

# THE JOURNAL



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**VICE PRESIDENT:** Ewing (Wing) Evans

**TREASURER:** Gerri West

**SECRETARY:** Terry L. Smart

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**“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”**

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**Thanks to these GTHS members who contributed things for this issue of the Journal:**

**Alton Buehring of Odem  
Arlene Burges of Round Rock  
Theresa Gold of San Antonio  
Carol Hackemack Harper of Plano  
Patsy Hand of Victoria  
Frances Hartmann of Yorktown  
Jean Heide of San Antonio  
Ron Hunka of Austin  
Siegi Keimling of Austin  
Rodney Koenig of Houston  
Kenn Knopp of Fredericksburg  
Doris W. Phillips of Spicewood  
Anne Stewart of Comfort  
Anna Thompson of Dublin  
Janice Thompson of Houston  
Matt Tippens of Lubbock  
Arliss Treybig of El Campo  
Muriel Vaughn of Austin  
Helga von Schweinitz of Austin  
Henry Wolff Jr. of Victoria**



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

Following a custom begun by Van Massirer, this is my first message to the German-Texan Heritage Society as President. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of so many fine leaders, but I do admit to feeling a little trepidation about the job ahead. I was willing to try this because I have found, through my years on the Board of Directors, that when help is needed, the members of our Society have responded.

Van gave us four years of tremendous leadership during some very difficult times. Due to his determination and perseverance, we are once again on a solid footing. I hope to build on that foundation and, with the help of an outstanding Board, continue to monitor expenditures very closely, while developing and instituting effective new efforts to increase membership and revenue sources.

Our Society is blessed with many advantages. Our *Journal* is one of the outstanding publications of its kind in the state; our headquarters, the German Free School surrounded by heirloom gardens, is a state historical treasure; and our membership and Board are dedicated to the preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas. I encourage each of you to enjoy your Society, to become more involved in our activities and to join us as we work to make others aware of our efforts to preserve this special heritage we share.

I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting, which will be held at the joint Texas German Convention in Yoakum on March 10 and 11, and at our annual Maifest, to be held at the German Free School in Austin on April 29 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,  
Teddy Boehm

## **LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK BY RODNEY KOENIG**

It is always wonderful to go back to your roots. My university roots involved the University of Texas at Austin. While I learned to speak German outside of La Grange, Texas, as a child, the only formal teaching in German came from the University of Texas at Austin. Accordingly, it is interesting to report a wonderful gift by Dr. Robert Van Dusen to the Germanic Studies Program at the University of Texas. Dr. Van Dusen's fascination with Germany started when the U.S. Army sent him to Germany in 1952. His undergraduate degree was from Harvard University and he studied English literature there. However, while in Germany, Van Dusen became intrigued with learning the German language. Once he was discharged from the Army, he used the G.I. Bill to study for two years at the University of Munich and wished to become a professor. After his time at the University of Munich, he selected the University of Texas at Austin and obtained his Ph.D. in Germanic Studies from Texas in 1960. After receiving his doctorate, he accepted a job at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and has been living in Canada ever since. However, he feels a strong allegiance to the University of Texas and has donated an appreciated insurance policy worth \$250,000.00 to endow the Van Dusen Scholarship and Fellowship Fund at the University of Texas. The first Van Dusen scholar is Tiffany David, who was able to study in Germany for ten weeks last summer. Dr. Van Dusen is leaving his German mark with the Germanic Studies Program at the University of Texas.

Another wonderful project at the University of Texas is the Texas German Dialect Project, which is being coordinated by Dr. Hans C. Boas at the University of Texas. Dr. Boas has been making numerous presentations throughout Texas and presented at the German Texan Heritage Society 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting in October, 2003. He has spoken at the University of Goettingen in Germany and other places. The German American Chamber of Commerce in Houston hosted Dr. Boas in November of 2005. He will also make presentations in La Grange. His project involves capturing the unique German Texas dialect of native German speakers who were born and raised in Texas. In my home county, he has interviewed several German speakers including Velma Loessin and Myrtle Oeding, as well as others. Dr. Hans Boas is leaving his mark by capturing the German Texas dialect. The website for this project is [www.tgdp.org](http://www.tgdp.org). The website has an archive and a number of interesting links involving German immigration to Texas. Dr. Boas from the University of Texas at Austin is leaving his German mark by capturing a dying dialect.

How will you leave your German mark? Dr. Robert Van Dusen, a graduate of the University of Texas, is leaving his German mark by creating the Van Dusen Scholarship and Fellowship Fund. Dr. Hans Boas is leaving his German mark by preserving the Texas German dialect. We suggest that you leave your German mark by taking action to preserve German Texas memorabilia, old letters and books as well as records of old German organizations. Financially you can leave your German mark by leaving a portion of your estate, a portion of your life insurance or retirement funds to GTHS for use in preserving German heritage and culture in Texas. Should you desire help in this process, please call the German Texan Heritage Society state office in Austin at 1-866-482-4847 or Rodney Koenig at 713-651-5333. You may wish to email our office at [info@germantexans.org](mailto:info@germantexans.org) or Rodney Koenig at [rkoenig@fulbright.com](mailto:rkoenig@fulbright.com).



## IN MEMORIAM: A REMBRANCE OF HENRY HAUSCHILD

By Henry Wolff, Jr. from the Victoria Advocate

Never have I been at a gathering of Texas historians anywhere that somebody does not ask about Henry Hauschild.

Even those who can not remember his name want to know about Henry.

He was a man who loved his town and its history and one could not be around him for five seconds without knowing that.

This old town on the lower Guadalupe has never had a better ambassador.

While he did not get to attend as many historical meetings and other functions during the past couple of years due to failing health, those who knew him always missed seeing the dapper man from Victoria working the crowd like a politician on the day before an election.

Henry always had something going and it usually had to do with the history of Victoria.

Since his death on Friday at the age of 90, wherever he could have been expected to be, at home or otherwise, he will be missed.

I have known Henry Hauschild for some 40 years and really got acquainted with him around the late 1960s or early 1970s when I was a reporter covering Chamber of Commerce news and Henry was the champion of beautification in Victoria as chairman of the Project Appearance Committee. He did a lot to tidy up the town during that time and the 15 years that he served as district governor of Keep Texas Beautiful.

During that time I also got to know him as an avid collector of Victoria memorabilia and keeper of scrapbooks. Long before scrapbook keeping became as popular as it is today, Henry was doing it with flair, but then Henry did everything with flair.

His interest in collecting and putting together scrapbooks resulted in such projects as the "Victoria Sesquicentennial Scrapbook" along with two self-published books, the "Runge Chronicles – A German Saga of Success" and "A Musical Chronicle from the Historical Scrapbooks of Henry J. Hauschild."

As chairman of the Victoria County Historical Commission from 1982 until 1987, he also collected an impressive number of ranching photographs from Victoria County and the surrounding area. Another of his historical interests was Count Joseph Telfener and the "Macaroni Railroad."

In addition to an interest in history, Henry had an appreciation for the aristocratic.

A world traveler, he served as an unofficial ambassador of Victoria in numerous foreign lands, always leaving an impression on those he met.

I remember how a colleague in this business of column writing, Ross McSwain of the San Angelo Standard-Times, was impressed with Henry after attending a tour of his home – a part of it being the oldest in Victoria -- during an annual meeting of the Texas Folklore Society. He wrote of being impressed by Henry's knowledge of Victoria, his dwelling, his abilities as a collector, his scrapbooks, and his love of old books, good music, storytelling, historical preservation and, in his spare time, his penchant for physiognomy, or face reading.

The latter interest led Henry to put together the finest nose gallery in the Western Hemisphere, collecting nose art from his world travels and visits to museums in 58 countries. An unusual collection that prompted one writer to label him "The Wizard of Schnozz," hopefully the collection will find a good home where it can be kept intact.

After interviewing Henry for the book "Texas Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Attractions and Other Offbeat Stuff," Austin American-Statesman columnist John Kelso asked Henry for an assessment of his nose and was told that it was "pretty ordinary." That could be said of most noses when compared to some of the 200 and more examples of nose art in the collection, mostly of intellectuals, aristocrats, musicians and great lovers.

Henry was also a collector of music, including that published by his family's Hauschild Music Co., and once told me how he would stand around, as a boy, watching the local composer H.D. Lawrence at work, that was until Lawrence told his father that he was bothering him. It was worth a dime for some ice cream or candy, just for him to get lost.

Somehow we have no difficulty in connecting the boy to the man so admired for his intellectual curiosity.

Once at a historical meeting in Brownsville, in between the afternoon sessions and the banquet, I decided to take a dip in the pool at the Fort Brown Motor Hotel only to find the water a bit on the cold side. So, instead, I headed for a hot tub that was occupied by an older woman a bit flushed from alcohol and hot water. We exchanged pleasantries and I asked her where she was from and she in turn asked me, to which I replied, "Victoria."

"Oh," she said, "I just met the most charming man from Victoria."

"Henry Hauschild," I replied.

"Yes," she said, "how did you know?"

There was no way I could not have known, that was just the way it was with Henry.

The charming man from Victoria will be missed by many.

## IN MEMORIAM: JO ANN STARKEY GARNER

This obituary from the San Antonio Express-News, January 20, 2006, was submitted by Theresa Gold.

JO ANN STARKEY GARNER Irene Dorothy Jo Ann Starkey Garner, retired elementary school educator and special education educator, born in Ft. Hamilton, NY on December 25, 1934, died Wednesday, January 18, 2006. She is preceded in death by her parents, Col. Joseph Wheeler Starkey and Irene Dorothy (Vogt) Starkey. She earned a BA in History, Government and Law through the University of Texas at Austin in 1956, where she was also Portia (Sweetheart) of Law School. She did her post graduate work at Trinity University in 1973. She is also a Certified Deaf Educator and Elementary Teacher of Texas, a Kindergarten Teacher, receiving her Degree from Platenstrasse International School in Frankfurt, the Federal Republic of Germany in 1964-1966. She taught deaf children at Sunshine Cottage School for the Deaf in San Antonio from 1966 to 2000, retiring in 2000. She was a Speech Counselor at Trinity University in 1978, and cooperating teacher from 1978-87. Mrs. Garner is Fiesta Coordinator for Sunshine Cottage, and active in the San Antonio Fiesta Commission. She is Chairman of the book purchasing committee for the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, Mem., Tex. (charter). She also belongs to the Powesheik County Iowa Genealogical Society, National Alexander Graham Bell Assn., Texas State Genealogical and Historical Society, Republican National Committee, German-Texas Heritage Society, Pioneers of Indiana, Olde Mecklenburg Geneological Society N.C., Pioneers of Illinois, Illinois Geneological Society of Madison County, Illinois Geneological Society, Texas Pioneers and Alpha Delta Pi. She is a member of the Catholic/Episcopal Church. Her avocations are writing, painting, history, genealogy. Mrs. Garner's passion was traveling, which she did extensively. She is survived by children, Mary Vivian Garner Pine, Margaret Susan Garner Gillis and husband, James Darrell Pierce, Kathryn Lynn Garner, grandchildren, Robert Steven Pine Jr., Dorothea Lynn Gillis and Andrew James Gillis; sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Peggy Margaret Eugenia Starkey and the Rev. Dr. Archie L. Nations; cousins, Ernest Lee Vogt, June Russell and Wesley Henderson; former husband, Col. James Gayle Garner; and her much loved Himalayan Cat, Princess Holly of Badi. SERVICE SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2006 1:00 P.M. ALAMO HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GARDEN CHAPEL 825 EAST BASSE ROAD the Rev. Dr. Archie L. Nations officiating. The family requests memorials to Sunshine Cottage School for the Deaf in San Antonio or San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society. Interment in the family plot in the Alamo Masonic Cemetery. You are invited to Sign the guestbook at [www.porterloring.com](http://www.porterloring.com) Arrangements with Porter Loring Mortuary.





**IN MEMORIAM: LLOYD KEITH STRANGE**

**This obituary from the Grimes Funeral Chapels website was submitted by Eva Barnett.**

**Lloyd Keith Strange, age 83, born Dec. 17, 1922 in Burkburnett, Wichita County, TX passed on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006 in Kerrville.**

**He received his Master's of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from Southern Methodist University, and was a significant contributor to SMU's engineering department with his own scholarship fund. An accomplished research engineer and retiree of Mobil Oil Research & Development Corp. for 38 years, he holds 13 U.S. Patents, was the author of numerous company internal and technical publications, and was a member of many mechanical and petroleum engineering associations; he was also a World War II veteran with the U.S. Navy.**

**He was a member of First Presbyterian Church for nine years.**

**His wife Anna of 50 years predeceased him in Sept. 1993. He is survived by two sons from this union: Steven Strange and wife Irene from Atlanta, GA; George Strange and wife Susan from Beaumont, TX; grandson Alexander Strange, granddaughters Flora Strange, Laura Strange, Jennifer Strange Creel and husband Casey Creel.**

**He is survived by his wife of 10 years Esther Bonnet Miller Strange; two step children, Dwain Miller and Carolyn Miller and two step grandchildren, Victoria and Ethan Miller.**

**Visitation will be held Thursday, January 5, 2006, 4-6 p.m. at Grimes Funeral Chapels. A reception will follow the visitation at the Strange's home.**

**A memorial service will be held at First Christian Church, Grand Prairie, TX on January 14, 2006.**

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2005 MEETING  
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The November 19, 2005 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 9:40 a.m. in the German Free School at Austin with the following directors present: Teddy Vanderworth Boehm, Ewing (Wing) Evans, James Feuge, Jean Heide, Hubert Heinen, Carolyn S. Heinsohn, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Dan Schoppe, Terry L. Smart, Annette Stachowitz, Janice Warnecke Thompson, Geri West, and Henry Wolff Jr. Absent were Matt Tippens and Glen Treibs. Also present was Eva Barnett, Office Manager.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Minutes of August 21, 2005**

Motion by T. Boehm to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion approved.

**REPORTS**

*Approved 2/11/06  
by GTHS Board  
of Directors*

**Treasurer's Report**

Motion by T. Smart to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion approved.

Motion by H. Heinen to approve the proposed budget for 2006. Motion approved.

Motion by T. Smart for the Budget and Finance Committee to recommend to the February 2006 board meeting where the society's funds should be invested. Motion approved.

Motion by T. Smart for the Budget and Finance Committee to recommend to the February 2006 board meeting an Austin bank where the society's accounts should be established. Motion approved.

**Report on Bylaws Section 2.3**

T. Smart reported that Section 2.3 of the bylaws ("Dissolution") required revision because (1) Southwest Texas State University has changed its name and (2) the university's "Resource Learning Center" is "Learning Resource Center." President Massirer appointed an ad hoc committee of four to make recommendations for changes to Section 2.3: H. Heinen, C. Krause, T. Smart, and A. Stachowitz

**Office Manager's Report**

Eva Barnett, Office Manager, presented an update on her preparation of grant proposals intended to obtain funds for the renovation of the German Free School building.

E. Evans announced that Julia Mellenbruch had offered a donation to GTHS to replace windows on the east side of the German Free School building with new noise-reduction windows.

Motion by H. Heinen to approve installation of the new windows. Motion approved.

Motion by T. Bohem to establish as the first priority for seeking grants and donations in 2006 the renovation of the German Free School building. Motion approved.

Motion by G. West to approve an expenditure for the renewal of GTHS membership in the online Texas Foundation Data Base for use in preparing grant proposals. Motion approved.

Motion by H. Wolff to approve an allocation of up to \$5,000 from GTHS investments to be used as matching funds in any grant proposal for renovations to the German Free School building sought from a foundation requiring such matching funds as a prerequisite. Motion approved.

**Report on the 2006 Annual Meeting**



C. Heinsohn presented an update on plans for the 2006 GTHS Annual Meeting to be held in March at Yoakum in conjunction with the Texas German Society as the "Texas German Convention."

#### **Report on Max Kade Institute**

H. Heinen reported the Max Kade Institute has funded two students to attend the University of Texas at Austin and at present has no plans for other programs that include GTHS.

#### **Report on German Story-teller, Frau Ritter**

H. Heinen reported Frau Ritter has not made final plans to visit the United States.

#### **Report on German Free School building**

A. Stachowitz reported chandeliers in the German free School had been cleaned and an enlarged photo of Kelly Stevens had been obtained for future display.

#### **Report on German name for King William Street in San Antonio**

For the Activities Committee C. Heinsohn reported that according to information from San Antonio historian and genealogist Theresa Gold the King William Street in San Antonio never was officially given a German name (i.e. Kaiser Wilhelm Strasse).

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **German-Texan Cookbook**

Motion by H. Heinen for the 2006 Activities Committee to investigate the possibility of preparing and publishing a GTHS German-Texan Heritage Cookbook. Motion approved.

The Board requested President Massirer to write to Heidi Briggs, who had proposed a German cookbook, informing her of GTHS plans for a German-Texan Heritage Cookbook

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **Amendment of Bylaws**

Motion by T. Smart to amend Bylaws Section 8.8C ("Budget and Finance Committee") by deleting "Executive Director" from sentences one and two. Motion approved. (Written notice of this amendment was given all board members October 8, 2005.)

Motion by James Feuge to amend Bylaws Section 8.1 ("Committee Appointments") by replacing "The Board of Directors may designate and appoint committees to the extent necessary" with "The Board of Directors may create committees." Motion approved. (Written notice of this amendment was given all board members October 8, 2005.)

Motion by T. Smart to amend Bylaws Section 8.1("Committee Appointments") by replacing "...members of each such Committee shall be members of the corporation, and the President shall appoint the chairman thereof" with "...the President shall appoint members of committees and chairs of committees." (Written notice of this amendment was given all board members October 8, 2005).

#### **Board of Directors Election**

T. Smart, Secretary, reported the Executive Committee canvassed ballots for the election of four directors whose terms begin January 1, 2006, with the following results:

Carolyn Heinsohn	53 votes
Hubert Heinen	50 votes
Matt Tippens	50 votes
Mary El-Beheri	46 votes
Liz Hicks	1 vote (write-in)

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Walden Shelton	1 vote (write-in)
Phil Stertzing	1 vote (write-in)
Annette Stachowitz	1 vote (write-in)

Motion by E. Evans to accept the Executive Committee's report on the election of Carolyn Heinsohn, Hubert Heinen, Matt Tippens, and Mary El-Beheri. Motion approved.

**Board of Directors Elections in 2006**

Motion by C. Krause to again seek nominations from the entire membership and to hold elections in 2006 for the Board of Directors by the entire membership by mail, as in 2005. Motion approved.

**Reduction in Size of 2007 Board of Directors**

Motion by J. Feuge to reduce the number of positions on the Board of Directors to twelve effective January 1, 2007. Motion by T. Smart to table the motion for the February 2006 Board meeting. Motion to table approved

**German Christmas Market in Houston**

J. Thompson reported a German Christmas Market will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston the week following the annual GTHS Christmas Market in Austin, and recommended unsold goods from GTHS might be sold at Houston.

Motion by H. Heinen to approve GTHS participation in the Houston Christmas Market at the lowest fees possible. Motion approved.

**German-Texan Heritage Calendar**

Motion by J. Heinen for the 2006 Activities Committee to investigate the possibility of preparing and selling a 2007 German-Texan Heritage calendar. Motion approved.

**Dates for Board of Directors meetings in 2006**

President Massirer announced dates for the four board meetings in 2006: February 11, May 20, August 12, and November 11.

**Election of Officers for 2006**

Nominating Committee (J. Heide, C. Krause and A. Stachowitz) presented four nominees for officers in 2006: for President, Teddy Boehm; for Vice President, Ewing (Wing) Evans; for Treasurer, Gerri West; for Secretary, Terry L. Smart. There were no nominations from the floor. The four nominees were elected.

**Commendation for Van Massirer**

Motion by T. Smart that the Board of Directors commend outgoing president Van Massirer for his service to GTHS as the society's president. Motion approved.

**Commendation for Dan Schoppe**

Motion by T. Smart that the Board of Directors commend outgoing director Dan Schoppe for his service to GTHS as a member of the board. Motion approved.

<b>Adjournment</b>
--------------------

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



# MAIFEST

## Saturday April 29 11 am – 5 pm

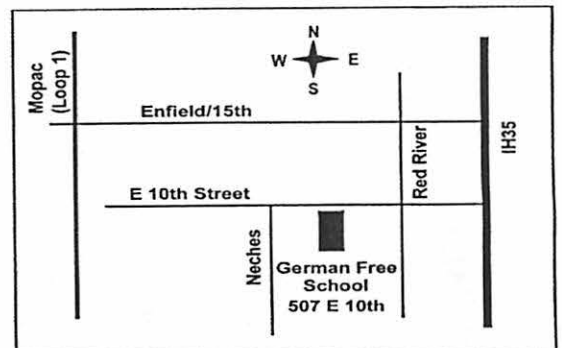
DELICIOUS GERMAN FOOD  
 BEER • WINE TASTING •  
 SILENT AUCTION • FOLK DANCING  
 LIVE GERMAN MUSIC  
 GERMAN BOOK SALE

- |        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| 1:00pm | Maypole Dance          |
| 2:00pm | Marionette Show        |
| 2:30pm | German Folk Dancing    |
| 3:00pm | Marionette Show        |
| 4:30pm | Airline Ticket Drawing |

*Come enjoy some German-Texan  
 fun in the Garden of the Historic  
 German Free School*



**German-Texan Heritage Society**  
 507 East 10<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, TX  
 (512) 482-0927  
[www.GermanTexans.org](http://www.GermanTexans.org)  
**FREE PARKING                      FREE ADMISSION**





**German-Texan Heritage Society**  
 Revenue and Expenditure Statement  
 January through December 2005 - FINAL

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2005</b>									
REVENUE	Total	Jan-Dec 2005 Actual	Original Budget 2005	% of Original Budget 2005	2005 Revision created in August '05	% of Revised Budget 2005	Budget 2006		
1 Dues - GTHS	\$	21,142.50	\$ 27,000.00	incl above 94%	\$ 23,000.00	92%	\$ 23,000.00		
2 Dues - Guild	\$	4,157.50	incl above	incl above 87%	\$ 4,000.00	104%	\$ 4,500.00		
3 Annual Meeting	\$	7,856.00	\$ 9,000.00	87%	\$ 7,856.00	100%	\$ 7,000.00		
4 Operational Fund	\$	15,806.00	\$ 11,000.00	144%	\$ 12,705.00	124%	\$ 12,500.00		
5 Maifest	\$	5,397.50	\$ 4,000.00	135%	\$ 5,359.50	101%	\$ 5,000.00		
6 Maifest Drawing	\$	4,170.00	\$ 3,500.00	119%	\$ 4,170.00	100%	\$ 4,000.00		
7 Christmas Market	\$	13,908.29	\$ 10,000.00	139%	\$ 10,000.00	139%	\$ 12,000.00		
8 German Classes	\$	8,140.00	\$ 4,000.00	204%	\$ 6,455.00	126%	\$ 6,000.00		
9 Misc. Gifts and Memorials	\$	810.60	\$ 1,000.00	81%	\$ 500.00	162%	\$ 500.00		
10 GTHS Book sales & Royalties	\$	1,231.88	incl. below	incl. below 172%	\$ 1,000.00	123%	\$ 1,000.00		
11 Gift Shop & non-GTHS book sales	\$	2,659.83	\$ 2,500.00	172%	\$ 2,500.00	123%	\$ 2,500.00		
12 Rent	\$	70.00	\$ 250.00	28%	\$ -	n/a	\$ -		
13 Library Income & Donations - NEW LINE ITEM	\$	411.00	incl above	incl above	incl above	incl above			
14 Miscellaneous	\$	846.74	\$ 1,000.00	85%	\$ 500.00	169%	\$ 500.00		
15 CD Interest (deposited to checking acct)	\$	1,172.59	\$ 850.00	138%	\$ 1,000.00	117%	\$ 850.00		
16 Sub-Total Revenues	\$	87,780.43	\$ 74,100.00	118%	\$ 79,045.50	111%	\$ 79,350.00		
17 Specific contributions & Grants									
18 Grants for Journal	\$	-	\$ 4,000.00	0%	\$ -	n/a	\$ -		
19 Advertising in Journal	\$	-	\$ 250.00	0%	\$ -	n/a	\$ -		
20 Special Project Income - Renovation	\$	6,000.00	n/a	n/a	\$ -	n/a	\$ -		
21 Sub-Total Specific Contributions	\$	6,000.00	\$ 4,250.00	141%	\$ 0.00	n/a	\$ -		
22 TOTAL REVENUES	\$	93,780.43	\$ 78,350.00	120%	\$ 79,045.50	119%	\$ 79,350.00		
23									
24 REVENUE SUPPLEMENT - FROM INVESTMENTS	\$	-	\$ 15,200.00	0%	\$ 8,400.00	0%	\$ 10,050.00		
25 TOTAL REVENUES incl \$ taken from Investments	\$	93,780.43	\$ 93,550.00	100%	\$ 87,445.50	107%	\$ 89,400.00		
Report of Interest earned and projected Dividends not shown on line 15									
26 Investment Inc. realized (M. Stanley)	\$	7,787.59	n/a	n/a	\$ 5,324.20	146%			
27 Investment Inc. unrealized (M. Stanley)	\$	4,604.06	n/a	n/a	\$ 2,036.82	226%			
28 Sub-Total Investments	\$	12,391.65	n/a	n/a	\$ 7,361.02	168%			
29 TOTAL REVENUES (line 22)	\$	93,780.43			\$ 79,045.50				
30 TOTAL REVENUE incl. INVESTMENT INCOME	\$	106,172.08			\$ 86,406.52				

	Total		Original Budget 2005	% of Original Budget 2005		2005 Revision created in August '05	% of Revised Budget 2005		Budget 2006
	Jan-Dec 2005 Actual								
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>									
31 Administration Staff - Office Manager	\$ 19,789.31		\$ 21,000.00	94%		\$ 21,000.00	94%		\$ 21,000.00
33 Administration Staff - Grant writing project	\$ 1,249.82			n/a		\$ 2,000.00	62%		
34 Other Administration	\$ 29.88		\$ 1,000.00	3%		\$ 240.83	207%		\$ 750.00
35 Postage	\$ 469.38		\$ 4,500.00	10%		incl above	incl above		
36 Supplies & Equipment	\$ 3,528.63		\$ 4,000.00	88%		\$ 4,000.00	88%		\$ 4,000.00
37 Telephone & Internet	\$ 2,441.08		\$ 2,000.00	122%		\$ 2,598.32	94%		\$ 2,050.00
38 Utilities	\$ 4,522.86		\$ 4,000.00	113%		\$ 4,243.98	107%		\$ 4,250.00
39 Insurance House	\$ 2,846.01		\$ 4,500.00	98%		\$ 4,529.28	98%		\$ 2,900.00
40 Officers and Board	\$ 1,469.30		incl above	incl above		incl above	incl above		\$ 1,500.00
41 Worker's Comp	\$ 105.00		incl above	incl above		incl above	incl above		\$ 300.00
42 Building Maint. & Repair & security	\$ 2,719.98		\$ 4,500.00	60%		\$ 3,133.08	87%		\$ 4,500.00
43 Yard Maintenance	\$ 2,074.90		\$ 2,500.00	83%		\$ 1,894.00	110%		\$ 2,500.00
44 Professional services	\$ 770.00		\$ 500.00	154%		\$ 770.00	100%		\$ 500.00
45 Bank Fees	\$ 1,076.50		\$ 750.00	144%		\$ 904.49	119%		\$ 500.00
46 Fund Raising	\$ 508.70		\$ 2,000.00	25%		\$ 977.00	52%		\$ 2,000.00
47 Annual Meeting	\$ 5,695.13		\$ 8,500.00	67%		\$ 5,695.13	100%		\$ 5,500.00
48 Maifest Costs	\$ 2,177.74		\$ 2,200.00	99%		\$ 2,176.99	100%		\$ 2,200.00
49 Maifest Airline Tickets	\$ -		\$ -	n/a		\$ -	n/a		\$ 2,000.00
50 Christmas Market costs	\$ 9,314.15		\$ 8,000.00	116%		\$ 8,000.00	116%		\$ 8,500.00
51 German Classes	\$ 3,517.28		\$ 3,500.00	100%		\$ 3,499.35	101%		\$ 3,500.00
52 Outreach/Comm. Involv.	\$ 331.37		\$ 1,000.00	33%		\$ 213.41	155%		\$ 1,000.00
53 Journal	\$ 16,118.81		\$ 17,500.00	92%		\$ 17,290.05	93%		\$ 16,000.00
54 Purchases: GTHS Books	\$ 548.40		incl in Misc.	incl in Misc.		\$ 404.97	135%		\$ 500.00
55 Purchases: Gift Shop & non-GTHS books	\$ 2,212.94		incl in Misc.	incl in Misc.		\$ 1,924.02	115%		\$ 1,500.00
56 Schulhaus Reporter	\$ 576.76		\$ 400.00	144%		\$ 719.45	80%		\$ 750.00
57 Library expenses	\$ 364.00		\$ 200.00	182%		\$ 200.00	182%		\$ 200.00
58 Miscellaneous	\$ 863.13		\$ 1,000.00	362%		\$ 1,000.00	86%		\$ 1,000.00
59 Sub-Total Expenditures	\$ 85,321.06		\$ 93,550.00	91%		\$ 87,414.35	98%		\$ 89,400.00
60 Special Project Expenditures - Renovation (Windows)	\$ 5,814.66		\$ 0.00	n/a		\$ 0.00	n/a		\$ -
61 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 91,135.72		\$ 93,550.00	97%		\$ 87,414.35	104%		\$ 89,400.00
<b>REVENUE/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</b>									
62 TOTAL REVENUES before Investments (line 22)	\$ 93,780.43		\$ 78,350.00			\$ 79,045.50			\$ 79,350.00
63 TOTAL EXPENDITURES (line 61)	\$ 91,135.72		\$ 93,550.00			\$ 87,414.35			\$ 89,400.00
64 Overage/ (Shortfall)	\$ 2,644.71		\$ (15,200.00)			\$ (8,368.85)			\$ (10,050.00)
65 Profit/ (Loss) incl Investments	\$ 15,036.36								
BANK BALANCE - Bank of America - 12/31/05	\$ 17,757.74								



**OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT  
TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FEBRUARY 11, 2006**

**Membership report**

As of 2/8/06, 669 memberships have been renewed (865 actual members). There are 253 memberships from 2005 that have not been renewed (318 actual members). I will send these un-renewed members a reminder letter in the next week or so.

The special renewal mailout we did last Fall to lapsed members from 2003 and 2004 yielded \$ 1,255 in dues and \$ 500 in Operational Fund donations. One of these lapsed members joined as a Life Member and gave a \$500 donation. The cost of the mailing was \$108.

In 2006 we have received 3 new Life memberships, and another has been pledged. There was another person who wanted to join as a Life Member, but since she already is a Life Member, she decided to donate the \$750 to the Library instead.

**Operational Fund report**

In the calendar year 2005, the Operational Fund took in \$ 15,806, of which \$ 13,621 was for the 2005 Fund, and \$ 2,185 for the 2004 Fund. In 2006, we have received (through 2/8/06) \$ 2,825 in Operational Fund donations. This brings the 2005 Fund total to \$ 16,446. For comparison, the total of the 2004 Operational Fund was \$ 15,880 for the entire year! There is a proposal coming from the Finance Committee to switch the Operational Fund to a calendar year basis, which will simplify the accounting and reporting of the Fund.

**German Classes**

The German language classes in 2005 earned \$ 7,880 in income and had \$ 3,076.63 in expenses, for a net profit of \$ 4,803.17. Included in this calculation are donated teachers' stipends of \$620.

**990 for 2005**

Our accountant is already working on our 2005 form 990, so we should get that filed in a more timely manner this year.

**German Free School Update**

- The new windows on the east side of the building went in shortly after the Christmas Market. They have helped reduce outside noise and appear to keep the building more insulated, which should reduce energy costs. A big thanks to GTHS member Julia Mellenbruch for donating the funds to accomplish this.
- The wax figure of Hans Meusebach was fixed by the owner. He's looking good.
- A member came up with the idea for us to do a German cooking class. Christa Rabago is planning one for April 8<sup>th</sup>. We'll see how that goes and decide if we want to do more in the future.



### **505 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Clean-up - Eva**

A group from the Downtown Austin Alliance came to clean up our lot, and they suggested we post No Trespassing signs and special notes so the Police can arrest people who are trespassing even if we're not around. We've already posted some and will post more soon. The DAA will not come back to clean out lot again because it's too hazardous for their workers. They suggest we call the Police often and prosecute trespassers. I will be contacting the police soon regarding this.

### **Wish List**

Sherryl Brown has donated a digital camera to GTHS. Van Massirer is donating a paper shredder to GTHS. Arlene Burgess donated a beautiful large tablecloth.

### **Computer**

Hans von Schweinitz has donated one year of high-speed internet service and a wireless router to the GTHS office. It was installed this week and is a huge improvement over our former dial-up service. Many thanks to Hans for the donation and to Jim West for the installation!

### **Database Upgrade**

Rolf Stachowitz has completed the next phase of our database upgrade, making the system more user-friendly and the data entry work more efficient. Many thanks to Rolf!

### **Phone Switch**

I switched our phone service and set up our DSL service with McLeod Communications. They have a very competitive price, and we should save about \$60/month. We've gotten our caller ID and a few other features back as well.

### **Office Volunteers**

For the past year we've tried to make up for staff cuts by recruiting volunteers to do office work. This has worked up to a point. I have had consistent volunteers in Gerri West (Wednesdays) and Annette Stachowitz (Fridays). My Monday volunteer didn't last long, and my other two volunteers (Anna and Kristi) have stopped coming (though I'm hoping Kristi will return once she solves her child care issues). Now that Gerri is Treasurer, she has many new tasks to fill up her volunteer time, though she's still trying to squeeze in her office work as well. I know Annette has plenty of work to do in her role as Guild President. These ladies have worked very hard for GTHS and I'm concerned they are going to burn out. We need a long-term solution for how to staff the office.

