Hill Country, and the territory of West Texas, were now aligned closely with the provisional Government of Texas and were busy "reconstructing" Texas in a way necessary to please the Congress of the United States so that Texas could again be approved as a bonafide part of the United States.

Friedrichsburg residents were proud that one of their own, Jacob Kuechler, was to represent the Hill Country and the area of West Texas in the provisional government in Austin. His close associate, Eduard Degener, of Sisterdale and from San Antonio after the Civil War, were partners in writing the new constitution of Texas, as well as the constitution for the proposed new State of West Texas. The latter coming very close to being accepted during the Texas Constitution Convention of 1869. Kuechler represented the majority of Germans of the Hill Country who gathered at the San Antonio Saengerfest of 1854 to organize the Union Loyal League that would develop armed militias in their home communities.

A year earlier in Friedrichsburg Jacob Kuechler married Marie Petri sister of the esteemed artist Richard Petri. They lived a few miles southwest of Friedrichsburg between Live Oak Creek and the Pedernales River near the Guenther Mill, the Petris, the Lungkwitzs, and the Papes. Kuechler was the official surveyor for Gillespie County and went to the 1854 Saengerfest in San Antonio to alert fellow

Germans and other interested Unionists about the impending conflict about secession and the future of chattel slavery in Texas. Sam Houston commissioned him to organize state militia troops in the Hill Country and in Gillespie County. But by 1861 the Texas secessionists had taken over the state capital and the new governor, Francis R. Lubbock, revoked Kuechler's authority in fear that the German troops would be used against the secessionists. (1)

The ULL militias formed starting in 1854 and developed for six years were to serve two purposes: First, to protect their communities from the Knights of the Golden Circle who were organizing secret "castles" or groups throughout Texas to bring about secession from the United States and to keep chattel slavery in force. Precursors to the Klu Klux Klan, the Knights wanted to keep the slave trade intact and protected by county, state, and national governments. Second, the ULL militias would also protect communities from renegade Indian attacks and even the probability of mass attacks by Indian tribes. No Indian chief, except the chief of the Huaco Indians near Blanco, was ever known to be a threat to any German community. But Chiefs John Conner and Jim Shaw of the Delaware Indians who were camped between present day Friedrichsburg and Kerrville, had learned that the Huaco Indians were going to be paid to attack the residents of Friedrichsburg. An Anglo trader near present day Waco was upset that the Friedrichsburgers had been doing so much trading with the Comanches. Many Comanches had also been setting up permanent tee-pees along Baron's Creek in Friedrichsburg. Chiefs Conner and Shaw held a meeting with the Huaco Indians. As a result, the Huacos left the area near Blanco and were never seen in the area again.

From then on the Indians were not near the threat that the Secessionist Democrats of Texas, the majority, posed to the German-Texan Unionists. The Germans were grateful to Sam Houston and subsequent Texan leaders for allowing them to come to Texas and receive free land either in towns or out in the country. But cotton plantation owners, bankers, and commodity shippers at the ports which included some Germans, demanded that a state-wide vote be taken to force the governor to carry out the wishes of most of the people of Texas to secede from the Union and to declare Texas officially as a official slave state. The Germans at the port of Indianola also voted to approve secession wanting cotton shipping to continue to be their number one export.

When the vote was taken the secessionists won three to one across Texas. Friedrichsburg voted 400-17 against secession; Mason voted 75 against, 2 for secession, with many avoiding the polls. (2) Precincts in Comfort and Sisterdale also voted against secession. Kerrville, New Braunfels, and most other towns and cities south and east toward the Gulf Coast approved joining the Confederacy. Other voting results were: Comal County, New Braunfels...239 for secession, 89 for remaining in the Union; Boerne...6 for secession, 85 opposed; Comfort...15 for secession, 42 against; New Ulm (Austin County) in the cotton plantation area, the majority voted for secession; Cat Spring-Millheim also in the cotton plantation area 99 voted against secession, 8 in favor. (3) The vote count in March of 1861 resulted in 44,317 for secession with 13,020 voting to stay in the Union. (4)

Jacob Kuechler led more than sixty Unionist Germans from across the Hill Country in August of 1862 out of Texas in hopes of reaching Mexico to either join Union troops or to remain in Mexico for the duration of the war. Fellow Germans, sympathetic to the Confederacy, let the Confederate main camp near Blanco know about plans of Kuechler and his cohorts. The Germans were ambushed and many of them killed. Kuechler, however, survived and made it to Mexico staying there as a surveyor until the end of the war. The Republican Unionists who had taken over in Austin then hired him to be a customs collector in San Antonio. He was then chosen to be an official delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869. Eduard Degener, formerly of Sisterdale, and of San Antonio after the end of the Civil War was also an official delegate to the state convention of 1868-69.

John O. Meusebach, leader of the German immigrants since 1846, left the San Antonio area and his farm at Comanche Spring, near Leon Springs, and opened a general merchandise store in Friedrichsburg prior to the opening of the Civil War in 1861. His wife and her family had been living in New Braunfels. According to Meusebach's descendants who gather each year for a reunion and place a memorial wreath at the Meusebach statue in Friedrichsburg's Marktplatz during Founder's Day on the first saturday of each May, Meusebach agreed with Sam Houston and felt that Texas should remain in the Union. However, his wife's two brothers in New Braunfels served willingly on the Confederate side and lost their lives. A handful of Friedrichsburg leaders such as Charles Nimitz and Frank van der Stucken were also

pro-Confederate. Meusebach, born in 1812, was turning 50 when the Civil War began. With all these factors around him, he urged everyone to concern themselves with making a living and raising their families. He felt the immense power of the northern industrialist states would quickly subdue the southern-secessionist rebels. (5)

In 1865 when the Civil War finally ended, Meusebach realized that many new German immigrants would be coming to Texas again. He sold his Friedrichsburg store in 1867 and moved just outside of New Braunfels to be in the San Antonio area and to be near his wife's family, the Coreths. Having been elected a Texas state senator ten years earlier representing Bexar, Medina, and Comal counties in 1851, Meusebach knew, too, that his Stammtisch cohorts (6), Jacob Kuechler and Eduard Degener, would not be hesitating to lean on him for his advice and encouragement in reconstructing the state of Texas more in keeping with the U.S. constitution and its awesome Bill of Rights. Because the Democrat Conservatives, who were against Negro freedom and suffrage and used the muse of States Rights to subvert federal laws and policies, far outnumbered the newly emerging Republican Progressives the majority of which were the new German immigrants, especially in the Hill Country.

The Germans of the Hill Country knew that they must take advantage of this rare opportunity to re-mold the constitution of Texas more in line with their consciences and philosophy. They were almost the only ones trusted by the Republicans of the North. This window of opportunity would be open from 1866 on but then close shut tight again by 1870. Only during Lyndon B. Johnson's time in the Texas state legislature and in his leadership in the federal government would that window reopen again to make progress in social justice and equal opportunity regardless of color or creed. This show of social conscience on the part of Democrats would serve to cause conservative Democrats to begin their gradual metamorphosis into conservative Republicans. Therefore, Lyndon B. Johnson, born and raised in the Texas Hill Country in the Pedernales Valley near Fredericksburg, and having descended from a German grandmother (Huffmann), takes his place alongside the heroes of the Germans of the Texas Hill Country: Sam Houston, Abraham Lincoln, John O. Meusebach, Comanche Chiefs Buffalo Hump and Santa Anna, Lt. Louis Jordan (World War I), Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (World War II), and President Lyndon B. Johnson (The Great Society.) During LBJ's time, all politics began flip-flopping in America. The Republicans took over the spirit of the Old South Democrats of the mid 1800's. The Democrats then became transformed into liberal progressives. The snake was eating itself. Many people then did not bother to vote, the lines of distinction had become so elusive and bewildering.

#### RECONCILING THE IRRECONCILABLE...

By the end of May, 1865, Confederate troops in Texas had heard of the ever-mounting victories of the Unionist troops in the Old South and began urging desertion, leaving their posts, and heading for home. They raided Confederate stores and took what they could in rationalizing compensation for their services. (7) At the same time, those who supported the South had to think twice about staying in the Hill Country or in Texas. They feared that the retribution might well be as violent as their own fanaticism had been as they enforced the Confederacy by requiring oaths and hunted down opponents. Many from the smaller towns and rural communities moved into the larger cities in hopes of keeping out of sight. Some of the German pro-secessionists moved to other states or returned again to Germany. Frank van der Stucken of Friedrichsburg, father of the composer with the same name, returned to Antwerp; while Dr. Ernst Kapp and the brother-in-law of Karl Marx, Edgar von Westphalen, both Confederate supporters of Sisterdale, suddenly returned to Europe in 1865. Both Kuechler of Friedrichsburg and Degener of Sisterdale moved to San Antonio where they hoped the capital of the new state of West Texas would be placed. There in San Antonio they were both chosen to be delegates to the constitutional convention in Austin.

Also moving from Friedrichsburg and Sisterdale to San Antonio was the brilliant teacher and prolific journalist August Siemering. He, too, was a colleague of Kuechler and Degener, and founded *Die Freie Presse*, the Free Press, which later became the *San Antonio Express News*, still being published daily today. His reporting of the constitutional convention and reconstruction efforts of 1865-1870 as well as the opinions and ideals of the German and like-minded Unionists and progressives of the Hill Country, the Republicans of that time, included extolling the idea of the state of West Texas are well preserved in the microfilm department of Texas history in the main library of the San Antonio Public Library on San Pedro Avenue.

United States troops again were assigned to Texas forts and ports. As a warning to the French who were still controlling things in Mexico under Maximilian, many federal troops were placed in the Rio Grande area. There was soon to be much quarreling in Texas while preparing the new Texas constitution for the approval of the U.S. Congress. The French might get the idea that they could use their forces along with the Mexicans to cause trouble in Texas in hopes of again moving the boundary lines further north. The Germans of the Hill Country were impressed with the effectiveness of the federal troops at the Mexican border. They would need this confidence in battling the conservative Democrats at the Austin constitutional convention coming right up. Kuechler and Degener feared that differences would simply be too irreconcilable. And just in case, their ace in the hole would be to propose that Texas be divided into two states. The State of Texas, with Austin its capital, would end east and north of the Colorado River; the State of West Texas would begin west and south of the Colorado River, generally.

Historians point out that immediately following the end of the Civil War Texas experienced splendid weather and bountiful crops. Republican Unionists and federal officials talked the plantation owners into paying the Negroes more as well as improving their living quarters in hopes that the cotton harvest would not be affected as the Negroes began taking advantage being free. Their celebrations began in Texas when on June 19, 1865, it was announced officially by General Gordon Granger at his military headquarters in Galveston that each and every Negro had his freedom from that day forward. (8) Other U.S. officers and their assistants went to many areas of Texas teaching the Negroes how to make work contracts with their former "owners." Then the military officers had to see to it that the contracts were enforced, much to the chagrin of the owners.