**WANTED: Silent auction items for the TGS-GTHS Joint Annual Meeting on March 11, 2006 in Yoakum, Texas. Please bring new or antique items with a minimum value of \$10 to the meeting, or drop by the GTHS office by Wednesday, March 8. No resale/garage sale items will be accepted. Donation forms will be available at both places.**

### GTHS E-KURIER

**The *E-Kurier* is a short e-mail newsletter sent from time-to-time by Eva Barnett, our GTHS Office Manager. Since there is no expense for sending e-mail, this is a good way to keep members up-to-date about what's going on with our society. If you can receive e-mail and have not yet given the GTHS office your e-mail address, why not do so now?**

Dear GTHS members,

We're gearing up for this year's annual meeting, which will be held on Saturday March 11th in Yoakum (details below). GTHS is co-sponsoring the event once again with the Texas German Society, and we're looking forward to a great turnout and an exciting day of interesting speakers, great food and entertainment, and educational displays and tours. There will be a silent auction and you can also do some shopping at the GTHS table where we'll have imported German handmade pyramids, smokers, etc leftover from our Christmas Market. Please come join us and meet some new friends!

Danke,  
Eva Barnett

---  
GTHS Office Manager  
866-482-4847 toll-free  
[eva@germantexans.org](mailto:eva@germantexans.org)  
[www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org)  
---

*This is the E-Kurier  
for February 2006*

### STATEWIDE NEWS

#### TEXAS GERMAN CONVENTION

This year's GTHS annual meeting will once again be a co-production with the Texas German Society. It will be held on Saturday March 11th in Yoakum, Texas. The program features several interesting speakers - Linda Wolff speaking on the Indianola Trail, John Trott on the Hochheim Prairie Founders and Doug Kubicek on the Spoetzl Brewery. A delicious German lunch is included in the registration fee. Performances by the New Braunfels Village Brass Band and the Houston Shanty Choir. There will also be a silent auction and raffle. After the meeting, there's an opportunity to tour local sights. Registrations postmarked by March 1st cost \$15 per person. Late registrations are \$20. Student rate is \$10. To register, fill out the form on the first page of your Winter Journal, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form (not to GTHS). Or download the registration form on our website - [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org).

#### WANTED: SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR CONVENTION

Silent auction items are needed for the TGS/GTHS Joint Annual Meeting on March 11, 2006 in Yoakum, Texas. Please bring new or antique items worth \$10.00 or more to the meeting or to the GTHS office by Thursday, March 9. No resale or garage sale items will be accepted. For more information, contact Carolyn Heinsohn at 979-968-3806.

#### HELPERS NEEDED FOR SET-UP FRIDAY BEFORE CONVENTION

Come help decorate the Yoakum Community Center (105 Huck St.) for the Texas German Convention on Friday March 10th at 4:30pm. Afterwards, everyone will be going to dinner at the Leather Capital Steakhouse (123 W. Grand St). For more information, contact Harvey Spies at 361-578-6658.

#### GTHS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thanks to all the members who have renewed their GTHS and Guild memberships. If you haven't renewed yet, you can send your renewal form and payment to us at this address: GTHS, PO Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768. Please call the office at 866-482-4847 with any questions.

#### SPRACHFEST

February 4 is the day of Sprachfest, the area German contest. We could use some of the San Antonio GTHS folks to judge events. For more information, go to <http://www.germancontest.org/sprachfest>. There will be about

800 middle and high school students competing in about 63 events on the UTSA campus. Contact Mary El-Beheri at [frauelbeheri@yahoo.com](mailto:frauelbeheri@yahoo.com). We especially need judges for: German Texan topic research papers, music and art events, as well as spoken German events. There are also area contests on this same day in Houston, contact Paul Soechting at [psoechting@ecisd.org](mailto:psoechting@ecisd.org) and in the Dallas Area, contact Beth Smith, [fraubeth@comcast.net](mailto:fraubeth@comcast.net). Our Texas German contests are one of a kind in the entire USA and we need your support to keep them going!!

#### GERMAN TEXANS AND WORLD WAR I

GTHS Board member Matt Tippens is researching the impact that World War I (1914-1918) had on the German Texans for his doctoral dissertation. He is looking for any information (in English or German) you may have about German Texans during the war. This could be either pro-German or anti-German propaganda, evidence of discrimination against German Texans, and/or personal reflections about the effects of the war. Any of the following types of records would be of interest: City (municipal) records, Church records (especially those which detail the prohibition of German-language services), Business records, Journals, diaries, and letters, Newspaper clippings, Verifiable stories and accounts, Oral histories, German social organizations, Political records, German language use, War propaganda. Please contact him at 3811 63rd Dr., Lubbock, TX 79413 or (806) 793-3450 or [matttippens@yahoo.com](mailto:matttippens@yahoo.com).

#### BONHOEFFER DOCUMENTARY TO AIR ON PBS

On February 6 at 9pm CST, PBS will air a moving portrait of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famed German theologian who dared to stand up to Hitler. For more info go to [www.pbs.org/bonhoeffer](http://www.pbs.org/bonhoeffer).

#### AUSTIN AREA NEWS

##### GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD EVENTS

Please join us for any of these regular events: Stammtisch - Thursdays at noon; Evening Stammtisch and Games Night - Wednesday February 22nd from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.; Speaker Series - Sunday February 19th at 3:00 pm, Charles Patrick will speak about the Civil War Diary of Captain Giesecke. Tour the German Free School building any Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 1 to 4 pm. Location: 507 E. 10th St. in downtown Austin. For more information, contact GTHS headquarters at 512-482-0927.

##### TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTEST

February 25 is the day of Texas State German Contest. We could use some of the Austin area GTHS folks to judge events. See the website for more information: <http://www.germancontest.org/state>. There will be about 1000 middle and high school students competing in about 63 events on the University of Texas campus. We especially need judges for: German Texan topic research papers, music and art events, as well as spoken German events. Contact Mary El-Beheri, [frauelbeheri@yahoo.com](mailto:frauelbeheri@yahoo.com).

##### GAHMURET'S GESCHICHTE PERFORMED

The Austin Waldorf School Foreign Language Studies eleventh grade students present Gahmuret's Geschichte on Friday February 10th at 1:50pm and Saturday February 11th at 6pm in the PAC. The German students are presenting the first two books of *Parzival*, a medieval romance by Wolfram von Eschenbach, which tells the story of Parzival's father, Gahmuret. Tournaments, love found and love lost accompany this exciting journey of noble knights and lovely ladies. These kids performed at last year's Maifest - please come support them. For more information, contact Ann Coltman at 512-301-9550 ext 122 or [annbev@freenet.de](mailto:annbev@freenet.de)

##### UT GERMANIC FILM SERIES

Thursday Feb 16 : *Lola* (Fassbinder, 1981) - This update of the German film classic *The Blue Angel* translates a Weimar story of seduction and spiritual corruption into the economic miracle of the 1950s in West Germany. This is Fassbinder at his best – tacky, parodic, didactic, manic, frightening, and revolutionary. At 7 pm in the EP Schoch building on the UT campus, 4th floor. For more info call the German Department at 471-4123.

#### HILL COUNTRY NEWS

##### 15TH ANNUAL VAN DER STUCKEN MUSIC FESTIVAL IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

"The Humor of Van der Stucken" is the theme of the annual Van der Stucken Music festival in Fredericksburg Friday February 3rd, in the Historical Society Theatre, 314 West San Antonio Street. Honoring the memory of Frank Valenin van der Stucken, born in Fredericksburg in 1858, the festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with free refreshments and delectables. The English and German bilingual concert will start at 7:30 p.m. and begin with songs by baritone Larry Wolz. Later the Ensemble Kolorit of Zeitz, Germany, will present their cabaret numbers.



The concert is free of charge. For more information contact [wst@austin.rr.com](mailto:wst@austin.rr.com) or call 830-997-7928.

#### **NEW FUN WALK IN FREDERICKSBURG & GILLESPIE COUNTY**

On Saturday February 4th, a new activity will be sponsored by the members of Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg, the local walking club. It is a free, non-competitive walk for all ages, including pet dogs on leashes. The walk will be measured in time (1 1/2 hours) but not for distance. Persons also do not have to walk the total 1 1/2 hours but may cut it shorter to meet their interests or abilities. All persons are welcome and do not have to be members of the club to participate. Walkers will meet and begin the walk promptly at 8:15 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Tourist Information Center, 302 East Austin Street, across the street from the Nimitz Museum one block from Main Street. From there, persons may carpool to the walk start. For more information call Joyce O'Rear, 992-2053.

#### **HOUSTON AREA NEWS**

##### **BAYTOWN GENEALOGY SEMINAR**

The Baytown Genealogy Society is presenting a Spring Seminar on Saturday March 4, from 8:30 am until 5:00 pm at Rundell Hall, Lee College (200 Lee Drive) in Baytown. Featured speakers will present information on tracing your WWII ancestors, finding your ancestors in Church records, using the internet to research genealogy and more. \$15 registration fee. Open to the public. For directions, contact Lee College at 281-427-5611.

##### **HOUSTON LIEDERKRANZ MASQUERADE BALL**

The crazy Mardi Gras Revelers of the Houston Liederkrantz invite you and your friends to the 2006 Masquerade Ball on February 18th, at 8pm, in the Houston Liederkrantz Hall. Prizes for the best costumes. Entrance fee \$10; \$7 for members; ages 7-18 \$5. For more information, email: [houston\\_liederkrantz@yahoo.com](mailto:houston_liederkrantz@yahoo.com).

##### **TOMBALL GERMAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

The Tomball German Heritage Festival will take place on March 25 & 26, 2006. There will be lots of German Folk Music and Dancing, Heritage Center, street vendors (food, arts/crafts, antiques, etc.), large Kinderfest and carnival. Sponsored by the Tomball/Telgte Sister City Org. For more information go to [www.tomballsistercity.org](http://www.tomballsistercity.org) or [www.tomball.com](http://www.tomball.com), or contact Grady Martin at 281-379-6844 or [gradsand@yahoo.com](mailto:gradsand@yahoo.com). GTHS could use help staffing a table at this event. If you're available to help please contact the GTHS office at 866-482-4847 or [info@germantexans.org](mailto:info@germantexans.org).

#### **MIDLAND AREA NEWS**

##### **GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED ASAP**

The Midland High School German teacher passed away recently and they are desperately looking for someone to take over the program. Emergency certification may be available to a qualified applicant. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Debbie Oliver at [doliver@esc18.net](mailto:doliver@esc18.net).

#### **SAN ANTONIO AREA NEWS**

##### **GTHS MEMBER LUNCH**

Jean Heide has organized a lunch get-together for San Antonio area GTHS members. Please join them at the Old Heidelberg on San Pedro at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, February 4. We have about 25 people who have confirmed so far. For more information, please contact Jean Heide at [hi-d-ho@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hi-d-ho@sbcglobal.net).

##### **BEETHOVEN MAENNERCHOR**

Come hear the Beethoven Maennerchor on February 25th, at the Beethoven Halle und Garten (422 Perieda St at S. Alamo) in San Antonio. For event time and other details call 210-222-1521.

## **A DIFFERENT KIND OF REUNION**

By Arliss Treybig

There are many variations of the traditional reunions: family, school, and military. A different kind of family reunion was held in Shelby, a small, basically German community in Austin County, Texas. The Shelby Area Historical Society offered an opportunity for three families that have lived on a nearby piece of property to gather and share their stories.

“We Called It Home: the History of a Property” presented the stories of the Treybig (1853-1898), Mayer (1898-1961), and Smith (1961-2005) families. The property is part of the WW Shepherd League, granted in 1831 to William Shepherd, an Austin’s colonist. When Austin and Fayette counties were established, the county line ran across both counties with only a few acres in Austin County. However, many of the early records are located in the Austin County books.

The Nicolaus Treybig family of parents and four children immigrated to Texas in 1845 as part of the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas (Adelsverein or Verein). They survived a shipwreck off the coast of England on their journey and finally arrived in August, 1846. The birth of one daughter and the death of another daughter provided additional challenges as they struggled to make a home for themselves. After living first in another area of Austin County, they settled on 125 acres in the Shelby area in 1853. They farmed and raised cattle. Nicolaus helped to establish the Shelby School Association. The two sons served in the War Between the States, one being captured at Vicksburg and the other at Yazoo City.

The children married and raised their own children. The original 125 acres grew to 200 acres. The sons and their large families continued to live on the land as farmers. However, more land was needed, and the sons bought land in the area. After the deaths of the parents, they sold the property to the Mayer family who owned adjoining property. Two Treybig log cabins (approximately 1853 and 1859) still stand on the property.

Brothers Heinrich and Martin Mayer also came to Texas in 1846 as part of the Adelsverein. The men married sisters. They settled first in Washington County near the community of Winedale. There they established one of the first cotton gins. Heinrich’s son Fritz bought land in the Shelby-Haw Creek area. He expanded his holdings with the purchase of the Treybig property. He added several barns and other outbuildings. The log cabins were used for storing feed for the cattle; a corral was added around the older cabin. Fritz raised a variety of crops. The Treybiggs had moved, but the two families still lived close enough for the children to walk to school together and to continue their friendship.

Fritz turned the farm over to his son Charles who began building a two-story house for his growing family in 1910. He followed in his father’s footsteps and grew cotton, corn, maize, millet, peanuts, and sugar cane. There were fields of watermelon, cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins; the garden was filled with every kind of grape, berry, and vegetable. Charles made jewelry for people to wear from copper wire. He also tanned cowhides, made harness, repaired shoes, and raised corn to feed livestock, poultry, and sheep. Beehives provided honey.

18 Lewis W. and Helen Estelle Gammage Smith bought the property from the widow of Charles Mayer in 1961. The farm became a weekend retreat for the Smith family. The older buildings were maintained, and a large house was built. A caretaker lives on the property although the Smiths' son and his family spend more time on the farm and take an active part in the community. Horses and cattle continue to find a home there as well.

Charles Mayer and his wife are buried in the Shelby cemetery. Nicolaus Treybig and his wife and three of the children and their spouses are also buried there. One Mayer descendant married a Treybig descendant so the friendship continues through that family. One Treybig descendant married a Rudloff descendant; the Rudloffs were shipwrecked with the Treybigs. Many descendants of the various connected families still live in the Shelby area or have returned to the area. Approximately 75 persons enjoyed the family presentations and the visit to the Treybig-Mayer-Smith farm for a tour of the log cabins and the 1910 Mayer home.

## **JOHANN KARGER REUNION**

By Anne Stewart

Johann and Caroline Fiedler Karger came to Comfort in 1861, and on Sunday, October 22, 2005, forty plus of their descendants met at the Cypress Creek School Pavilion to celebrate family ties. The two youngest in attendance were Campbell (age 6) and Marie (age 4), daughters of Cran and Frances Seidensticker Dodds of Corsicana.

The genealogy work of Celie Karger Reeh and Margaret Kutzer Morries made for great reading and quick and easy family tree research for the Kargers in attendance. Their combined work filled over twelve feet of wall and table space.

Even the menu featured history. Charles and Pat Flach brought okra gumbo. Historic details here were the okra was raised from seed saved from the George Karger produce farm which operated on the original Karger farm from 1915-1963.

James Allenkamp's barbecued brisket was delicious as were the many varieties of potato salad. The dessert table sagged under the sweet treats: cakes, pie, cookies, brownies, cobbler, etc.

Anne Stewart welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Karger reunion. Betty Barth sang "Welcome to Comfort" written originally for Comfort's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jubilee in 2004. Betty's part was much enjoyed and appreciated by the crowd as the Karger family has a long tradition of musical participation in Saengerfests and the Liedertafel.

Margaret Morries and John Karger encouraged everyone to continue sharing photos and records and urged that we go to e-mail as a way to keep pace with the times. John Karger pulled up interesting Karger photos from the web, including Kargers from the Ukraine. Bill Karger returned thanks for the gathering.

After lunch, photos were taken of the descendants of six of the original nine brothers and sisters, including Karl, Fredericke, Paul, Emil, Fritz and Julius. A good time was had by all. Thanks be to God for our families, one and all.

**For information about origins of family names see a copy of *German Names* by Hans Behlow, translated and revised by Edda Gentry, copyright 2002, ISBN 0-924119-35-7.  
Liz Hicks, GTHS Genealogy Editor**



**Submitted by Alton L. Buehring of Odem**

### **BUEHRING REUNION**

At their June 18, 2005 family reunion held in the Holy Trinity Catholic church Hall in Falls City, Texas, descendants of Heinrich Fritz (1813-1879) and Christiana (1826-1882) Buehring and guests enjoyed visiting, family tree information, and pictures.

Alice Buehring, age 92, Karnes City, was recognized as the oldest lady present. Walter Otto, age 89, Karnes City, was the oldest man present. Normie and Carol Buehring, Tupelo, Mississippi, traveled the farthest. Stella and Walter Otto, Karnes City, were married the longest, 61 years. Lettie and Francis Pawelek, Alice, were married the shortest time, 9 years.

Members donated toward cost of repairing broken tombstones of family members buried at Black Jack Springs Cemetery. Reproductions of a painting the late Lula May Buehring Wolff did as a gift for her father, Louis Henry Buehring, are being sold. Proceeds go toward repairing the broken tombstones and Black Jack Springs Cemetery Association. The painting depicts her grandfather, Heinrich Fritz Buehring, riding past his church, Trinitatis (Trinity) Lutheran Church in Black Jack Springs, Fayette County, and the road that leads to Black Jack Springs Cemetery. Therefore, the painting has sentimental value to descendants of people who lived in Black Jack Springs, were members of Trinitatis Lutheran church, or were buried in Black Jack Springs Cemetery. Inquiries concerning reproductions may be directed to Alton Buehring, P.O. Box 1677, Odem, TX 78370-1677, 361-368-2564, or [buehrin@attglobal.net](mailto:buehrin@attglobal.net).

We were reminded that annual Decoration Day at Black Jack Springs Cemetery is always the Sunday after Easter.

Allyne Chapman, Moulton, was re-elected president and Alton Buehring, Odem, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The next reunion will be June 17, 2006 at the Moulton Community Center.

Family and guests came from Tupelo, Mississippi; Alice, Austin, Baytown, Beeville, Clifton, Deer Park, Floresville, George West, Hobson, Houston, Karnes City, Mathis, Mesquite, Moulton, New Braunfels, Odem, Orange Grove, Portland, Port Lavaca, Runge, San Antonio, and Tomball, Texas.

Special guests recognized were Paula and Doug White, Katy; James and Agnes Fajkus, Flatonia; and Shirley and Leo Phillipus, Houston.

Family history was discussed. Paula White and Shirley Phillipus have determined the first of our known family line, Heinrich Fritz Buehring and family, arrived in New Orleans November 15, 1870. Previously it had been believed that they had arrived in 1877.

Paula is great granddaughter of Doretta Buehring, and great great granddaughter of a Wilhelm Buehring, members of a Buehring line that has not been linked to our Heinrich Fritz line.

James Fajkus is a member of still another Buehring line that has not been linked to our Heinrich Fritz line or to Paula's line. Members of James' family and Heinrich Fritz's family attended the same functions such as baptisms and weddings in the 1800s and early 1900s. Therefore, we believe it is only a matter of time and research until we determine a family connection. Some of Paula's and James' families are buried near each other in the Cistern Cemetery. Therefore, we may eventually be able to connect all three lines.

Surname of each of the three lines was Buehring at the time of arrival in Texas. Various official records have Heinrich Fritz and descendants' surnames spelled Beuhring, Bohring, Behring, Bering, Buring, Buchring, and Bruehring.

Many names are linked to the Heinrich Fritz Buehring family. Several Buehrings and Hungers married in the 1800s and as recent as the 1960s or 1970s Buehring-Hunger family reunions were held in La Grange. Eventually, a comprehensive family history will be compiled. However, much research remains to be done. Therefore, at present, only the following notes will be provided in hopes that they will be comprehensible and may be enough to enable some readers to identify with the family and provide some information.

Heinrich Fritz and Christiana brought with them daughter, Friedricka, 18, who later married Louis Hunger, and son, Juergen Henry, 14. Several years later, another son, Fredrich "Fritz" his wife, Marie, and two children arrived. In 1890, the Louis Hunger and Fritz Buehring families moved to Karnes County. Heinrich Fritz had passed away in 1879. Juergen Henry, who had married a distant cousin, Sophie Buehring, had passed away in 1889. Christiana, Sophie, and Sophie's son, Emil, remained in Fayette County.

Sophie's parents were Henry and Johanna Klimme Buehring. She had three sisters. They are mentioned here since they, as well as Sophie, were distant cousins of Juergen Henry, Friedricka, and Fritz. Sister Emma married Henry Koether. Sisters Johanna and Dorothea married brothers Friedrich and Carl Frels.

Sophie was born in 1862 and died in 1965. She married Gustav Luerssen. They had a son Alfred. Alfred's three living daughters are Myrleen Luerssen McClanahan, Victoria; Arzelia Luerssen Batts, Victoria; and Marian Luerssen Norman, Houston.

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## **NORDHEIM, TEXAS AND ITS NAMESAKE IN GERMANY**

submitted by Patsy Hand

Nordheim's namesake in Germany, "Northeim," is located in the province of Hanover. In June 1952, Northeim observed the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding. In a letter to Mayor E.D. Janseen of Nordheim, Texas, Stadt-Director Galland of Northeim, Hanover, stated that the old town of 20,000 population, then located in West Germany (i.e. the former German Federal Republic), would celebrate its anniversary from June 15 to June 22, 1952, and recalled that in 1897 the late William Frobese, who had spent his boyhood days in Germany at Northeim, named the site for the Texas town in western De Witt County, Nordheim.

On behalf of the citizens of Nordheim, Mayor Janseen sent congratulations and best wishes to the people of Northeim. Pictures of Nordheim and a copy of its newspaper were sent to Stadt-Director Galland for display at the Festival.

This information was taken from an article in *Our Town, Nordheim, Texas 1897-1972*, compiled by Alfreda Huck in 1972.

### Fiftieth Annual Reunion To Celebrate History Of Eichler Family

The descendants of Herrmann and Albertine (Moll) Eichler will hold their fiftieth annual reunion at the La Bahia Törn Verein in Washington County this June. One of their grandsons, Martin Eichler, was instrumental in organizing the first Eichler Family Reunion at the same location in 1957. The Verein has historic importance to the family; two of its charter members were Gustav and Herrmann, the oldest sons of Herrmann and Albertine. At that first reunion, Otto Eichler was the lone surviving child of Herrmann and Albertine and was in attendance along with about 275 other family members. Though attendance is not as high today, the "first Sunday in June" is marked on many Eichler calendars.

In 2006 that date is June 4. Activities will begin at 10 a.m. for the annual event. A catered meal is scheduled for noon with desserts furnished by family attendees. A silent auction will again be in place during the day with special displays and activities celebrating the fiftieth gathering. Eugene Muehlbrad, son of the first reunion president, will chair the family meeting. Other officers are Charles Beettner, Donna Hackemack Bryant, and Carol Hackemack Harper. In addition to the usual recognition and honoring of transitional family events of the past year, some special tributes are planned.

The first Eichlers of this family arrived at La Bahia in Washington County on June 19, 1869, having first entered the United States at New York Harbor on May 27, 1869 aboard the Ship Eugenie captained by L.W.H. Voss. They had embarked the Eugenie at Hamburg, Germany, on April 15. Among the 370 passengers, the Eichlers were passengers 136-147 and listed their hometown as Staffelde (Brandenburg). They were as follows:

136. Feindt, Sigismund, 55/M<sup>1</sup>, Farmer.
137. Feindt, Wilhelmine, 33/W, Wife. (Wilhelmine was the second wife of Mr. Feindt and the daughter of Auguste (Kohler) Eichler shown below as passenger 140.)
138. Feindt, Herrmann, 20/M, Son. (Son from Mr. Feindt's first marriage.)
139. Feindt, Wilhelm, 4/M, Son.
140. Eichler, Auguste, 55/W, Unknown (occupation). (This is the matriarch of the group. Her husband Johann Gottlieb Eichler<sup>2</sup> had died some years earlier.)
141. Eichler, Ottilie, 18/W, Unknown (occupation). (Unmarried daughter of Auguste.)
142. Eichler, Herrmann, 36/M, Farmer. (Son of Auguste Eichler, passenger 140.)
143. Eichler, Albertine, 36/W, Wife. (Albertine was born in Carweese, near Staffelde)
144. Eichler, Gustav, 7/M, Child.
145. Eichler, Herrmann, 6/M, Child.
146. Eichler, Auguste, 5/W, Child.
147. Eichler, Emelie, 4/W, Child.

From New York, the family traveled by steamer to Galveston harbor according to family lore, and thence to Washington County. The name of the steamer is unknown at this

<sup>1</sup> Note that M denotes Männlich, German for Male, and W denotes Weiblich, German for Female.

<sup>2</sup> Johann Gottlieb Eichler, a vegetable farmer, came to Staffelde from Bischdorf, Sachsen (Saxony), where he was born 6 June 1809. Property in Staffelde came under his name in 1828. His father was Gottfried Eichler.



point in time. Auguste, sister of Herrmann, Wilhemine, and Otilie, stayed behind in Germany with her husband Carl Lindemann and their young daughter, Agnes, on the Eichler farm at the edge of the village of Staffelde.

Other Staffelde emigrants and traveling companions of the Eichlers were the Friedrich Pries, Wilhelm Johle, and Wilhelm Neie families. Staffelde is in the state of Brandenburg, just northwest of Berlin. It is about an hour's ride on a train of today from the heart of Berlin. The Eichler home is still there, though it has been modified through the years.

Auguste Eichler Lindemann died giving birth to a second child three years after her mother and siblings left Germany. Her first child, Agnes Lindemann, had one daughter, Elli. Elli had no children and thus there are no more Eichler descendents in Staffelde. Even so, the oral history of the "Eichlers who moved to Texas" has been passed down from generation to generation among the Lindemann descendents in Staffelde. The great-granddaughter of Carl Lindemann and his second wife owns and resides in the home today, along with her husband, the Bürgermeister (mayor) of Staffelde.

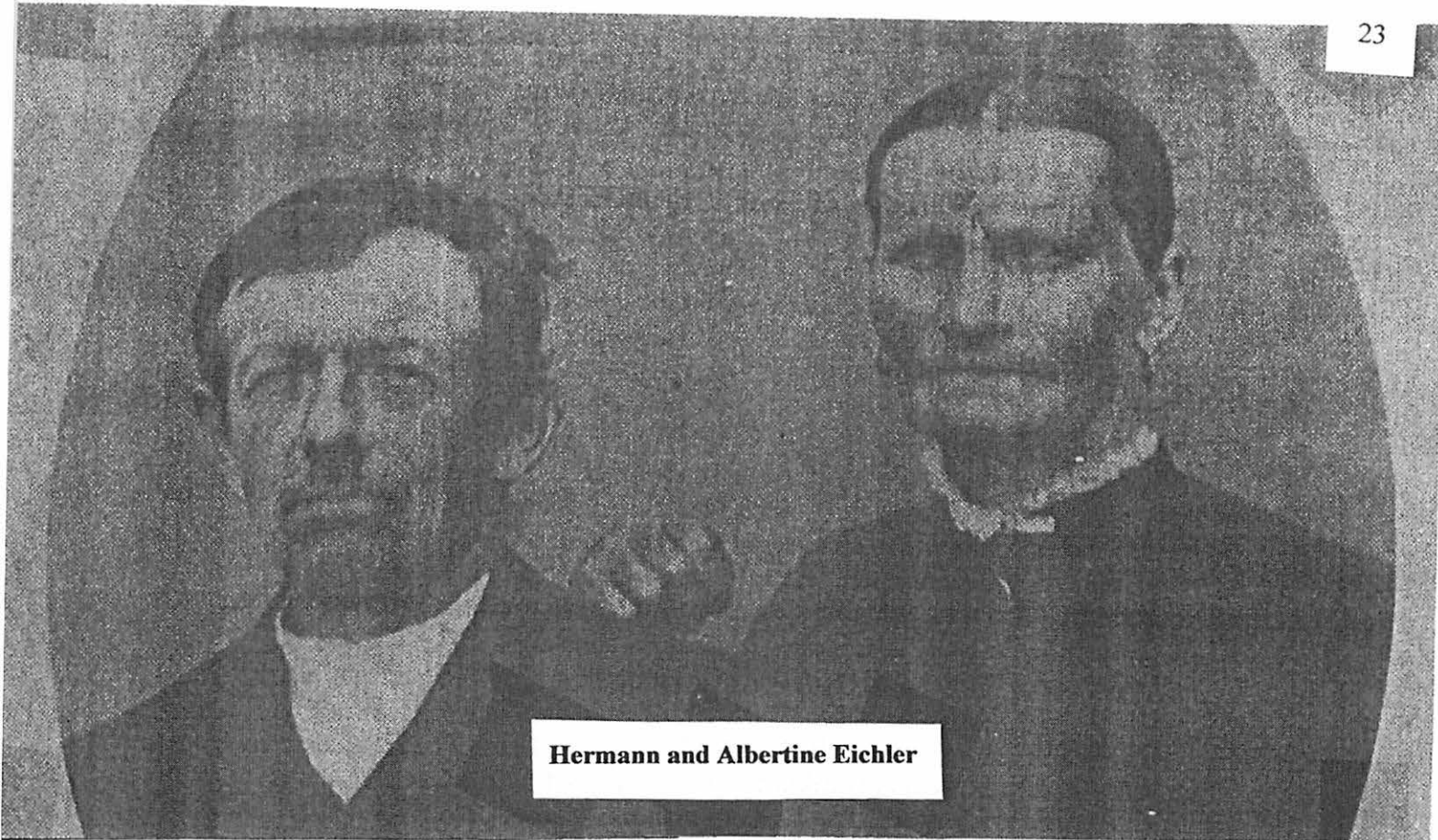
Meantime the Texas Eichlers settled into farming in Washington County. An 1880 Washington County Census shows them still in the La Bahia area. Four more children were born there to Herrmann and Albertine: Franz in September 1869 just after arriving in Texas, Agnes in 1873, and twins Otto and Anna in 1876. Meantime the two Eichler sisters, Wilhemine and Otilie, and their families had moved to Bell County where the 1880 Census shows them occupying neighboring farms. Otilie Eichler married Fritz Bathe after arriving in Texas. They later moved from Bell back to Washington and Fayette counties with their family. The Bathe family has been a part of Eichler reunions, but contact has been lost with the Feindt descendents as of this date.

Herrmann and Albertine built and operated a cotton gin on their La Bahia land. Their sons, Herrmann and Gustav, carried on the farming tradition. Herrmann Jr. later purchased his father's gin. Gustav acquired land in Fayette County near Round Top, where he also built and operated a cotton gin on the property. The families of Auguste (Mrs. Adolph Hackemack), Emelie (Mrs. Henry Kieke), and Agnes (Mrs. Paul Jacob) all engaged in farming in Fayette County. Franz and Otto became merchants in Carmine, Giddings, and Hempstead. Anna (Mrs. Emil Osterloh) and her family moved to Nordheim and later Orange Grove, where they were engaged in business and farming.

Today, most Eichler family members still live in Texas, though many fanned out from Texas and now live in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, Kansas, Ohio, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and California – and formerly Alaska. Several are stationed overseas with the Armed Forces. In Texas Eichlers live in or around 92 or more cities and towns.

Carol Hackemack Harper  
Eichler Family Historian



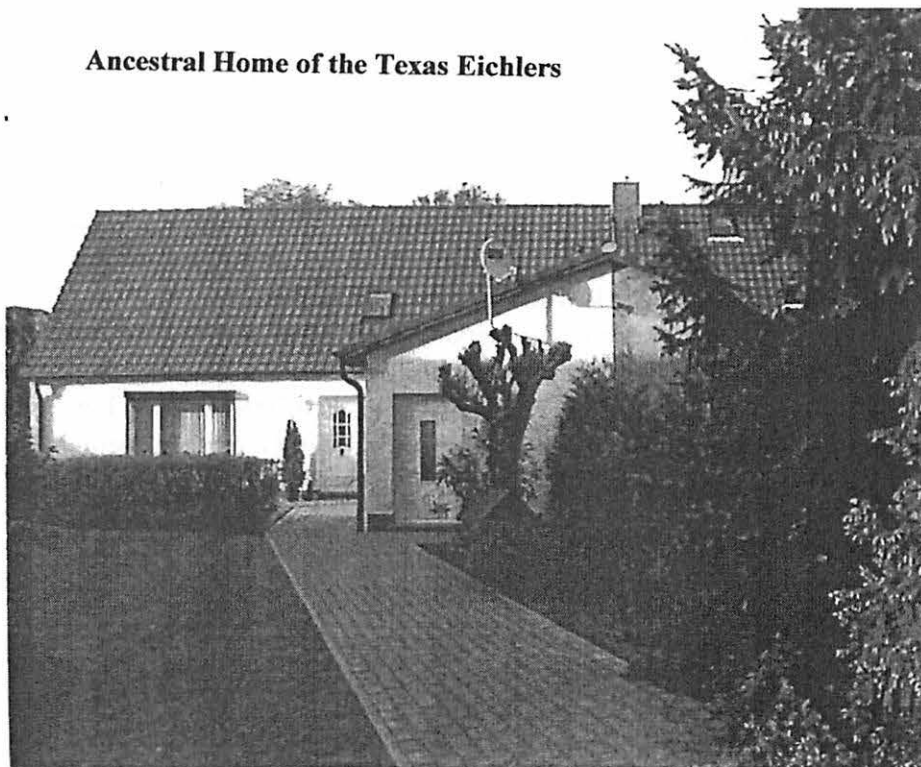


**Hermann and Albertine Eichler**



**Town of Staffelde, Germany**

**Ancestral Home of the Texas Eichlers**





## **LA VERNE HARRELL CLARK: DESCENDANT OF AUGUST F. BUNTE**

The biography of LaVerne Harrell Clark, Smithville author, is among those appearing in the new 60th edition of Marquis's WHO'S WHO of AMERICA (2006-7). Mrs. Clark, who was also born and raised in Smithville, has published 8 books of fiction and non-fiction, as well as short stories and articles that appear in numerous anthologies, collections and magazines.

The recognition marks the second time she has been included in the prestigious reference work, with the first occurring in the previous (59th.) edition. Likewise her biography is again being published in the companion volume, the 25th. edition of WHO'S WHO of AMERICAN WOMEN (2006-7), as has also been the case since its first inclusion there in the 1980s.

A distinctive feature of both of these new references is the biographical data they now contain concerning the ancestors of some of the people whose biographies are included. In Clark's case, the data includes information about both the forebears of her father, the late Boyce Harrell, who was born in Giddings, but who spent most of his life in Smithville, where he was an engineer for the MKT Railroad. Other info concerns her mother, the late Isabella "Belle" Bunte Harrell, a Smithville native and a homemaker, raised on a farm there off Lake Creek Rd.

On Boyce Harrell's side, Clark is a 7th. generation Texan, descended from James Francis Walker, Sr. and his wife, Catherine Miller Walker. They were members of Stephen F. Austin's "Original 300 Colonists," who came as the first Anglos to settle Texas. Their log home in Brenham was restored as a Bed and Breakfast and is still owned by the Barnhills who are owners of the Bluebell Ice Cream Company. The Walker's grandson, James Carrel Bell (Clark's great great grandfather), is the ancestor on the Harrell side, who is also mentioned. Bell is buried in Muldoon inside a grave bearing a Texas State historical marker for his participation in the Siege of Bejar--a battle which led to the Alamo and Texas's independence from Mexico.

On her mother's (Belle Bunte Harrell's) side, the ancestors mentioned are both Saxon immigrants from places now inside East Germany: the Buntzes of Smithville and the Garlippo of Industry. In connection with the Buntzes, Clark is descended from August F. Bunte, Sr., and his father, Andreas Christian August Bunte, an Elba River shipman who brought his family to Texas in 1869 from Cosvic-Anhalt in the Duchy of Saxony. They became the landowners in Smithville for whom, after the coming of the railroad in 1887, the city's Bunte Town addition was named.

Soon after their arrival, August's mother, Fredericka Ganzer Bunte, then 37, and his sister "Ricka," her namesake, who was 14, died from an illness starting at sea, leaving only August at 12 and his dad, who never remarried, to make their home in Industry. But when August was around 18, he eloped with Meta Garlipp, a 20 year-old native of Industry, who was the daughter of the late John Charles (Carl) Garlipp, Jr. of the Saxon Duchy of Weimar and his wife, Anna Lammes, of the lowland Duchy of Oldenburg.

After arriving respectively in 1849 and 1850, Meta's parents had apparently also met in Industry, where each belonged to Methodist congregations formed by Oldenburg colonists who settled there during Texas's early days of statehood. Thus, they, too, were residents of a town now recognized as the oldest permanent German settlement in Texas--a place which even possesses a post office dating from Republic times that all the settlers doubtless used.



After coming to Industry from Oldenburg, Meta's mother, Anna, married twice, first in 1852 to Clark's ancestor, Carl Garlipp, and as a widow in 1860, to the Brunswick-born, H. Christian Koch. Industry's first Methodist preachers officiated at both weddings. Likewise, her 3 Garlipp daughters and 8 Koch sons, attended both the earliest school, on whose board Koch served, as well as the 1847 Methodist church that the family's circuit-rider friend, Henry Bauer, built there. In fact, she and Garlipp purchased Bauer's land in 1858 when he moved to Nicaragua.

In 1914, the historic-family owned "Lindemann & Son" store of Industry bought 21 & 1/2 acres of land in a transaction which included the site where the home once stood in which Anna raised her Garlipp/Koch children. The deed to it was signed by her son, Emil Koch, who with his brother Herman, had, in 1900, borrowed the money from their half-sister Meta and her husband August Bunte, by then a naturalized citizen, to buy the land left all the children on the deaths of Anna and Christian Koch only a few months apart in 1899.

Later, Emil purchased Herman's share, then sold the Lindemanns the strip of it on which the original store was built, with its construction then replacing the site of his childhood home. Both he and Herman Koch were freighters who often hauled goods for the well-known business that today still serves as the hub for this town in Austin County. The sale ended the family's time in Industry, for not long afterwards, Emil Koch followed the procedure of most of his older siblings by moving his family, too, some 60 or so miles west to Smithville.

Meta and August Bunte had relocated in Smithville when their oldest child Henry Charles, born in 1878 in Industry, was still a baby. The successful farming-land-owning career they'd begun influenced her Koch brothers to go either into farming in the area or else get jobs extending the railroad up from Houston to reach this town that by 1887 became a railhead.

In 1995, during Smithville's centennial year, Clark's book, *THE BUNTE FAMILY HISTORY of SMITHVILLE, TX., 1880-1995*, was issued and distributed as a project of the Library of Texas Woman's University, Denton (her alma mater), until all the copies were sold to benefit the library. But now that Clark, after a long residence in Arizona, again lives in her old home on the Main Street of her birthplace, she continues probing into her long-time Texas roots.

Meanwhile some of her writings, including her novel, *KEEPERS OF THE EARTH*, dedicated to her mother, and stories in her collection, *THE DEADLY SWARM & OTHER STORIES*--both of them award-winners--have fiction and photos with settings on the farm near Shipp's Lake that belonged to her maternal grandfather, Henry Charles Bunte. In 1992, when Belle Bunte Harrell died, Clark inherited the place she, as a child, used to visit with her daily.

The current issue of *THE LANGDON REVIEW*, literary magazine of Tarleton State, has a segment of a novel Clark is now writing that has a similar setting. It also touches upon places once making up the larger estate of her great-grandfather, August F. Bunte, Sr. His and Meta's land once extended to the town-lots he sold adjacent to the end of Smithville's Bunte St., which itself begins at the railroad tracks at the town's southeastern city limits.

The biography also mentions that Clark is the wife of L.D. Clark, another author--a native of Gainesville. Like her, he is a TX. Institute of Letters member and one who also makes use of local and family history in some of his 12 books of fiction and non-fiction, mostly notably in his Civil War novel *A BRIGHT TRAGIC THING*. It involves a family incident related to the "Great Gainesville Hanging" of 1862. Now that he has retired as a Professor Emeritus of English from his career at the University of Arizona in Tucson and lives in Smithville with his wife at her parents' former home, he is a full-time writer, too. His 13th. book, a novel entitled *THE PLAINS BEYOND*, is scheduled to appear this year (2006) from a small press in California.



# Remembering the legacy



TOBY JORRIN/SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

Carol Lahser, taking a break from sitting in the booth of the American Association of University Women, laughs with a friend at the San Antonio Founders Day celebration. Lahser said she was wearing the style of dress from 1909, when the association was formed.

## Founders Day offers living history lessons of San Antonio.

By TRACY IDELL HAMILTON  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Father Antonio Margil de Jesus may have died in 1726, but his spirit was channeled Saturday by professional tour guide Alfred C. Schwab at the second-annual Founders Day celebration at San Pedro Springs Park.

Schwab, dressed in a simple gray robe and carrying a wooden staff, spoke in the first person, as Margil de Jesus, about his missionary work in Texas in the late 1600s.

"I give credit to my king," he said as a small crowd gathered around him under a live oak in the park.

"When he said Spain could no longer support the missions and they were closed, the land trusts were given to the Indians. I know of no other place where that happened."

Schwab was one of dozens dressed in period clothing who milled about the park, offering living history lessons to those who came to help celebrate the city's rich and diverse beginnings.

Those beginnings include contributions from more than 20 cultural groups that have shaped the city's heritage.

The weather could not have

been more accommodating for the several hundred people who walked through the displays. A soft breeze rippled across the park's reflecting pool, blowing away the heat of the sun.

Music from the bandstand wafted across the park, as Spanish dancers twirled on-stage.

Along with missionaries, indigenous natives, Mexicans, Germans and Canary Islanders, the celebration included displays from Chinese, Scottish, Belgian and Irish groups, genealogical societies, historical foundations, and academic groups.

As Schwab spoke under one tree, archeologist and artist George Wilson stood under another, working on a large-scale illustration of San Antonio de Bejar, circa 1836, when only a few roads led out from San Fernando Cathedral.

Wilson, author of "The Alamo: An Illustrated History," helpfully pointed out the location of current landmarks to onlookers, and described how he came to paint many versions of the same aerial view of the city, so people could see the development and evolution of the Alamo over the last 250 years.

"I wanted people to be able to visualize," he said, "how the Alamo and, by extension, the city of San Antonio came to be."

[thamilton@express-news.net](mailto:thamilton@express-news.net)

## Inquiry About A. Rothermel

E-mail address [dotnnoakr29@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dotnnoakr29@sbcglobal.net) recently was searching for the burial place of Anton Rothermel. GTHS member Dorothy Rothermel supplied this response:

**A. Rothermel, male. Place of birth: Germany**

**Date of death 8-4-1888 at age 74.**

**Place of death: San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas at Santa Rosa Hospital**

**Cause of death: malarial fever, certified by A. Cerff.**

**Disposition: burial**

**Place of burial: Lutheran (probably means a Lutheran Cemetery)**

submitted by Liz Hicks, GTHS Genealogy Editor



## ***SOCIETY OF SURVIVORS***

Contributed by Patsy Dearman Hand

Alfreda Huck of Nordheim, Texas in DeWitt County devoted most of her adult life to collecting newspaper clippings, photographs, historical and genealogical information about DeWitt County and surrounding area. "Fay", as she was known by her friends, was an ardent historian and genealogist. She authored several books on the history of Nordheim

Fay was called from this earth in 2002 and after a great deal of thought her children donated her collection to the Regional History Archives located on the second floor of the Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria Library.

During the 1970s *The Cuero Record* published a series, *Cuero: Queen of the Guadalupe and Cuero's Heritage; Its History*. The following article is one of many from her collection.

In the city auditorium in the town of Cuero, Texas, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1930, there was organized a Society of the survivors and their descendants of the ill fated town of Indianola, formally the commercial and social center and the largest town on the Southern coast of Texas, one termed, "The Queen City of the West".

This society was named "The Former Citizens of Indianola and their Descendants."

Mr. M.M. McFarland, of Austin was elected president; Mrs. Johanna Runge, Austin, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president; Mr. Thomas M. Colston, Kingsville, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president; Capt. Joe L. Sheppard, Cuero, secretary; Mr. Fred T. Mugge, Cuero, assistant secretary.

The executive committee consists of Mr. Walter Reiffert, Cuero; Mr. Alex J. Courteret, Itasca; and Mr. Tom Colston, Kingsville.

About one hundred were present, many descendants of those who had been prominent in the affairs of the bygone city and though scattered over a large area, were left to gather. They joined together to promulgate the spirit of good fellowship and kindness that had characterized the actions of their forebearers in the dear old city now wiped from off the face of the earth.

It was the unanimous decision of the society that a re-union be held annually and the third Sunday in May be set aside for the gathering. Each member was urged to secure other members and also to procure all available historical data for its permanent records.

The President's father, Dr. McFarland was health officer at Indianola, also had charge of the quarantine station at Pass Caralo.

Captain J.L. Sheppard's father was an outstanding citizen, but 'twas left for first vice-president to adopt for life the most conspicuous and widely known name in the little city, Runge.

Henry Runge having organized [in a tent], the first bank on the island in 1845 which has survived the ravages of storms, hurricanes and tidal waves and now has the distinction of being the oldest [unincorporated] bank in the state of Texas.

So far as can be ascertained, Mrs. Ernstine Mayne is the oldest inhabitant of Indianola, living in Cuero, to which town most of the Indianolans flocked after the disastrous storms of 1875 and 1886 and she recalls many events of interest that occurred from 1846 up to and after the storms.

The recent excessive cold snap calls to mind a description of a cold norther that swept down upon the Texas Coast in 1875, written by Mr. F.C.H. Holzheuser and published in the *Gonzales Inquirer* May 1924.

He states on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1857 I was fourteen years old. I went on a small boat from Indianola across the bay to San Point in company with six people. My mother and brother, Phil, being two of them, to pick dewberries. There were quite a number over there that day and while some were picking dewberries, others were catching fish and preparing for a fish fry.



About 4 o'clock in the afternoon we observed a black cloud on the northwest horizon and while ready to start back two miles across the narrow portion of the bay, we decided there might be considerable wind in this cloud and that we had better wait with our small craft and see what came of it.

In half an hour the northwester struck us and in another hour it was freezing. The wind had such velocity that none of the boats dared return. We all stayed at San Point throughout the night. Before nighfall the water of the bay had frozen out a distance of 20 feet from shore.

We suffered intensely throughout the night as we were all dressed in summer attire. The next morning broke clear and calm and we returned to Indianola.

I merely mention this to show how suddenly the weather changes in South Texas and to suggest it might be wise to bring along your top coat to the next reunion.



### **KRAUSE FAMILY & DESCENDANTS.**

The memories recorded in the enclosed article are those of my cousin, Lonnie Reed, and concern our grandmother Isabella Krause Naumann's death in 1944.

→  
→ SEE NEXT PAGE →

Isabella's father, Gottfried Krause, was born in Ermetheis, Germany, May 7, 1846, and immigrated to America with his mother, Anna Gertrude Berle Krause, sister Maria Elizabeth, and brother Justus. They sailed on the "Iris" but when and where are still unknown. Gottfried was listed on the 1870 census in Smithson Valley, Comal County, Texas. He married Mary (Maria) Horn Birr, who had been born March 8, 1845, in Alsace, Germany, in 1872. Isabella was born October 14, 1877, in Schroeder (Germantown), Texas.

Isabella married August Naumann on November 29, 1894. The Naumanns had arrived from Reichenberg, Germany, on the "Silesia" in 1870 and were in Colorado County, Texas, for the 1880 census.

Lonnie gave me permission to submit his paper to you for possible publication. It has not been previously published. He can be reached at 3102 96th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79423

8067745-6058

I have included this brief family history in the hope that some of the many Texas Krauses might make a connection with Gottfried and Isabella and might help solve some of our questions:

When the Krauses arrived, where they arrived, what happened to Maria Elizabeth, and whether Justus had a family.

Doris W. Phillips  
5354 C. R. 404  
Spicewood, TX 78669

830/693-2685



*"The Ghost Story"*  
of August and Isabella Naumann's Home Place  
Spicewood, Texas

as recorded by Lonnie Dalton Reed, age 64  
August 2003

This story was told to my siblings and me more than once by our mother, Ruby (Naumann), one of the thirteen children born to August and Isabella Naumann.

Grandmother Isa died on December 18, 1944. Her casket had been placed in the parlor of the home place, across the hallway from the living room. Along with the basic parlor furniture was a piano standing against the inside wall. Above the piano and attached by a wire hanger on a large nail driven into the solid wood wall, was Grandmother's and Granddad's wedding portrait.

Mother and several of her siblings were visiting while sitting on the sofa in the parlor. Conversation turned to their parents' wedding picture, which had been hanging there for many years; and, as they were looking at the picture, it suddenly fell off the wall and down behind the piano. Upon retrieving it, they noticed that the wire hanger had neither broken nor come loose, and the nail which had been holding it was still solid in the wall.



This was the first of two mysterious happenings prior to and following Grandmother Naumann's funeral.

After the services the family gathered at her house, as is customary after a funeral. When late afternoon came, most of the family had left for their respective homes, but some remained into the early evening. The ones that were still there were gathered in the living room, located to the left upon entering the front door. A fire was going in the fireplace since it was a cold evening, and the living room door was shut to keep the heat in. The rest of the house was shut up as well. Everyone still there was in the living room, with the exception of August, Jr. He was sick (with the flu, I think) in bed in a back room.

These recollections are as vivid to me today as when they occurred years ago ...

My mother, my sister Jo Ann (age one and a half), and I were sitting on a sofa situated against the inside wall on the right as you entered the room. Jo Ann and I were the only children still there. The others in the room were sitting in chairs around the wall and near the fireplace. Approximately ten persons were there including us. The visiting was done, as I recall, in a very quiet, reverent manner that you would expect after just burying your mother/mother-in-law/grandmother. The silence was broken for a bit due to Jo Ann's crying. One of the brothers asked Mother if she could do something to get her to stop crying. Finally Jo Ann went to sleep and it was quiet again. Being a young boy of only five years and eight months of age, it was hard for me to just sit there and be still, with nothing to do. But I managed.

A few minutes later everyone got very quiet when they heard sounds from the long hallway. Someone asked, "Who/what was that?" A quick look around the room accounted for all who were



still there, except for August, Jr. Mother held up her finger in front of her lips as a signal for me not to say anything.

Mother said that she and the others who had heard the sound identified it as the exact sound that Grandmother would make when she walked down the hallway. She wore short heel shoes that would make a distinctive sound as she walked upon the wooden floors. They all knew her steps—even the stride of her step. The steps (sounds) got louder as they approached the front door—moving from the back of the house toward the front. Then the dogs which always slept under the front porch started barking.

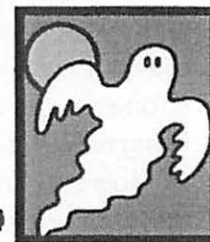


By this time, three of the men, Buddy, Halmude, and Loranza had gotten up to investigate. One went back to the room where August was to see if he had been up, but found him still in bed and asleep. When they stepped into the hall, they noticed that the front door was open a ways (it had been closed due to the outside temperature), and the dogs were still barking. So the three of them stepped outside to see what the dogs were barking at.

Shortly, Loranza and Halmude came in and were "as white as a sheet." Buddy had left for home without coming back in to say goodbye.

They were asked what they saw, and they replied that they had seen "nothing." This was the position they took for a long, long time. The others there didn't believe they were "telling all."

Sometime in the future, Aunt Lorena, after much questioning of her husband Loranza, got him to tell what they had "actually" seen. This was then related to Annabelle, Uncle Halmude's wife; and then, gradually, others in the family got the "rest of the story" . . . When they stepped out onto the porch, the dogs were running across the yard barking, as if they were chasing something. They stopped running and looked up, the way dogs do when treeing an animal. The brothers looked up and saw two objects in white ascending up into the sky. One appeared to be the image of Grandmother.



The End

Story told by Lonnie Dalton Reed  
Format & editing by Beverly Reed



The Naumann home place, Spicewood, Texas 1946



**GENEALOGY INQUIRIES**  
**LIZ HICKS, GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR**

**If you have information that will assist with any of the following queries, please respond to the submitter at the address given.**

**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 Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. We reserve the right to edit queries. Queries are printed as space permits at no charge.**

**MEISSNER-GRIMM**

Charlotte Grimm, 510 East Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513, e-mail: [Grimmfc@aol.com](mailto:Grimmfc@aol.com)  
 Would like to hear from anyone researching GRIMM in Texas, and location of burial of some GRIMM children possibly in Washington Co. Prior to 1910. Charlotte is also researching MEISSNERS of Austin and Bell County Texas.

**REISSIG-SIMON**

Emmy Lou Bradley, email: [emmylou@ev1.net](mailto:emmylou@ev1.net)  
 Is trying to find the parents of her great grandparents, Robert & Louise Simon REISSIG who emigrated to US circa 1870. They came separately and were married later. Family history says Robert Reissig's father was a Baron VON HUSSEN REISSIG who was in the military in Prussia.

Reply: Check for a death certificate or death record for Robert & Louise. If completed correctly, will give name of parents and parents place of birth. Find Robert and Louise on census(es) and work back from there. If they lived to be on any of these censuses, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, check for year of immigration. If you know the first county they lived in after arrival, check for declaration of intent and naturalization papers. You could also check IGI (International Genealogical Index) at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) to see if you can find christening/birth records in Germany. Also, find a library that has the "Deutsche Geschlechterbuecher". This is a collection of over 200 volumes containing family genealogies for prominent German families and nobility. Clayton Library has an Index on CD as well as the books.

**KLOER-SCHMIDT**

Baldwin Kloer, 6306 Red Oak Drive, Avon, IN 46123-9459, e-mail: [baldwin@iquest.net](mailto:baldwin@iquest.net)  
 Would like to hear from anyone researching KLOER in Altenberg, Sachsen (Kingdom of Saxony) . His Kloer ancestor married an Anna SCHMIDT in Bexar County circa 1870 when he was in the army. If anyone has done genealogy research in the Altenberg area of Germany, please contact Mr. Kloer with any pointers you might have.

**VILLMANN/VILLMAN-GRIGERT**

James Villman, e-mail: [james@independentplastic.com](mailto:james@independentplastic.com)  
 Would like to know exactly when and where Heinrich VILLMANN (Henry Villman)

**GENEALOGY INQUIRIES**  
**LIZ HICKS, GTHS GENEALOGY EDITOR**

arrived in the U.S. He came from Speyer, Germany in early mid-1880's. Heinrich married 1886 Lena GRIGERT in Burleson County, TX. A son, August VILLMAN was born there in 1889.

**Reply:** The year of immigration question was asked on the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 censuses. Check these to see if you can determine Heinrich/Henry's year of immigration and if he says "Na" (Naturalized) or "Pa" (papers/declaration of intent filed). If either, write the District Clerk, Burleson County, PO Box 57, Caldwell, TX 77836-1798 and request his Declaration of Intent and Naturalization. Using the date given on the census, check for passenger list. I would start with New Orleans and/or Hamburg Passenger Lists. Try these for help:  
 Cyndi's List-immigration and naturalization ([www.cyndislist.com/immigrat.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/immigrat.htm)):  
 Joe Beine's What Passenger Lists Are Online? ([home.att.net/~wee-monster/onlinelists.html](http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/onlinelists.html))  
 Hamburg Emigrations Lists (Index is free, but must pay for details)  
[www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start/htm](http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start/htm)  
 Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, website: [istg.rootsweb.com](http://istg.rootsweb.com)

I would try to see when Heinrich first arrived in Burleson Co. by using Texas Co. Tax Rolls for Burleson available from the Texas State Library on interlibrary loan to your local library. Check all children's obits for possible info. on Heinrich.

**\*\*\*\*\* Helpful and Interesting sites for Genealogy \*\*\*\*\***

[glo.state.tx.us/archives/newsletter.html](http://glo.state.tx.us/archives/newsletter.html) (General Land Office of Texas Newsletter)

[www.genealogymagazine.com/eatedece.html](http://www.genealogymagazine.com/eatedece.html) ("Lost Texas Death Certificates"-pre 1903 Official Texas Death Records; Added Death Records and Texas Affidavit Deaths)

<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com> Rootsweb offers free access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), which includes deaths, records circa 1962 through Dec., 2005.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.us> Site for the National Archives of Great Britain. Site has access to 1851-1901 Censuses, Wills, and other online sources.

[GERMAN-TEXAN-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:GERMAN-TEXAN-L@rootsweb.com) (A mailing list for those interested in German Immigrants to Texas). You may send questions, queries, German surnames being researched, etc. to this list. To subscribe just send an email to the German-Texan address with only the word subscribe in the body of the message.

<http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/clayton> (Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004-6896)

***Be sure to come by the Clayton Library Friends table at the Texas German Convention, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Yoakum, to say hello and discuss your German ancestors.***

### Do you have someone buried in the Old New Braunfels Cemetery?

The Friends of the Old New Braunfels Cemetery are trying to locate descendants of these Families to arrange for having markers repaired. The City of New Braunfels is not responsible for repair, but they have cleaned up the cemetery and are trimming out all the trees that are damaging or at risk of damaging markers. We will be notifying various German Texan organizations and internet mailing lists about the Friends of the ONBC. A booth will be set up at the joint meeting (GTHS & TGS) in Yoakum.

Photographs of all the damaged markers (see following list) with a request to contact us is posted on the internet. The link is thru the Comal County site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txcomal/nbcem.html> or go to:

[www.pictretrail.com/gallery/view?p=999&gid=9153686&uid=4314123&members=1](http://www.pictretrail.com/gallery/view?p=999&gid=9153686&uid=4314123&members=1) additional albums about the cemetery are at <http://www.picturetrail.com/germantexan>.

Broken/damaged markers:

BOENIG, ENGEL, FROBOESE, GOLLETZ, HAAS, HASENBECK, HOFER, KLAUS, LENZ, LEWANDOWSKY, MAGNUS, MARCKHARDT, MEHE, NEHLS, ORTH, PFANNSTELL, REININGER,DOEPPENSCHMIDT, SCHAEFER, SCHMITZ, SCHMUCK, SCHNEIDER, SCHULTZE, SCHWAB, WEIL, WEYEL, ZUSCHLAG



For more information, please contact: Sarah Reveley, 436 Corona, San Antonio, TX 78209, e-mail: [sarahreveley@grandecom.net](mailto:sarahreveley@grandecom.net), phone: (210) 320-5367.

**WHY IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT  
FOR OUR GERMAN ANCESTORS TO LEARN ENGLISH**  
submitted by Jean Heide

*The farm was used to produce produce.*

*I did not object to the object.*

*The bandage was wound around the wound.*

*The city dump was so full it had to refuse refuse.*

*He thought it was time to present the present.*

*When guns fired, the dove dove into the bushes.*

**AND**

*Sweetmeats are candies, but sweetbreads (which are not sweet) are meat.*

*Boxing rings are square.*

*Why doesn't Buick rhyme with quick?*

*Why is a wise man the opposite of a wise guy?*



## GERMAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES FROM AUSTRIA OR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Bob Paulson from *The Heimatbrief*, Vol. XVI, No. 4, December 2005

German family names are in bold face. The list following names are villages in the Bohemian region of the former Austria (until 1919) or Czechoslovakia (1919-1938) where those families originated.

<b>Vollmau:</b> Kachelmeier	<b>Jungrindl:</b> Groebner Schweinfurter Sperl	<b>Gross, Gorschin:</b> Haas Hauser Sporl	<b>Pössigkau, Zemschen:</b> Warta Wartha Goblirsch Dietz Wurscher	<b>Weschorsch:</b> Beranek Kral Woratschka
<b>Metzling, Wonischen:</b> Dittrich Dietrich Neid	<b>Grafenreid, Anger:</b> Dietl Schroedl	<b>Wasserau:</b> Rubey Tauer Dauer	<b>Deheten, Pernartitz Walk:</b> Gag Sellner	<b>Gibian:</b> Seifert Maresch Reminger
<b>Ronsperg, Berg, Trohatin</b> Helget,Zwach Kiefner Rothmeier Domeier Tauer Soukup Sellner Fischer Gag Haas Losleben Prokosh Windschitl	<b>Haselberg:</b> Mack Liebl	<b>Muttersdorf:</b> Grossmann Schnobrich Saffert Groebner Bauer Grau Baier	<b>Neuhäusl, Hofmeister:</b> Eckstein Keim	<b>Neumark:</b> Weininger Haas
<b>Natschetin:</b> Helget Heini Rubey	<b>Waier:</b> Kretsch Groebner Wilfahrt	<b>Kastner</b> Wiltscheck Hogan Hauser	<b>Mariafels:</b> Grosam Tragner	<b>Hirshau:</b> Pritzl Baumann Seidl Forst
<b>Schilligkau:</b> Tauer Helget Eckstein Hammerschmidt Guetter	<b>Unterhütten:</b> Bartl Lindmeyer Wild Marz	<b>Hostau</b> <b>Holubschen:</b> Ries	<b>Kschentz:</b> Biebl	<b>Kaltenbrunn:</b> Meidl Seidl Forst
<b>Rindl:</b> Portner Hoffmann Kaestner Schroepfer Helget Ubl	<b>Bernstein:</b> Flor Vogel	<b>Amplatz:</b> Wiltscheck Moldan	<b>Obersekeschan:</b> Haala	<b>Deschenitz:</b> Krizmarzick
	<b>Schwarzach:</b> Lindmeyer Wilfahrt	<b>Heiligenkreuz:</b> Gag Liebl	<b>Pscheheischen:</b> Mathiowitz Seifert Reminger	<b>Marianbad:</b> Eizen
	<b>Neubä:</b> Rewitzer Liebl Gag Marz Zeug	<b>Weissensulz:</b> Dietz Stoderl Polta	<b>Honositz:</b> Stadherr Keckstein	
	<b>Fuchsberg:</b> Dietz		<b>Kosteizen:</b> Kloeckl	

Victoria Regional History Center

VC/UHV Library

# Port of Indianola Database

Begun in 1994 as a project of the Victoria County Historical Commission, the Port of Indianola Database seeks to record the individuals and families that reached Texas through the ill-fated port on the Texas coast.

On Dec. 14, 1844, Price Carl Solms Braunfels purchased land near Indian Point from Sam Addison White to be used as the landing place for German immigrants. In 1845, William M. Cook acquired half-interest in the land owned by White at Indian Point. The community was known as Karlshaven by the German immigrants and as Indian Point by others.

In 1849 Marian White -- the wife of newspaper publisher John Henry Brown -- successfully lobbied to change the name from Indian Point to Indianola. An 1851 map shows both names. Beginning in 1852 the community moved to Powderhorn Lake to be closer to the wharf built in deeper water by Charles Morgan. This site was incorporated as Indianola on Feb. 7, 1853 and the previous site became known as "Old Town."

Until the devastating hurricane in 1875, Indianola was the second busiest port in Texas. Although rebuilt, Indianola was again devastated by the hurricane of 1886. By 1887, the town was abandoned.

With no official ships' passenger lists, the exact number of immigrants (although estimated in the thousands) who passed through the port of Indianola is not known. The Port of Indianola Database is an effort to record Indianola immigration via family history, printed history and other sources.

The Victoria Regional History Center was selected by the Victoria County Historical Commission as a repository of the Port of Indianola Database along with the printed resources material generated by the project.

Information and family records sent in by contributors to the database is housed in the Victoria Regional History Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Victoria College-UH-V Library and is available to researchers. You do not have to be a Victoria College or University of Houston student to conduct research at the Victoria Regional History Center.

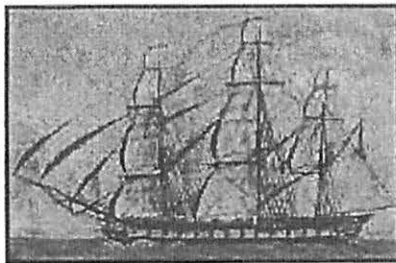
You can search the database for your family names online or submit new information on persons who immigrated through this port on this web site:

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

You can also complete the entry form on the reverse side and mail it to Patsy Hand, 103 Buckingham, Victoria, TX 77904 or send to [gband@viptx.net](mailto:gband@viptx.net). Please do not be discouraged if you cannot complete every space. We will record whatever you send.



Submitted by Patsy Hand



## INDIANOLA IMMIGRANT DATABASE

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Most historical accounts relate that there were thousands of people who immigrated through this port but there were NEVER any official passenger lists for the Port of Indianola.

Since 1820 the immigration laws stated that the ship's manifest (passenger lists) were turned over to the port officials at the port where the ship FIRST made port. For the immigrants coming to Indianola, this was usually New Orleans or Galveston. It could even have been a port on the East coast, such as New York. The passengers were then placed on smaller vessels to complete the final stage of their long journey. The smaller vessels were necessary since the bay leading in to Indianola was too shallow for the larger sailing vessels.

We can only build this database through the personal knowledge of descendants. For some there might be stories related to you from some of your older relatives, personal diaries, obituaries, old letters or historical accounts that would have this information.

We thank you for your interest in our project. If you ever locate any data that states that your ancestor did arrive in Texas through this historic port, we hope you will share it with us.

Here are three books dealing with Indianola if you might be interested in learning more about the history of this ill-fated port and prosperous city.

- 1. Indianola Scrapbook, reprinted with an index, compiled by Leonard Joe McCown, published by the Calhoun County Historical Commission. The Jenkins Publishing Company, San Felipe Press, Austin, TX, 1974 [originally compiled and published by The Victoria Advocate, Victoria, TX. 1936.
- 2. Indianola, the Mother of Western Texas, by Brownson Malsch, published by Shoal Publishers, PO Box 9727, Austin, TX. 1977 ISBN 0-88319-033-8 and
- 3. New Braunfels: The First Founders by Everett Anthony Fey, published By Eakin Press, PO Drawer 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159 1994 ISBN 0-89015-987-4 This publication represents research on the lives of the 240 First Founders and their families who came in the very first wave of immigration who founded New Braunfels, Texas.