The Census of 1850 showed Friedrichsburg with a population of 1,176 and 5 Negroes; while the *Texas Almanac* showed 63 Negroes in 1855; 100 Negroes in 1856; 30 Negroes in a population of 2,736 in Fredericksburg in 1860, and 12 Negroes in a population of 3,500 in 1870 in Friedrichsburg five years after the end of the Civil War. (9)

Consider the ulterior motive of the German leaders since 1842 in regard to Texas pleading with the Germans not to kill its revolutionaries but to encourage dissenters to come to Texas. German leaders had seen how easy it was for General Santa Anna of Mexico to crush the uprising at the Alamo. Even though the forces of Mexico were divided and defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, Germany felt that with the proper number of German immigrants in Texas, it was not unthinkable that German Texans of West Texas might be able to separate itself from the rest of Texas, by force if need be, and become a German republic loyal to the Prussian forces with close ties to Mexico. When French forces installed Maximilian as the dictator of Mexico the German-Austrian-Hungarian scenario became a factor not to be discounted. The forces of Napoleon III of France captured Mexico City and Archduke Maximilian of Austria, under the control of Napoleon III, was talked into being the ruler of Mexico. Maximilian, an avid botanist, was deeply interested in the tropics and the semi-tropics of both South America, with no little interest in the geological and biological assets of south and central Texas. The United States gradually began to send arms to the Juarez insurgents. At first Maximilian granted Juarez many concessions but soon got weary of Juarez. But it was Juarez who would order Maximilian shot when Maximilian refused to return to Europe. This was on June 19, 1867. (10)

Only a few months after the establishment of New Braunfels in April 1845, after the Germans chose to land the immigrants at Indianola below Port Lavaca rather than Galveston, American intelligence learned about the ultimate plan of the Germans to establish a German republic between Mexico and Texas. It took only a few months later in December 1845 for the United States to announce it was annexing Texas. Then the dream of a German republic in North America changed to the German state of West Texas.

There is little evidence that the German republic in Texas was ever discussed with the average German immigrant. But when the subject of a separate state of West Texas came up, many Germans were not opposed to the idea as long as it would be a bonafide part of the United States. From the moment Germans stepped foot onto Texas soil, especially in the fertile plantation areas from the coast up to New Braunfels, at the foothills of the Hill Country, the new German settlers met a peculiar people, mostly from the Old South with odd accents and what seemed to be quite queer mind-sets. These Texan Southerners resented the Union and believed in things such as chattel slavery, no voting rights for Negroes, bizarre attitudes about drinking alcohol, what seemed to be a lack of interest in higher education, and preferring "states-rights" as opposition to federal cooperation and respect. The Germans knew that they had landed

amongst strangers of the oddest sort and virtually incompatible at best. It could only mean trouble. And it meant that the Germans must stay together and stick together if at all possible if in America the majority vote would determine destiny and policy. The Germans did not want to lose any more elections!

When the state convention convened the wrangling started with Eduard Degener extolling that the Negro be allowed to vote in Texas. The convention agreed that secession would no longer be a right and that slavery was to be abolished forever. The question of giving voting rights to Negroes remained anathema. This caused Kuechler and Degener to be prepared to offer the question of approving the State of West Texas in case Negro suffrage could not be agreed upon. In taking a poll of the delegates, Kuechler and Degener found out that there were only four votes for unrestricted Negro suffrage. The only thing that could be agreed upon was that it was the right of Negroes not to be slaves. (11)

On the last day of the convention an ordinance was passed making it possible for Texas to be divided into two separate states. The vote was 31 to 17 with most of the support coming from the western part of the state where the Unionists were mostly Germans. Everyone considered the convention virtually useless when it adjourned on April 2, 1866. Having only declared freedom for Negroes it failed to give the Negro voting rights and failed to submit its enactments for approval to the people of the state. Everyone was preoccupied with the upcoming state elections that same Fall.

J. W. Throckmorton, anti-secessionist, but a conservative, that is, disinterested in passing a law giving Negroes the right to vote, was elected governor. U.S. President Johnson approved the election and declared that the Texas insurrection had ended. Conservative republicans, like Throckmorton, aligned themselves with the Conservative Democrats, leaving the Progressive Republicans, such as Kuechler and Degener, at the short end of almost all votes. When it came to sending two senators to Washington, both of them were two secessionists. The U.S. Congress refused to seat them. The Texans in congress at every turn claimed that "states rights" were their duty "since 1776." (12) Messages then were sent to Congress by the Texas Unionist Republicans, namely Kuechler and Degener, that if Texas would continue to insist that Negro freedom did not mean the freedom to be able to vote, then the only way Texas could be reinstated would be as the State of West Texas. Military law would continue to rule the rest of Texas until it would conform itself to the laws of the United States.

By mid-July 1867 the order came down from the U. S. military command in Texas that the Texas provisional governor, J. W. Throckmorton, was to be removed and replaced by E. M. Pease an old foe of secession. Not to speak of the question of Negro voting rights, the military overseers announced that Throckmorton was not moving along voter registration of the citizenry fast enough nor fair enough.

#### THE UNION LOYAL LEAGUE REVISITED....

Jacob Kuechler and Eduard Degener were active in developing the militias of the Union Loyal League following the Saengerfest of 1854 in San Antonio. After the Civil War around June 1, 1868, units of the Union Loyal League were organized as a way to unify those who wanted Texas to be approved as a state again. The Knights of the Golden Circle then changed tactics and dissolved themselves in order to remerge as the Klu Klux Klan. Negroes and their friends looked up to Kuechler and Degener. A mulatto from Galveston, G. T. Ruby, became the leader of the Union Loyal League in Texas. Union Loyal League members across Texas helped to elect E. J. Davis as chairman of the second round of the constitutional convention in Texas.

During this time thievery and cattle-rustling as well as Indian intrepation were becoming major problems. The military militias were hard to arouse and were not always near the areas of criminality. The Texas Rangers, too, were not able to respond quickly enough. The Union Loyal League militias composed of local posses were timely and responsive. This was the time of the beginnings of the Mason County Hoodoo War replete with cattle rustling, North-South and German-Anglo revenge killings, and flagrant robberies. Renegade Indians often took advantage of the chaos to pillage despite proscriptions of their Indian chiefs. The Indians were benefiting greatly with their trading and friendships with the Germans and their chiefs were determined to see to it that the peace treaty of 1847 not be broken.

Texas provisional governor, E. M. Pease, let it be known that he was not inclined to approve the idea of dividing Texas into two states. He felt that the 800,000 population was not large enough to justify it and would cause the doubling of the expenses. Yet, he understood that the dichotomy between the Unionists and the majority States-Rights (Secessionists) Democrats were virtually irreconcilable. However, the

Democrats of East Texas, the States-Rights Conservatives, began to indicate that they might like the idea of dividing Texas into two states. Perhaps then they would not have to deal with the Republican "foreigners" and especially the liberal Germans of central and west Texas. Gradually the two-state idea began to appear to be the way out of the dilemma. The Negroes could go to West Texas to live if they wanted to vote! But East Texas needed them in their cotton fields! So, again, dividing the state came to an impasse, or to put it more aptly, loggerheads!

Now it was getting time for the U.S. presidential election to take place. The Republican candidate was Ulysses S. Grant. Seymour was the candidate of the Democrats. As Texas had still not completed their constitutional convention and the new constitution was not approved by the U.S. Congress, Texans had to sit this election out. Grant won the presidency and that meant that Texas would have to renounce secession once and for all and show progress towards suffrage for all its citizens and not leave out the Negroes. This pronouncement served to infuriate Texas Democrats all the more.

New converts announced themselves in favor of the new state of West Texas, A. P. Jordan and James P. Newcomb. Said Newcomb: "...the temper, loyalty, and conduct of the people west of the Colorado River in the proposed state of West Texas is exceptionally good. These people should be allowed a separate government." (13) Those mentioned to be on the State of West Texas committee were: Davis, E. Degener, J. P. Newcomb, M. Hamilton, J. Kuechler, A. P. Jordan, and Varnell. (14)

However, the Democrats changed their minds about supporting the state of West Texas and began to filibuster to prevent the question of dividing the state from coming to a vote. More than a month and a half went by with no end in sight of the filibustering. All sides then agreed to set the topic aside so that other matters could be considered. To everyone's surprise the convention approved suffrage of all persons 21 years of age who had not committed a felony crime or who had not been legally declared of unsound mind. Other matters too were approved. And by February 14, 1869, the new constitution of the single state of Texas was ready to submit to Congress.

When the next state election took place in the fall of 1869, the Republicans, backed by their U.S. military overseers, decided not to include the issue of the State of West Texas. Rather, they rejoiced that the new state constitution was in conformity to the U.S. laws and was promising civil and political rights to all persons under the law. On January 8, 1870, the military occupiers approved the Texas election winners: Edmund J. Davis, governor; J. W. Flanagan, lieutenant governor; A. Bledsoe, comptroller; G. W. Honey, treasurer; and Jacob Kuechler, commissioner of the General Land Office. Eduard Degener of San Antonio was elected congressman for the 4th district. Less than 800 votes separated the candidates for governor. The new constitution was approved. President Grant on March 30, 1870, declared that the term "provisional" could be dropped when referring to the Texas state government. The military occupation was officially ended.

The Texas legislature contained these members in 1869-1870: Senate: 16 Progressive Republicans, 3 Conservative Republicans, 11 Conservative Democrats. House: 46 Progressive Republicans, 8 Conservative Republicans, 36 Conservative Democrats. (15)

The name calling at the time of the Reconstruction but leaving out the cuss words:

**Progressive Republicans** commonly labeled by "Southern" historians such as Ramsdell as Radicals. These included pro-Unionists including the Germans of the Hill Country and their leaders such as Jacob Kuechler of Friedrichsburg, John O. Meusebach of Friedrichsburg and New Braunfels (Waco Springs), Eduard Degener of Sisterdale and San Antonio, and August Siemering, publisher of San Antonio. First and foremost these people believed and relied on the Constitution of the United States of America and its Bill of Rights as their political bible.

**Conservative Republicans** were also known just as "Conservatives" and often supported the secessionists and the confederacy. In Friedrichsburg they were Charles Nimitz and Frank van der Stucken, the father of the eminent composer of the same name. In Kerrville, Charles Schreiner.

**Democrat Conservatives** supported secession and the obsession with "States-Rights". They were anti-Unionist and generally opposed the dictums of the U. S. federal government. Most of the time these persons were the majority in Texas politics, of Southern or Anglo heritage. Democrat Liberals did not appear on the scene until the mid 1900s.

Prologue: Today, the Texas snake is still all wrapped up intent on completing the eating of itself. Texas Republicans have transmigrated into the Democrats of old. Texas Democrats of today have thrown off their Old South skins, and few claim even to be "Yellow Dog" that is, sticking with the Democrat Party regardless of the insanity. And yet, they find little solace or consolation in the plutocratic Republican Party of today of which a wise President Eisenhower warned, "beware of the military-industrial complex". As cotton covered the consciences of the plantation owners so delirious and covetous about its profits; now oil and war service contracts and kickbacks cover the consciences of the politicians of today who empower the Hegelian war machine and its industrial profiteers. Where will we send our troops next to pillage profits under the guise of enabling "freedom?" Where could the Great Grandfather Knopp of today flee such Old Prussian adventurism so that his sons could raise their families in true freedom and personal liberty? Inevitably, the snake will die of consumption and even shed its skins. But , inside the eggs of new beasts await their birth only to emerge and then look around to see what they can consume.

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Notes:

- (1) McGuire, James Patrick "Jack", *Jacob Kuechler (1823-1893)*, The Handbook of Texas Online, <<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/KK/fku1.html>>, 2004.
- (2) Polk, Stella Gipson, *Mason and Mason County: A History*; Pemberton Press, Austin, Texas, 1966; p.27
- (3) Biesele, Rudolph L.; *The History of the German Settlements in Texas: 1831-1861*; McNaughton & Gunn, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1930; p. 206
- (4) Ramsdell, Charles William; *Reconstruction in Texas*; Columbia University Press, 1910, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1970; p. 19
- (5) King, Irene Marschall; *John O. Meusebach, German Colonizer in Texas*; University of Texas Press, Austin, 1967, pp. 161-163.
- (6) "Stammtisch"-- even today in Fredericksburg friends gather together regularly at the "stump table" in the local restaurants to discuss this, that, and the other, and often quite vocally. It is a German tradition that takes place usually from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. or at 3 p.m. or after work prior to heading home. The Stammtisches in Fredericksburg are open to everyone including visitors if there happens to be a spare seat available. Because half the people speak only English most of the time the Fredericksburg Germans switch to English if they do not predominate. In Germany the Stammtisch is usually reserved for certain friends. Visitors must normally be invited to sit with the regulars.
- (7) Ramsdell, *ibid*, p. 32-33; (8) Ramsdell, *ibid*, p. 42;
- (9) Benjamin, Gilbert G.; *Germans in Texas*, Jenkins Publishing Co., Austin TX, 1974, pp.94-97.
- (10) Archduke Maximilian: 1832-1867; *TheFreeDictionary.com*, pp 1-4, 2004
- (11) Ramsdell, *ibid*, p. 87. (12) Ramsdell, *ibid*, p. 119; (13) Ramsdell, *ibid*, p. 247.
- (14) See *The Austin Republican*, January 4, 1869, also editions of Dec. 21, 23, 30, 31, 1868.
- (15) Ramsdell, *ibid*, 289.

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 (PART 1: A German State in the New World... The Adelsverein's Texas Colonization Scheme:1842-1847 appeared in the Summer, 2004, edition of *The Journal*.)

## UT Researchers Record Dying Dialect From Central Texans

By Nathan Diebenow

Staff Writer

CRAWFORD — While some scientists uncover and study dinosaur bones, a research team from the University of Texas at Austin gathered voices at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Crawford on Feb. 7.

Well, not just any voices—only the Texas-German dialect.

The team from the University of Texas Germanic Studies Department recorded interviews with about 10 individuals for the Texas-German Dialect Project.

This project couldn't have been possible had it not been for its founder, Dr. Hans Boas, stopping for lunch in Fredericksberg on his way from Berkeley, Calif., to Austin to take his job.

"I just heard people speak German, and I couldn't believe that it was actually spoken," said the assistant professor in the Dept. of Germanic Studies. "It was a total surprise. I didn't know about it."

After researching the subject at UT, the native of Goettingen, Germany, realized that the Texas-German dialect will be gone within the next 30 years and started TGDP in September 2001.

Since its inception, the project has conducted more than 80 hours of interviews with 60 people. By March 2004, Dr. Boas expects to have more than 100 hours with about 80 people.

Using funds allocated from the University of Texas at Austin and Texas Humanities (formerly the Texas Council for the Humanities), the project sets out to document the different Texas-German dialects across the state.

Dr. Boas said that for the first seven-to-eight months progress was slow because locating Texas-Germans was through a "friend of a friend network."

After talking with genealogical societies and German-American groups though, the project mushroomed.

"Some people actually were somewhat upset that I hadn't come out to interview them," said Dr. Boas. "Right now, we have a long list of people who are waiting to be interviewed, but we don't have enough time or people to do it all, or money for that matter."

### The Interviews

As Dr. Boas explained, the Texas-German Dialect Project's purpose is to describe how people talk and why it works.

"There is a misconception that there is a 'right' way to talk and then there are other ways. From a scientific viewpoint, this is bogus," he said. "In other words, we're interested in how people talk, and not in how they should talk."



**PRESERVING GERMAN HERITAGE**  
— As a part of the Texas-German Dialect Project, (from left) William Zuehlke of Clifton was interviewed by Jarrod Slocum student from the University of Texas at Austin at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Crawford on Feb. 7. A research team from the University of Texas Germanic Studies Department recorded interviews with about 10 individuals.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



"Now, the last in-depth studies of the Texas-German dialect were conducted in the 1950s and 1960s, and since then, the dialect has changed drastically. We want to figure out how and why," he added.

And the 10 Texas-Germans from the Central Texas area, as well as those from around New Braunfels, Brenham, Fredericksburg, Freyburg, and Round Rock, might be able to unlock that secret.

The interviewees on Feb. 7 were from the Crawford-McGregor area, two are from Waco, and one each from Hamilton, Clifton, and the Valley Mills-Mosheim area.

As Van Massirer, Dr. Boas' Crawford liaison, explained, the dialects spoken by the early German immigrants in the Prairie Chapel Community were somewhat different from each other but not so different that the various groups had any significant difficulty communicating with each other.

Some of the German immigrants to Prairie Chapel had roots either in Westphalia or Posen, but another larger group had roots in the Rhineland-Pfalz area of west-central Germany. Each of these groups spoke a slightly different dialect.

Many of the latter group immigrated to eastern Austria before they immigrated to Texas, and their dialect was affected somewhat by the Poles and Ukrainians that they lived among in Austria, Massirer said.

However, primarily, due to shyness and to the fact that they have spoken very little German in recent years, most of local Texas-Germans were reluctant to commit to the interviews.

"I have tried to assure them, however, that once the interviews get underway, they will find that they remember considerably more of the language than they thought," said Massirer. "All of them were fluent speakers in their younger years, with many of them learning to speak German before they learned English."

More detrimental to the project than shyness to untwisting tongues is the physical health of the interviewees, which can be as minor as hearing impairment and as major as death.

"Bill thought he couldn't hear well enough, but Thursday afternoon, he said, 'You know what? I will go,'" said William Zuehlke's wife, Eleanor, both of Clifton.

"I didn't intend to come. My German isn't all that good," she continued. "I never did speak it regularly. I was the youngest in the family. I did know all the words, but when I would try to say sentences or something, and I got them wrong, my sisters would laugh at me, and I just quit talking.

"This was fun, though, but I don't think I did too well."

The process by which the researchers gather information lasted about an hour for each individual, and included three methods used to determine the status of Texas-German.

The methods were the interviewees' translations of word lists and sentences, open-ended questionnaires, and social group activities.

Having the interviewees translate sentences is "very controlled, so we can compare person A from Fredericksburg from person B from New Braunfels," said Dr. Boas.

The questionnaires are intended to provide the interviewees with topics by which they would elaborate on daily activities of the typical Texas-German.

"They can talk about any topic they want, so someone will talk about sausage making for two hours, which is great because the goal of this is for them to talk about their favorite topic," said Dr. Boas.

The social activity, like playing cards and drinking coffee, serves much the same purposes, he added.

The project also includes genealogical information, said Dr. Boas, and the participants seemed willing to oblige.

### Sharing Languages

Dr. Boas said that the German the Texas-Germans speak is "somewhat 19th-century German," or more closely akin to what Otto Von Bismark spoke than Kraftwerk (a modern, German music group).

"It's different from what's spoken in Europe today, but still mutually intelligible," he said.

He explained that as the Germans started to settle Texas in the 19th-century, they adapted their language according to the new objects, ethnic groups, and surroundings they encountered.

For instance, one new object they found was the common, ordinary beer pitcher.

"German doesn't have the same concept of pitcher because in German, the way you pour beer is either out of a glass or out of a bottle," explained Dr. Boas. "You don't have the concept of a large glass container where you go up to the barrel, pour beer into it, and use it to pour beer into other glasses.

"So what happens with Texas-German is that the German speakers borrow the word and incorporate it into their language."

Something similar happened with "skunk."

"The Germans called one 'shtink katze,' which literally means 'stinking cat,'" he said. "So the same thing happened. They didn't have a word for it. They used the existing German vocabulary to put together to describe this new thing that they saw; whereas, the first European settlers came over and adapted the Native American word 'skunk.'

"You see that all over the place."

The Great Shhhh!

After the first waves of German immigrants had settled in Texas, said Boas, but the English language received big boost due to America's involvement in WWI.

"You have the occasional families coming in between the two wars and even after WWII," said Dr. Boas, "but all of a sudden from one day to the other, you weren't allowed to speak German any longer.

"Overnight, if you spoke German you were stigmatized because it was the language of

the enemy."

He said that in 1917, each state in the Union passed it's own laws that would eventually stop the German language from being spoken regularly.

"In Texas, the law stated that only English could be taught in school," said Boas. "So if you were raised German, if your whole community speaks German, and that's all you know, and you go to school, and there's English spoken, it's almost like going into another country.

"So you have kids who grew up speaking German for five or six years, then they go to school and learn English."

Eleanor Zuehlke said that one hour a week was devoted to German language studies at her little country public school in Brenham.

English was taught beginning in first grade, she added.

"It was so easy for all of us because we all knew German," said Zuehlke.

The church and the public school at side-by-side on purpose, she said, but "how they got by with that I don't know.

Time and Money

Time and money are not on the project's side, according to Dr. Boas, because the majority of the Texas-German speakers are 80 years and older, and running this project comes at a high cost.

"It has happened a number of times that an interviewee passed away before we get to interview him/her," said Dr. Boas. "Every informant lost is somewhat tragic as they might be speaking a particular sub-dialect that has not been previously recorded.

"So far, two of our informants from New Braunfels have passed away, but we luckily have their recordings. Time is a crucial factor."

Dr. Boas said that for each hour of interview conducted, they calculate about 40-50 hours of time for pre-and post-production, including setting up the interview, doing the recording, editing, transcribing and translating.

With its current funding from UT Austin and the Texas Humanities, TGDP has had an annual budget of about \$40,000 per year over the past two years, but time is limited.

"Since we don't know how long we will be successful with grant writing, we are building up an endowment at UT in order to cover our operating costs," said Dr. Boas. "We hope to be able to raise more than \$1 million over the next five years in order to continue our work once funding runs out."

"In my opinion, the TGDP is extremely important from the standpoint of heritage preservation," said Massirer. "Texas-German is a unique dialect that was once widely spoken in Texas but is now limited to probably no more than 7,000-8,000 fluent speakers across the entire state.

"With the passing of the present generation of speakers, the dialect will be gone forever."

The University of Texas at Austin  
Department of Germanic Studies  
**- The Texas German Endowment**  
Hans C. Boas

### 1. Introduction

Once considered one of the major languages of the Lone Star State, Texas German is a unique dialect that at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was spoken by more than 100,000 Texans. English-only laws during World War I led to the loss of public institutional support for the widespread maintenance and use of German in such previously flourishing venues as German-language schools, newspapers, churches, and businesses. Whereas German was the principal language for most Texas Germans as late as the 1940s and German monolinguals anchored the community's language uses well into the 1960s, English became the primary language for most Texas Germans in both private and public domains in the 1970s. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, only an estimated 8,000 speakers of Texas German remain, most of whom are 60 years and older. Since this unique Texan dialect is not being passed on to younger generations, it will become extinct within the next thirty years. With the loss of Texas German, we will witness the end of a very special way of life that has had major impacts on Texas culture, history, and traditions for the past 150 years.

### 2. History of the Texas German Dialect Project

Members of the "Texas German Dialect Project" at the University of Texas at Austin are interviewing the remaining speakers of Texas German in order to document this unique dialect in the form of stories about all aspects of Texas-German life past and present. The resulting web-based multi-media archive will allow future generations to listen to and understand stories told by the last remaining speakers of Texas German. More precisely, the Texas German Dialect Project aims:

1. To preserve the Texas German dialect as it reflects the rich cultural and linguistic traditions of its residents;
2. To gather basic research information about linguistic diversity in order to understand the nature of language variation and change;
3. To provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests;
4. To use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture.