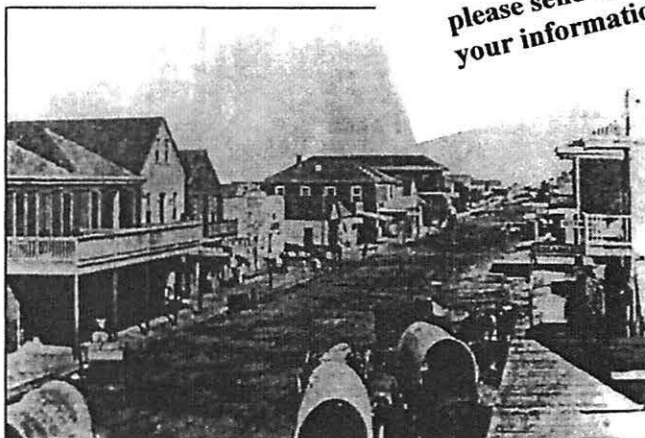
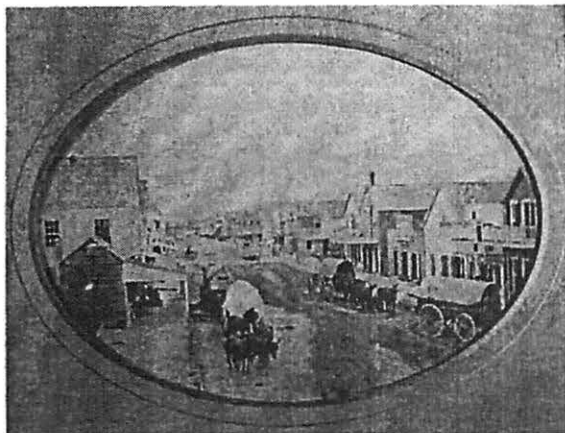
**NEW** The Victoria Regional History Center at the Victoria College/University of Houston library has updated the Indianola Database. The database is searchable and is a wonderful research tool. To access this information go to [Indianola Database](#). You may browse the database and also add a new immigrant. To return to this page, use the "back button" on your computer.



# Port of Indianola Project

## Victoria County Historical Commission

*please send us  
your information*



Name of Immigrant:		
Birth Date:	Place of Birth:	
Death Date:	Place of Death:	
Spouse's name (Maiden Name):		
Birth Date:	Place of Birth:	
Death Date:	Place of Death:	
Children (please put * by name of children who immigrated with parents)		
Date of Arrival at the Port of Indianola	Destination in U.S.:	
Name of Ship:		
Other Information:		
Source(s) of Information		
Submitted by:		
Address	State	Zip
<b>Return form to: Patsy Hand, 103 Buckingham, Victoria, TX 77904</b>		
<b>E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:gband@viptx.net">gband@viptx.net</a> • Web Site: <a href="http://vrhc.uhv.edu/manuscripts/indianola/home.cfm">http://vrhc.uhv.edu/manuscripts/indianola/home.cfm</a></b>		



**GERMAN IMMIGRANTS AT INDIANOLA**  
Submitted by Patsy Hand from the Indianola Database Project

LEGISLATIVE RECORDS, MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS SERIES ARCHIVES DIVISION,  
TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

*Dr. Felix B. WEBB had a medical practice in Victoria, Tex in the 1840's. In 1846 he was approached by a number of German emigrants who had arrived at Indianola, where illness and disease were spreading through their colony. Dr. WEBB treated a great number of the colonists, but it appears that he was not paid for his services, despite the apparent promise of the colony's leadership. This petition from Dr. WEBB to the Legislature in 1870, seeking payment for medical services rendered to the Germans, is unique in that it contains a list of names those who were treated by the physician. It is possible that some of these names, especially in those cases in which the patient did not survive, do not appear in any other records, therefore making this record potentially invaluable to the genealogist. (Cynthia J. BEEMAN, Research Assistant)*

To the Hon. the Senate and House of Representatives members of the Legislature State of Texas:

Your petitioner Dr. F. B. WEBB respectfully represents that in the year A.D. 1846 he was a resident of the town of Victoria in this State and a practicing physician. At that time large numbers of German Immigrants under the charge of the Colonization Company becoming fatally sick at Indianola many of them were sent to Victoria. My medical attendance was then necessary and requested and in as much as I treated them more kindly perhaps than others, Mr. MILLER. resident Agent of said Immigration Company at Indianola visited me at Victoria and in consequence I was by him employed to furnish medicine and give my medical advice and attendance to all the sick Immigrants, to communicate with whom I was also obliged to engage an interpreter, they had to make proper proof that they belonged to said company. I was to receive a very moderate pay for my services whenever my term of employment should expire, the same not being definitely agreed upon.... Being in need of money and making a demand for same I did not receive any; I made out my accounts and presented them for approval and payment to the agent MILLER who approved the account but did not pay me anything and advised me to call on the chief Agent at New Braunfels, the Baron von MEUSEBACH to get my money. But upon my rival at New Braunfels said Agent MEUSEBACK refused all payments or payments stating that there was a new agent who was absent. I went shortly afterwards to see him again but was told he had gone to the Colonization Farm 16 miles east of LaGrange. I followed, but upon nearing the said farm I was told that the Germans had been attacked by marauders and all fled in consequence. The agent soon after left the country, and your petitioner did not and has not to this day received a cent for all his labor and expenses and by this time has given up all hope that he ever will from that source. Although the company was scarce of funds I had reason then to believe that they would at some future day settle their debts until I learned that the Legislature had interfered with their claims against the immigrants by restoring the moiety of land the Company were to receive from each family of emigrants or every single person they would bring into this country etc. which rendered the company powerless and dissolved the same. Now, your petitioner, seventy four years of age, weak in body and his eyesight much impaired and dim, unable to make a living by labor, my claim being a just one and the Legislature having power at any time to take from the said company every vestige of their Land Claims, that they or FISHER & MILLER the original contractors with this Government may have. Therefore I pray that this Legislature will consider and order to pay your Petitioner's claim and so shall ever pray, etc.

(signed) F. B. WEBB



**VICTORIA COUNTY A.D. 1846 & 1847**  
**The German Emigration Colonization Company to Felix B. Webb, Dr.**

Henry SPANGENBERG for medical services and medicines	\$12.25
Conrad SECK or ZECH for med. services Etc.	2.25
Ludwig MYER for medicine	1.25
Widow of Christoph TAEX, visits & medicine	13.12?
WEAVER for medicine	2.25
Frank HAHNA & Brother for visits & med.	9.25
Christoph STILEN for visit & medicine	1.62?
Henry DECHERT for visits & medicine	5.25
Joseph FRINDSAMEN for medicine	1.25
Ludwig BOCHMAN for visit & medicine	2.00
Christian MALLER for visits & medicine	14.25
Widow of John BAUER for visits & medicine	17.75
Theodore NOELKE for visits & medicine & burying child after father's death	24.87?
John GEISLER for medicine	1.87?
Yergan PURHOP for medicine	2.12?
Joseph FISHER Dec'd. for visits & medicine	19.71?
Christian SCHORER Dec'd. widow for visits & med.	25.12?
Henry HART for medicine	1.81?
John Casper STITLER for medicine	8.75
Francis SPANGER for medicine	2.12?
Widow of John LUDWIG for visits & medicine	10.12?
Wilhelm SCHULTE Self & Children for visits, medicine, and their support, etc.	66.62?
Christian WEISHEIT for visits & medicine	14.31?
Mararetha E. VOLKMAR Dec'd. & children for visits & med.	48.37?
Christoph KNOLLE for visits & medicines	19.00
Theodor Fritz PETER for visits & medicines	5.50
Widow of John Philip GERMAN	2.00
Nicholas RODEN for visit & medicine	1.62?
Carl VALENTINE for visit & medicine	3.12?
Christoph KOLLER & Johann BICKELMEYER for visits & medicines	21.25
George SCHIWITZ for visits & medicines	7.75
Michael KRIES or KRAIES visits & medicines	22.97?
Peter ZABEL for visits & medicine	12.62?
Adam Val. GROSS & servant for visits & medicine	20.50
Christian GEFFERS for medicine	1.37?
KORUS or KURUS for visits & medicine	8.87?
John BOEGGER visit & medicines	1.87?
Valentine HOHMANN for visits & medicines	36.56?
Francis & Amen STERLER for visits & med.	\$33.12?

Jacob SCHIWITZ for visits & medicine	12.62?
Heirs of Antonio FABER for visits & medicine	15.31?
Heirs of David KENSING for visits & medicine	32.00
"John George MENZ for visits & medicine	53.60
John Adam MORIL for visits & medicine	5.50
Mauritz VON OSTERHAUSEN for visits & medicine	19.25
John Theodore PRICE for visits & medicine	2.75
Henry LESAKA for medicine	1.25
Johann KREISLE Widow & heirs for visits & med.	19.46?
Michael SONDERGELD for medicine	3.37?
Valentine MULLER for visits & medicine	12.31?
Family of John JATH for visits & medicine	10.00
Wm. WAGNER & family for visits & medicine	39.25
John Casper SCHELLER for visits & medicine	3.25
Peter KNAPP for for visits & medicine	20.12?
Philip Joseph FREI for visit & medicine	4.00
Johann SCHIBEL for visits & medicine	9.25
Anton LENTZ for visits & medicine (\$7.93-3/4)	7.93
John BARGOFF for medicine	.75
Wm. GEFFERS for visits & medicine	46.02?
Wm. WEDEMEYER for visits & medicine	14.72?
Christoph HORNBERG for visits & medicine	21.75
August SCHULTZ & Gossleit KAULFERS for visits & med.	10.12?
Susanna M. BEK for visit & medicine	5.00
Wm. WALSCHMIDT & family for visits & medicine	10.62?
George HAPGEN or HOPGEN for visits & medicine	17.87?
George Andreas STRAUS for medicine	6.25
Henry HORNBERG for medicine	4.37?
Christian LUTTERBROT for visits & medicine	13.20
V. KERNER for visits & medicine	19.70
Estate of Frederich SCHAPER for visits & medicine	25.37?
German at E. SCHNEIDER's was supposed to be T. MILLER for visits & medicine	24.37?
Frank SCHNEIDER for visits & medicine	3.75
Sundry persons called for aid after my book was posted to the amount of	16.12?
Subtotal	\$1,014.64?
To cash paid Interpreter \$ 42.00	
To cash rightly due Interpreter \$ 70.00	
Total	\$1,126.64?

Committee Room  
Feb. 1, 1871

Hon. Ira H. EVANS  
 Speaker, House of Representatives  
 Austin, Texas

Sir,

Your Committee on Claims & Accounts to whom was referred "Petition of F. B. WEBB, for special relief" ask leave to report that they have carefully examined the same, and recommend that it be laid on the table.

W. G. Robinson, Chairman  
 Stockbridge  
 C. L. Abbott  
 Van Noy  
 J. C. Weaver  
 J. R. McKee  
 J. O. Abbott

**Affidavit of Anna WILLMEN (WILLIMEN)**

In the year 1846, I was living in the family of Dr. F. B. WEBB. A number of German colonists who had left Indianola, Texas, on account of sickness came to Victoria in Victoria County and called on me to aid them in getting medicine from Dr. Webb. Stating that other Doctors refused to do for them, wherefore Dr. Webb told me to tell them not to die without medicine but to call at his office and get it, and as I spoke German and English, I interpreted for both, and in a few days he was employed by a Mr. MILLER, German Agent at Indianola, for the German Immigration Colonization Company, to practice and furnish medicine for any of the Colonists that might call on him for medical aid; which they were to demonstrate by the exhibition of their colonial book; And as they could get no other person to interpret for him, I had to do so towards which he paid me six dollars per month out of his own funds on which business I was closely engaged for seven months or more expecting to receive an additional. sum from the Company but have never rec'd. anything from the said company. I also assisted in keeping and marking up the accounts and I know he paid great attention and gave general satisfaction and took many to his own house and fed and nursed them without charge as far as I know much of which labor I had to perform he also had a hired black woman and she and myself carried suitable food for the sick to many outsiders some of whom were nearly supported by his aid.

(signed) Anna Willmen

The State of Texas  
 County of Victoria

Before me W. J. NEELY, Clerk of the County of Victoria and State aforesaid personally came Anna WILLMEN to me known and who signed the above in my presence and upon oath declared the facts set forth in the above affidavit and statement were true and that she signed them as such.

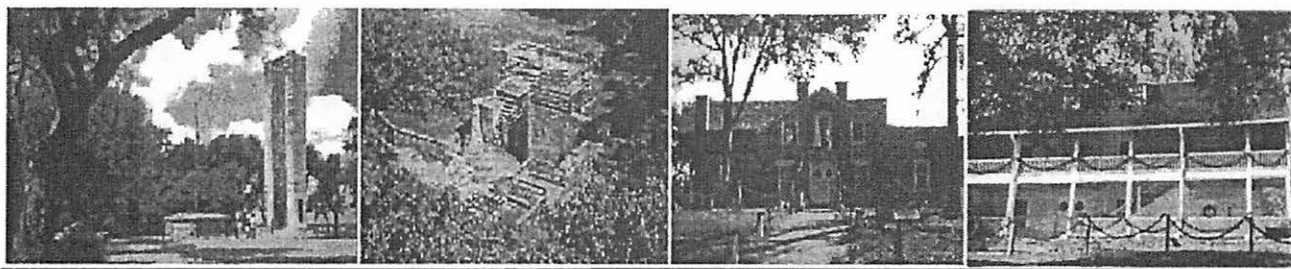
Witness to my hand and Seal of office this 20 day of May A.D. 1870.....W.J. NEELY, Clerk,  
 C.C.V.C

Return to [Top of Page](#)



submitted by Rodney Koenig & reprinted with permission

January 2006



## Friends of Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery Newsletter

**January 2006**

**Volume 19, Issue 1**

### *Mission Statement*

*To impart to the people an understanding and appreciation of the Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery Sites while managing and conserving these cultural and natural resources for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

Friends of Monument Hill  
and Kreische Brewery  
State Historic Sites  
414 State Loop 92  
La Grange, Texas 78945

Phone (979) 968-5658  
Fax (979) 968-5659

Park: [monument.hill@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:monument.hill@tpwd.state.tx.us)  
Friends: [fomhkb@cvtv.net](mailto:fomhkb@cvtv.net)



### FROM THE HISTORIC SITES TEAM LEADER

It has been a dry winter so far, but now we have finally received some blessed rain, and more rain is in the forecast. Our grass in the lawn areas of the park have suffered, so this rain is most welcomed. Warm weather, up to the time of the rain, facilitated Kreische Brewery tours in December and the first part of January. Thanks to all of our Docents who are keeping the Brewery open for our public! We are preparing for an active spring, while several projects are working this winter.

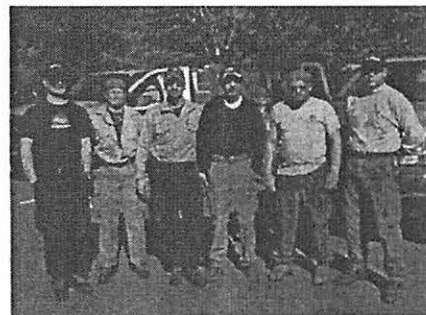
### MHKB RECEIVES HELP FROM TEXAS & NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE FIRE FIGHTERS

The only good thing to come out of this drought aside from tours to the Brewery, has been the fact that our local Texas Forest Service office in La Grange has been the headquarters for personnel from the U.S. Forest Service to be stationed to respond to fires that may occur on dry pastures and forest on private land in our area.

A meeting was held with Mr. Mark Wobus, the Fire Mitigation and Suppression Specialist for the Texas Forest Service in La Grange, along with City of La Grange City Fire Marshall Frank Menefee Jr., and with a couple of crew chiefs from the USFS, in which the proposed fire lanes that were defined between Park Management and the Texas Forest Service several years ago were reviewed and walked. As a result of this meeting, it was arranged

so that the three crews that were on stand-by at the La Grange office would come to the park to help us clear brush from our fence lines, and from around our maintenance center.

This project was begun with great results. These Colorado fire fighters worked approximately 2 or 3 hours each, for 3 days (so as to not fatigue themselves in case they had a large fire later in the day or at night). They also cleared a lot of dead Eastern Red Cedars from the trail head of the nature trail at the visitor center / headquarters. Mark Wobus also arranged for the City of La Grange to come and haul off much of this brush, saving us the effort. There may be more of this activity as the fire season progresses. There is much more of this kind of work to be completed in Kreische's woods.



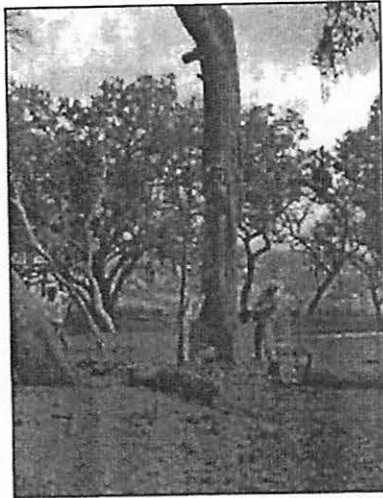
*USFS & TFS fire fighters cutting fire lanes*

A large, mature Cedar Elm succumbed to old age behind the combination restroom and interpretive pavilion building, on the fringe of the picnic area. This grand tree was located in a grove of trees, and felling it in one piece was out of the question because of damage that would be done to other trees. We hired Roger's Tree Service out of Brenham to cut the tree branches from the top down, and finally their six-man team ground the stump to the ground level.





Several sections of the broadest portions of the trunk were salvaged by the park.



We will look at replacing the wood platform that holds H.L. Kreische's perfectly round stone table top at his house with a pedestal fashioned from this trunk, once this wood is fully cured. We hope to imitate the pedestal that allegedly once supported this stone table top during Kreische's day. If it works, this table will be placed on the back stone porch in the corner, where it reportedly once was located. The stone floor there will be strong enough to bear the weight of this very heavy pedestal and table top, unlike the wood flooring inside of the house.

### Historical Tidbit

#### The Hausmann Family: Legend, Tradition and History

Many of our members are familiar with the Schutzen target rifle that was donated by the Hausmann family to TPWD a number of years

ago and which is currently on display at the MHKB Visitor Center museum. This 1890's era rifle, a Stevens model, was designed specifically for long range target shooting, with a peep sight; a cross-wind adjustment on the front site; and a falling block breech that, designed to receive the 38/55 cartridge (38 caliber bullet, with 55 grains of black powder in the cartridge). This weapon was shot by Augustus Hausmann in competition with other members of the Bluff Schutzenverein that H.L. Kreische sponsored at the old dance pavilion.

A couple of the "modern" Hausmanns visited the park in December, and they supplied us with some very interesting information. The rifle belonged to Augustus Hausmann, born 10-19-1862.



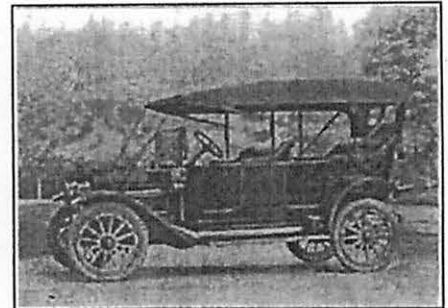
Augustus & Lena Hausmann, in front of Augustus' picture that is on display at headquarters.

He married Lena Hensel Hausmann 12-4-1893. Augustus was a member of the Bluff Schutzenverein, and owner of Hausmann's Cotton Gin, on Hausmann's Gin Road, that is a little over a mile south of Spur 92, east of Hwy. 77. The Hausmann cotton gin was in the community of Bluff, where Kreische once sent his children to school.

One of Augustus Hausmann's sons was Henry Hausmann, born 9-23-1895. Henry Hausmann was the man who ran the car off of the cliff. This story is the stuff of legend around here. It must have been a "grand spectacle" indeed!



Hank Hausmann with shotguns and awards.



EMF car like Hank drove off the cliff.

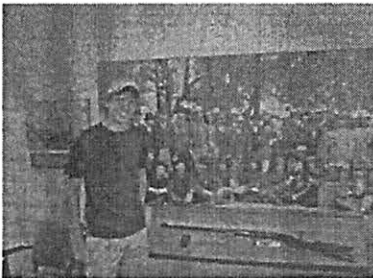
Henry's old car was aided in its descent over the cliff by a ramp that he built, which lifted it high into the air, before it smashed its way through the trees, to the forest floor 200 feet below. Henry Hausmann ran it up to this ramp, driving the old car on the running board on the driver's side, and then "bailed out" just before it sailed over the precipice. The legend says that he sold enough tickets to this rural spectacle to buy a new car during the depression. "Maybe so, and maybe not". We don't know for sure. Hank's grandson, and great grandson, Pete and Travis Hausmann, believe that this daredevil spectacle was performed after Hank returned from WW I, and before he was married; so they estimate this was between 1915, and 1920. They are not sure of the car make, however.

It turns out that Hank Hausmann had kept up the family tradition of competitive sport shooting. On a farmer's and mechanic's limited wages, he traveled out of state on occasions, to other areas of the



January 2006

U.S. to compete in major skeet and trap shooting competitions, garnering honors as a national contender, becoming a champion shooter in his own right. He has been nominated as a champion for recognition in the Skeet Shooting Hall of Fame. During the time of Hank's competition, in the 1920's through the 1940's, this sport was considered more of a "rich man's game." It was amazing that he could compete from Fayette County.



Hank's great-grandson, Travis Hausmann came in to the park first, and Dale talked to him, explaining the rifle that once belonged to his great-great grandfather, Augustus. He knew a lot about this particular rifle already. Things developed with a good exchange between us.

After our visit, Travis sent his father Pete Hausmann to visit. Pete has supplemented our incomplete

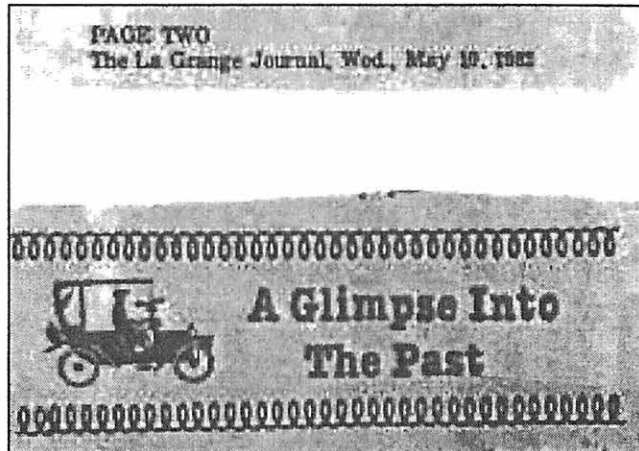


knowledge of the family tradition behind this rifle with the information and images that you see here, and much more, too, for the park records.

Both of these men, father and son (or grandson and great-grandson), are carrying on the family tradition of sport shooting that started with the old Bluff Scheutzenverein with skeet shooting into the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century. Both of these men are still life time Fayette

County residents, and both value their "roots". As the old saw says, "The more things change, the more they stay the same". They seemed pleased to have their family rifle on display in our visitor center. We often think of our story as old history, but through human links like this, these times really were not all that removed from us after all. I expect that old Augustus Hausmann would be proud of those Hausmanns who are descended from him today. There is some kind of lesson to be learned in this story somewhere. It is good to meet two guys who are grounded in who they are, and who "know from whence they came". There

is something positive to be said about family connections that are remembered by generations over time. Maybe that's the lesson.



Most people have heard of Evil Knevil and his death defying attempt to jump the Snake River. It might surprise some folks to learn that La Grange had her own daredevil many years ago. Back in the early 1920s, Henry (Hank) Hausmann staged a dangerous spectacular stunt up on the Colorado River Bluff. He built a high platform from which to launch his car off into space. He charged spectators a fee to watch. Hausmann, who was an auto mechanic in La Grange, rigged his E.M.F. car to run at a fast rate of speed. He got on the running board of the car and raced toward the edge of the Bluff. Just seconds before the car reached the edge, he jumped to safety. According to Mr. Wilbur Loessin and Mrs. Ver-na Reichert, who witnessed the event, the car went far out into space before plunging to the river banks below. Parts of the wrecked car remained scattered on the ground below for many years, reminding people of the day Hank Hausmann ran his E.M.F. automobile off of the high bluff overlooking the Colorado River.

Note: Mr. Jim Brown of La Grange knew Hank Hausmann well and says he was a fine man and an excellent auto mechanic who sometimes worked on the machinery at the Lena Clay Plant. Also, Hausmann was an expert marksman who held the Texas championship in skeet shooting at one time.

by M. Lawson



**GERMAN-TEXANS BURIED AT THE ALAMO MASONIC CEMETERY  
IN SAN ANTONIO**

If you have Internet access, go to [www.angelfire.com /folk/alamo\\_masonic\\_cem/](http://www.angelfire.com/folk/alamo_masonic_cem/) then click on Alamo Masonic Cemetery for a complete list of the names of individuals buried in this San Antonio cemetery, including many German-Texans.

thanks to Liz Hicks and Sarah Reveley for this information

**HOMES OF GERMAN PIONEERS IN NEW BRAUNFELS**

The Klein House, former home of early New Braunfels settler, Stephan Klein, is today located next to the well-known Naeglin Bakery. The house of his son Joseph Klein is now and Bed-and-Breakfast behind the Prince Solms Inn.

Thanks to Sarah Reveley, a Klein descendant, for this information

**SAN ANTONIO GERMAN-TEXAN PIONEER, ED STEVES**

Ed Steves was born in Germany in 1829 and emigrated to Texas at age nineteen with his family. They settled in New Braunfels, where he worked as an apprentice carpenter until 1866, when Ed moved to San Antonio to a house on Blum Street behind the Alamo and the Menger Hotel. He opened a lumber yard with about \$6,000, bringing lumber to San Antonio from the port at Indianola. At that time, San Antonio's population was only 3,000. But as his business grew, Steves brought his sons into the firm which after 1879 was known as Ed Steves and Sons. It became San Antonio's largest lumber yard and branched out into other lines of construction.

from an article in a 1986 issue of the Journal


**WILHELM VON ROSENBERG, BENEFACTOR OF THE OLD GERMAN FREE SCHOOL**

In September of 1857, a public meeting was held to establish a German school in Austin. Wilhelm von Rosenberg, a civil engineer and draftsman in the General Land Office purchased a lot on Mulberry Street near Red River for \$35 and later donated it to the new school. School lore says he also donated \$1,000 in gold for construction of the school building. Von Rosenberg had been a member of the nobility in his native Kingdom of Prussia. But in 1849, he emigrated to Texas because of his outspoken democratic views. By October of 1857, a teacher had been hired and construction was underway, with plans to open the school on January 1, 1858. The completed building had two large classrooms, a small basement, and space in the yard for physical exercises.

based on an article in Heritage Magazine

The Comfort News

Thursday, December 8, 2005



## Memories

### Comfort's Cannon: Out of the Past, a Mystery Solved (Part 2)...by Anne Stewart

Comfort's brass cannon was in our town from its inception, September 1854. "Comfort had procured a cannon from Neu-Braunfels, to be used in giving alarm in case of Indian attacks or to call the settlers together in case of emergencies."

Ernst Altgelt provided the necessary powder and shot to arm it. Fritz Holekamp was in charge of it, though it was probably housed in Altgelt's store on 7th Street, (where the Wilson Clemens antique shop is located today). Fired from its central 7th Street location, the cannon could be heard by the residents of Comfort, whether they lived right in town or across Cypress Creek.

From 1854 to 1861, the cannon was kept in its central location but seldom used. The only two times in recorded history that the cannon was heard was the beer fiasco and New Year's Eve festivities.

With the start of the Civil War, Comfort men and families had to make a choice of where to place their allegiance. Many were sympathetic to the United States as this was their new homeland and they had pledged their citizenship. Others, like Ernst & Emma Altgelt, were strongly Southern in their beliefs. Some German men, regardless of their true feelings or political philosophy, decided to go with the Confederacy as a matter of safety for their families.

Fritz Holekamp was one of those individuals, who whether it was his sincere belief or a compromise, went with the Confederacy. He served as an enlisted man, a bugler, at Kinggold Barracks on the Rio Grande.

Dr. Ganahl Walker of Center Point, who had volunteered as a physician for the Confederate States of America, on 'orders of the Confederation' took the cannon to San Antonio. From there it "accompanied Sibley's Brigade into Neu-Mexico where it most likely got lost."

From Neu-Braunfels to Neu-Mexico the history of Comfort's cannon is now complete.


All articles listed below were excerpted from *The Comfort News*.  
 "Comfort's First Homecoming" July 4, 1974 by Margaret Kretzmeier, "The Early History of Comfort" by Mrs. Herman Schulze, August 15, 1929; "Frolich Weihnachten and Neu Jahr in Comfort, 1854", Pts. 1 & 2: Dec. 9 & 23, 2004 by Anne Stewart; Comfort's Early Galas, Nov. 1992, Anne Stewart, "The Holekamp Family", fall 1939, author unknown; and "Theodore and Fritz Goldbeck: Comfort's Early Merchants" Spring, 2004, by Esther Wiedenfeld.

**Books:** Comfort—1904 by Professor Ferdinand H. Lohmann. 2004 reprint; A Hundred Years of Comfort in Texas, Guido Ransleben, 1954.

The Comfort Heritage Foundation Archives are open every Tuesday, 9:00—noon. Come save Comfort's history with us and help solve its mysteries!

The Comfort News

Thursday, December 1, 2005



## Memories

### Comfort's Cannon: Out of the Past, a Mystery Solved (Part 1)... by Anne Stewart

**Compiled and narrated by Anne Stewart**

During our 150th birthday celebration, Esther Wiedenfeld recounted the story of beer arriving early, July 2nd, for the July 4th festivities and the storeowners, Fritz and Theodore Goldbeck, worried that it would go flat before the big day. What to do?

Esther Wiedenfeld, writing as Margaret Kretzmeier in 1974, speaks of Comfort's earliest times: Turns out it was George Friedrich "Fritz" Holekamp who was in charge of the cannon. "Would he sound the cannon?" asked the brothers Goldbeck.

As G.F. "Fritz" Holekamp was the chief of the Comfort alarm system, Fritz Goldbeck had to "persuade him to fire the cannon" to bring in Comfort residents to rescue the beverage load which had arrived ahead of schedule. Whether Ernst Altgelt, as the town's founder, appointed Fritz to this post or his experience with weaponry made him the natural choice isn't clear. Perhaps he volunteered.

"Holekamp, after some persuasion, gave in." "The cannon resounded" through the Cypress Creek Valley and "called the settlers to arm. The workers in the mill-ditch dumped their hoes and shovels. The shingle-makers left axes, saws, and carving knives behind. Everybody rushed to the assembly place, weapons in hand."

The Goldbecks had to think fast. Emergency yes, danger, not really. Fritz "explained in a poignant speech

to the folks gathered" that there was "no danger from Indians," but rather the "danger of beer spoiling."

The result of this impassioned rhetoric was "perplexed faces of the fooled men" which boded ill for the Goldbecks. Danger on the Texas frontier was not to be trifled with. Fear of Indians living in the area was not a laughing matter. At first the men showed their anger in drastic language. Then "humor got the upper hand". German thrift and practicality came to the fore and the day was saved and the beer consumed. The cannon was not the hero of the day; in fact, it was one of those historical moments in which the "messenger with the bad news was nearly killed."

Margaret Kretzmeier, AKA, Esther Wiedenfeld, thought about Fritz's motives. "He also must have had a desire to prove to the outside world that this small settlement would be forever grateful to a nation that was free to all people." Throughout the drama, the keg of beer far out-shadowed the trusty little cannon.

When writing about Comfort's first New Year's Eve party December 31, 1854, I mentioned in passing that the cannon was fired to mark the great event. "Ernst Altgelt donated 12 charges of powder to be fired off in the town's small brass cannon." "Towns people "shot out the old year and shot in the new". Once again the event outshone the real star of the evening.

*To be continued...*



From TEXAS CO-OP POWER, August 2005, p20

submitted by Anna Thompson

## Carving an Independent Life

The terms "daring" and "visionary" have been used to describe the statues of Texas heroes Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin at the state capitol in Austin. The words could also be used to define Elisabet Ney, the saucy German-American sculptor who created them. When critics pointed out their differences—Austin is considerably shorter than the towering, robust Houston—Ney reminded them that she had merely reproduced their likenesses. "Any dissatisfaction should be taken up with God," she said.

Born in Munster, Westphalia, in 1833, Ney once declared that she did not intend to be like her mother, living "the sweet, uneventful life of a German hausfrau." She shocked her conventional, middle-class Catholic parents by proclaiming she would be a sculptor. Ney's father was a stonecutter, so Elisabet had grown up playing with clay and sculpting tools.

Nineteen-year-old Ney went on a hunger strike until her parents relented. Ney's skill soon earned her a place at the prestigious Munich Academy of Art as the first woman to study sculpture at the academy.

Two years later, she became one of the favorite pupils of Berlin's Christian Rauch, one of Europe's foremost sculptors. Her talent earned commissions from famous men of the day, including King Ludwig II of Bavaria, Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck, fairytale collector Jacob Grimm, and philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer.

With her intelligence and zest for philosophy, art and politics, she became a beloved confidante to many of her favorite subjects. She coddled the impatient King Ludwig II, reading him poetry when he became restless. The two would often talk long into the night. When Ludwig offered her jewels, Ney declined and requested flowers instead. The "mad" king filled her studio at his court with fresh flowers every day.

In 1863, Ney married Edmund Montgomery, a Scottish medical stu-

dent studying in Heidelberg. Ney said she was instantly attracted to the tall young man with flowing blond curls whom she described as "like a hero just stepped out of the pages of some splendid book!" Independent and proud of her aristocratic and artistic heritage, Ney kept her maiden name and introduced her husband as "my friend, Mr. Montgomery."



Ney and Montgomery fled political intrigue in Europe, finally settling in Texas in 1872, where they purchased the dilapidated Groce plantation near Hempstead, renaming the property Liendo. The eccentric "Miss" Ney raised eyebrows from the moment she arrived in the Lone Star State. Her clothing—a black Prince Albert frock coat, white britches and knee-high boots—were considered as unfeminine as her shocking habit of riding astride rather than sidesaddle. Because she did not share her husband's last name, many assumed the couple were "living in sin."

Ney took a two-decade hiatus from sculpting while she practiced what she called "the more important art of molding flesh and blood." Firstborn Arthur

died at age 2 from diphtheria, and Ney kept her younger son, Lorne, dressed in so many frills that for years the neighbors were unsure of his gender.