From 2001-2004, more than 20 members of the "Texas German Dialect Project" in the Department of Germanic Studies at UT Austin have conducted oral-history interviews in order to transcribe and translate them. The interviews including their transcriptions and translations are stored in a web-based multi-media archive which will be accessible to future generations (see <http://www.tgdp.org>). So far, more than 80 remaining speakers of

Texas German have been interviewed in Fredericksburg, Doss, Spring Branch, New Braunfels, Bulverde, Brenham, Freyburg, and Crawford, totaling more than 160 hours of interviews.

### 3. Funding Needs

The process of adding entries to the Dialect Archive is extremely time intensive. Per hour of interview added to the archive, an estimated 50 hours of work are necessary for setting up the interview, traveling to the interview site, recording the interview, digitization, transcription, translation, and editing. So far, 12 undergraduate students, seven graduate students, and one faculty member have been involved in the activities of the Texas German Dialect Project. From 2001-2004 the project has received funding from various sources both inside and outside of the University (total direct funding received so far: about \$142,000 from Humanities Texas and the University of Texas at Austin).

After three years of funding by different sources, one cannot continue to rely on their continuing availability. In the best-case scenario, the outcome for future funding is inevitably uncertain. Long term, established projects have reduced cachet for continued support.

To maintain the current level of operation, the Texas German Dialect Project requires an estimated budget of about \$25,000 annually. Since both state and federal funding agencies have cut down on funding for the humanities over the past two years, it is very well possible that at some point the project might not be able to receive funding for a year or two which would mean a hiatus in recording and processing interviews. Since many of the current and potential Texas German informants are in their 80s and 90s this would mean that valuable interviews would be lost in case they passed away before they could be interviewed. For these reasons the sole option to guarantee continuity of this project, lies in the establishment of a Texas German Endowment to insure permanent maintenance of the Dialect Project.

In the event that no students or faculty request support from the endowment to conduct research on Texas German language or culture, a portion of the funds should be used to permanently maintain and support the Texas German Dialect Archive so that its contents are available for future generations. The remaining funds could be used for research and teaching of German language, culture, and literature in the Department of Germanic Studies at The University of Texas at Austin.

*Almost twenty years ago, scholar Joseph Wilson wrote a prediction that appears to be coming true:*

**“Fifty years from now there will be no speakers of Texas German left, and monolingual Texans will find it hard to believe that German was a living language in Texas, spoken by hundreds of thousands for two hundred years. Every sample of Texas German that we can collect now, while Texas German is still spoken, will be previous in the future.”**

*(from “Texas German and Other Immigrant Languages” in Eagle in the New World edited by Theodore Gish and Richard Spuler, 1986, page 224)*

**German Restaurants in Texas**

Big Al's German American Restaurant	847 S. Fort Hood St.	Killeen	(817) 526-4247
German Restaurant	307 N 8th St	Killeen	(817) 628-9200
Muncher Kind'l	1519 Florence Road	Killeen	76541 (254) 634-1818
Munchner Kindl	Skyline Plaza	Killeen	(817) 634-1818
Little Bavarian Restaurant	5512 FM 78th	Kirby	(210) 661-7617
Wurst Haus	220 That Way St	Lake Jackson	(409) 297-0454
Alpine Brauhaus	17490 N Highway 3	League City	(713) 332-5696
The Teich Haus	1600 Ford St	Llano	78643 (915) 247-5234
Rhineland Haus Restaurant	1330 North McDonald, Suite 102	McKinney	(972) 562-0124
Oma's Haus Restaurant	541 Hwy 46 S	New Braunfels	(210) 625-3280
Hackemack's Hofbrauhaus Restaurant	10 Mi N of Columbus on FM 109	New Ulm	78950 (979) 732-6321
Our Place		Pittsburg, TX	(903) 856-7000
Bavarian Grill	221 West Parker Rd.	Plano	75023 (972) 881-0705
Landhaus Bar and Grill	109 Bauer Rummel Road	Round Top	78954 (979) 249-2080
Fritzl's Euro Grill & Dessert Shop	3390 Lakeview Parkway (Hwy 66)	Rowlett	75088 (972) 412-3555
Karla's Restaurant	5512 FM 78th	San Antonio	(210) 661-7617

Lunch 11 am - 2:30 pm Mon-Fri  
Dinner 5 pm - 9 pm Wed-Sat

Serve B-B-Q, + historic German-Texan Haus/B&B

Tue. - Sat. from 4pm - 10pm

**German Restaurants in Texas**

The Old German Bakery & Restaurant	225 W Main Street	Fredericksburg	(830) 997-9084
The Plateau Cafe	312 W. Hauptstrasse	Fredericksburg	(830) 997-1853
Bavarian Bakery & Cafe	3000 S.E. Loop 820	Ft Worth	(817) 551-1150
Edelweiss German Restaurant	3801-A Southwest Blvd	Ft. Worth	(817) 738-5934
Michael Burger	8826 Seawall	Galveston	77554 (409) 740-3639 Daily, 10a-9p
<i>Ge Towne Restaurant and Catering</i>	<i>1201 Church St</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>(512) 869-4100, NOW SERVING THAI AND (512) 413-9110 GERMAN FOOD</i>
Walburg Mercantile Restaurant	FM 972 @ FM 1105	Georgetown	(512) 863-8440 10 miles north of Georgetown
Wurstmarkt	706-D Edwards	Harker Heights	(817) 699-8774
Black Forest Tavern	3926 Feagan (Memorial)	Houston	(713) 861-2968
Matthias	3755 FM 1960 W.	Houston	(713) 537-5837
Old Heidelberg Inn	1810 Fountain View Dr	Houston	(713) 781-3581
Roland's Swiss Pastry and Tea Room	6504 Del Monte	Houston	(713) 785-4294
Rotisserie for Beef and Bird	2200 Wilcrest RD	Houston	(713) 977-9524
Rudi Lechner's Restaurant	2503 S. Gessner Road	Houston	(713) 782-1180
Tindy's German Restaurant & Deli	18307 Egret Bay Blvd	Houston	(713) 335-1398
Kempner Brick Oven	Hwy 190	Kempner	76539 (512) 932-2597 Tu-Thr 6a-8p; Fri-Sat 6a-9p; Sunday 11:30a-6p

## German Restaurants in Texas

10/14/04

German Restaurant	Address	City	Zip	Telephone	Hours of Operation
Gerd's Pfeffermuehle	106 E Central Ave	Belton		(254) 939-5239	
Heidi and Chris German Restaurant		Bluff Dale		(817) 728-3280	
Ann's German Bakery & Eatery	211 E. Baker St	Brownwood		(915) 646-4794	
Ursula's Schnitzel Haus	1217 East Hwy. 190	Copperas Cove		(254) 547-0501	
Edelweiss Cafe & Restaurant	1209 Airline Road	Corpus Christi		(512) 993-1901	
Belvedere Crest Park Hotel	4242 Lomo Alto Dr.	Dallas		(214) 528-6510	
Henk's European Deli	5811 Blackwell St.	Dallas		(214) 987-9090	
Hofstetter's	3840 W Northwest Highway	Dallas		(214) 358-7660	
Kuby's Sausage House	6601 Snider Plaza	Dallas	75205	(214) 363-2231	Open 7 Days
Gunther's Edelweiss Restaurant	11055 Gateway West	El Paso		(915) 592-1084	
Kleines Edelweiss Restaurant	5019 Alabama	El Paso		(915) 564-4619	
Altdorf Biergarten	301 W. Main St	Fredericksburg		(830) 997-0878	
Auslander Restaurant	323 E Main St	Fredericksburg		(830) 997-7714	
Friedhelm's Bavarian Restaurant & Gaestehaus	905 W. Hauptstrasse	Fredericksburg		(830) 997-6300	
Lindenbaum Rhineland Restaurant	312 E. Hauptstrasse	Fredericksburg		(830) 997-9126	

**UPDATED BY JULIA GERMANY**



10/14/04

**German Restaurants in Texas**

Old Heidelberg Restaurant	6714 San Petro Avenue	San Antonio	(210) 822-7866
Old World German Restaurant & Deli	1546 Babcock Rd	San Antonio	(210) 366-9523
Schilo's	424 E. Commerce St	San Antonio	(210) 223-6692
Dale's Essenhous	3900 FM 972	Walburg	78673 (512) 819-9175
Zur Autobahn	on Hiway 22 roughly midway between Hamilton and Meridian		

Mon-Sat 7am-8:30pm.  
(9pm Fri-Sat in summer)

Tue. - Sat. from 4pm - 10pm

**from Round Rock Leader  
March 8, 2004**

For the 6th year in a row, Westwood High School was awarded the first place trophy at the annual state German contest at Baylor University in Waco February 28.

The event included 1,000 German students representing 65 schools across the state. Fifty-five students from Westwood participated in this year's state competition.

"First place at Baylor represents talented students willing to work together in a variety of group and individual events," said Evelyn Saucier, a 16-year veteran German teacher at Westwood High School.

The students were asked to memorize lines and interact with each other in skits, puppet plays, duet acting, a scavenger hunt, and Jeopardy games. Individual events included tests in listening, reading, grammar, culture, speaking, and sight-reading. Among the more popular culture related activities are folk dancing, singing, polka band, gingerbread houses, posters, and

designing T-shirts with German related motifs.

To compete at state, students had to place in one of three regional competitions. Westwood belongs to the South Texas Region, which held its competition at the University of Texas at San Antonio the first Saturday in February. Westwood also placed first at the regional competition, marking the 13th year in row that the school has been ranked first at the Sprachfest regional com-

petition.

Most of Westwood's students placed in at least one, and in most cases, several events. The school placed in 13 group events. In addition, 29 students placed in one or more individual events.

The following students placed in individual events:

German 1: David Blaha-Nelson, Adrian Sanchez and Matthew Swarthout

German 2: Brittany Burch, George Self, Patrick Puryear, Brian Ott, Charlie Schaub and Mira Prekopova

German 3: Denise Posuszny, Austin Pierce, Sarah Fast, Erica Hetherington, Jack Mussett, Miayah McGuire and Vijay John

German 4 and 5: Kenny Close, David Reese, Stephanie Logterman, Grant Van Eaton, Sarah Michels, Emily Koons, Brian Boyd, Juan Alda, Anita Avram, Hayley Reep, Natalie Baker, Scott Smith, Gloria Daniels and Carl West.

**Westwood wins 6th state German contest**

Submitted by Margaret Hitzfeld

# One year, 1886, tops Texas' hurricane-plagued history

By Art Chapman

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

On a lonesome beach between Port Lavaca and Port O'Connor on the Gulf Coast of Texas, a few dilapidated piers reach hopelessly toward Matagorda Bay. A long line of broken concrete slabs form an uncomely barrier; a few wind-worn fishing cabins sit back from the shore.

This is what's left of Indianola, a town that was once the Lone Star State's second-largest seaport and the port of entry for thousands of Texas' early European settlers.

Indianola was flooded, burned and abandoned in 1886 when Texas, like Florida this year, endured four hurricanes in one season.

Property damage from the hurricanes in Florida this year is far more desperate than the numbers that marked Texas' storms. But loss of life was catastrophic in 1886. There was nowhere to run, no time. In 1886, the information was scarce, and there was little warning. The storms had no names, no categories beyond "bad."

The National Weather Service says that the frequency of hurricanes along any 50-mile segment of the Texas coast is one about every six years.

"Annual probabilities of a strike along a 50-mile segment of the coast range from 31 percent at Sabine Pass to 41 percent at Matagorda Bay," a weather service report says.

Texas had a 10-year hurricane-free period between 1989 and 1999. But from 1885 to 1888, one or more hit the Texas coast every year, and in 1886 there were four.