Her career resumed in 1891 when the committee women of the World's Fair Exhibit Association asked her to create statues of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Ney decided she needed her own studio, purchased land in Austin's Hyde Park district, and began building Formosa, a structure that combined the elements of a Greek temple and a German castle.

Even before it was complete, Ney started working on the statues. She collected photographs and engravings of the two famous Texans and again raised eyebrows when she began her quest for a human skeleton to help her better understand anatomy. The Houston sculpture made its way to the World's Fair, but a disappointed Ney did not complete the Austin commission in time for display.

At Formosa, Ney sculpted "Lady Macbeth," a supposed self-portrait considered by many to be her greatest masterpiece, now on exhibit at the Smithsonian. Traveling to Formosa became a pilgrimage for many young artists, and Ney's studio became a salon where Austin's elite gathered for intellectual stimulation.

Ney died of a heart attack in 1907 at the age of 74 and was buried at Liendo. Four years later, friends founded the Texas Fine Arts Association in her honor.

Today, her magnificent Austin studio is the Elisabet Ney Museum. Her memorials for Austin, Houston and Albert Sidney Johnston can be seen at the state capitol. A marble copy of her Austin statue resides in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.

The Elisabet Ney Museum is located at 304 E. 44th Street in Austin. Call (512) 458-2255 for more information.

Shirley Raye Redmond, who lives in Los Alamos, New Mexico, writes books for children and adolescents.

BY SHIRLEY RAYE REDMOND  
ILLUSTRATION BY ALETHA ST. ROMAIN



## LOOKING BACKWARD TO "ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"

by Frances Hartmann

This marching hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers," was composed by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1900) in the year 1865. He then was a thirty-one-year-old British pastor and school teacher. At that time, Pentecost in Britain was observed on Whitsunday with Whitmonday and Whittuesday as additional festival days. "Whit" meant white and probably referred to the white robes worn for baptism that day. In Yorkshire, Whitmonday granted schoolchildren a holiday, and even the banks in Britain and Ireland were closed. Since children from neighboring schools observed the festival together, Baring-Gould's pupils from Horbury, a mill town, walked to another town for the festival. He wanted them to sing while marching, but could not find anything appropriate. So Baring-Gould devoted several nights to composing the words of "Onward Christian Soldiers." He admitted that because of the hurried composing of the words, some of the rhymes were not perfect. British composer Dr. Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame) later provided the rousing marching music. The hymn was translated into German by Dr. A. Spaeth.

### *English*

(1) Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe. Forward in to battle, see His banners go. Chorus: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

(2) Like a mighty army moves the Church of God. Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod. We are not divided. All one body we. One in hope, in doctrine. One in charity. Chorus: Onward....

(3) Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane. But the Church of Jesus Christ constant will remain. Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail. We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. Chorus: Onward....

(4) Onward, then, ye faithful. Join our happy throng. Blend with ours your voices in the triumph-song. "Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King." This through countless ages, men and angels sing. Chorus: Onward....

### *German\*\*\**

(1) Vorwaerts Christi Streiter, vorwaerts in den Krieg. Mit dem Kreuz des Heilands, das uns fuehrt zum Sieg. Christus unser Koenig treu voran us geht. Seht wie dort im Kampfe Seine Fahne weht. Chorus: Vorwaerts Christi Streiter, vorwaerts in den Krieg. Mit dem Kreuz den Heilands, das uns fuehrt zum Sieg.

(2) Vor dem Siegeszeichen Satans Schaaren fliehn: Kommt, wir Christien wollen zum Triumphe ziehn. Lasst die Hoell' erzittern vor dem Jubelklang, Hebet eure Stimmen, singt den Siegesang. Chorus: Vorwaerts....

(3) Kronen, Reiche, Thronen kommen und vergehn. Doch die Kirche Christi bleibt fuer immer stehn. Auch deer Hoellen Pforten uebermoegen nicht, So hat Er's gesprochen, Der Sein Wort nicht bricht. Chorus: Vorwaerts....

(4) Vorwaerts denn, ihr Brueder, kommt, fallt in die Reih'n. Im Triumphgesange stimmt mit uns ein: "Unserm Koenig, Christo Preis und Ehr allzeit. Mensch und Engel singen's durch die Ewigkeit. Chorus: Vorwaerts....

\*\*\*from *Unser Liederbuch (Our Songbook)* compiled by A. Linder, organist of Lutheran Zion Congregation in Philadelphia and printed in Philadelphia, 1893, by the Pilger Bookstore of Reading, Pennsylvania, for schools, Sunday Schools and family devotional use.

## **ERNST DOSCH – THE HUNTING KING OF THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY** by Kenn Knopp

Born in Erbach in the Odenwald of Hessen-Darmstadt in 1821, Ernst Dosch was the son of the chief justice of the region, Karl Benignus Dosch. Ernst attended the very best schools available in Darmstadt and at the University of Giessen where he specialized in forestry and graduated in 1844.

Ernst's great delight, even as a youth, was deer hunting. He probably chose forestry to insure that he would have ample chances to hunt. During his school years he and his associates exchanged the booklets written by Dr. August Seitz and many others extolling the virtues and attributes of a new nation in North America called the Republic of Texas that had declared its independence from Mexico. (2 MS II. 22-a)

What caught Dosch's imagination was the description of Texas as a vast wilderness, a warm climate almost all year long, and the abundance of deer, bear, panther, and a host of other wildlife. He and his friends were caught up in the hope of a united Germany with the goal of replacing the rule of the monarchy with a constitution based on the will of the people. But what really motivated Dosch was a recurring dream: Walhalla was an idyllic land that was densely populated by deer in which true liberty and the pursuit of happiness was the freedom to hunt the deer to one's heart's content.

In the 1840's the fever, anti-monarchy revolution, began spreading all over Germany. An oppressive industrial revolution, a persistent drought, and the fervor of the educated and idealistic liberals began to bring together these and other forces that erupted in demonstrations and violence. The repressive Prussian-dominated monarchy, reacted immediately: by threatening, jailing, and answering demonstrations with bullets and imprisonment. In 1842 the Fuerstenverein, also called the Adelsverein, devised a plan to encourage those unhappy with Germany, for whatever reason, to immigrate to Texas. The Adelsverein were all highly placed royals determined to rid Germany of its "troublemakers."

The Hessen-Darmstadt area was targeted for a lecture series by one of the Adelsverein's leaders, Prince Carl Solms von Braunfels. He had just returned from Texas in order to prepare for the many immigrants that he and other members of the Adelsverein were planning to "sign up." During his lectures in Darmstadt he recruited "Die Vierziger" --the forty, also called "Die Lateiner" -- the Latinists, who agreed to resettle in Texas. The Adelsverein provided the Vierziger with financial incentives to have these known idealists (code word for those believing in democracy or the new idea: communism.) The threat of insurrection and open rebellion was imminent. The Adelsverein knew they had to get their plan going into high gear.

Ernst Dosch was careful not to be considered a member of the Vierziger group. He agreed with them; but he just did not want to confine himself to the will of a group. At the last minute up to twenty of the Vierziger decided not to fall for the Adelsverein's bribe. They had an inkling of what the Adelsverein was up to. They wanted democratic if not outright socialist or even communistic change for Germany and they would stay to fight it out.

Ernst Dosch did not disagree with the anti-monarchist; but, if he would go to Texas he wanted to be a free to practice his religion: deer hunting! He decided he would come to

Texas but on his own. He dreamed of the freedom or "Lebensraum" (room to live) in Texas, better said, "Jagdsraum" (hunting room) -- and plenteous space to hunt to his heart's content.

Accustomed to the comforts and advantages of a family of means and high position, his family felt sure that young Ernst would soon return from Texas once he got the hunting binge out of his system. Also, they felt that once young Ernst experienced the wilds, the rash and brash frontier, and the imminent dangers posed by unpredictable Indian tribes he would be happy to return to Erbach and the Oldenwald. His family gave him their blessing which they backed up with some cash.

Dosch arrived in the Texas Hill Country in 1848 a full year after his Vierziger friends had already arrived and had founded the villages of Bettina, Schoenburg, Meerholz, Leiningen and Castell along the Llano River area about thirty miles northwest of Friedrichsburg. By the end of 1848 most of the Vierziger were in the process of abandoning their tiny Llano River hamlets. They had heard that other Darmstaedter Latinists had settled in Sisterdale south of Friedrichsburg and halfway to San Antonio. They were just not suited to be so far from the larger cities. Their western-most villages were completely without protection from the numerous Indian tribes and roving bands of American outlaws. When one of them, Peter Bub, was killed by a roving band of Indians as he was on his way to Friedrichsburg for supplies, the others began to get serious about moving closer to the larger cities.

It was foolish to go alone into the wilds of the Hill Country. It was a rare day when a hunter did not need help to handle the deer, a huge bear, or other wild game. Dosch's hunting as well as business partner was Ludwig August Freiherr von Lichtenberg, a distinguished military man from Mainz. Having a hunting partner was also a good for self defense in case of renegade Indians or American outlaws.

A letter to his favorite sister Minna and his family was a great shock to Dosch's family. Rather than the expected news that he would soon be returning to Germany, he told them how the Germans in Texas were making good progress in building their cities, especially in New Braunfels, Friedrichsburg, and Sisterdale.

What is more, he told them the Hill Country was far more wonderful and challenging than he had dreamed it might be. As for the weather in the Hill Country, Dosch explained that he could hunt almost any day of the year. Matter of factly, even if there should come a "Blue Norther" (a sudden rush of wind, freezing or very cold, from Canada or the north) the hunting was always exhilarating. The sudden change in weather caused the deer to move around to seek shelter or search for food. The only thing Dosch did not like about the sudden "Northers" was they caused him to have flares of rheumatism.

He revealed his antipathy for the monarchy in one of his letters home in 1848. He reported that the Adelsverein leaders in Texas were just same liars as those in Germany. The Adelsverein had failed to back up their promises to the immigrants by piling up debts in Texas, and in less than a year were cutting the Texas immigrants off financially and intended to go out of business. But even so, the German immigrants in Texas, Dosch maintained, by hard work and grit had all they needed to sustain themselves; and, were doing well in Texas despite the blithering Adelsvereiners.

Dosch called the Texas Hill Country his "Wildreichtum", his wildgame kingdom, a paradise that made life really worth the living. He writes his family that on just one hunt alone he had the great joy of skinning and processing 26 deer that he had hunted down



and shot. It appears that he preferred stalking around, covering a large amount of territory. He added that this particular year the winter had come early catching the migrating ducks by surprise causing them to seek refuge on the small natural lakes. Dosch and von Lichtenberg surprised their neighbors by sharing with them the many ducks they were able to shoot.

In another letter he must tell his sister, Minna, sad news. Her godfather, Friedrich Louis, who had come to Texas from the Odenwald in 1847 was killed in Friedrichsburg by an Irish ruffian. Records show that Friedrich Louis had settled in what is now Kendall County. (2 MS II. 22-b) Those living in or near the community of Sisterdale, formerly a part of Bexar County (San Antonio) is now in Kendall County would, more often than not, go to Friedrichsburg to buy and sell, get medical treatment or join in on festivities and *Gemueticlichkeit* (fellowship and fun.)

It is strange that Dosch never mentions the exact place where he built his Blockhaus or log hunter's cabin out in the wilderness of his "Wildreichtum." But when he, his partner, or friends went "on the hunt" they could not have been far from Friedrichsburg or Sisterdale. His letters home mentioned how pleased he was to have so many of his Hessen-Darmstaedters around. The only location for that to occur would be within the triangle of Friedrichsburg, Sisterdale, Comfort/Boerne.

Another clue that places his Jagdhaus in that general area is that Dosch shares with his family that "almost everyone around know knows the song:

*Long live the duke and the dukes that follow him*

*Including all his officers Hesse-Darmstaedters all. (2 MS II. 22-c)*

This is the type of song that indicates that he might not be all that much against the monarchy system of Germany. Yet, nowhere does he mention another very prominent citizen of Sisterdale, Edgar von Westphalen, who had recently arrived there. Edgar was the youngest brother of Jenny von Westphalen, the wife of Karl Marx. Edgar was a known sympathizer of the communist idea. 1848 was the year when communism was codified by Marx which caused the royals across Germany to denounce him and necessitated Marx fleeing Germany. It is probably correct to assume that Dosch might have "discussed" the theories of communism...but, there was only one thing that captured Dosch's imagination: hunting.

Then, in true capitalistic fashion, he proudly writes about the accomplishments of his fellow Darmstaedters who are among his best friends: Dr. med. Ferdinand von Herff, who had a ranch near Boerne and a thriving medical practice in San Antonio. He talks of Gustav Schliecher the area's state representative in the Texas legislature and who later was honored by having a county (Kreis) in West Texas named after him. There was Theodore Schleuning had a thriving general merchandise store. W. Friedrich was a successful surveyor. These were all members of the original Viersizgers (the Forty) who had first settled Bettina on the Llano River, then moved to Sisterdale, Boerne, Comfort, and to San Antonio.

Dosch worked in San Antonio with his business partner Ludwig von Lichtenberg. They had a successful concession business inside San Antonio's most elegant German social center and performing arts theater, the Casino Club. Dosch wrote his family that San Antonio was growing steadily and boasted a population of 10,000. Card playing such as Skat has always been popular with the German immigrants in such clubs and remains so to this day. Even today these clubs in almost all the German-Texian enclaves are the

Turnverein Social Clubs and the Hermann Soehne Fraternal centers. In Fredericksburg both of these organizations are active today and have their own buildings.

On July 2, 1852 his dear friend, business, and hunting partner, Ludwig von Lichtenberg, turned sick and died from a contagion such as cholera that was ravaging the area. Shortly thereafter Dosch accepted the invitation of a friend, Adam Voigt, who had a large farm and ranch near Boerne, to come work with him.

Then all of a sudden word was spreading that above Friedrichsburg along the Llano River basin and its tributary creeks gold had been discovered. He went with friends to try to find the gold. There in the Enchanted Rock area of the Hill Country was a whole new world for Dosch. He was amazed at the great amount of wild bee hives and honey they found so easily. At the same time, he wrote that he feared the great number of rattlesnakes more than the Comanche Indians; even though the Comanches were in full control of the area if they wanted to be.

The Comanches, however, were more interested in bartering for goods than stealing horses or eradicating their new German neighbors. One rattlesnake bit Dosch. His friends came to his aid immediately, cut the bite area open, and sucked out and spit away the poison as quickly as they could. Their fast action saved his life. Dosch was also amazed at the number and large size of the fish in the ponds and the in the river. While his friends were panning for gold, of which they found very little, Dosch was in charge of the kitchen. Naturally, he enjoyed going out and shooting ample Hirsch and Truthahn, the deer and turkey. He does not mention the way he served the honey. That area today is in both in Gillespie (Fredericksburg, the county seat) and Llano County of which the town of Llano is the county seat.

#### **BUERGERKRIEG: THE CIVIL WAR BRINGS CHAOS**

The great moral predicament of King Cotton, the state's biggest industry, and its slave buying and selling to assure the cotton would be picked put most of the Germans, including Dosch, on the sharp horns of a real dilemma. To most of the Germans in San Antonio and the Hill Country the idea of the southern rim of states separating from the United States of America was out of the question.

Yet, the communities on the edge of the Hill Country such as New Braunfels and those through the cotton fields and all the way down to the Gulf Coast voted for secession so as to retain chattel slavery. The German bankers throughout the cotton belt and especially at the ports where cotton was shipped to Liverpool and Bremerhaven had no problem cooperating with the Confederates. Business is business.

On the other hand, Friedrichsburg, Mason, Comfort, Boerne, and Sisterdale in the Central Hill Country were adamant about staying in the United States. Dosch was a devout Unionist. A Confederate regiment took over the military posts of San Antonio as well as the former camel garrison of Camp Verde near Comfort. In San Antonio and in Castroville, the rabidly Confederate undercover society, the Knights of the Golden Circle were beginning to kill union supporters one by one in San Antonio and in the Hill Country.

As a result, Dosch joined numerous other German-Texians and others who were Union sympathizers who made their way across the Rio Grande River into Piedras Negras, Mexico, for the duration. Near the end of the war Dosch thought it was a good

opportunity to return to Germany to see his family and friends in Erbach before returning to Texas.

Published reports had him calling himself the "Hunting King of the Whole West of the U.S.A". He estimated that he had killed at least 3,000 deer and had an immense trophy (horns) collection. But nowhere in his letters does he mention how many points the largest buck he shot had.

In Fredericksburg, today, the merchants still give prizes for the hunter bagging the deer with the most points (the most horns which come to points.) Today deer hunting season in the Hill Country begins the first day of November and ends the first day of January. Hunting is very expensive, at the very least, \$100 per day. Seldom is there a deer lease available.

Ernst Dosch was indeed fortunate to have lived at a time when there were few fences and restrictions on where he could roam to track and shoot his deer. Fredericksburg all during hunting season is a very busy place. While the husbands are out hunting, the wives are downtown taking out their revenge or spending by shopping.

In Germany, the more that Dosch told his stories about Texas as the ideal Jagdparadies-- hunter's paradise, the more he realized his real home was now Texas and his real love was the freedom of the hunting fields of the Hill Country between Fredericksburg, Boerne and San Antonio. He did return to Texas. That was his last visit with his family in Germany.

After the Civil War and after he returned to Texas even more German other immigrants were pouring into Texas. During the years Dosch had holdings all over the Hill Country but always seemed to gravitate for "fellowship" to San Antonio and the Casino Club.

As the years went on Dosch recorded almost nothing but the various parts of Texas his friends invited him to go deer hunting. He shot one of the biggest bucks in his life along the rugged and mountainous area of the Frio River considered to be the beginning of west Texas.

In the summer of 1899 he wrote about enjoying the Bundesschuetzenfest, the regional sharp-shooting tournament, in New Braunfels. It was an extra big celebration because it was also being celebrated on the fourth of July, on American Independence Day. This day for the German Americans was extremely important. While the Germans also celebrated America's freedom from the British Monarchy, the Germans also celebrated their freedom from the dictators of the German Monarchy.

At the New Braunfels Schuetzenfest, Ernst Dosch won the Pot-Shot Contest. Each contestant would put down "Vier Bitt" or fifty cents. Each person had three shots at the target. The one coming closest to the "bull's eye" would win. His reputation preceded him. Many would not take part because they knew what a good shot he was: "....der alte Herr kann doch verteufelt gut schiessen." (The old man could still shoot damned well.)

An interesting notation in Dosch's writings on August of 1902 he received by special mail a notice from the U.S. government that he was now going to receive a monthly pension, a financial payment, because he had qualified as a "Survivor of the Indian Wars." He would now be receiving a total of \$8 each and every month. He was grateful for the extra income; even though throughout his writings and many years of living in Texas, he does not even remember there ever being an "Indian War." (2 MS II. 22-d)



About the year 1905 at the age of 84 Ernst Dosch moved completely into San Antonio where he wanted to be under care of his Darmstadt friend, Dr. med Ferdinand von Herff. He had to be really sick not to be able to go deer hunting. Dosch had long since sold his homes and businesses. He sold his homestead for \$15,000 to see him through his last days on earth.

"I am proud to say that I was always able to pay my debts. All my life I was a hunter...die Jagdblut ist mir ueber alles gegangen und mir auch am laengsten treugeblieben." (...my veins pulsed with hunter's blood through and through and never let me do anything else.) (2 MS II. 22-e)

Just before he died on January 15, 1906, Ernst Dosch wrote that it gave him great joy, while he was lying in his little room he had rented awaiting his passing, it gave him great joy to re-read the letters and his writings he had saved about his amazing life in his wonderful hunting nirvana--the Texas Hill Country. Certainly Ernst Dosch can be called and crowned the all time "The Hunter King of Texas!!"

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Notes:

(2 MS II. 22-a): Esselborn, Karl; *Zwei Erbacher in Texas*, Self-published in Darmstadt, Germany; copy in the Murchand Bibliothek, Kassel, Deutschland, (8 grad Hass. coll. 81[95-97] H 1942.3843), pp. 3-4. This work also appeared in the *Hessische Volkssbuecher*, published by Wilhelm Diehl, 95-97.

(2 MS II. 22-b): Geue, Chester W. & Ethel H.; *A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847*, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore MD, 1982. p. 117.

(2 MS II. 22-c): Esselborn, ibid, p. 9.

(2 MS II. 22-d): Esselborn, ibid, p. 39.

(2 MS II. 22-e): Esselborn, ibid.

In deepest gratitude the author thanks Mrs. Traute Seeliger of Kassel, Deutschland, the hospitality in her home and for finding and sending us the memoirs of Ernst Dosch she found in the Murchand Bibilothek of Kassel in September of 1997 and sharing them with all of us, 149 years after Ernst Dosch arrived in Texas Hill County and discovered his earthly Vallhalla.

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From Volume II: **LONE STAR FREEDOM!**  
**Chronicles of the Germans of the Texas Hill Country**  
*Die Friedrichsburger Manuscripte*  
*The Fredericksburg Manuscripts*  
 By Kenn Knopp

(this 266 page book is available on disc-Word-document only from the author, 407 Cora St., Fredericksburg Texas 78624 for \$10 by check, shipping included)

**Tobacco Production in Industry, Texas - 1831**  
**Submitted by Marjorie Meyer Draehn,**  
**Great-great-great Grand-daughter**



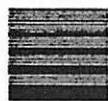
According to the Letter Friedrich Ernst sent to the Texas Telegraph and Texas Register and published April 30, 1845, he started growing tobacco in 1831 immediately after his arrival in Texas. Ernst was the first botanist and horticulturist of the Colony of Texas. He worked in the Gardens of the Duke of Oldenburg in Germany. Many of the skills learned were put to use here in Texas.

Ernst grew the Cuban seed called Havana and crops of Havana were known for lush plants with large leaves. He grew the first tobacco and manufactured the first cigars in Texas. Ernst learned cigar making from B. Scherer, who later settled in Biegel's Settlement. In the early 1830's, there was no market for products except cigars and tobacco.

The cultivation of tobacco was very promising with healthy plants that thrived in Texas soil. The tobacco was cured and carefully made into cigars which were sold in Ernst's store. As soon as the local demand for cigars was met, Ernst would sack the cigars one thousand per sack. The cigars were sent to San Felipe on horseback. A Frenchman, Alexander Bourgeois D'Orvanne, bought the cigars from Ernst and resold them in his general mercantile store to the residents of San Felipe. D'Orvanne was the same person who in 1843 helped with the founding of the Colonies of Fredericksburg and New Braunfels.

In 1838, when Ernst laid out the Town of Industry, he offered employment to settlers to work in his cigar factory. Meanwhile, Ernst generously distributed his tobacco seeds among neighboring farms who wanted to go into the tobacco business. In the 1840's, there were other tobacco farmers and cigar makers in Industry and the surrounding area. Robert Kleberg of Cat Spring sold cigars at higher prices in Houston. By 1850, there were many more tobacco farmers throughout Texas. This continued as a striving business for most of the century.

Friedrich Ernst died in 1848 probably without ever realizing what an impact his tobacco industry would have on Texas except to give his little town it's name, "Industry, Texas".



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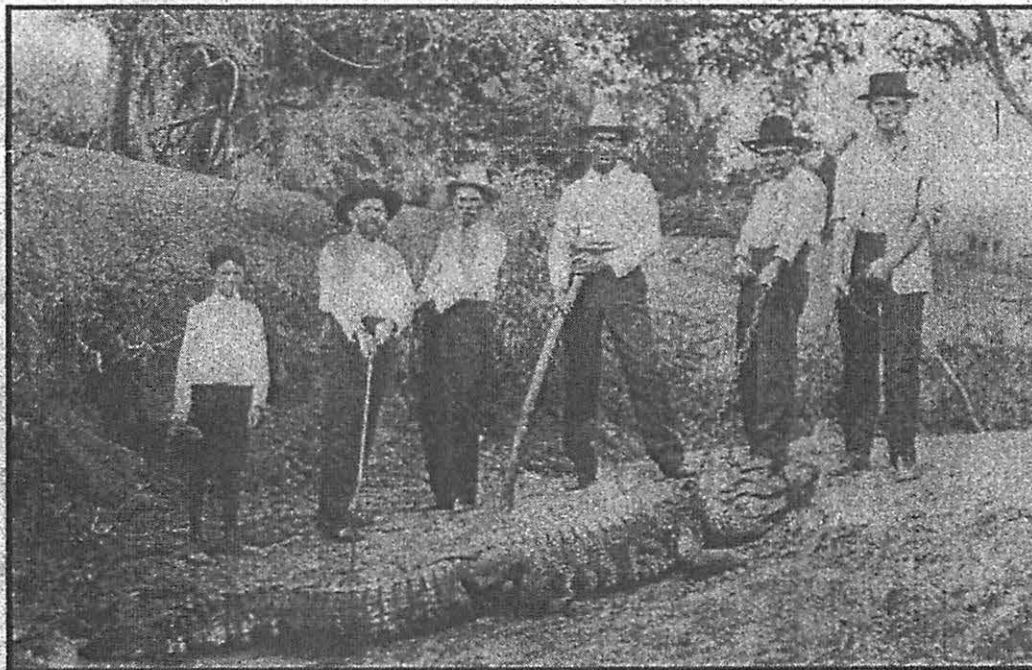


1-15-2001



# THE ALLIGATOR

*By: Marjorie Meyer Draehn*



Charlie Laas Jr., Dr. Charlie Laas Sr., Wayne Blackburn, Hugh Vogelsang, Herman "Butch" Ernst, my great grandfather; and an unidentified friend captured this large alligator in the Yegua Creek. I can only imagine the fun and excitement they had during the struggle in pulling this alligator onto the creek bank. What an adventurous way for six friends who lived in Burton to spend their time together, probably on a Sunday afternoon, in the early 1900's. This picture can be found in a collage of photos on the table tops in a local restaurant in Brenham.

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This letter was written during the Civil War by A. Wangemann, a German-Texan soldier in the Confederate Army. It was translated by Dr. James M. Hyde of Many, Louisiana, and submitted to the Journal by Helga von Schweinitz, who commented that "the original letter was written in beautiful German."

3 Mailen von hier sind die Yankees zurück ge-  
funden. Vermuthlich sind sie mit den Hollingworth dort  
auf dem Schlachtfeld, es ist ein sehr wichtiger Ort. Hier,  
wir haben dort wieder von unsern Leuten erfahren,  
was sie mit den Yankees, einer Mutter Sohn haben liegen  
gestrichelt umher, und überall, Mitleid sieht sind  
Gräber wo es bis zu einem Grab zu sehen ist,  
graben worden sind, die Yankees haben nicht so viele  
verloren als wir und die von hier - verloren für uns fast  
man so sehr unter die - haben doch die Gevater  
und hundert die 's yafola' haben,

It appears Wangemann was from Austin County. He mentions other soldiers named Traugott Hildbrand and John Meiers, who probably were also from Austin County.

4 Briefe -  
Traugott 'id ein' Mutter  
und hundert die zünden noch darüber werden.  
und haben sie gefunden, in, es für  
mir sehr gut zu sein. Die meisten sind von unsern Leuten  
den Vorkämpf hier, sind hundert ist nicht so sehr glücklich, für  
ist endlich mit die der Sohn Meiers, er liegt für im  
Hospital und ist postgeschickt.

Sie sind sehr lieb man hat ein anderes worden ist  
die sehr schreiben, glückliche ist dort die viele Jahre  
gefunden werden müssen mit den hundert  
Grüßes Allen. Hübsch die Kinder für mich  
und leben wohl.

Dein  
sehr liebender  
A. Wangemann.

Mansfield, Lusiana

June 4th, 1864

My Darling Dearest!

I have more opportunities to write to you than I had thought, and I seize them with pleasure so that you will at least know how I am getting along, even though I, myself, have no news from you, so I comfort myself and hope that in 12 to 14 days in Henderson I will find a letter, unfortunately, as I wrote you, I hoped in vain in Sabinetown, however time was too short for me ( to have expected) word from you, so I really shouldn't have hoped at all. As we left Sabinetown I gave the postmaster a letter for delivery to you in Henderson (....) to the same address I wrote to you (....) which I hope you have received, It was on the 28th of May as (we) left camp at Sabinetown, it rained some before noon but soon stopped, Near evening we reached a beautiful camp on a creek and grass was sufficient for our horses, which is rarely found here.

Today is Sunday the 29th of May and we are still lying in camp, the whole day my thoughts have been occupied with you, I must always and always think about you, if I could only just for a moment be with you, how happy I would be, These unhappy times when will they once more change? When will one be envied for being able to stay at home with the (family) instead of being driven around in the wilderness in this foreign land, where one sees nothing but dilapidated houses, and remainders of destroyed happiness. Just

yesterday I took a letter to the post office for you, and it would be a pleasure to take another one today, So I could at least converse with you by letter. This Sunday is so beautiful today (and so) cozy in this lonely forest by the pretty spring in camp that I feel that I (have always) been here, so far from you my everything.

On the 30th we crossed the Sabine again at Carter's Ferry into Texas, because the road was so bad on the other side and Jayhawkers hang out in that area. In early evening we crossed again into Lusiana, The few people who live here are fearfully poor, I don't believe they have enough to fill their bellies, (they) are from the real backwoods, lazy, dumb, and dr(unk). On the 31st we came over to Texas again, (at) Hamilton we crossed the river, we rode (....) miles up on this side and camped for the night (in) a schoolhouse because it began to rain, It quit again soon. On the 1st we went over again into La. at Mireck's Ferry, There were 10 cotton boats on the river close to the ferry, each loaded with 300 bales, (The) cotton came from Shreveport and went to Houston, On the 2nd we came back again to an empty (house) because it looked like it wanted to rain, We went only 10 miles today. On the 3rd we came within 1 1/2 miles of Mansfield La. We were invited to lunch by a planter named Steveson, The area here is somewhat better, however is still very bad compared to Austin County and its area, Today I have been away from home 1 month, and in this time have ridden almost



every day, only a few days have we remained still, Our plans are constantly changed and how long this month has seemed to me! I mean I would spend a year away from you if I first just once could get a few lines from you, I would feel better. Mansfield is 20 miles from the Sabine, and about 350 miles from home, it is a small, pretty little town, 3 miles from here the yankees were beaten back, today before noon I was with Hollingsworth there on the battlefield, It is a sad sight, we lost many of our people, more than the yankees, Large numbers of dead horses are scattered about, and everywhere for miles are graves where 20 to 30 have been buried together, The yankees didn't lose as many as we did, and they lost the battle (....) (The men) were buried so shallowly under the earth that the pigs and dogs pulled the bodies out again. 4(40?) skulls lay on one grave along with a large number of bones where the pigs and dogs were still staying with them. I saw Traugott Hildbrand today and he wanted to ask if you would give his greetings to his relatives, Vorkamp and the others. His wounds aren't so bad, They are similar to those of John Meiers, He is lying here in the hospital but otherwise is in good health.

I am in a hurry today my love, Another time I will write some more, I will hope that these lines of love find you healthy (along) with the children.

Greet everyone, kiss the children for me and stay well.

Your "you-loving"  
A. Wangemann

By Ron Hunka  
From Renaissance Magazine, Issue #47

## HOCHOSTERWITZ

## The Castle of 14 Gates

About 15 miles northeast of the city of Klagenfurt, the capital of Austria's southernmost province of Kaernten, stands one of the alpine nation's most popular castles, Hochosterwitz. (*Hoch* in German means "high" and *Osterwitz* was the name of the first family to own it.) The stronghold, which is a little over 500 feet above the broad plain below, can be seen from 20 miles away in good weather. Apart from the sheer height of the castle, its most distinctive feature is a series of 14 gates that defended the road that spiral upward from the base to the top of the hill.

Each of the gateways was placed in a position that could be defended against attack. An opponent would have to breach them sequentially to gain the stronghold while at the same time enduring attacks on its own flank. Designed to differ from one another, the gate buildings denied an attacker the

advantage of familiarity. Additionally, most gates opened outward to force the intruders to pull them back upon themselves to gain entry. The last of the 14 gates, called Kullmer's gate, features a long hallway with holes in the ceiling where boiling oil and burning pitch could be poured down upon attackers. In the history of Hochosterwitz castle, no invading army ever reached the stronghold or conquered the fortress.

In Celtic times, according to legend, the summit of the hill was a sacred site. By 860, there was a castle on the site and in 1209, the Duke of Kaernten, Bernhard Spanheim, awarded the small castle to his friend Herman Osterwitz, and made his family hereditary, royal cupbearers.

Duke Bernhard was a patron of the arts, and in this capacity, he succeeded in attracting Austria's most famous *minnesinger* (noble troubadour), Walther von der Vogel-

weide, to the area to perform at several locations, one at his nearby court at St. Veit an der Glan and another at Hochosterwitz itself. (Centuries later, in 2000, the Austrian government minted a now defunct 500 schilling coin, then worth about \$30, with an image of the castle on one side and Walther von der Vogelweide performing at the castle on the other.)

Over the next 250 years, the Osterwitz family enlarged and expanded the castle to occupy the entire hilltop.

## The Siege of Margarethe von Tirol

The time and money devoted to improving the castle's defenses proved well spent when, in 1334, Margarethe von Tirol, who had already captured most of the castles in Kaernten, approached Hochosterwitz with a large force, intent on taking it. By holding all the strategic fortresses in the area, it was her intention to keep the Habsburg family, to whom Kaernten and Tirol had been awarded by the Holy Roman Emperor, Louis IV of Bavaria, from taking possession of and governing them.

Margarethe, also known as the "Ugly Duchess" and "Margarethe Maultasch" (meaning "pocket mouth," from a birth defect), was as evil as she was powerful. Experienced in warfare, she recognized the unlikelihood of taking such a high and well-defended castle by storm, so she resolved to take it by siege.

After several months, Margarethe was deceived into giving up the siege by an audacious trick, for which legend credits no one individual. The defenders' scheme was to convince the besieging force that they still had abundant food although actually, their supplies were nearly gone. So they slaughtered their last cow and within its bloody hide sewed up bread and other food, which they threw down to Mar-

In good weather, Hochosterwitz can be seen from 20 miles away.



Ron Hunka



garethe's men. This action allegedly had such a demoralizing effect on them that Margarethe lifted the siege.

Unable to capture the prize of Hochosterwitz, the Ugly Duchess also abandoned her effort to conquer Kaernten. Eventually, she abdicated, and Tirol and Kaernten went to the Habsburgs, who ruled Austria until after World War I. (Ironically, a half-relief portrait of Margarethe today adorns the first gate, the so-called Cadets' gate, of the formidable castle that had been her ruin.)

#### The Ottoman Invasion

A century later, in 1453, the capture of Constantinople by the Ottoman Sultan Mohammed II exposed Austria to an ongoing series of wars. Two decades later, on September 26, 1473, an Ottoman army swept past the city of Klagenfurt, devastating the countryside and carrying many peasant families off into slavery. One of the Austrian slaves who later found his way home recorded that the Turks had treated their captives worse than their dogs.

Many Austrians fled to Hochosterwitz, where they found protection from the Turks. (The castle was primarily a defensive fortification rather than a residential palace, so it normally took in the local residents during periods of war.) About the same time, in a battle on the open plain nearby, the numerically superior Ottoman forces annihilated an Austrian army under Georg von Osterwitz, although those within the castle survived. Von Osterwitz was captured and sent to a Turkish prison where, three years later, he perished. As he died without an heir, the Osterwitz line ended with him and the castle's ownership reverted to Emperor Friedrich III.

On October 5, 1509, the castle was placed under the care of Matthaeus Lang, the bishop of nearby Gurk who began to repair the badly damaged upper portion. After his death, nobleman Cristof Khevenhueller acquired the castle and became the first in the long line of Khevenhuellers to own it. He continued the repairs and began enhancements to the castle's defenses, with the assistance of the Italian Domenico Del-

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l'Aglio, whose work on battlements of the Austrian cities of Graz and Klagenfurt had earned him a reputation as one of the foremost fortification engineers of his time.

The work continued until Khevenhueller's death in 1557. His son John assumed ownership and in 1571, the Governor of Kaernten, Georg Khevenhueller, the nephew of Cristof, purchased it. Under his guidance, the most ambitious building program in the castle's history took place.

The construction of the 14 gateways along the road to the top, which was completed during his time, took about 16 years to complete. In addition, he equipped the fortress with an armory that could outfit about 700 men. Its weaponry included 33 artillery pieces of various types, 365 arquebuses and muskets, 135 lances, 106 partisans (a weapon with a long shaft and broad blade), 135 halberds, and 102 lances and pikes.

So possessed had Khevenhueller become with his stewardship of Hochosterwitz that not only did he vow to never relinquish it, but he also charged his descendants to do so as well. In 1576, he erected a marble tablet in the courtyard, which visitors can still see

today, that enjoined his descendants to maintain and hold Hochosterwitz in perpetuity. Further, he beseeched his descendants to strive for virtue and moderation in all things and to maintain harmony among themselves. Last, he asked them to preserve their morals and to practice diligently the Christian faith.

Today, true to its 400-year-old ancestral charge, the Khevenhueller family still owns the picturesque castle that neither Margarethe of Tirol, the Ottoman Turks, nor anyone else could take from them by guile or force. ☺

*The castle is open to visitors from April through October. One can walk up along the steep path through the 14 gates or take a gripping lift ride up a nearly vertical cliff.*

*Directions: From Salzburg, take A10 southeast to Klagenfurt (130 miles). At Klagenfurt, turn left on B317, drive northeast to St. Veit an der Glan (12 miles). At St. Veit, go right on B82 toward Launsdorf. Six miles south of Launsdorf, turn right on the district road leading to the castle.*



**ARE LEDERHOSEN AND DIRNDL IN DANGER?**  
submitted by Theresa Gold from articles in German Today

Bavarians breathed a sigh of relief this week as European Union officials said that they had no plans to ban beer-garden barmaids from donning traditional dirndl dresses.

Brewery owners and local lawmakers had been up in arms over reports that new European rules would ban the dresses, known for their distinctive sweeping necklines, in a bid to protect workers from skin cancer.

Observers said the reports were all the more traumatic coming just weeks before beer drinkers from all over the world converge on Munich for Oktoberfest, where thousands of waitresses, many of them outfitted in the traditional dresses, serve millions of thirsty patrons.

"This is European lawmaking at its most pedantic," Munich mayor Christian Ude was quoted as saying.

"A waitress is no longer allowed to wander round a beer garden with a plunging neckline. I would not want to enter a beer garden under these conditions."

A spokesman for the Bavarian innkeeper's association meanwhile celebrated the dirndl as a symbol of the southern German region's storied *joie de vivre*.

"I've spoken to a number of waitresses," added the spokesperson, Frank-Ulrich John. "But I've never heard that sunburns in the *décolleté* area have become a problem."

By mid-week, however, EU officials familiar with the so-called Optical Radiation Directive finally said that working in a beer garden is not considered one of the high-risk occupations subject to the bloc's "tan ban."

The directive, which is currently making its way through the European parliament, will require employers to assess the risk of skin cancer and retina damage for outdoor workers.

In the event that the assessments reveal a health risk, employers will be obliged to do everything they can to limit it.

With over 80,000 pages of treaties, regulations, directives and opinions, the EU's vast body of law has often been the subject of debate and rumor in the European press.



For Bavarians, the dirndl is a source of regional pride. dpa photo

Bavaria's *lederhosen*-clad folk dancers have put their foot down on suggestions that their role in opening ceremonies for next year's soccer World Cup be limited to just 45 seconds.

The dancers, known for their tight-fitting leather shorts, woolly knee socks and distinctive Alpine hats, say that World Cup organizers have given short shrift to Bavarian culture in the artistic program planned for the June 9 opening ceremonies in Munich, their region's capital.

The irate *Schuhplattler* have even threatened to boycott the ceremonies entirely unless they are given a full three minutes to perform their traditional thigh-slapping routine.

They are also demanding that their female counterparts be allowed to take part in the festivities.

Organizers are said to have banned the *dirndl*-clad women amid concerns they "would take up too much space," according to a report in the daily tabloid *Abendzeitung*.

"We are not going to be taken for a ride," fumed Bernd Walter, the deputy president of the Bavarian folk dancing association, in a recent interview with the UK daily *Guardian*.

He added: "If they don't give us any more time, we simply won't take part. Bavarian folk dancing is a complicated and precise discipline."

Organizers of the opening ceremonies, which are expected to be watched by millions of TV viewers, say that they are hard pressed to do justice to both Bavarian traditions and the various cultures of all 32 competing nations over the course of their 12-minute extravaganza.

Yet for many Bavarians, fierce regional pride leaves little room for compromise.

Over 70% of respondents to a recent poll by the Bavarian state broadcaster say that the celebrations should have a clear Bavarian theme.



Bavarian folk dancing: "A complicated and precise discipline." dpa photo

The first Germans came to America in 1608. They settled in Jamestown, Virginia, where they manufactured glass.

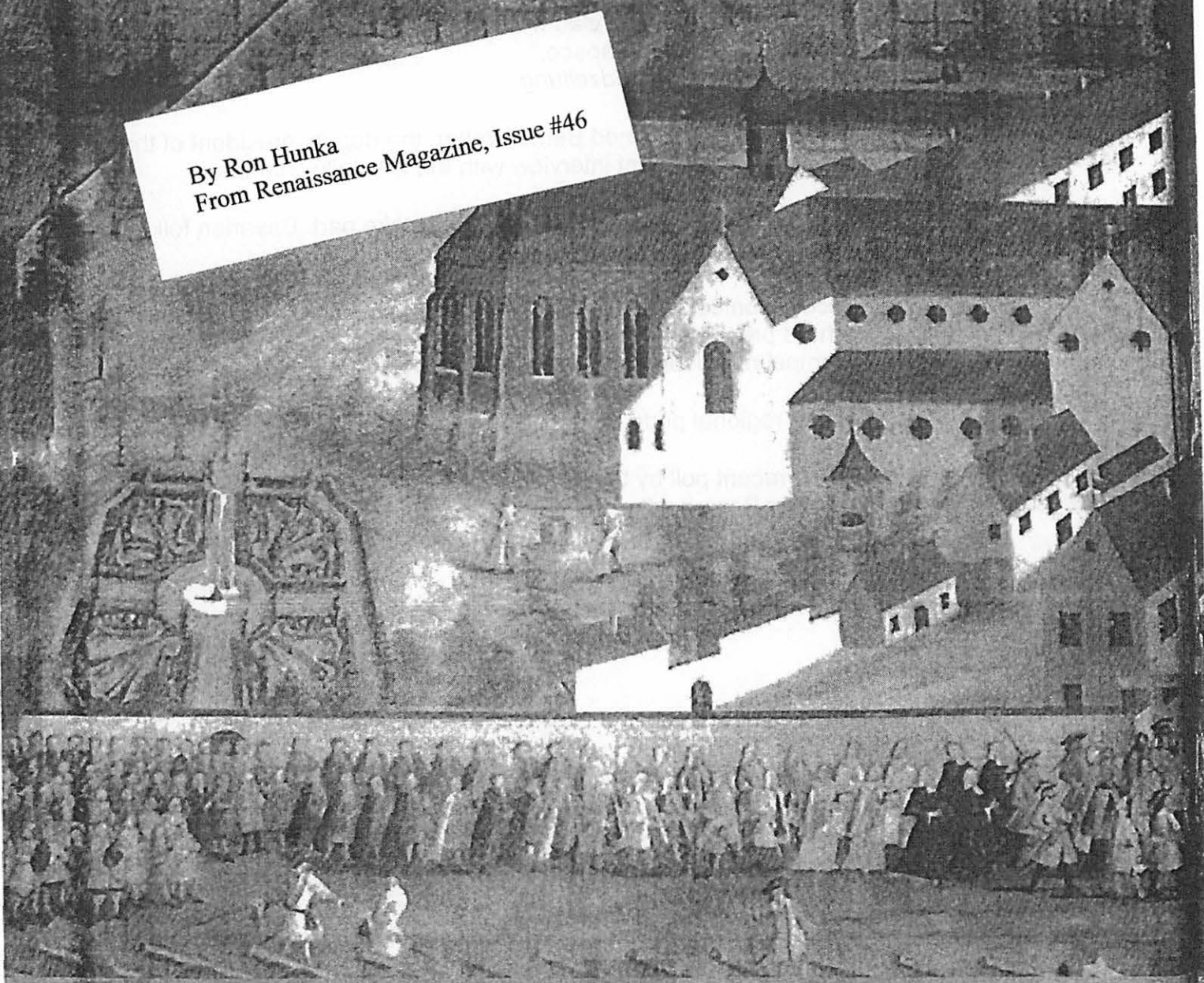


Source: Cobblestones, May 2001

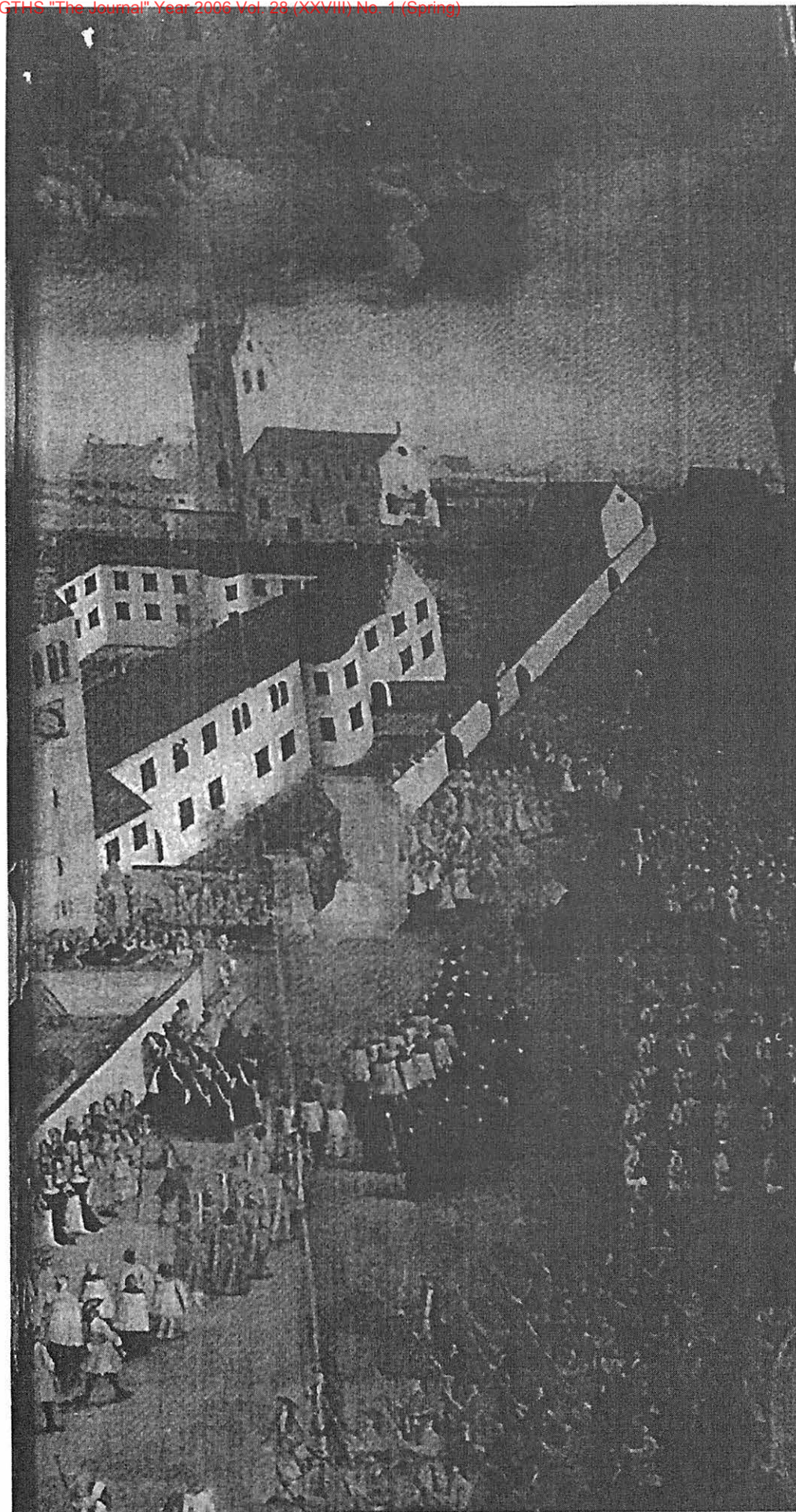


# *The Violent History of Germany's Blood Relics*

By Ron Hunka  
From Renaissance Magazine, Issue #46







EGINNING IN  
THE 1300s  
IN GERMANY  
AND  
AUSTRIA,

SHRINES OF HOLY BLOOD  
RELIQS—WHICH WERE MADE  
UP OF THE BLOOD OF VARIOUS  
MARTYRS, SAINTS, AND  
EVEN CHRIST (CALLED  
*BLUTRELIQUIEN*)—WERE SO  
POPULAR WITH THE COMMON  
PEOPLE THAT THOSE CHURCHES  
WHICH PUT THESE RELICS ON  
DISPLAY QUICKLY BECAME  
ESTEEMED PILGRIMAGE SITES.  
HOWEVER, IN THE 13TH  
THROUGH THE 15TH CENTURIES,  
THESE RELICS ALSO LED TO THE  
SLAUGHTER OF AT LEAST 12,000  
JEWS THROUGHOUT GERMANY  
AND AUSTRIA. AND IRONICALLY,  
THE WAY TO CREATE MORE  
RELIQS WAS THROUGH FURTHER  
DESECRATION OF THE HOST.

*by Ron Hunka*



There were actually two types of blood relics of Christ—those thought to have come directly from Jesus' body and those originating from communion wafers. Although it sounds strange, since the communion hosts were viewed as the embodiment of Christ, it was believed that if a wafer was pierced with a sharp instrument, it would exude the blood of Christ. It was also believed that only non-Christians—Jews in particular—committed such "host desecrations" in secret ceremonies, as a way to show their dislike for Christ and Christianity.

By the 13th century, the number of blood relics on display in churches throughout Europe began to grow, and the most common source of the blood was supposedly the desecrations of the host. By the year 1500, more than 100 accounts of host desecrations had been recorded across Europe, primarily in Germany and Austria.

Inevitably, the belief that Jews engaged in this sacrilege led to widespread violence against them. In 1243 in Belitz, Germany, the entire Jewish population of the city was burned alive by a mob of Christians who believed that the Jews had just conducted a ceremony in which they desecrated the host.

A little more than 50 years later, a series of reprisals against the Jews for the same alleged offense occurred in Roettingen in southern Germany. The leader of the pogrom was an impoverished nobleman named Rindfleisch, who had supposedly borrowed heavily from Jewish money-lenders. Fearful that he would be unable to repay them, he started a rumor that the Jews in Roettingen had committed acts of host desecration. His strategy was ultimately effective because violence soon broke out and within days, every Jew in Roettingen had been burned at the stake.

The rampage in Roettingen soon developed into a full-scale pogrom against the Jews, and Rindfleisch took a leading role in these attacks. In 1298, he organized and armed a vigilante group that completely annihilated the Jewish community of Wuerzburg. In Nuremberg, they massacred another 698 Jews, and in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, they slaughtered another 450 Jews. It is estimated that during this period, the Rindfleisch pogrom resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 persons and the annihilation of 141 Jewish congregations throughout 60 German cities.

## The First Blood Relic



The earliest relic of the blood of Christ was discovered in Mantua, Italy in 804 AD. The story went that the Roman soldier Longinus, who was nearly blind, pierced Christ's body on the cross with his spear to finish him off. When some of Jesus' blood splashed into the soldier's eyes, it miraculously cured his blindness. He then put some of the blood and dirt in a small container that he later carried with him during his travels in Italy. During a stay in Mantua, he secretly buried the container for safekeeping.

After his death in 37 AD, it remained lost until the ninth century, when the spirit of St. Andrew purportedly revealed its location to one of the faithful. The relic was put on display at the Hospice of St. Andrew until the Hungarian invasion in 943, when it was hidden in a secret room to protect it from violation.

It was again lost but rediscovered on March 12, 1048, when the spirit of St. Andrew once more intervened, appearing to a blind beggar to reveal its location for the faithful. The relic was later kept in the Basilica of St. Andrew where pilgrims regularly journeyed to behold it. Today, the relic is kept in an underground crypt by a central altar within an iron coffer. It is taken out only one day each year on April 21 for viewing.

—Ron Hunka

### The Armleder

In 1338, yet another cycle of violence was perpetrated in Germany by the followers of the self-anointed prophet John Zimberlin, an innkeeper in the Alsace area. For reasons known only to him, he tied pieces of leather around his arms and encouraged his followers to do so as well, as a mark of group affiliation. From this practice, the mob became known as the "Armleder" (German for "arm leather").

Believing that the Jews had profaned Christian communion wafers, bands of Armleder attacked Jews in the Franconian and Schwabian regions of Germany, as well as the Alsatian border region of France. When the attacks ended in 1339, an estimated 1,500 people had been killed.

In 1337, after a rumor of host desecration was circulated in the Bavarian village of Deggendorf, the Christian townspeople set fire to the local synagogue, where the town's Jews had fled. Those who escaped from the burning building were beaten to death. Later, these events led to the founding of an anti-Semitic host desecration pageant that began when the town church was dedicated in 1360. Incredibly, this pageant continued until 1992, when the

bishop of Regensburg abolished it and erected a plaque to discredit the religious sanction given to this atrocity.

In Wolfsberg, Austria, when Jews were accused of stealing the Eucharist, making it bleed, and attempting to burn it in 1338, the outraged Christians burned over 70 Jews at the stake. That same year, Pope Benedict XII discredited two instances of supposed host desecrations when his investigation determined that some overzealous Austrian priests had actually dripped blood on communion wafers as a means to create more relics and to further justify persecuting the Jews.

### Host Desecration Shrines

One of the most popular shrines built as a result of an alleged host desecration, the Chapel of the Holy Blood, was in Sternberg in the north German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

According to legend, in 1492, the priest Peter Daene had borrowed money from Jewish money-lenders but had no way to repay the sum. So in exchange for relief from his debt, he gave two communion wafers to a Jew named Eleasar.

During Eleasar's daughter's wedding,



Eleasar and some of his colleagues reputedly defiled the hosts by piercing them with awls. When the wafers began to bleed, they became alarmed and returned the wafers to the priest, who secretly buried them near his residence. The priest eventually told some associates about a dream in which he became aware that there were two bleeding hosts buried somewhere nearby. Suspicious of the priest's story, some of the brothers brought their concerns to the Duke of Mecklenburg, who conducted a search for the bleeding wafers. As the story goes, the bleeding hosts were found and Daene later confessed giving the wafers to the Jews.

Daene was later executed for his part in the desecration while the Jews in the area were rounded up, publicly tortured, and 25 men and two women burned at the stake.

dering remains, to his astonishment, he found three intact communion wafers, each splattered with blood.

Since relics were believed to be indestructible, he concluded that he had witnessed a communion wafer miracle and duly reported it to Bishop Dietrich, in nearby Havelberg. After looking over the wafers, the bishop pronounced the happenings a legitimate miracle and ordered the construction of a church on the site. So successful was the church as a place of pilgrimage that the bishops used some of the proceeds raised

there to beautify Havelberg Cathedral.

But one of the most beautiful churches in Austria that is also a holy blood shrine is a parish church of Sankt Vinzenz, located in a picturesque village of Heiligenblut (meaning "holy blood").

#### The Blood Relic of St. Vinzenz

According to legend, in 912 AD, in Constantinople, a pagan reportedly saw blood miraculously extrude from a painting of Christ at the crucifixion. To confirm the miracle, the Byzantine

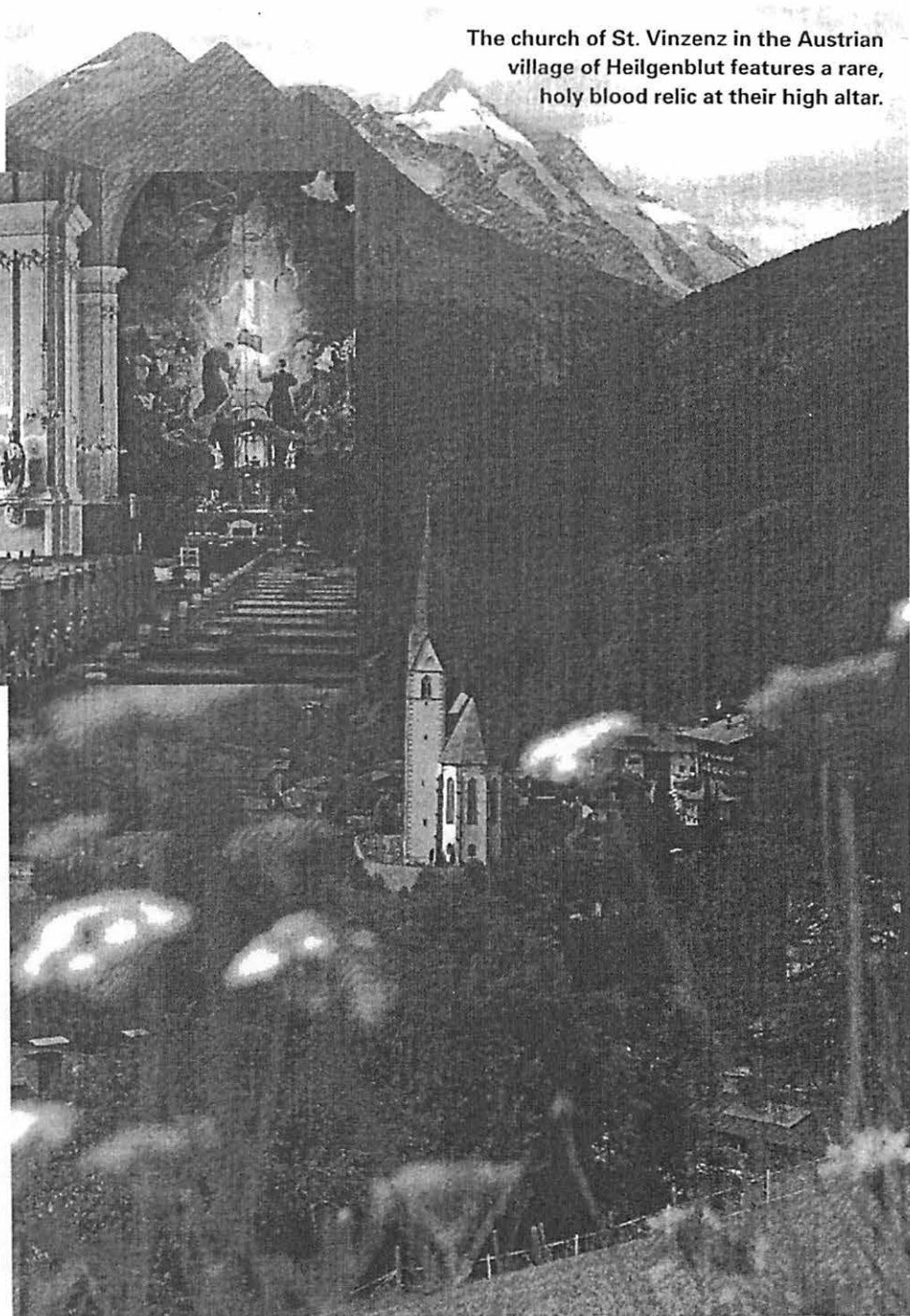
The church of St. Vinzenz in the Austrian village of Heiligenblut features a rare, holy blood relic at their high altar.



The remaining members of the Jewish community were expelled from Sternberg.

Shortly thereafter, at the site where the communion wafers were said to have been found, a church was built dedicated to the body of Christ and his holy blood. So many pilgrims came to visit the church from the end of the 15th century through the middle of the 16th that Sternberg became second only to Wilsnack, the site of a different kind of communion wafer miracle, as the most visited pilgrimage site in all of northern Germany.

However, not all host transformation miracles were due to supposed sacrileges performed by Jews. On August 16, 1383, the knight Heinrich von Buelow attacked the village of Wilsnack and burned down its church. According to legend, when the priest Johann Cabbuez inspected the smol-





Emperor Leo VI visited the site to observe personally the blood flow from the painting. He then collected some of it in a small bottle.

By chance, the prince of Denmark Braccius was offered by Leo one wish for his faithful service. Unexpectedly, the prince asked for the blood relic to carry back to Denmark. Leo reluctantly agreed, provided that the prince could choose the relic from three seemingly identical bottles.

Leo's daughter, who was romantically involved with the Prince at the time, advised Braccius to select the bottle on which no flies landed. He did so, and correctly identified the true relic.

Unfortunately, while *en route* to Denmark during the winter of 914, Braccius was killed by an avalanche while passing through the snowy valley of the River Drau, in what is today southern Austria. A few months later, during the spring thaw, farmers discovered three ears of corn inexplicably growing out of the deep snow. When they dug beneath the snow, they found the dead Prince, whom they believed to be a saint because the corn was growing out of his heart. Additionally, two oxen that they brought to the site to remove the body refused to leave.

The farmers eventually built a church on the spot and the small bottle of blood the farmers found now resides beside the high altar in the Church of Sankt Vinzenz.

### Relics and Reformation

In the early 15th century, the pilgrimage church of Wilsnack came under attack when Jan Hus, a Czech priest and professor of religion, accused its priests of unholy practices, such as paying beggars to visit neighboring towns to claim they had been cured at Wilsnack, in an attempt to increase pilgrim traffic to the church.

So in 1408, along with two other members of the clergy, Hus was appointed by the Archbishop of Prague to investigate the alleged miracles. On the whole, the panel found that the so-called cures were largely deceptive, so a synod in Prague instructed its clergy to tell their parishioners to either end their pilgrimages to Wilsnack or face excommunication.

Four years later, an investigation ordered by the Archbishop of Magdeburg found that the pilgrimages to Wilsnack involved a good deal of clerical overzealousness and avarice. At this point, investigations by the church inexplicably came to a standstill for about 40 years. Then in 1451, papal legate Nicolas of Cusa issued a Papal bull banning the display of the blood relics at Wilsnack and ordered the sanctuary closed because their inquiry had found that "fraudulent miracles were passing for real ones."

Yet the shrine did not remain closed for long. In 1475 and then again in 1487, two pilgrimages to Wilsnack involving thousands of children took place as part of a

"pilgrimage epidemic" that broke out among the children of Germany. The religious fervor of the children's crusades seems to have grown out of the extreme poverty, heavy taxation, social inequity, and general hopelessness of the poor at that time. All these factors made the children easily susceptible to charismatic leaders, such as a shepherd boy from Wuerzburg named Hans Boehm, who, in 1476, attracted thousands of followers by preaching repentance and condemning the greed of the clergy. Eventually, he was burned at the stake for heresy.

In the end, the miracle communion wafers of Wilsnack did not escape the flames of the Protestant Reformation. In 1552, the first Protestant minister of the Wilsnack church ceremoniously burned the relics before the assembled congregation, thus proving that because the relics were able to be burned, they were therefore not true religious relics.

Fortunately, the murders of the Jews over host desecration also came to an end with the imputed omnipotence of the relics. Even though many relics were destroyed during the Protestant Reformation, others, such as the relic of Heiligenblut, survived. However, such relics would never again hold the same mystique and power—and wreak such senseless violence and death—as they did for three centuries throughout Germany and Austria. ☪

## Germany's Reliquary Processions

To this day in Germany, there are annual events that feature processions of holy blood relics. One of the most popular is Gerresheim's *Blutprozession*, part of an eight-day festival known as the Blood Fair, that begins on the Sunday after the Feast of Corpus Christi (the Thursday following the eighth Sunday after Easter) and ends on the following Sunday. The procession derives its name from a relic that supposedly consisted of Christ's blood mixed with soil from Golgotha, the site of the crucifixion. It is believed that during the fifth Crusade (1217-21), this relic was found and gifted to the Gerresheim monastery. It is now preserved in a 15th-century box shaped like a cross.

On the day of the festival, the St. Sebastian Protective Fraternity brings the relic out-

side under a canopy, where a priest holds it up so that all the faithful may gaze upon it, an act that probably survives from the Middle Ages, when even laying eyes upon some relics was thought good for some years' pardon from purgatory.

A second blood relic procession takes place annually on the island of Reichenau in the Bodensee, a huge lake in southern Germany that borders both Austria and Switzerland. In 923 AD, a small, silver and gold abbot's cross containing a bit of earth soaked with Christ's blood, a piece of the true cross, and a cloth said to be flecked with the blood of Christ from the crucifixion, were brought back from the Holy Land. According to legend, these relics were bestowed upon the religious center of Reichenau by a Greek

adventurer named Symeon.

However, the origin of Reichenau's annual blood relic procession did not come about until the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), when Protestant forces took the fighting deep into Bavaria and Austria. So fearful were the monks of Reichenau that the Protestants would find and destroy their sacred relics that they shipped them for safekeeping to a Cistercian monastery in Breisgau, near Freiburg. The relics remained there until 1737, when they were returned to Reichenau. Since that time, the islanders have celebrated the Day of the Return of the Relics each year with a procession that takes place on the Monday following Trinity Sunday, the eighth Sunday after Easter.

—Ron Hunka



From The Atlantic Times, February 2005  
Submitted by Siegi Keimling of Austin

# Made in Germany

Does "Teutonic" sell in America? ■ By Irmintraud Jost

**W**e Germans are pedantic, persnickety, petty-minded nit-pickers. Well, if it works..."

This catchy slogan is how Porsche is advertising its new 911 sports cars, including an ad in this very newspaper.

But how much does it help or hurt a product to identify it as German – especially when marketing it to Americans?

"Our closeness to Germany is obvious," explained Bernd Harling, general manager, public relations for Porsche Cars North America in Atlanta. "We produce lifestyle products with precision, quality, functionality and engineer-driven technology. But our engineers have a strong German accent."

Accounting for a whopping 41 percent of sales worldwide, the United States is the most important market for the sports car manufacturer from Stuttgart, and the German license plate with the "S" for Stuttgart is always prominently displayed on Porsche's marketing images and promotional videos.

The Teutonic branding works: Doug Mazlish, senior executive at a software company, described German-made products as "very high quality, efficient and masculine. They are definitely better than products from other nations, especially cars, kitchen knives and appliances."

While traveling in Germany, Manhattan resident Karen Joyce, sales executive for a global consulting firm, bought Nivea deodorant for the first time and was immediately hooked.

"I now rely on German friends to bring me back Nivea deodorant," she said, "along with sunscreen and German nail polish remover pads."

Nivea deodorant is one of those products that German expatriates import to America for themselves, along with Bayer's "Aspirin plus C" and Haribo's Gold-Bears (Gold-Bears are also sold in the United States, but expats know the export version is made in Spain or Hungary and contains artificial colors).

However, "Made in Germany" no longer necessarily guarantees an easy sell.

Some Americans feel German companies are losing their edge. "The quality is not what it used to be," said Ray Gregor, business owner in Manhattan. "I am driving my third Mercedes and the reliability is not what I expected anymore. There are more problems." Yet, Gregor still likes the look and the style of his CL500.

Randy Cobb, partner in a wireless technology company from Davis, California, got a Braun shaver for Christmas. The saleswoman at Macy's recommended the brand as "the best."