Two of them hit the Sabine Pass; the worst of them

pummeled Indianola.

The town was called Indian Point when Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels picked Indianola as the landing port for thousands of German immigrants. It became a deep-water port during the Mexican War. For 30 years it was the primary Army depot supplying the frontier forts of West Texas.

The town was established in 1847. Stagecoach service to the interior of the state began the next year. By 1848, the name was officially changed to Indianola.

"The Handbook of Texas" says that the "first shipment of mechanically refrigerated beef moved from Indianola to New Orleans on the steamship Agnes in July 1869."

Warehouses reportedly stored ice at Indianola. The ice was cut on the Great Lakes and shipped south at great expense. It was prized during the Texas summers.

Indianola was first struck by a hurricane in 1875. From 150 to 300 people were killed, but the town of 6,000 was rebuilt, according to the Texas handbook. Then came the 1886 hurricanes.

According to a report written by David Roth of the National Weather Service, the first hurricane of the year struck on June 14 near the Sabine River and the Louisiana line.

Galveston, just seven months after a severe fire, was also hit.

"It was considered the worst storm there since the Hurricane of 1875," Roth's report says. "Winds began briskly out of the northeast early that Monday morning, shifting to the south at speeds greater than 50 mph. . . . Galveston island was submerged. . . . Cottages were swept away, railroad tracks were undermined, and a large number of

sloops and yachts fell victim."

At Sabine Pass, telegraph poles were "thrown several hundred yards," and seven feet of water flooded the town.

On Aug. 19, Indianola was struck.

"Matagorda Bay began to invade the city by daylight on the 20th," the weather service report says. Fire destroyed city blocks.

"The town was a 'universal wreck'; not a house that was left standing was safe to dwell in. Houses, carriages, personal property, and dead animals were strewn along the coastal plain."

Galveston was hit again. Corpus Christi and Rockport were hit. Further inland, Victoria, Goliad and La Grange suffered extensive damage.

On Sept. 22, Brownsville was hit by a hurricane, and more than 25 inches of rain covered the border area. The few people who had remained in Indianola were again flooded. This time they packed and left.

A few weeks later, on Oct. 12, the final hurricane bashed the Texas coast, again near the Sabine. This one was devastating.

"At Orange, trees were downed and the Catholic church was leveled," the weather service reported. "Sabine Pass, at the time a small city of several hundred, was 'virtually swept out of existence.'"

Between 175 and 200 lives were lost in that final storm, according to the weather service. Indianola never did rebuild.

Galveston was nearly lost four years later when a hurricane decimated the island city and claimed more than 6,000 lives.

From Austin American-Statesman, October 1, 2004, submitted by Julia Germany

# Area German choirs strive to preserve musical traditions

BY DAVID UHLER

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

More than 5,000 miles and a lifetime away from their native land, Germans who settled in Texas in the 1800s turned to themselves and their traditions for companionship and antidotes for homesickness.

They formed choirs and sang German songs. They joined sports clubs for exercise and tests of their athletic prowess. They held rifle and shotgun shooting contests. And they drank beer.

Not necessarily in that order.

Today, the ethnic sports clubs and shooting events are relics of a bygone age. But vocal groups that sing in *Deutsch* — with parched throats often quenched by a glass or two of good Ger-

man *bier* — still have their devotees in the Lone Star State.

Bill Kretzmeier, the director of the New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonie, says German roots and an ability to speak German typically aren't required.

"These people like to sing," Kretzmeier says of the men and women in his mixed voice, 36-member choir. "It's a challenge. A lot of people in our group joined with the express purpose of picking up some German."

Residents in New Braunfels and many surrounding communities, including some parts of San Antonio, were more likely to hear German than English or

Spanish when the singing societies got their start in the 1840s. They had a steady stream of new members.

In 1842, an economic depression in Germany led a group of noblemen to form a society to create settlements in what is now Central Texas. Over the next decade, the *Adelsverein* brought in more than 7,000 immigrants. Others joined them.

By the 1880s, so many prominent Germans lived along the San Antonio River near C.H. Guenther's Pioneer Flour mill that the area was dubbed "Sauerkraut Bend." The city passed an English-only law, aimed not at Spanish, but at preventing German-speaking members of city government from holding

meetings that were indecipherable to many of their constituents.

Cities such as San Antonio and Austin had several German singing societies. Smaller communities such as Sisterdale, Sattler, Schertz, Comfort, Converse, Cibolo, Bulverde, Boerne and even Luckenbach, now an epicenter of country music, had at least one German choir. In 1881, a massive, five-day singing festival — they're called *saengerfeste* — attracted 5,000 participants from all over Texas. At one time, there were 42 singing groups in Comal County alone.

Jean Heide, a longtime member of the Beethoven Damenchor, a women's choir in San Antonio, says German music "bound them all together."

"Every little town that was worth its salt had a singing organization," says Heide, a San Antonio native who has written a history of German singing in Texas. "As these old communities died out, so did the choirs."

A triple whammy didn't help. World War I helped turn public opinion against everything German from composers to knockwurst. A deadly influenza outbreak made people nervous about gathering in groups. In 1919, the choirs even lost their beloved beer and beer revenues — at least legally — after the passage of Prohibition.

The following year, sinking profits forced the Beethoven Maennerchor, founded in 1867, to move out of its historic home, the Beethoven Maennerchor Halle on South Alamo Street. The group relocated to the King William neighborhood, where it still meets, drinks and conducts public concerts in a *halle und garten* at 422 Pereida St.

World War II also hurt local German-Americans, but it ultimately helped boost their numbers.

The 68-year-old Kretzmeier, who grew up in New Braunfels, can remember classmates getting spanked for speaking German in school during World War II. After the fighting stopped, however, many American GIs came home with German brides. Some settled in San Antonio.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the steady trickle of German immigrants into the Alamo City included scientists and engineers, some of whom came to work on America's fledgling space program at Brooks AFB. Jean Heide's husband, Claus, joined the Maennerchor in

1965, shortly after he moved to San Antonio from Germany to find work as a mechanical engineer.

"The director at that time told me, 'I don't know how long this is going to go on because there's no young people coming in,'" recalls Heide, 63, the Maennerchor's current president. "Now, it's almost 40 years later and it's stronger than ever."

Although fewer than a dozen German singing groups still exist in central and south Texas, those that survive are sometimes bigger than they were in their heydays: Some have benefited from regional population increases, improved transportation and the unfortunate demise of smaller clubs.

The San Antonio Liederkrantz, for example, currently has about 70 members, 30 more than it had in 1916 when a photographer took pictures of the group. Those faded photos, however, also reveal that today's Liederkrantz is considerably grayer than it was 90 years ago.

Liederkrantz President Joe Miller says the median age of his group is "somewhat below 100, but not much." Cultural homogenization and the lure of other entertainment options make it hard to attract younger singers.

"All of the choirs in Texas have the same problem," says Miller, a retired Army colonel. "I think one of the reasons for that is it's very difficult for people who are working and also in their years of rearing children to devote the time. We find more can do that as their children leave the nest."

The Liederkrantz was founded in July 1892 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a downtown house of worship established by German immigrants. Four years later, the Liederkrantz also became a sec-

from San Antonio Express-News, May 19, 2004



COURTESY OF INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURE

Members of the San Antonio Beethoven Maennerchor posed for a Christmas Day photo in 1893; the choir was founded in 1867. Member today, still meet in the King William neighborhood where gatherings were held in the early 1900s.

ular choir. The group still sings at St. Joseph's for the 11 a.m. Mass on the fourth Sunday of most months, along with services on Christmas Eve and Easter. The group also does weddings and public concerts. Besides music in German, the Liederkranz also sings in English and Latin.

"It's a neat diversity," says director Thomas Ewing. "We've always had that, ever since the early days. I think it helps keep it young and thriving."

Despite competition from a Spurs-Lakers playoff game, 40 members of the Liederkranz showed up for a recent rehearsal. They handled everything from church music to Broadway show tunes with equal gusto.

"Drink! Drink! Let the toast start," the men sang in the appropriately named "Drinking Song" from Sigmund Rothberg's "The Student Prince."

"Drink! Drink! May young hearts never part."

The four-part harmony met Ewing's approval.

"You've got the 'drinks' down really good," the director told the choir. "Which doesn't surprise me."

Like the Liederkranz, the Beethoven Maennerchor — the

oldest German singing society in Texas — is an all-male group. In 1932, women associated with the men's choir formed their own group, the Beethoven Damenchor. Today, the Beethoven organization also has a 50-piece band and a *kinderchor* for young children.

The band and choirs rehearse and perform at a

spawling facility that includes a tree-covered *biergarten* and a bar featuring German wine and Bitburger, Beck's and several other beers on tap. Events open to the public include a *Gartenkonzert* on the third Friday of each month in the summer and a Maifest this Friday, starting at 5 p.m. All of the music is traditional German.

"The type of music we sing you don't hear anymore in Germany," says Ewald Koegel, a 68-year-old engineer who joined the Maennerchor in 1961. "They've modernized more. Over there, they feel they have to go on and they get tired of the old stuff."

Joycelyn Rubeloff wouldn't trade those old songs for the world. A native of San Antonio, she joined the Damenchor more than 50 years ago, shortly after she married a Seguin man who grew up speak-

ing German. Rubeloff's husband, Walter, died last March at age 82. The Maennerchor recently sang some of the couple's favorite songs at a memorial service for him.

"Neither one of us were good singers," Rubeloff's widow recalls, with tears in her eyes. "We just enjoyed the German songs."

German singing societies -- San Antonio and New Braunfels  
Beethoven Maennerchor, Damenchor and Kinderchor  
practices at the Beethoven Halle and Garten, 422 Pereida St.  
phone (210) 222-1521

San Antonio Liederkranz  
practices at St. Joseph's Society Hall, 420 East Durango  
phone (210) 824-3395

New Braunfels Gemischter Chor Harmonia  
practices at Eden Home, 631 Lakeview Blvd.  
phone (830) 629-5942

# Language Culture Fair showcases student work

By **MISTIE HOUSEHOLTER**  
Leader Staff

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade foreign language students at Grisham Middle School showed off the projects they'd been working on for five months March 2 at the Foreign Language Culture Fair.

The final projects included student-made family trees in Spanish, profiles of famous Germans, European tour brochures and French menus.

Eva Foley, a seventh-grade Spanish student, made a colorful, round pinata out of a balloon, paper mache and tissue paper. She said she attended the fair to view the other student projects.

"I'm just seeing what everyone else did," she said.

Ulrike Puryear, Grisham's German teacher, said the fair was a spawn off the annual celebration of National Foreign Language Week. This year, foreign language week was celebrated March 1-7.

"This is the third year we've been involved and every year we do a little more," she said.

The Westwood High School German Club provided dance and musical entertainment during the fair while parents and students viewed the projects and sampled the ethnic foods.

Katrina Reinecke, who attended the fair with her son, a German student, said she is glad middle school students are given

the opportunity to learn foreign languages, especially the less common German.

"I think it's good that the kids are enthused to learn a foreign language and I'm glad they're letting them do it in middle school," she said.

Round Rock middle school students are offered foreign language as an Exploratory Language class in sixth grade. At Grisham, that means a student learns the basics of Spanish, French and German in a fun environment. They spend one-third of the year learning each language and then pick which language they want to pursue the next year, if any of them at all.

Puryear said the earlier a person starts learning a foreign language, the easier it is for them to grasp.

"They get a taste for it. It's not stressful for them. They do food fairs for each language," Puryear said of the Exploratory Language class. "Then they have an option for next year."