But he is not driving German cars anymore. He owned a Volkswagen Quantum in the 80's and a BMW in the early 90's. "It had rotten gas mileage, but I loved that car," he said. In 2004 he switched to a Nissan SUV.

"Overall, German products still live up to their image," judged Christopher Lynch, chairman of the California German American Business Association and former U.S. consul general in Hamburg.

Lynch pointed out that the cost comparison has to be exceptional: "If the quality isn't there, the market reacts."

So is it a good idea to market a German product as being specifically German?

The "Made in Germany" seal of approval still seems to work best for car manufacturers. Porsche, BMW, Mercedes, Audi and Volkswagen are among the most prevalent German brand names in American minds.

Audi's slogan "Vorsprung durch Technik" baffled Americans in the 90's, but it stuck in their minds, even though – or because – they could neither understand nor pronounce it.

Since Audi's own marketing people had difficulties coming up with a decent translation – they settled eventually on "Advantage through Technology," the German slogan was dropped and replaced by the English trademark "Never Follow."

If you want to sell wine, make sure customers know it's from France. But what if you want to sell a blender from Germany?

"But we definitely position Audi as a German sports sedan, internally and externally," insisted Jennifer Cortez, spokeswoman for Audi USA.

The company, Cortez added, brands their cars as sporty, progressive, sophisticated, with innovative technology, good material and excellent design.

Daimler Benz's merger with Chrysler has not stopped mar-

keting experts at Mercedes-Benz North America from building on their European roots.

"We do play the German heritage card," acknowledged a spokeswoman for the company.

For global players, the promise of German-made goods is hard to keep. "German" cars are built in facilities around the world - Mercedes in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and BMW in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Mercedes Benz is one of the companies that have tried to transfer the "German" image into their own brand name. CEO Jürgen Schrempp explained at the opening of a new plant in South Africa: "We plan globally, we produce locally - to a world-wide standard of manufacturing excellence. The words 'Made in

Germany' used to be the ultimate stamp of approval on the quality of the cars we made. Today, it is simply 'Made by Mercedes-Benz.'"

This applies to some extent to the American market.

In a study conducted by the German American Chamber of Commerce and Roland Berger Consultants, about a third of

German mid-sized businesses in the United States said they saw no or only marginal competitive advantages in the German identity of their brand.

Another third said they believed their German heritage offers a head start in quality, and yet another third was not sure that the country of origin makes any difference.

Despite the outcome of the survey, the image of technical competence Germany has built over the decades still applies, said Dransfeld:

"Everybody knows Germany is a technology nation. That frustrates our French neighbors, who are not seen as a high-technology country despite Airbus and other industries.

"Their image reflects fashion and beautiful things. Germany, on the other hand, is not famous for design.

Thanks to an initiative in Washington to promote environmentally friendlier laundry systems, more and more American brands have started producing front-loaders. But

the innovative German technology still has its price.

At Best Buy in San Jose, California, the cheapest standard top-loader is available for 219 dollars, while Siemens' Ultra Sense with digital sensors and interacting technologies goes for 1,099 dollars.

Miele washing machines, only available through authorized dealers, have a price tag of 1,799 dollars.

Sabine Collins, President of Meissen Porcelain Inc, chose deliberately not to market its German heritage, despite a long and respected tradition.

Remarkably, the U.S. website manages to tell the history of the almost 300-year-old company without ever mentioning the words "German" or "Germany."

"If I am asked, I do tell that it is a German company, but I am not advertising it," said Collins.

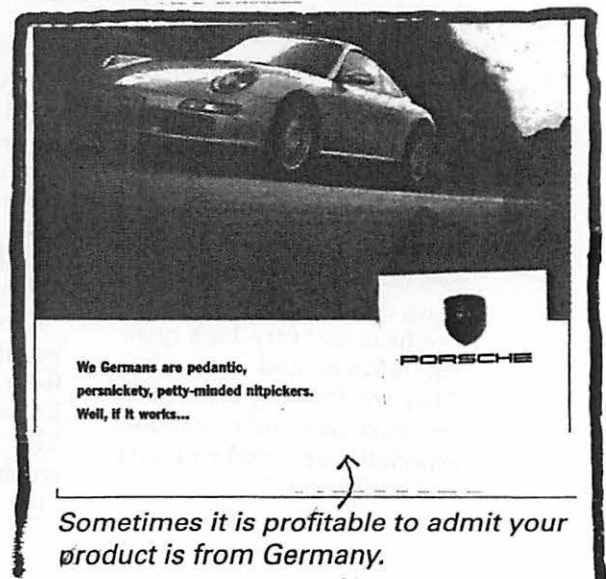
"Marketing the company as German would not be of any advantage at this point."

Instead of the company's Teutonic heritage, Collins concentrates on lifestyle, emphasizing the luxury items' bright colors: "Americans have a positive attitude and Meissen is a happy product," she said.

Her approach is working: sales in the United States increased in 2004 by 280 percent.

Some German experts are concerned that other recent events in Germany could have a negative impact on their exports.

"The pictures of workers who make a lot of money and don't want to give up their entitlements waving red flags might hurt high-priced German quality products," feared Porsche's Harling. "If the German image as a manufacturer of quality products that are worth their value gets harmed, everybody who is traveling with the German label will be affected."



We Germans are pedantic, persnickety, petty-minded nitpickers. Well, if it works...

Sometimes it is profitable to admit your product is from Germany.



**BOOK REVIEW BY RON HUNKA, GTHS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR**

*Clever Maids: The Secret History of the Grimm Fairy Tales*

Valerie Paradiz

Penguin Books

2005

Price \$13.95

ISBN 0-465-04656-05491-9

The author of this interesting, short work holds a PhD in German literature and has taught the language at several colleges and universities in New York State. Her translation of the autobiography of the actor Klaus Kinski of *Fitzcarraldo* fame is also evidence of her facility with German.

In *Clever Maids*, Valerie Paradiz purports to discredit the popular notion that the Grimm brothers collected their fairy tale material from interviews with peasants in travels in Germany. A notion to which she says they inadvertently contributed by concealing the sources of their material. The skeptic might require some documentation that such a notion existed in the first place. However, the writer provides little. But, no matter, this is an interesting account of the lives of the Grimm brothers and how they collected more than half of their material from educated, female friends of their own class, rather than from peasants. One of these women, Annette von Droste Huelshoff, after her death, came to be, perhaps, the most celebrated poetess of the German language.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were born in 1785 and 1786 respectively in the Kingdom of Hesse. The family's bourgeois status was suddenly swept away with the death of their father, a government official. Their mother regarded Jacob and Wilhelm as the family's only hope of getting that status back through education. At great sacrifice for the mother and her four other children, they were sent off to study the law. To this end, they enrolled at the University of Marburg. However, there they became interested in German literature.

In the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the fear of Napoleon's domination of Europe led to an interest in preserving the German folk heritage by the publication of traditional tales and stories. The Grimms were caught up in this movement. In 1805, Napoleon became the emperor of France, and in 1806, all the land between the Rhine and the Elbe was annexed to France. The Grimm brothers spent this occupation period collecting folk tales with a renewed sense of urgency. Next door to their home in Kassel lived the six Wild sisters who, the author informs us, were a primary source of their folklore.

Two of the Grimms more familiar stories that appeared in their 1812 initial publication of *Children's and Household Fairy Tales* were "Hansel and Gretel", contributed by Dortchen Wild, and "Red Riding Hood", contributed by Marie Hasenpflug, the daughter of another family of the Grimm's acquaintance. However, there were many other stories much less familiar to most modern readers.

For example, one of the first folk tales obtained by the Grimms from Gretchen Wild was called "The Child of Mary". In the story, the Virgin Mary takes the child of a poor woodcutter to live with her in heaven where she "eats shortbread, drinks sweet milk and wears clothes made of gold." When the Virgin Mary has to leave her one day, she gives the girl the keys to thirteen doors and tells her that the thirteenth is never to be opened. Of course, the girl opens the door, finds the Holy Trinity in their blazing glory and lies about it when Mary returns. As a result, she is kicked out of heaven and found by a king who marries her. At the birth of each of her first three children, Mary appears and takes the child away as the girl still will not admit she lied. Finally, the queen is accused of killing the children and eating them. As she is about to be burned at the stake, she finally confesses that she has lied. Whereupon the Virgin Mary returns with the three children and tells the woman that one who sins but repents will be forgiven. Every good fairy tale always has a moral.

In this book, Valerie Paradiz retells many of the fairy tales that the Grimms recorded, certainly enough that the reader has a good sense of their substance. It is true, as has been said, that many of the stories are of a dark nature and that characters often suffer or are threatened with medieval punishments, such as when the girl in the child of Mary is about to be burned at the stake. Elsewhere, in the "The Maiden with No Hands", a girl's father cuts off her hands after striking a deal with the devil. In "The Goose Maid" a wicked chambermaid who impersonates a princess is stripped naked thrown into a barrel with sharp spikes and dragged through the streets of the town until she dies.

On a less gruesome note, another fairy tale contributed by Dortchen Wild is the German classic of Frau Holle. At the first sight of snow, many Germans, young and old, will still remark that Frau Holle is shaking off her feather bed, from where snow originates in the story.

In summary, the author points out, the stories that the Grimms collected were eventually translated into 140 languages and have been the basis of movies such as *Snow White*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Cinderella*. According to her, the Grimm's fairy tales are second only to the Bible in sales in western culture. Certainly, the Grimms accomplished their principle goal of preserving German folklore.

Those interested in German language and literature, and especially those who heard these stories as children growing up in Germany will enjoy Valerie Paradiz' interesting research into the life of the brothers Grimm and the women who were the source of much of their material.

Ron Hunka

## German Texans and World War I

Dear GTHS Members,

I am researching the impact that World War I (1914-1918) had on the German Texans for my doctoral dissertation. I am looking for any information (in English or German) you may have about German Texans during the war. This could be either pro-German or anti-German propaganda, evidence of discrimination against German Texans, and/or personal reflections about the effects of the war. Any of the following types of records would be of interest:

City (municipal) records  
Church records (especially those which detail the prohibition of German-language services)  
Business records  
Journals, diaries, and letters  
Newspaper clippings  
Verifiable stories and accounts  
Oral histories  
German social organizations (Sängerbund, Sons of Hermann, music, art, etc.)  
Political records  
German language use  
War propaganda

If you have any of these (or know of some) and are willing to share them for research purposes, please contact me at any of the following:

Matt Tippens  
3811 63<sup>rd</sup> Dr.  
Lubbock, TX 79413  
(806) 793-3450  
e-mail: matttippens@yahoo.com

*Vielen Dank!*  
Matt Tippens

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### ■ Young Germans Love America

The U.S. continues to be the dream destination for Germans. According to a poll by the Marplan opinion research institute, 5 percent would like to reside permanently in the U.S. This puts America at the top of the list of best-loved countries.

Young people in particular would prefer to live overseas. Of those polled under 34 years of age, 26 percent said they were ready to move. A total of 58 percent of those surveyed admitted they would prefer to remain in their home country, but of those under 24 only slightly over a third said so.

*submitted by Siegi Keimling  
from The Atlantic Times*



## AUSTRIA'S RIEGERSBURG CASTLE

# Home to Two Unusual Women

**O**n an extinct volcano that rises above the red tile rooftops of the quiet, medieval town of Riegersburg, Austria, stands a castle that was once known as the mightiest fortress in Christendom. That accolade was awarded Riegersburg castle in 1664 by the Austrian Field Marshall Count Raimondo Montecuccoli, after his victory over the Ottoman Turks at the battle of St. Gotthard, 15 miles to the south.

In this battle, a combined Christian force of 25,000 French, Hungarian, German, and

Austrian troops defeated a Muslim army of 120,000. After the battle, 10,000 Turkish troops lay dead and thousands more had drowned in the rain-swollen river. The victory saved Austria, as well as Europe, from a devastating invasion and Riegersburg castle played a strategic role as a stronghold and staging area in this great triumph.

As historians have noted, this part of Austria in the province of Steiermark has so often been at war that the longest period of peace it has ever known was from the end of World War II to the present. It is little won-

der then that the castle's owners molded this fortress into one of the largest complexes in Europe. In addition to Riegersburg's elevated position, which is protected on three sides by vertical rock faces that rise 600 feet above the town, it also has two miles of walls with five gates and two trenches.

Although the history of Riegersburg castle reaches back to the 12th century, its high points were in the 17th. Apart from the colossal victory over the Turks, tales of two controversial women who resided there have come down from that time.



Ron Hunka

Today, of the 108 castle rooms, only 24 are open to the public. Sixteen deal with castle history and eight with witchcraft. Although one can walk up from the center of town, many find it more practical to reach the castle by a lift on the opposite side of the great basalt hill. A round table in the castle displays the names of the known victims of the "witches" persecution. Across the room, a map of the area shows where the alleged witches' Sabbaths were held and the flight routes they allegedly took to cause the hail storms.

**"Bad Liesl" von Galler**

**E**lisabeth Katharina von Galler was the most famous woman in the history of Steiermark. Born in 1608 into a wealthy merchant family, she inherited a large estate. In 1630, she married the president of the Royal Austrian Interior War Council Hans Wilhelm von Galler, the owner of Riegersburg castle, making Elisabeth the mistress of the castle at the age of 22. When her husband died in 1650, she became its sole owner.

"The Gallerin," as Elizabeth was often called, was an unconventional woman for her day. Her wealth and power provided her with the means of defying both convention and tradition, and she did so often. However, her life was also full of contradictions.

On the one hand, her reputation for cantankerous and rowdy behavior, combined with her extravagant tastes, earned her the nickname of "Bad Liesl." For example, in the knight's hall, an epigram on a window pane from 1635, when von Galler was 28, records a period of partying and drunkenness that went on there from April 6 until April 26. Also, Riegersburg's great white banquet hall that she built in 1658, with telling frescoes by the noted court painter Johann Otto, bears testimony to von Galler's extravagance.

On the other hand, von Galler frequently acted in the best interest of her subjects. For their protection, she spent a vast sum of money enlarging and strengthening Riegersburg's fortifications. During times of crisis, no one from the area was ever turned away.

Never intimidated by orthodoxy, the Gallerin engaged in an eight-year quarrel with the powerful priest of Riegersburg, Wolfgang Strobel. At one point, she penned a document in which she outlined 25 specific charges against the man and called for his removal. However, he fought back by criticizing her scandalous and extravagant lifestyle. But to this long-running conflict, there was no clear conclusion, as neither could sufficiently discredit the other.

Even years after the death of von Galler's first husband, she remarried in 1661 to a

military man, Oberst Detlef von Kappel. However, the marriage lasted only three years as ironically, Riegersburg's happiest day was also one of the saddest for its ruler. Her husband was killed in the fighting at St. Gotthard. Nonetheless, some ten months later, von Galler impetuously married again.

Her third marriage proved an unhappy one, for von Galler married the much younger Hans Rudolf von Stadl, the owner of the nearby township of Kornberg. Among his shortcomings, von Stadl mistreated her subjects. Therefore, in 1669, von Galler took a step that was unprecedented for a Catholic noblewoman of her time. Marshalling all her tactical skills, wealth, and power, she divorced von Stadl.

The Gallerin died in 1672 at the age of 64 and left her estate to her daughter Regina from her first marriage, and, by default, her son-in-law Johann Ernst Count von Purgstall. In a final act of defiance, although she was buried in the village church, her will stipulated that no memorial be placed at her grave site. Thus, the exact location of the final resting place of Steiermark's most famous woman is today unknown.

**Katharina Paldauf, the Flower Witch**

**T**he second well-known woman of Riegersburg castle was a servant of von Galler's for over 30 years—Katharina Paldauf. Unlike her mistress, she was an unfortunate victim of the times in which she lived.

As a young woman, Paldauf came to live in the castle as a gardener when she demonstrated uncanny skill in nurturing plants and flowers. Reputedly charming and innocent, her main joy in life seems to have been spending long, quiet hours in the garden. During her service to von Galler, she married and had at least three children.

Ostensibly, Paldauf's problems began in 1673, the year after the Gallerin died. That June, the Riegersburg area suffered three violent hail storms that damaged crops, vineyards, and property. To the people of that day, the storms seemed unnatural. Coupled with a belief that witches caused bad weather,

mass hysteria resulted and as a consequence, a great witch trial was convened in the district court of Feldsbach, about five miles distant.

There were five grounds on which someone could be tried for witchcraft: making a pact with the devil, celebrating the witches' Sabbath, flying, desecrating communion wafers, and causing bad weather.

The presiding judge, appointed by the Emperor of Austria, was Count Purgstall, von Galler's son-in-law and now the master of Riegersburg castle. Between 1673 and 1675, 42 women and 53 men, including the village priest of nearby Hatzen Dorf, were tried, almost always after torture.

How Katharina Paldauf, the gardener, became involved in this furor over witches had to do with her expertise with plants. It was believed that witches utilized a knowledge of plants to produce their potions. Secondly, some witnesses seemed to recall that even during winter when snow lay yet on the battlements of the castle, one could see pots of blooming roses on the windowsill in Paldauf's room. A woman who coached flowers to life in winter must surely be a witch, they believed.

Today, records no longer exist of how many people were convicted of witchcraft and executed. However, it is believed that at least 20 persons were put to death, including Katharina Paldauf. Such people were usually burned at the stake, sometimes after first being strangled. Hence she died as "the flower witch," a name still associated with her over 300 years later.

In 1822, the von Purgstall line died out, and Riegersburg castle was purchased by the von und zu Liechtenstein family, the present owners. Their descendant, the popular Prinz Friedrich von und zu Liechtenstein, lives with his wife and two sons in the village below. He has been instrumental in making the castle into a museum to document the life of the iconoclastic Elisabeth Katharina von Galler and the sad period in which a number of guiltless persons were persecuted and executed for witchcraft, including an innocent gardener who lost her life for merely loving roses. ☺



# EFBC by Zeppelin

Jim Graue

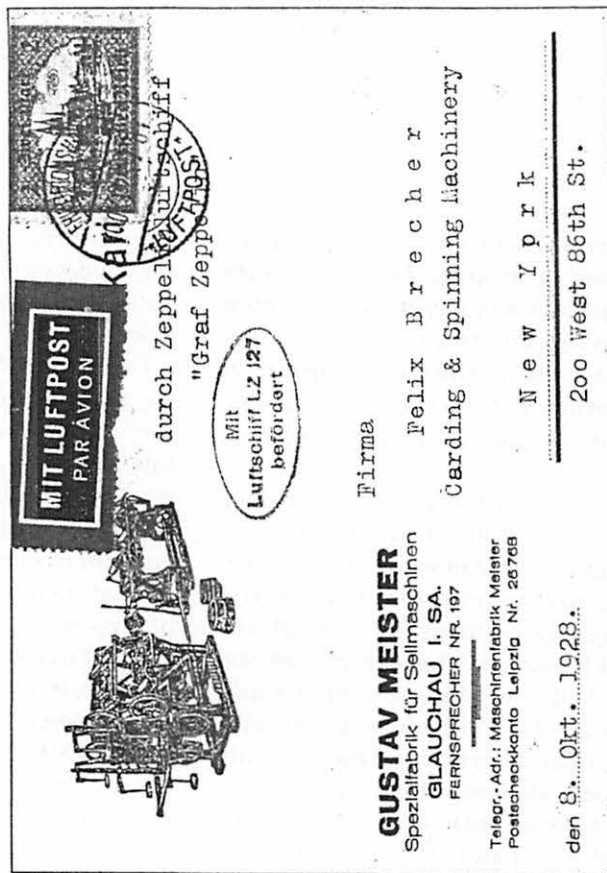
For decades I have been a collector of covers, concentrating mostly on German trans-Atlantic airmail. Like most collectors, over time I developed "standards" for what I would collect. These are not written rules but rather mental notes setting parameters on condition and the acceptability of certain characteristics or types of covers for my collection. One might simply call them personal preferences. There are a number of exclusions but one of them just gave way.

In the March 2005 German Postal Specialist, Robert M. Bell and Ian McQueen collaborated on an article, "Economic Folded Business Cards." In searching through thousands of covers over the years, those "unattractive folded cards" were on my exclusions list rather than my want list. However, I found the article by Bell and McQueen interesting, even enlightening. I now see these cards in an entirely new way. While I may not actively engage in searching for them, when I come across one now I at least know what it is and have an appreciation for it. Further, I know that I have passed over many of them, including some that I now wish I had bought when I had the chance. It is never what you buy that causes one to have regrets; it is what you did not buy.

With my new-found perspective on EFBCs, and knowing that I had passed over a few in the past, I am keeping my eye open for Zeppelin-flown EFBCs. They are out there! I have thus far found two flown on major demonstration flights of the LZ-127 *Graf Zeppelin*. The demonstration flight period for the *Graf Zeppelin* was 1928 - 1931. In 1932 it began a scheduled commercial passenger and airmail service to South America.

The America Flight in 1928 was only the seventh flight of the then-new airship, making its first trans-North Atlantic flight to the United States quite remarkable. The flight was well publicized and a considerable amount of mail was flown. The flight was high profile and headline news, a first at a time when aviation was entering its major development period. While most of the mail was "philatelic" in nature, i.e., prepared by or for collectors, commercial firms saw it as an opportunity for a message to associates and customers. These were usually in the form of a "commercial favor," a "remember us" note intended to keep a commercial name in the forefront. The first illustrated EFBC is from a German firm manufacturing rope-making machinery to a "Carding & Spinning Machinery" firm in New York. The message is in German.

**EFBC BY ZEPPELIN**  
 By Jim Graue  
 Submitted by Muriel Vaughn from German Postal Specialist, November 2005



Firma

**GUSTAV MEISTER**

Spezialfabrik für Sellmaschinen  
 GLAUCHAU I. SA.  
 FERNSPRECHER NR. 197

Telegr.-Adr.: Maschinenfabrik Meister  
 Postcheckkonto Leipzig Nr. 26768

den 8. Okt. 1928.

N e w Y o r k

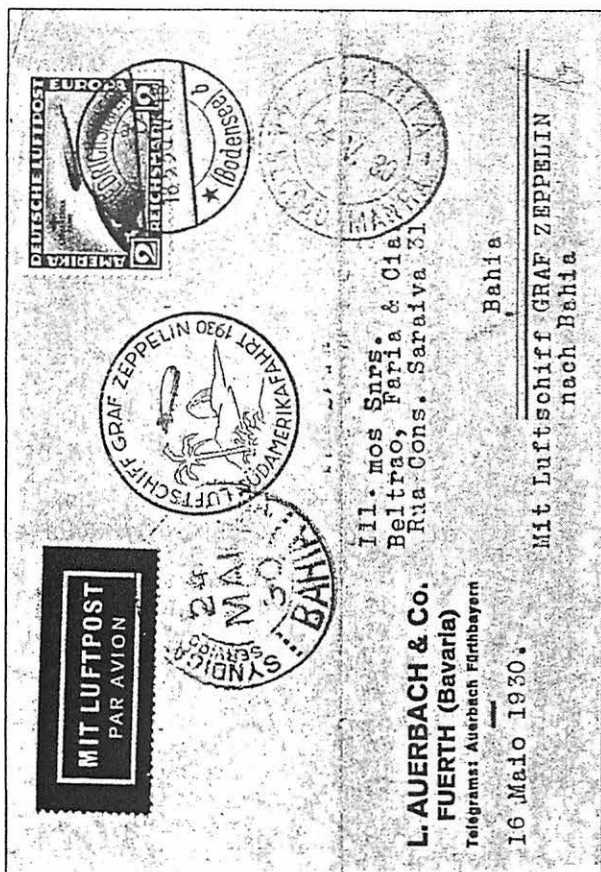
200 West 86th St.

*I am sorry that I have not heard from you for some time therefore in order to again resume our business connection I am sending you greetings by the airship Graf Zeppelin since it flew over Glauchau on its trial flight.*

*I would be very happy to hear from you again.*  
 Faithfully yours,

In May 1930, the *Graf Zeppelin* undertook a major "triangle" flight from Europe to Brazil, then north to the United States and back to Germany. This was the 1930 South America Flight, commonly referred to in the United States as the Pan-America Flight. It set the stage for the eventual commercial airship service to South America. The second illustrated EFBC is from a commercial firm in Fürth to a firm in Bahia, Brazil. The *Graf Zeppelin* made an in-flight mail drop at Bahia while en route from Recife to Rio de Janeiro and this card was included in that drop. The message is in Portuguese:





Dear Friends

*Our constant desire being the tightening of relations between us and our numerous clientele, we could not avoid using the opportunity afforded us by this voyage on the airship "Graf Zeppelin" to send you our best wishes.*

*With our greetings, which are given in the friendship we cherish toward all our clients, and in knowing the fraternity which must exist between all friendly peoples, we also wish to call to your special attention that the "Graf Zeppelin" is painted with aluminum from this company.*

*Please accept our highest and most sincere considerations,*

*De V. Sas.*

*Atos. Vores. e Obdos.*

The vast majority of Zeppelin airmail is philatelic, some is non-philatelic personal mail and the smallest surviving "class" is pure commercial mail, i.e., *Firmenbrief*. The bulk of the commercial Zeppelin airmail was simply thrown away as it did not represent anything special to its recipients. Today, commercial Zeppelin airmail is highly prized. These examples of EFBCs are clearly commercial in intent (enhanced customer relations) and therefore within my special collecting interest of commercial Zeppelin airmail.

I am grateful for the EFBC article that woke me up to the role of these cards. I hope others found inspiration in the article and now see more in these cards than they did before. We all benefit from sharing our hobby!

### Centenary of Birth of Max Schmeling

This stamp issue commemorates the birth centenary of Max Schmeling, the only German boxer to win the world heavyweight title. Schmeling was born on 28 September 1905 in the North German town of Klein-Luckow in the state of Brandenburg. He turned professional in Germany in 1924 and became the heavyweight world champion in 1930 when his opponent, Jack Sharkey, was disqualified. He married the well-known actress Anny Ondra in 1933.



In the most famous fight in his career, in 1936, Schmeling knocked out the American Joe Louis in the twelfth round.

The Second World War interrupted Schmeling's boxing career which he resumed for only a short time after the war.

After retirement from boxing, Schmeling, well known as a sports idol, enjoyed a successful business career and was well respected in German society.

Schmeling died on February 2, 2005 at the age of 99 years in Hollenstadt, near Hamburg.

The stamp shows Max Schmeling in boxing pose and later in life.

**Issue Date:** 8 September 2005

**Design:** Irmgard Hesse, Munich

**Theme:** 100th Anniversary of Birth of Max Schmeling, German boxer

**Printing:** Multicolor offset by Giesecke & Devrient GmbH Leipzig

**Size:** 43 mm x 25.50 mm

**Value:** 0.55 Euro

### GERMANY ISSUES POSTAGE STAMP HONORING MAX SCHMELING

submitted by Muriel Vaughn from German Postal Specialist, November 2005



Submitted by Siegi Keimling  
from *The Atlantic Times*, January 2005

# Playing Hard to Get

Why isn't Wal-Mart successful in Germany? ■ By Sigrid de Vries

The world's largest retailer is sending mixed messages to German consumers, and they don't like it – not yet, anyway.

Wal-Mart is the biggest company in its sector worldwide and usually considered the most successful as well.

But surprisingly, its well-tested U.S. sales- and marketing concept doesn't work in Germany – the only country in the world where Wal-Mart doesn't make money.

To insiders in the retail business, the amazement isn't that great.

"Germany is the most difficult marketplace in the world for retailers," says chief executive officer Hans-Joachim Körber of Germany's biggest retailer Metro – now the third largest retailer in the world.

Metro, which operates about 260 profitable Wal-Mart-like superstores in Germany under the name "Real," is active in 29 countries. Explicitly refer-

have observed a gradual change in German consumer habits that may save Wal-Mart yet.

Retail growth has been noted more and more in stores that appeal to the price-conscious, yet still offer "fun shopping" goods.

A growing consumer base treats itself regularly to something nice, something new.

A good example of a company that profits from this trend is Tchibo, formerly a coffee producer and retailer that has reinvented itself as a marketer of lifestyle and wellness products. Every week, Tchibo's small coffee shops sell a different group of boutique products, ranging from silverware to jackets, for millions of euros. No one really needs the products – when they want to buy silverware, they go to a department store – yet, when they see a special offer out of the blue at Tchibo, they buy it.

It's impulse buying – it makes you feel good. Shopping in Germany is finally becoming a leisure time activity for large groups of customers, as



BARBARA STAUBACH/ARTUR

*Wal-Mart has yet to find its niche in Germany.*

many. Together, the four stores lost 26 million euros that year. Using those numbers, some estimates have put Wal-Mart's total losses for the fiscal year

that are worlds away from the lives of the latently anti-American Germans.

Recent headlines in the German press about female



ring to Wal-Mart, Körber told Metro shareholders recently that a company can't simply apply its home-market principles to the German market. "Such a strategy is bound to fail."

According to market specialists, Wal-Mart underestimated the complexity of the overcrowded German retail market and the specific character of the general German consumer.

Wal-Mart entered the German market in 1997 by buying existing, unprofitable German "Verbrauchermärkte" or "consumer stores," and now operates 91 stores throughout the country, with 13,000 employees. Market specialists believe hardly any of these shops make a healthy profit.

Wal-Mart Germany, with its headquarters in the West German city of Wuppertal, is secretive about its sales and profits. The company will not even confirm its estimated sales of 2.8 billion euros in 2003, which would account for a market share of 2 percent.

Only recently, and after a court order sought by a trade union, did Wal-Mart publish figures for 2000 covering four stores in the north of Ger-



2000 at 600 million euros. Wal-Mart stressed that the "difficult times" are mostly over now. The company expected to achieve a positive cash flow in 2004, but has not commented on profits or sales recently.

Wal-Mart has recognized where the biggest problem lies: It does not understand the German customer.

"We have to establish a sound relationship with the Germans," chief operating officer Dalton Philips of Wal-Mart Germany said in a recent interview with a German newspaper. "Trustworthiness is most important."

German shoppers are very conservative and price-conscious at the same time. They either stick to their trusted retailer around the corner or shop in one of the 15,000 low-price "discount shops" like the famous Aldi grocery store chain (4,000 stores) and its younger counterpart Lidl (about 3,000 shops).

In every one of those shops, which are not more than a 15 minute drive away for most customers, Germans know exactly what quality to expect and the prices they will pay for it.



employees in the U.S. who claimed to have been discriminated against by Wal-Mart in pay and career opportunities didn't help improve the retailer's image.

For sure, German discounters are also under attack for mistreating their personnel. Germans bristled when the large trade union Verdi reported last December that discounter Lidl was treating its employees "in a 19th-century way," keeping its staff under permanent suspicion of thieving, underpaying women and for all practical purposes banning employee representation. More and more Germans are conscious of the fact that the low prices are the result of underpaid personnel.

Yet, despite Wal-Mart's difficult start, market specialists see chances for the American retailer.

They predict the German "discount boom" is coming to an end. Last year, Aldi and Lidl didn't grow as rapidly as in previous years. Both companies are accordingly turning to foreign markets, including the United States, to continue to boost their sales.

Recently, however, analysts



it already is in other European countries.

According to market analysts, superstores like Real and Wal-Mart have "fun-shopping" potential, since they are well-equipped to sell a broad range of luxury food products combined with a frequently-changing variety of stylish household goods, bathroom accessories, kitchen appliances and other feel-good products. Maybe Wal-Mart was ahead of its time last year and will be right on the mark next year.

One of the oddball successes in the retail sector recently has been the rise of "shopping for singles" in a handful of stores, which combines shopping and looking for a date.

Perfectly in tune with the Zeitgeist in this respect at least, Wal-Mart puts on such an event every Friday evening, inviting a growing, well-to-do segment of modern society to shop with and meet people who "feel alike."



*Sigrid de Vries is  
German correspondent  
for Holland's  
Het Financieel Dagblad  
and Belgium's De Tijd.*



submitted by Rodney Koenig

# Lindemann attains Eagle Scout rank

Luke Lindemann, 17, a junior at the Liberal Arts and Science Academy magnet school at Lyndon B. Johnson High School in Austin, recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Luke, a member of Boy Scout Troop #1, is the son of Liz Shelby and Howard Lindemann. His grandparents are Gus and Marian Lindemann of La Grange.

Luke's Eagle Service Project was building an outdoor chapel at his church, First Presbyterian Church. He coordinated 27 volunteers who contributed almost 200 hours.

The chapel is located by a large oak tree that has split into three main branches. He named the chapel the Trinity Tree Chapel.

Luke loves to play piano and computer games with his friends. In the fall, he played in the percussion pit for the LBJ Jaguar Marching Band that went to state.

Last summer, Luke was an exchange student to Germany, and during October hosted his German "brother" visiting in Austin.

He enjoys being a member of the fencing club and has participated in German competition at the region and state levels. He is active in his church's youth group and plans to go to Guatemala on a mission trip during Spring Break.



Luke Lindemann



**50<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR  
ARLENE AND JOE BURGES, LONG-TIME GTHS MEMBERS**

Arlene and Joe Burges celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Jan. 14, 2006 with a reception at the Old German Free School in Austin. They were married on Jan. 14, 1956 at St. James Catholic Church in Seguin. Attending the guestbook was their oldest granddaughter, Ashley Burges. Rick Burges, their son, gave an eloquent toast to his parents. He also read a toast from the best man, Dr. Tony Mays who was unable to be present. Helen Wehman, of New Braunfels, cousin of Arlene and her maid-of-honor, toasted the couple as well. Using the same golden goblets used by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arhtur Tschoepe on their 50th anniversary, Arlene and Joe toasted each other. Pat Reed, niece of the couple, sang their chosen song, "Ave Maria".

The serving table was laid with a floral ivory cloth centered with an arrangement of ivory roses intertwined with fern and lighted candles, pale blue bows and encircled with gold netting.