After sixth grade, students can take the first and second year foreign language classes. If students complete both years with passing grades, they are given

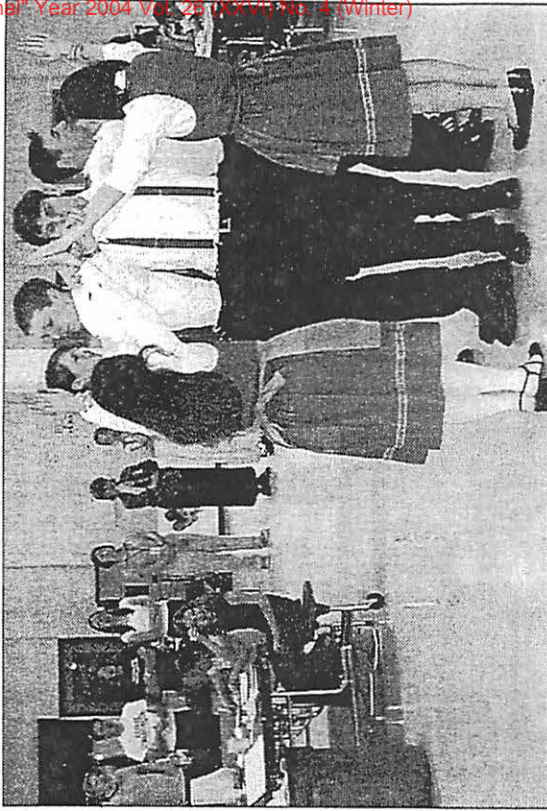


Photo by **MISTIE HOUSEHOLTER**/Leader Staff  
**The Westwood High School German Club dances for students, parents and faculty during Grisham Middle School's Foreign Language Culture Fair.**

high school foreign language credit for the classes. Middle school students can take Spanish and French but only Grisham offers German.

"We're proud of it," she said. "I think we have a strong foreign language program."

"A lot of people forget it is an elective but it is an academic elective. Parents are buying more into what is important. Academics are important."

Puryear said it is becoming increasingly important for students to know a foreign language in the current job market and global society.

"We are trying to educate our students that you can't just learn one language. In our society you can't just learn one," she said.

Contact **Mistie Householder** at 255-5827 or by e-mail at [education@rrleader.com](mailto:education@rrleader.com).

## Restoration OK'd for courthouse

**NEW BRAUNFELS** — A Comal County committee recommended Thursday that officials begin a \$7 million restoration of the 1898 county courthouse.

The committee studied two options, a complete "historic" restoration, which would qualify for a \$4 million state grant, or a rehabilitation of the courthouse to replace mechanical systems and make it more accessible to the disabled.

With the state grant, the restoration is expected to cost the county \$800,000 less than the rehabilitation project. Courthouse workers would have to be relocated about 18 months.

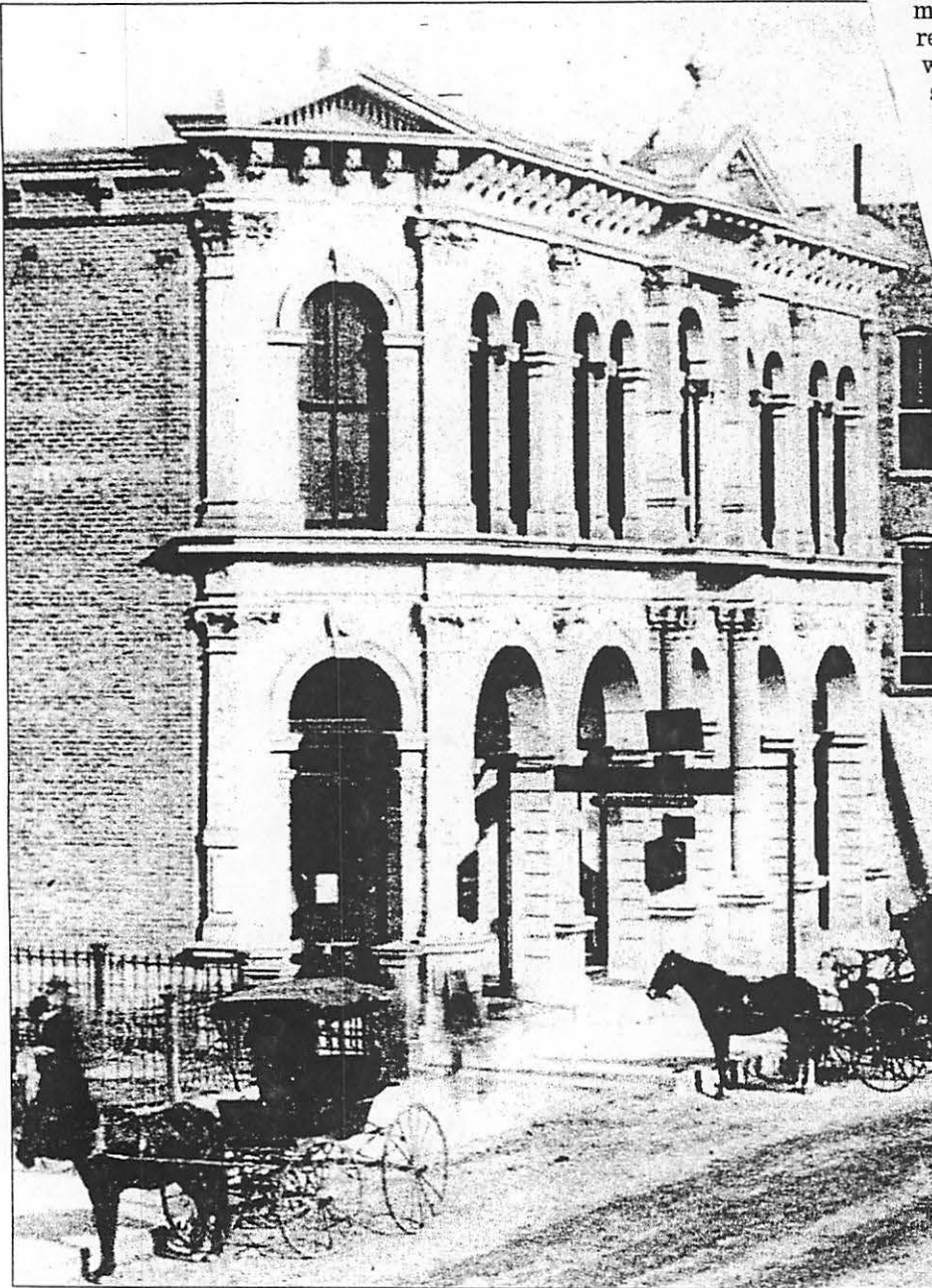
Work should be completed in winter 2008. The issue will go to Commissioners Court on Sept. 9.

from San Antonio Express-News, August 27, 2004

from Round Rock Leader, March 9, 2004

## HOWDY, WAGNER!

By Randy Harriman

From Austin American-Statesman, March 25, 2004

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER PICA 18462

The Hancock Opera House was the last grand palace for German opera in downtown Austin. 'The Eyes of Texas' was first sung at the venue in 1903.

ciet (that did exist) assembled. The first formal group to be organized like similar groups in Germany was formed in New Braunfels in 1850, and was named, appropriately enough, Germania.

### Guten tag, Austin

Austin's own Maennerchor, an amateur choir, was founded in 1852.

As musical and other forms of entertainment made their advance across Texas, venues for the performances were constructed: singing halls for local groups, multiuse halls of various shapes

and sizes, opera houses, even grand opera houses. Many, if not most, of the "opera" houses never saw an opera performance, but at the time the word "theater" implied slightly shady goings-on, whereas "opera" clearly was of a finer moral fiber.

In 1868 a "Turn Verein," a German social group interested in gymnastics, musicals, opera and other theatrical endeavors, was organized in Austin, and they built an opera house in 1871 on what was then the northern edge of the city. The building later became known as Turner Hall. (In 1910 it was purchased by the Ma-

By the late 1830s, conditions in Germany and the availability of land in the Republic of Texas had created ideal conditions for the first wave of German immigration to the region. By 1842, the wave was reaching such proportions that a group of German nobles formed the "Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas," called the "Adelsverein" for short, and sent Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels to the

new republic to acquire land and create settlements.

The Prince managed to establish a town bearing his name, but soon fell victim to some unscrupulous land agents, leaving the Adelsverein nearly bankrupt. In 1845, the Adelsverein sent Baron Ottfried Hans von Meusebach to Texas to straighten things out. He did so, made a treaty with the local Comanches, and laid out along the Pedernales River a town called Fredericksburg.

Thousands of immigrants continued to arrive in what was now the Lone Star State, coming in through Galveston, or Indianola on Matagorda Bay, sometimes through New Orleans, or traveling from other parts of the United States. The journey from the coast inland was harsh, and many decided to settle in the coastal areas. Others made it to the High Plains and even the Texas Panhandle.

But the greatest concentration was in Central Texas, in towns with names like New Baden, Pflugerville, Dessau and Weimar. Some of the new small towns did not do well and their inhabitants moved to San Antonio, Houston or Galveston to join their countrymen who had settled in those cities, each of which at one point had a population that was roughly one-third German.

The immigrants brought with them the German culture and German music celebrated in Wagner's operas. Starting in the 1830s and '40s, informal singing groups such as the Welcome Singing So-

sons and was eventually restored as a meeting place for the local chapter of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. It still stands at the corner of 18th and Lavaca

streets as the Scottish Rite Temple Theatre.)

In 1879, the Austin Saengerrunde was founded, meeting first in Turner Hall and then at Scholz Garten, which with the construction of a new social hall became their headquarters, and it remains so today.

Statewide "Sängerfests," or festivals of song, thrived. The first was in New Braunfels, and it drew newly founded groups from San Antonio, Austin and Sisterdale. The singing societies proliferated, and by 1870 Sängerfests were regular events, often lasting several days.

It was Austin's turn to host one in 1879, and the arrival of the delegates was reported in the Daily Democratic Statesman on April 16: "Sängerfest" is the event of the week in this city. The procession formed at Millett's Opera House and marched down to the Houston and Texas Central Depot, where the torches were lit and the procession reformed for a march to Turner Hall. The delegations from San Marcos, New Braunfels and San Antonio were met on the other side of the river by a large number of people on foot, on horseback and in carriages and escorted to the headquarters, at Millett's Opera House, where they were refreshed with a meal and cold beer."

## Multicultural tastes

Organizations such as the Austin Saengerrunde and their counterparts across Texas continued their work of preserving (and enjoying) music of the fatherland, including Wagner. German schools led the way in music education, and German-Texan composers made their presence known.

But not all the musical entertainment — not even all the opera — available was of German origin. French, Italian and Czech-language operas each came with their own followers. (By the early 20th century, Czech had become the fourth language of Texas, after English, Spanish and German.) As the railroads continued to improve access to the vast territories of the new state, touring companies made their appearances in venues newly built for them.

Clearly, opera, particularly German opera, found receptive audiences in Central Texas. San Antonio saw "Lohengrin" in its Grand Opera House before the turn of the century. The 1906-07 season of Austin's Hancock Opera House included visits by Savage's Grand Opera Company; the Don Carlos Opera Compa-

ny, with Ernestine Schumann-Heinke and Alice Neilson; and a touring production of Wagner's "Parsifal."

Local, amateur productions were staged as well. Around 1850, despite having fewer than 800 residents, Fredericks-

burg somehow produced Wagner's "Tannhäuser." Large portions of Carl Maria von Weber's "Der Freischütz" were heard in San Antonio's Casino Club in the late 1850s. In Dallas, there was a production of Friedrich von Flotow's "Martha," with orchestra, in 1875. The final Saengerfest before the Great War broke out presented large sections of Wagner's "Die Meistersinger," which was not heard in its entirety in Texas for another half-century.

## Opera after the war

World War I dampened the German influence in Texas for a time. Anti-German hysteria was rife, and towns were changing their names: Marienfeld became Stanton; New Brandenburg changed to Old Glory. Soon after the war, though, immigration resumed, and relations between the German settlements and their neighbors returned to normal.

In 1938, Max Reiter, a young German conductor, fled the anti-Semitism of his native country and arrived in San Antonio. After a successful demonstration concert in that city's Sunken Garden, the Symphony Society of San Antonio was formed, and by 1943-44, under Reiter's leadership, the orchestra had become a fully professional organization.

In the spring of 1945 — despite the dampening effect of another war with Germany — Reiter inaugurated the first Grand Opera Festival, an annual event that typically provided performances of four different operas over two consecutive weekends. It was a great success, and continued to be so when Victor Alessandro assumed control on Reiter's death, with productions of "Die Meistersinger,"

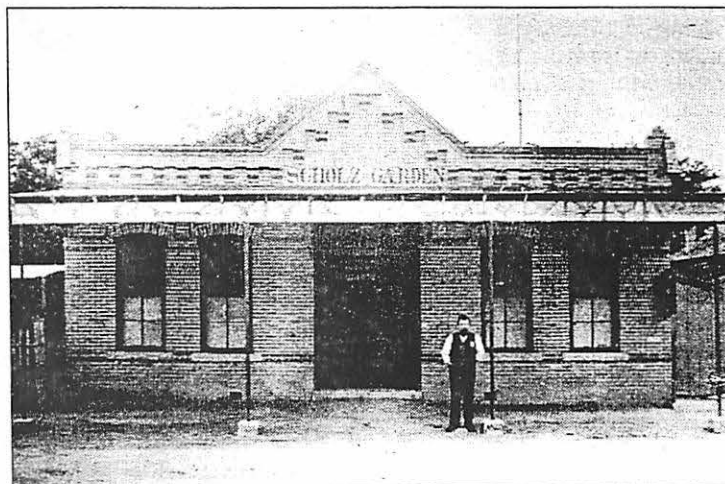
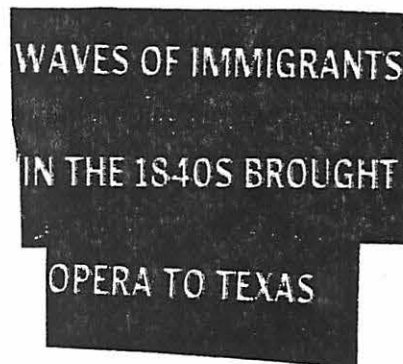
"The Flying Dutchman," and even Wagner's seldom-seen "Rienzi" making the stage. Alessandro himself died in 1976, and over the next few years the festival as such ran out of financial steam and ceased to exist.

The Houston Grand Opera Association, that city's first permanent opera company, presented its opening performances in 1956. Its general director and conductor was Walter Herbert, a native of Germany, who had been instrumental

in founding the New Orleans Opera in 1943. Dallas, for years one of the stops on the Metropolitan Opera's annual spring tour, formed its own opera company, the Dallas Civic Opera, in 1957.

The Houston, and to a lesser extent, Dallas opera companies achieved national recognition; but it's fair to say that it was Austin that picked up from San Antonio the fallen torch of regional opera in Central Texas. That happened in 1986, when Swiss-born/German-trained

Walter Ducloux joined forces with German-trained stage director Joseph McClain to create Austin's first professional opera company, Austin Lyric Opera.



AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER PICA08823

Scholz Garten became the headquarters for the Austin Saengerrunde. It remains home base for the German singing society.

# Elisabet Ney Museum lands \$250,000 grant

Money will go toward restoration of sculptor's Hyde Park home, studio

By Jeanne Claire van Ryzin

AMERICAN-STATESMAN ARTS WRITER

One of Austin's most eccentric historic houses, the 19th century stone home and studio of maverick German American sculptor Elisabet Ney, is getting a \$250,000 grant from the Save America's Treasures program to finance a comprehensive restoration.

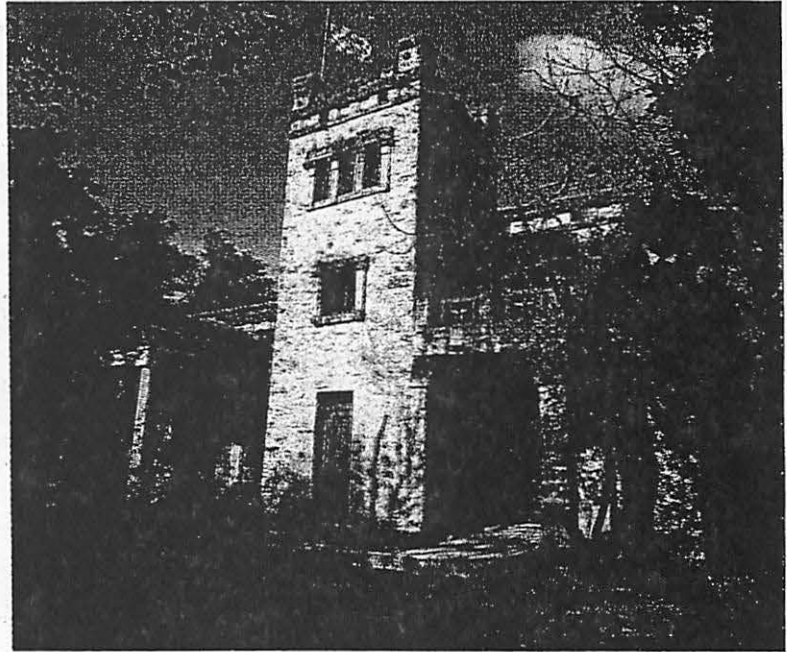
U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, joined community leaders Monday at the Hyde Park historic site to announce that the Elisabet Ney Museum, a city facility, has joined the exclusive national roster under the Save America's Treasures program, a public-private partnership of the National Parks Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"Having first visited this place as a child, it is an honor to help preserve this wonderful place for future generations to be inspired as my own children were," Doggett said.

The grant to the museum is the lead gift in a campaign to raise \$750,000 to support the restoration of the 3,600-square-foot classically

wrote, of the emerging state capital. In the 16 years she lived in Austin, she sculpted such notables as Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston. She designed her Hyde Park studio and home.

Mary Collins Blackmon, director of the museum, said that the building and landscape have been significantly altered over the years and that such



The museum has undergone many alterations over the years. Museum officials hope to bring back Ney's vision for the building.

inspired stone home and studio and the surrounding 2.5 acres, including a bungalow that was moved onto the property in the 1930s. The building houses a 508-piece collection of Ney's portrait sculpture and personal artifacts.

Only 14 percent of applicants to the Save America's Treasures program receive money. Other sites in Austin that won such grants include the late architect Charles Moore's house (Charles

Moore Center for the Study of Place) and the Driscoll Villa on Lake Austin (Austin Museum of Art-Laguna Gloria).

Ney was a celebrated portrait sculptor of royalty and other important people in Europe before migrating to America in 1871. She moved to Austin in 1892 to pursue her ideal of living a cultured life among the "great people," as she

modifications, as well as invasive water damage, have compromised the museum's historical authenticity.

"We hope to restore the building and grounds to a state that is within Ney's own aesthetic and vision," Blackmon said.

The museum is one of only five 19th-century professional sculptors' studios surviving in America.

jvanryzin@statesman.com; 445-3699

from Austin American-Statesman

November 11, 2003

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Artist Elisabet Ney sculpted many Texas luminaries



# Dresden recovers beautifully

**D**RESDEN, Germany — You can't get lost in Dresden. Wherever you go, you can see the stately white dome of the Frauenkirche, as much a landmark in this eastern German city as St. Peter's is in Rome.

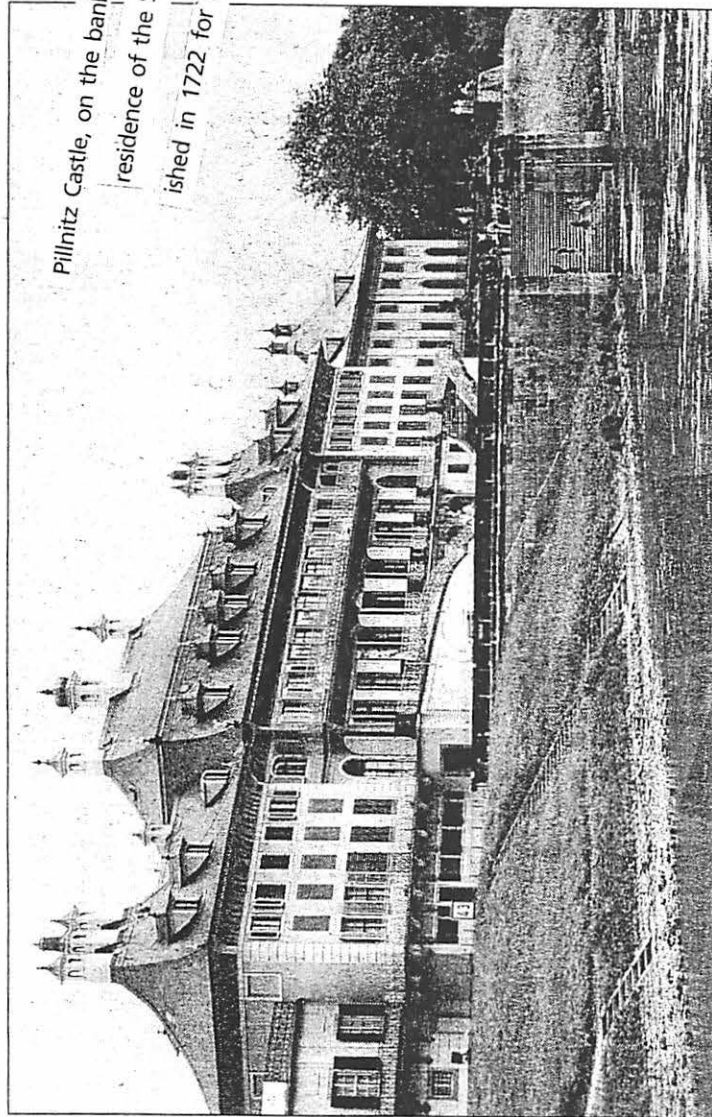
It isn't just that the church towers 300 feet above Dresden's lovely baroque skyline, that its colossal dome was an architectural marvel when consecrated in 1734 or that it stood for religious tolerance in a Protestant city ruled by the Catholic electors of Saxony. Even its extraordinary acoustics, which inspired composer Richard Wagner; don't fully explain its profound meaning to Dresden and the world.

Its significance stems from its destruction in the waning days of World War II. Allied bombs, dropped from the sky the night of Feb. 13, 1945, destroyed up to 80 percent of the city and killed 25,000 and maybe more.

Casualty figures vary because of the many refugees passing through the city at the time.) The Frauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, continued to stand above the burning pyre until, structurally undermined, it collapsed without warning the morning of Feb. 15.

For the next 50 years, it lay in rubble on the city's historic marketplace, a symbol of the devastation of war.

Now it has risen again, rebuilt of rubis and pieces salvaged from the ruins, in an 11-year, \$175-million project funded largely by international donations. From America came almost \$3 million, raised by Gunter Blobel, a 1969 Nobel laureate for medicine who donated nearly \$1 million in prize money to the project. As an 8½-year-old war refugee, he passed through Dresden when it was intact. "For a child," he said of the Dresden of that day, "it was like a fantasy."



Pillnitz Castle, on the banks of the Elbe River, was the summer residence of the Saxon court. It was finished in 1722 for Augustus the Strong.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN SPANO/LOS ANGELES TIMES

When the scaffolding finally comes down, it won't be hard to imagine what Dresden was before World War II: cultivated, pleasure-loving, one of Europe's most cherished "grand tour" cities, filled with Italian masters and rare Oriental porcelain, the architectural apogee of the German Baroque.

The old part of the city, or Altstadt, sits high above the Elbe River on a graceful terrace that 18th century playwright Johann Wolfgang von Goethe called the "balcony of Europe."

With its forested ridges, castles and vineyards, the Elbe Valley has just been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Even in the heart of the city, the river retains

its bucolic character, with more meadowlands at its flanks than stone embankments.

With no skyscrapers and a population of just half a million, Dresden is an open, airy city, easy to navigate. Signs lead to the Kempinski Hotel Taschenbergpalais, another handsomely renovated Baroque landmark, pale yellow and trimmed with ornate white molding, occupying a city block and enclosing a courtyard. My elegant chamber on the northeast corner had a view of the Frauenkirche and a ceiling higher than the room was wide.

The Taschenbergpalais was built in 1705, conveniently close to the royal palace, for Countess

from San Antonio Express-News, October 3, 2004

BY SUSAN SPANO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Anna Constantia von Cosel, the mistress of Augustus the Strong. Modeling himself on Louis XIV of France, he ruled Saxony with flourish from 1694 to 1733 and eventually became king of Poland.

It was Augustus the Strong and his son Augustus III (1696-1763), both passionate builders and collectors, who gave Dresden its great baroque art and architecture. To better understand the style, which many contemporaries consider over the top, even vulgar, I visited the Zwinger, a large, rectangular pleasure ground enclosed by galleries, towers and gates west of Taschenbergpalais.

To walk through the Zwinger is to feel your spirits rise. Nearly everywhere you look, from the gold-gilded Crown Gate on the southwest side to the adjacent Rampart Pavilion, with its twin curving staircases, there is elaboration. Naked stone satyrs, putti and nymphs wreath its archways, gaze down from the balustrades of the upper terrace and congregate around the pool and fountain, blissfully unashamed to bare their generous breasts and behinds.

The buildings around the courtyard are occupied by three of the 12 museums that make up Dresden's seemingly boundless State Art Collections, a great part of it amassed by Augustus the Strong and Augustus III.

That afternoon I visited the Zwinger's Porcelain Museum. It's a natural in a city known for fine white pottery like that made in China but not fabricated in Europe until 1706 when an alchemist working for Augustus the Strong set up a secret workshop in nearby Meissen. Together with Oriental objets d'art acquired by the porcelain-mad elector, notable examples of Meissen china, as it

came to be called, are displayed in the museum, including a zoo of almost life-size animals: peacocks, sheep, foxes, lions and tigers.

Then it was on to perhaps the city's most renowned museum, the Old Masters Picture Gallery, at the north corner of the Zwinger, with paintings chockablock on the walls. People naturally gravitate to Raphael's "Sistine Madonna," with its much-reproduced putti gazing up at Mary and Jesus. But every room holds amazements: Canaletto's detailed Dresden cityscapes, massive Tintoretto's and Veroneses on biblical themes, Rembrandt's beguiling "Saskia With a Red Flower."

gustus the Strong put his riches on display to impress his subjects and assure his son's succession to the Polish throne. In September, half of the Green Vault will open, with 16th century silver caskets, ivory frigates, jewel-encrusted nautilus shells and a show-stopping gold, diamond and enamel miniature replica of India's court of Grand Mogul. In 2006, more incredible gewgaws, including a storied 41-carat green diamond, will go on display.

There was time to take a river cruise on the spit-and-polish 1929

steamship Leipzig, east past three romantic villas perched high above the Elbe in the suburb of Loschwitz, then under the Blue Wonder, a filigreed steel suspension bridge built about the same time as the Eiffel Tower. My destination was Pillnitz Castle, the summer residence of the Saxon electors, designed by Matthaus Daniel Poppelmann for Augustus the Strong, who traveled there by gondola. Three wings border a formal garden, two of them tangerine-colored with chinoiserie gables, lantern-shaped chimneys and Chinese friezes on the facades. The surrounding park is lush and well tended, shaded by mature copper beech, elm and pine trees.

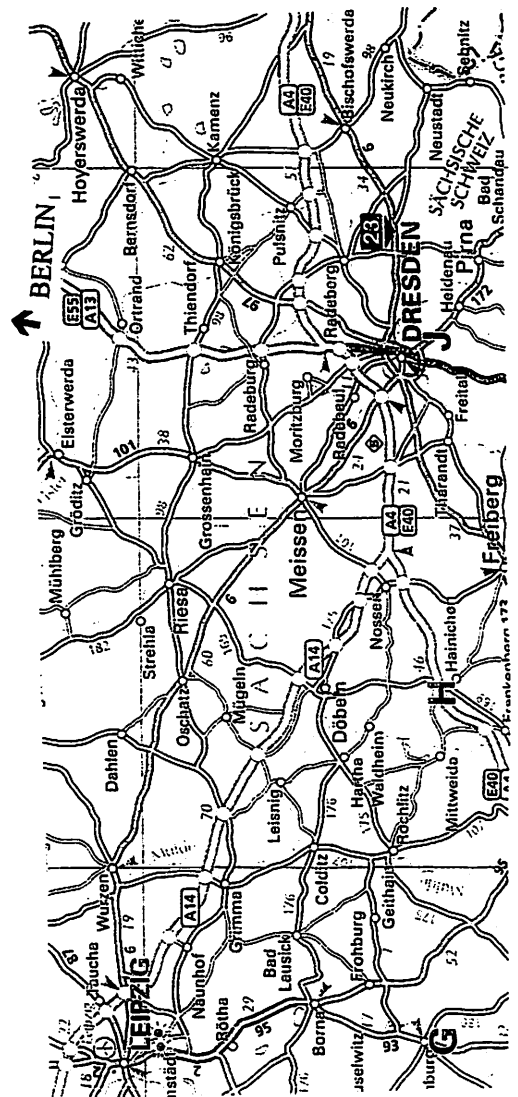
One day I drove to Moritzburg Castle, the hunting lodge of Augustus the Strong. It's on an artificial island in a lake about 30 minutes northwest of town. It's imposing but kitschy, decorated inside with several herds' worth of antlers. Even in the formal banquet hall they line the walls from floor to ceiling.

There is little in tourist Dresden to recall the catastrophe of 1945, but I felt compelled to seek out a reminder, so on the way back from Moritzburg Castle, I stopped in nearby Heidefriedhof cemetery, where the ashes of thousands who died in the firestorm were buried in mass graves. It's a strange, somber place without crosses and angels, just plots in a pine forest.

Confused, I found two attendants and tried to ask whether there was a World War II memorial in the cemetery. They spoke only German but directed me down a tree-lined path. At the end, I found a stone circle surrounded by the names of World War II disaster sites, including Dresden.

The Luftwaffe poured hellfire over England during World War II. Frederick Taylor's "Dresden" reports that in spring 1942, Germany sent bombers to Exeter, Canterbury, Norwich and York. Their orders — as Nazi spokesman Baron Gustav Braun von Stum is said to have told the press — were to destroy "every building in England marked with three stars in the Baedeker Guide." The Allies reciprocated, wasting one German city after another. All the while, Dresden remained untouched, too beautiful and historic to target, people thought, until that winter night just months before the end of the war.

It's frivolous, perhaps, to rue the destruction of tourist sites in the same breath as the human casualties of war. But to lose a Frauenkirche is to lose history, art and culture that cannot easily be recovered. In Dresden, they have been, which makes the city doubly precious.



# The von Rosenberg Family Donates Memorabilia To Library Archives

The von Rosenberg family has voted to donate part of its family archives to the Fayette Public Library & Heritage Museum & Archives after the completion of the library's new additions and modifications.

The von Rosenberg collection has its origins in 1939 with the founding of the von Rosenberg Family of Texas, a reunion of the descendants of Peter Carl Johann von Rosenberg, who came to Texas with his family in 1849 from Germany and settled near Round Top at Nassau Plantation. The collection includes photographs, letters, family manuscripts, and memorabilia dating from as far back as the

mid-19th century in Fayette County. The collection also includes a number of letters, documents and photographs from related Meerscheidt and Speckels families. Ann Barnes, historian for the von Rosenberg Family, is presently in the process of organizing and cataloging the archives for its anticipated move to La Grange next year.

The von Rosenberg Family of Texas holds a reunion each summer and for the past 25 years has been meeting at Camp Lone Star. The reunion met during the weekend of July 16-18 and had representatives Donna Green and Sherie Knape from the Fayette Library address members of the von Rosenberg

Family during its Saturday business meeting. It is anticipated that the library will be ready to receive the von Rosenberg archives during the spring of 2005.

About 26 members of the 80-100 members attending this year's von Rosenberg Family Reunion gathered Saturday morning at Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Park for a tour of the park conducted by Neale Rabensburg, a von Rosenberg descendant. Rabensburg held a Saturday evening reception for the reunion attendees at his home, the 1884 Meerscheidt House in La Grange.

From Fayette County Record, July 23, 2004, submitted by Rodney Koenig

## Boorish Germans strive to improve manners

Alan Hall  
in Berlin

**GERMANS** are striving to improve their manners after statistics revealed a doubling of rudeness since the 1990s.

Junior executives and children are being sent to etiquette schools, while the media are awash with soul-searching analysis of the national malaise.

The surge in interest in etiquette comes as the economy is struggling, the education system faltering and the summer is a wash-out.

Statistics showed that nearly 165,000 Germans were investigated, reported or prosecuted last year for making insulting gestures or remarks to each other or to officials; in 1990, the figure was 70,000.

The offences include tapping the forehead with an index finger, which relays the message "you're crazy," and various profane hand gestures.

Particularly troubling is the fact that the offences are not restricted to any particular group. Former German national footballer Stefan Effenberg received a €50,000 fine for insulting a policeman.

"If there's one thing wrong," said Ulrich Wickert, a TV news anchorman and author of a book about virtue, "it's lack of consideration. If somebody tries to back out of a parking slot, other motorists start honking. Everyone believes he or she has the right-of-way."

"Germans are raised to be high-handed. If a child gets a bad school report,

the parents sue the teacher."

Hundreds of Gute Manieren, or good manners websites have appeared on the internet to meet demand.

Millions of Germans sat rapt in front of their TV sets recently to see the nation's favourite quiz show host ask leather-clad motorcyclists whether it is proper to kiss a lady's hand in the park.

It turned out the bikers were better at etiquette than a rival team of well-heeled European aristocrats and they outperformed a panel of celebrity guest stars who, being actors, presumably were not expected to be genteel anyway.

It was called "The Grand Manners Show" and it got the highest ratings of the week. (© The Times, London)

from the Dublin (Ireland) Independent  
July 20, 2004

# GERMANIA SINCE 1896

A black and white illustration of a hand holding a stack of money. The hand is shown from the side, with fingers gripping the edges of several banknotes. The banknotes are depicted with various patterns and textures, suggesting different denominations or types of currency. The illustration is positioned to the right of the main title text.

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