Gina Burges, daughter-in-law, served the 3-tiered anniversary cake, a buttercream confection decorated with pale blue hydrangeas. Punch was served from an heirloom pedestal punch bowl by granddaughter, Kristen Burges. An array of delicious hor-d'oeuvres was enjoyed by family and friends throughout the afternoon.

Arlene's sisters, Kathleen Toepperwein of Houston, Adelheide Wittenborn of Austin, Dorothy Henderson of San Marcos were in attendance as was Joe's brother, Bill and wife, Margaret Lou of Seguin. Members of the House Party included nieces Heidi Wittenborn of Jonestown, Kathy Hopson of Houston, Kimberly Hopson of San Marcos and Kathleen Benavides of Round Rock.

Arlene and Joe both served as presidents of the German Free School Guild, Arlene having been the Founding President of the Guild.



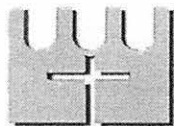




Robert L. Mays, Jr., Attorney at Law, is proud to announce that Alexandra "Sandi" Mays, German teacher, Tafolla Middle School, San Antonio ISD, has been selected by the American Association of Teachers of German as the 2005 Outstanding German Educator of the Year. This prestigious award is given in recognition of personal innovation, talent, and leadership which reflect uncommon excellence. Mrs. Mays will receive the award, and the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Scholarship, at the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Baltimore on November 19, 2005.

**ALEXANDRA "SANDI" MAY'S  
OUTSTANDING GERMAN EDUCATOR  
OF 2005**

submitted by Jean Heide  
from San Antonio Express-News,  
Nov. 19, 2005



THE

# KING'S BANNER



Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 60, Number 7, August, 2005

## Herzlich Willkommen, Peter Stockmann!

We welcome to our congregation Pastor Peter Stockmann from the Evangelical Church in Hesse Nassau, Germany who is arriving on August 11 and staying at Christ the King Church through May 2006. Pastor Stockmann completed his internship in June, passed his exams and was ordained at his village church July 10 with Pr. Robert and Kathy Moore present. He is a welcome addition to the pastoral staff during Pr. Moore's sabbatical leave in the areas of liturgy, German language ministry and faith formation. His extended stay through May gives Pastor Stockmann the opportunity to witness the celebration of one entire cycle of the holidays at Christ the King Church which he is eager to experience. Pastor Stockmann is no stranger to the congregation since he spent several weeks at Christ the King Church in 2000. Herzlich Willkommen!



*Pastor Moore with Pastor Peter Stockmann at his ordination.*

## Walkers plan historical commemorative event in Germany

*submitted by Muriel Vaughn*

In June 1975 in little village of Eitelborn, Germany, in the Westerwald of the Rheinland-Pfalz, Kenn Knopp of Fredericksburg, Texas was visiting relatives (his family first came to Texas in 1868) when the idea of starting walk festivals in the U.S. came to him. As a member of the Bicentennial-USA Commission of Fredericksburg he was charged with finding a German tradition to bring back home to a committee that might be adopted in Fredericksburg for the Bicentennial celebration.

He asked his relatives to go with him to a church to look up family records. But little did he know that the Eitelborn church had only been built in 1925 and prior to that date the family records were kept in a church east of Eitelborn in the town of Arzbach. Instead of an easy stroll of a few blocks, his elderly relatives surprised him with a three-mile walk each way. Knopp weighed 275 pounds at that time and the beautiful trek through the countryside forest turned into a marathon monster for the surprised and exasperated Knopp. When the three Knopps finally made it back to Eitelborn, Kenn Knopp spent two days recuperating!

The hotel he was staying in had a poster advertising a walking festival sponsored by the German Volkssport Association (DVV), members of the International Volkssport Walking Association (IVV). Knopp took his relatives' advice to contact

the IVV to see about organizing an accredited walk club in Fredericksburg and that he be the first to join to walk his way to better health. Returning to Fredericksburg, Knopp presented the idea to the Bicentennial Committee which enthusiastically endorsed the idea. Thus the first IVV walking club in the USA was born, and would be called Volkssport Verein Friedrichsburg, in keeping with the city's German heritage. The international organization likewise accepted the VVF application from Fredericksburg, Texas and June 1976 was set as the first IVV accredited walk in the United States.

Almost 300 people from far and wide showed up for the walk, called "Volksmarch," that went from the Marktplatz in downtown Fredericksburg out into the hills for three miles and wound its way back again to the Marktplatz. Many of the walkers were from Texas military bases and had enjoyed these walks in Europe. Each walker received a record book to keep track of the distances walked as well as the number of events for distance and event awards. The June Volksmarch has been held annually by the Volkssport Verein Friedrichsburg each year since June 1976.

Now 30 years later weighing 225 pounds, Knopp hopes to lead a tour to Germany for an anniversary walk from the village of Eitelborn, Germany to the neighboring village of Arzbach with a celebration

when the group finishes the walk. A special commemorative patch will be awarded those who complete this event. Since the first IVV walk club was founded in Fredericksburg in 1976 the U.S. organization has become the American Volkssport Association, headquartered in Universal City Texas, with almost 400 member clubs throughout the U.S.

The tour and special walk events are open to both walkers and non-walkers. To sign up contact Weidmann Specialty Tours, 209 N. Acorn St., Fredericksburg TX 78624 or [wst@austin.tx.com](mailto:wst@austin.tx.com). The exact tour dates may be changed to better fit accredited IVV walks in Europe being planned by the IVV-AVA Liaison. Present planning has participants leaving from their closest airport on May 30, 2006 and arriving the next morning in Frankfurt, Germany where the tour begins. The group will be special guests of walk clubs in Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria and Switzerland, and will return to the U.S. on June 13. Non-walkers are welcome to come along and will have guides taking them to historical sites and city centers where the tour bus will pick them up after the walkers finish their walks. For information or to sign up for the tour and walks email [kenknopp@ktc.com](mailto:kenknopp@ktc.com) or write the German Heritage Foundation, 407 N. Cora St., Fredericksburg Texas 78624 USA. ☺





SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78210

# Beethoven Maennerchor

(INCORPORATED)

FOUNDED FEBRUARY 23, 1867

Beethoven Halle und Garten  
422 Percida Street (at South Alamo)  
San Antonio, Texas 78210

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN 2006 submitted by Dieter E. Belletz

March 18	Stiftungsfest-Beethoven
April 26, 27, 28	Fiesta Gartenfest
April 29	King William Fair
May 6 & 7	Staats Saengerfest, Beethoven Maennerchor San Antonio, Texas
May 19	Maifest
June 16	Gartenkonzert
July 21	Gartenkonzert
August 18	Gartenkonzert
August 26	Family Picnic
September 15	Gartenkonzert
October 6 & 7	Oktoberfest
October 13& 14	Oktoberfest
October 21	Gebirgs Saengerfest, Beethoven Maennerchor San Antonio, Texas
November 12	Volkstrauertag, Fort Sam Houston
December 2	Kristkindlmarkt
December 9	Christmas Party Maennerchor/Damenchor
December 31 (Sunday)	New Year's Eve Party

**BEETHOVEN KING WILLIAM AREA EVENT**  
(Exhibits, Art, Novelties, Music, Food, etc)

**FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH**  
(No event in October)

# German dialect usage disappears in Texas

CONTINUED FROM 1E

Today, fewer than 8,000 native Texas German speakers are left.

"The language is going extinct," says Boas, an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. "It's basically inevitable. In 30 to 40 years, it will most definitely be gone and there is nothing we can do about it."

A native of Germany, Boas stumbled onto the historic dialect four years ago while driving from California to Austin for his new teaching job at UT. During a lunch break in Fredericksburg, Boas' ears perked up when he heard some people speaking German — with a Texas twist — at a nearby table.

Since then, Boas has delved deeply into the dialect's evolution. Texas German is less formal than the mother tongue spoken in Germany.

It also borrowed liberally from English when new ideas and inventions left it speechless, resulting in words such as *das Boxsupper*, *der Cowboy*, *der Hel-*

*icopter* and *der Taxcollector* — spoken, of course, with a German accent.

Working with a team of UT students, Boas has posted much of his research and audio clips of many of their interviews on the Internet at [www.tgd.org](http://www.tgd.org), the home page for his "Texas German Dialect Project."

Always enthusiastic, the 34-year-old Boas has launched an ambitious, five-year campaign for a \$500,000 endowment that would permit ongoing research. A \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has allowed him to take a sabbatical from UT this year to write his book.

"I'm done with chapter two," Boas says. "I'm working on chapter three and four and hope to have the manuscript done by April of next year."

The anticipated publication date is late 2006 or early 2007.

For more information about the "Texas German Dialect Project," contact Hans Boas at [hcb@gmc.utexas.edu](mailto:hcb@gmc.utexas.edu).

[duhler@express-news.net](mailto:duhler@express-news.net)



J. MICHAEL SHORT/SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS.

University of Texas linguistics researcher Hans Boas interviews New Braunfels resident Dianne Moltz in January. Boas is studying a dialect known as Texas German, commonly spoken in the Hill Country at the turn of the 20th century but destined to die out in 30 to 40 years.

## Linguist's book will capture 'der Cowboy'

Not many speakers of Texas German remain.

BY DAVID UHLER  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

**H**ans Boas, a linguist at the University of Texas, was busy last January interviewing and recording some of the few remaining speakers of Texas German, a unique language they learned from ancestors in the Hill Country and immigrants from the old country.

Tentatively titled "Language Death in the Melting Pot," Boas' scholarly work will track the rise and fall of the once-popular dialect.

At the turn of the 20th century, the so-called "German belt" encompassed much of the Hill Country, where 95 percent of all residents were either German-born or descendants of immigrants. In 1910, German was the first language of 110,000 Texans.

Now, he's also writing a book.

See GERMAN/3E



## FROM THE JOURNAL TWENTY YEARS AGO

These were among articles in the 1986 issues of the Journal.

Page 4 - THE GVEC REVIEW - April, 1986

# Monthalia Methodists Celebrate 100th

On Sunday, March 2, 1986, members of the Monthalia United Methodist Church, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the church with a day of fellowship and worship.

The church site is located approximately 12 miles from Gonzales in the Cost area. This is the same area which received the first electric service when the Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative energized the first lines in 1940.

Former pastors, members, former members and friends of the congregation were present for the various observances on the church grounds and in the sanctuary and parish hall. Approximately 500 signed the registration lists.

The morning worship service included "A Time of Remembrance" as those present participated in "a moment to remember those who have brought us to this anniversary." This was followed by a "Celebration of Our Heritage Song." The hymn, entitled "Immer Fröhlich," was sung in German, reflecting the ancestry of the majority of the members of the congregation.

The morning message was delivered by Bishop Ernest T. Dixon, Jr., Presiding Bishop, San Antonio Area. Bishop Dixon, assisted by the Pastor, Rob McGill, also presided at the dedication of a special plaque marking the Monthalia United Methodist Church as a Methodist Historical Site. The dedication ceremony was held at the conclusion of the afternoon service.

Following the serving of a roast beef dinner at noon those attending the celebration enjoyed a time of fellowship and visiting.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the Monthalia Men's Chorus Reunion which started at 2:00 p.m.

The chorus has been an active and popular part of the congregation for approximately 75 years. During this time the men have sung at numerous area gatherings as well as in the worship services in their home church. They have also sung on several area radio stations and a record has been made by a Houston recording company.

For this special service the chorus included present and former members singing a number of hymns and gospel songs. Under the direction of Gilbert Philippus, the men were accompanied by Mrs. Estelle Froehner.

The chorus presently is made up of twelve members. The membership has reached as high as twenty-six in the past.

Dr. John Gilbert, District Superintendent, brought the afternoon meditation. Emphasizing the homecoming theme, Dr. Gilbert used several illustrations of people returning to their home. Among these was Jesus of Nazareth.

According to a history, published in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary celebration, the Monthalia Methodist Church was founded by families who began settling in the area around what became the Monthalia community in the early 1830's. The history writers, Leonard Gandre and Estelle Froehner, give the

following account:

"During the fall of 1835 and the early part of 1836, the Reverend Daniel Matthaei, pastor of the Seguin Methodist Church, came to the Monthalia community and held services in an old schoolhouse. He made this trip once a month on horseback riding a distance of approximately 3 miles. On March 12, 1836, Reverend Matthaei and Reverend Dossdall, the District Superintendent, came for a visit. On March 13, 1836, the first quarterly conference was held in a schoolhouse in the Monthalia community. This meeting was of historical significance for it was during this meeting that the Monthalia congregation became organized as the Monthalia Methodist Church with seventeen charter members and one probationary member comprising the membership roll. The seventeen charter members were:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nagel, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Nagel, Minnie and Fredericke Nagel, August and Carl Utich, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Enderly, Mr. and Mrs. Schoch, Fritz Weber, and Mr. and Mrs. William Glazer. The one probationary member was F.C. Nagel."

The history also records the completion of the first church building in 1839, and also the moving of the congregation to a new building at the present location in 1914.

Also included in this excellent compilation of church history is information concerning the pastors who have served, missionaries who have originated in the church, and the many and varied ministries of the congregation.

In addition to the history book, a commemorative plate was also prepared by the church's Historical Committee as a part of the 100th Anniversary observance.

Pastor Rob McGill and the congregation are commended for the excellent manner in which the anniversary proceedings were conducted.



Majestic spire and bell tower of the church building at the dedication of past and present members of the church.

In 1986, Mary El-Beheri of San Antonio was GTHS president. Anna Thompson of Austin was vice president. Treasurer was Dona Reeves-Marquardt of Buda, with Kerrville's Glen Lich serving as secretary. The 1986 Directors were Miriam York of Giddings along with Charles Trencmann from Austin and August Faltin from Comfort. GTHS dues in 1986 were \$5 for a "regular" membership.

*From  
Lorene Froehner  
Windle  
(Houston)*



**FROM THE JOURNAL TWENTY YEARS AGO**

These were among articles in the 1986 issues of the Journal.

# The Schiege Cigar Factory still standing after 110 years

La Grange Journal, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1985

From Frieda Franke  
La Grange

By Marjorie Lawson

A quaint old building in Round Top and a few tools of the trade are about all that remain to bear witness to a once thriving industry, growing tobacco and making cigars, in Fayette County.

In the 1880's the growing of tobacco and the manufacturing of "Segars" became widespread in Texas. (Segars was the common spelling of cigars in the 19th century.)

In an 1892 Gasetter and Business Directory, there were 28 towns in Texas listed as having cigar makers. By the next year, 1893, San Antonio alone had 19 cigar makers and there were 50 small cigar factories throughout Texas.

The Town of Willis attracted national attention around 1895 with 7 cigar factories. One plant alone employed over 100 people, who hand rolled cigars from tobacco grown in the vicinity. A story is told that production at Willis, in Montgomery county, was brought to a dramatic end when Cuban workers who wanted to form a

union were denied the privilege and retaliated by rolling gun powder and asfetida into a batch of cigars, making what were probably the first "exploding" cigars.

Cigar manufacturing flourished statewide until the 1920s.

A cigar manufacturer in Round Top, Charles Schiege, built his Segar Factory in 1875, according to a news article that appeared in the La Grange Journal on Sept. 30, 1968. He continued operations until the 1930s.

In 1932, special 50th anniversary boxes of "Boss" cigars were put out by the Schiege Cigar Factory. The wooden boxes had the words "light, mild" in Spanish stamped on the side. The boxes carried the dates 1882-1932 on them.

Charles Schiege was also a Cabinet maker and a Justice-of-the-Peace. His old factory building is still standing in Round Top. It is the only original building of the cigar

manufacturing era in Texas that is still standing.

During the years the factory operated, tobacco grown in the area and tobacco brought in from Missouri and Ohio was hand-rolled into cigars and distributed to areas like San Antonio, Houston and Austin. Schiege's products carried the names of "Texas Star," "Great Sport" and "LaRosa Suprema," and the popular "Boss."

H.E. von Rosenberg and Henry Bahr, Jr. were also cigar makers in Round Top. There were 8 or 9 others within a 20 mile radius of R.T. who were also in the cigar business.

Frieda (Schiege) Franke, of La Grange, is one of the 3 remaining children of the late Charles Schiege. She is proud

of her father's accomplishments and proudly displays on a wall in her home 2 cigar molds that were used in the Schiege Cigar Factory. She is pictured holding a cigar cutter that was used by workers in the factory. In the background is an oil painting of the factory and the 2 cigar molds.

The old factory building is now owned by Mrs. Charles Bybee. It was restored in the 1960's by Mrs. Hazel G. Ledbetter.

Were it not for the old building, and relics kept by Schiege family members and others, most of us would probably never know that years ago tobacco was grown commercially and cigars were manufactured here in Fayette County.



This picture of Charles Schiege appeared on his 50th anniversary cigar boxes in 1932.



Mrs. E.H. (Frieda Schiege) Franke is pictured holding a Cigar Cutter used in the Schiege Cigar Factory. In the background are 2 cigar molds and an oil painting of the factory. Mrs. Franke remembers that when she was a child, she and her brother Friedolin ("Hamster") would sneak into the factory without their father's knowledge where they learned how to make

cigars from an old man named Henry Kock. She said that a cigar has to be rolled just right so that it will draw properly. She added that she could make a cigar today if she had the tobacco.

**CARL GUENTHER**

Carl Hilmar Guenther arrived in New York City in 1848 and ended up in San Antonio where he founded what is today the Pioneer Flour Mills.

He traveled around the country as a young man before settling on a site nine miles west of Frederickburg on the banks of Live Oak Creek for his first grain mill. He quickly paid off debts incurred by the construction of the mill and married Dorthea Pape in 1855.

Following the Civil War, he purchased two ice machines and started the Southern Ice Co., which was run by his son Hilmar.

The railroads came in 1877, bringing a plentiful supply of grain and increased goods for his new mill at the intersection of Washington and Arsenal streets.

He and his family built the Pioneer Flour Mills into one of the largest and most enduring businesses in San Antonio. His accomplishments



**From: The Week in Germany, Feb. 10, 2006**

*submitted by Theresa Gold*

### **Group campaigns for alternatives to Anglicisms**

A panel of professors has launched a campaign to find German-language alternatives for what it calls particularly jarring examples of English words used in everyday German. The first three words to feel their wrath are "countdown," "shareholder value," and "homepage."



The group, called the German Language Foundation, says it hopes to "convince their countrymen that they can have faith in their mother tongue, just as the English, the French, the Spanish and the Italians do so confidently."

It denies charges of linguistic protectionism, saying "we applaud the enrichment of the language through foreign language words, and we welcome many English-language imports."

Words they do approve of include: Bar, fit, flop, start, stop, test, and tip.

Not every English word, though, has received such a hearty welcome from the panel.

The professors have pledged to present three words each month that they find less than worthy additions to the Wortschatz of the German language. Calling their campaign "Lebendiges Deutsch" (Living German), the language professors base their lists on what they like and don't like among English-language imports.

Clarity, not language elitism, is the name of the game. The German Language Foundation cites an increasing number of English words and phrases that are used incorrectly or generally misunderstood.

Just last year, a handful of German companies changed their English-language slogans after a study found that most of them were misinterpreted by customers. Thus, the RWE utility group switched from the befuddling "One Group. Multi-utilities" to "Alles aus einer Hand" (which roughly translates to "one-stop shop").

Some alternatives for the terms "shareholder value" and "homepage" have already been proposed and analyzed on the German Language Foundation's website. Better choices, they say, include "Aktionaersnutzen" and "Startseite," respectively. The clock is still ticking on "countdown."

# S.A. is home to people speaking 66 languages

From San Antonio Express-News, March 12, 2005

Group analyzes census data to get a linguistic picture of the nation.

BY LISA MARIE GÓMEZ  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Of the more than 6,000 languages that are spoken in the world, 66 roll off the tongues of people who live in San Antonio, according to a new study.

The U.S. English Foundation, a Washington-based nonprofit group that gathered information from the U.S. Census 2000, found that San Antonio ranks 54th nationwide in the number of languages spoken at home.

The study also found that Bexar County is the fifth most linguistically diverse county in Texas, with 66 languages spoken here. Harris County ranked first with 97 languages followed by Dallas County with 94. Next was Tarrant County with 85 and Travis County with 74 languages spoken at home.

The findings of the study didn't come as a surprise to University of Texas at San Antonio Professor Robert Bayley.

"We've been seeing this, especially in our region," said Bayley, a professor of bicultural/bilingual studies. "I think it's a good thing, and it's interesting

## Linguistic diversity

Bexar County is the fifth most linguistically diverse county in Texas, with 66 languages spoken by its population.

Ten most common languages spoken in Bexar County — individuals speaking the language at home

English	729,270	(56.8%)
Spanish	517,885	(40.3%)
German	7,260	(0.57%)
French	3,175	(0.25%)
Tagalog	3,035	(0.24%)
Chinese	2,665	(0.21%)
Vietnamese	2,570	(0.20%)
Korean	2,270	(0.18%)
Arabic	1,965	(0.15%)
Japanese	1,305	(0.10%)

EXPRESS-NEWS GRAPHIC

to see that Spanish is still important in San Antonio."

Although most San Antonians speak the obvious languages — English, Spanish and/or German — they also speak French, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Arabic and Polish.

English is the No. 1 language in the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area with 945,530, or 59.8 percent of the people who said they spoke the language at home, followed by Spanish with 591,265, or 37.4 percent of the population.

The numbers drop off sharply

*"People think the United States is just an English- and Spanish- and German-language country. It makes us realize that there are a lot of different groups."*

ROB TOONKEL  
U.S. English Foundation

with third ranked German, which is spoken by 11,395 people in San Antonio, or 0.72 percent of the population.

"People think the United States is just an English- and Spanish- and German-language country," said Rob Toonkel, a spokesman for the U.S. English Foundation. "It makes us realize that there are a lot of different groups."

Of the 3,141 counties in the country, Bexar County ranks 60th in the percentage of residents speaking Spanish, a news release by the group stated.

"It is important to remember that there are more than 300 languages spoken in the United States," said Mauro E. Mujica, chairman of the U.S. English Foundation.

lgomez@express-news.net

## German TV In the U.S. To Be Shut Down

By Nicolas Kumanoff

German TV, the German-language satellite channel broadcast in North America on a pay-TV basis, will be shut down at the end of 2005, said Erik Bettermann,

director general of Deutsche Welle, one of German TV's component broadcasters, on Nov. 12.

The German parliament had decided to cut off funding, a Deutsche Welle spokesman, Johannes Hoffmann, told The Atlantic Times.

German TV was launched in April 2002 as a joint venture by the ARD and ZDF public broadcast networks and Deutsche Welle, Germany's international radio and TV broad-

caster. The idea had been to set up a German-language channel combining the "best of" German television programming in news and information, entertainment, talk and children's shows, and sports, provided by the three broadcasters.

The initial target audience would be the significantly large community of Germans and German speakers in North America. The pay-TV platform would, it was hoped, eventually make the channel

submitted by Siegi Keimling from The Atlantic Times



# When Words Wander

■ By Katja Schmid

The English language has around 3,000 words of German origin. In some cases, the German roots are clearly visible, while others have been completely anglicized.

consequence of what is known as language contact, and thus of cultural interaction, which isn't always a peaceful affair. That also explains how words like "Blitzkrieg" and "verboten" found their way into English.

Leaving aside proper names like Diesel (the German engineer),

"Weltanschauung," "Realpolitik" or "Schadenfreude."

Depending on the degree to which the originally "alien" word has been adapted to its new linguistic surroundings, linguists distinguish between foreign words and loanwords. The



The word "Gemütlichkeit" is a top-ranking German export, because it describes a feeling that may only exist in a "Bierstube" where a "Frau" in a "Dirndl" is serving a portion of "Bratwurst" with "Sauerkraut." At first glance, the international success of "Gemütlichkeit" is rather astonishing, given the difficulty of pronouncing the word for anyone who did not grow up in a German-speaking country like Germany, Austria, parts of Switzerland or Liechtenstein. But the decisive factor is that it fills a gap in the vocabulary of humankind, like "Wanderlust" and "Zeitgeist."

Languages are living organisms and they have their own peculiar way of displaying the history of their origins. Traces of German in British and American English, for example, tell us a great deal about the history of relations between the nations in question. Finally, loanwords are a direct

Einstein, Fahrenheit (inventor of the Fahrenheit temperature scale), Freud, Kafka or Luther, and words derived from them, as well as brand names like Mercedes, Volkswagen and Birkenstock, the number of German loanwords in English is around 3,000. That sounds like quite a lot, but most of these terms come from the scientific and academic sphere. In everyday language, only a few are commonly used, like "Autobahn," "Gesundheit" and "Kindergarten" or even concept words that express something English has no word for:

dividing line is blurred, however, and clear classification is not always easy. The origins of foreign words like *gestalt* and "Waldmeister" are evident to both eye and ear. But loanwords and translated terms like Earth Mother ("Erdmutter"), chain smoker ("Kettenraucher") or rain forest ("Regenwald"), on the other hand, show little trace of their German roots.

One of the most useful compilations of German loanwords in English was put together by



# What German words in English tell us

## about transatlantic relations

submitted by Siegi Keimling

the linguist Jay Alan Pfeffer, who died in 2002. Over a period of several decades, he studied the transition of German words into the English language. He organized his findings not only alphabetically, but also chronologically and by subject. According to Pfeffer, the oldest datable borrowings from German were "Spalt" (before 1400) and glance or "Glanz" (1457/58), which are both minerals and became

its peak in the 19th century. The pioneering status of German research in the fields of mineralogy and chemistry lead to the adoption of a lot of German terminology. The Germans also left numerous traces in the fields of botany, zoology, geology, medicine, philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, music and language studies.

Until 1945, transatlantic word exports flowed primarily from German to English. After World War II, this trend was reversed – from now on, more

The activities of such organizations in Germany, however, do not go nearly as far as the efforts of their French counterparts. The German Language Council believes more in positive thinking than in building barriers. In 2004, it organized an international competition to find the "nicest German word." People from all over the world could take part by sending in their personal favorite and a short explanation.

Of course, the result was highly subjective. Interestingly, people often chose words quite different to those that have entered English and other

# Kindergarten en

English words wandered into German.

For worried guardians of linguistic purity, this use of "anglicisms" now sometimes goes too far. They fear that the German language is on its way to becoming a German-English mishmash which they refer to as "Denglish."

terms used in the field of geology.

In the 16th century, terms were imported mainly from the fields of botany, winegrowing and zoology: "Meisterstück" (masterpiece), "Zeischen" (the siskin bird). In the 17th and 18th centuries, terms from geography and geology took the lead, followed by words from zoology, botany and other fields: hamster, "Feldmarschall" (field marshal), "Fluor" (fluoride).

The influence of German on the English language reached

As a preventive measure against the spontaneous use of English words, the German Language Society nominates a "Language Adulterator of the Year." In 1997, the title was awarded to the fashion designer Jil Sander after an interview in which she mixed English and German words to such an extent that the result was barely identifiable as German. Her German was peppered with "Denglish" like "appreciaten," "Ladyisches," "searcht," as well as many English words.

foreign languages, words like "Auslegeware" (carpet), "Doppelhaushälfte" (half of a duplex), "Fernweh" (wanderlust), "Habseligkeiten" (belongings), "todschick" (dead smart or dressed to kill) and "Zeitlupe" (slow motion, literally "time magnifier"), to name but a few. Besides "Gemütlichkeit," incidentally, English-speaking participants chose words like "Kichererbse" (chickpea, literally "giggling pea"), "kunterbunt" (multicolored), "vielleicht" (perhaps), "Lichtung" (clearing) and "Staubsauger" (vacuum cleaner, literally "dust sucker"). Perhaps there are still a few more nice German words that can be exported?

■  
*Katja Schmid is  
a Berlin-based  
freelance journalist.*



From "The Week in Germany," Jan. 20, 2006

*submitted by Theresa Gold*

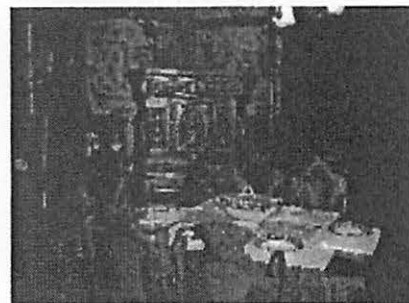
### Group races to save "Brewmaster's Castle"

A group of Washingtonians is making a last-minute attempt to save an icon of the city's German-American heritage — the Brewmaster's Castle. Home of Christian Heurich, DC's oldest brewer until his death at 102 in 1956, the mansion just off Dupont Circle on New Hampshire Avenue NW is the most intact late-Victorian house museum in the United States.

Located near the heart of the DC social scene, the

Brewmaster's Castle has long been one of Washington's best-kept secrets. Built in 1892 of poured concrete and reinforced steel by Heurich, a local brewer and philanthropist, it is also the city's first fireproof home.

As one of DC's largest landowners, Heurich was a stalwart among businessmen — and employed more German immigrants than any other employer in the city. His home mixes the "good life" of a moneyed aristocrat with the Old World charm of an immigrant who made his fortune through hard work.



The German breakfast room of the "Brewmaster's Castle."

But the home's longevity as a DC landmark has just as much to do with its contents, Victorian details that remain true to late 19th-century Washington, DC life.

The family's German heritage is evident throughout the home, but most prominently in the basement "Fruehstueckszimmer," a breakfast room complete with hand-carved chairs and German proverbs painted on the walls.

A further section of the home has been converted to an exhibition space used to tell the story of beer brewing in the nation's capital, an industry greatly influenced by Heurich.

Although thousands of people visited the Brewmaster's Castle in 2005, and the number of programs, events, tours, rentals, and special programming more than doubled in the last year, the Brewmaster's Castle has fallen short of its fundraising goals.

Despite offers from several parties, including a restaurateur who wants to turn the home into a private club, the Heurich House Foundation is trying to keep the home in the public domain, in its preserved state.

For more information, visit the Brewmaster's Castle website.



## Nimitz Day In Fredericksburg -- the 1945 Homecoming



Admiral & Mrs. Nimitz with Key to the City

After being feted by tickertape parades in New York and giving speeches before Congress in Washington, Admiral Nimitz and his wife traveled to Texas where he received a heartfelt welcome on October 13<sup>th</sup> 1945 in Fredericksburg, the town of his birth. City officials and the populace went all out to honor their native son who responded with warmth and smiles. After being greeted by the city's mayor, Nimitz was presented with a key to the city by the young daughter of a U.S. serviceman who had lost his life in a Japanese prison camp.

Nimitz then seated himself in an open Buick, and along with an honor guard of naval students from the University of Texas, led a long parade down Main Street. Seven bands participated, and planes roared overhead. Adding to the color were flags and bunting with the words "Welcome Home, Chester" emblazoned upon them.

In the formal ceremony which followed, Governor Stevenson presented Nimitz with a framed certificate which proclaimed him "Admiral of the Texas Navy." Afterwards, Nimitz laid a wreath at Market Square to honor the war dead, and with close relatives, he visited his birthplace on East Main. Finally, he and his party had dinner in the ballroom of the old Nimitz Hotel, which had been built and run by his grandfather in the late 1880s.

from *The Nimitz News*

**Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz was commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet during World War II. He was born at Fredericksburg in 1885, a grandson of German immigrant Charles Henry Nimitz, who built the landmark Nimitz Hotel on Frederickburg's Main Street – now the Museum of the Pacific War.**

### ■ German Company Cleans Up U.S. Presidents

For the first time ever, the four presidents on Mount Rushmore are getting their mugs washed. By mid-August, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt will be freshened up and ready to face the public with a new glow.

The German company Kärcher has been in charge of the undertaking, which has involved working attached to cables 450 feet above ground. Nothing but water, heated to 194 F and applied with a high-pressure cleaning system, is allowed to wipe off the 65 years worth of dirt. Soap would only damage Gutzon Borglum's 60-foot-high sculpture.

So which president is the dirtiest? "They all had

their problem areas," noted Thorsten Möwes, one of the cleaning men. Washington reportedly had black spots on his chin, Lincoln's beard was full of moss, and Roosevelt's and Jefferson's eyes and chins were inhabited by birds, which applied an unsightly natural "rouge" to the cheeks of the two presidents.

submitted by Siegi Keimling  
from *The Atlantic Times*



## LUFTHANSA FLYING HIGH AT AGE 50 from This Week in Germany, submitted by Theresa Gold

The airline, which recently unveiled the world's only luxury-class terminal at Frankfurt airport, was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first flight little more than a week after announcing the takeover of Swiss International Air Lines and reporting a healthy operating profit of 383 million Eur (\$501 million) for 2004.

From its humble beginnings with a "fleet" of five aircraft serving grand total of 12 German airports, Lufthansa has grown into one of the world's leading airlines, last year carrying more than 50 million passengers to destinations in every corner of the globe.

Today, the German carrier travels to and from 176 destinations in 74 countries on over 6,200 weekly flights, with that number nearly doubling if flights offered by Lufthansa's Star Alliance partner airlines are also taken into account.

All of that is a far cry from the launch of Lufthansa's passenger services on April 1, 1955.

On that day, two Convair 340 planes took off in the early morning hours, one from Hamburg heading to Munich and the other from Munich heading in the opposite direction, each with only a handful of passengers onboard.

From there, the fledgling carrier sped from one "first" to the next.

Just two months after its maiden flight, on June 8, 1955, Lufthansa opened its transatlantic flight operations with a Lockheed "Super Constellation." The route started in Hamburg and ended in New York, with stops in Duesseldorf and Shannon, Ireland.

The following year, Lufthansa traversed the South Atlantic and added connections to three Middle East destinations — Istanbul, Baghdad and Tehran.

In 1959, the carrier began service to Asia with routes to Calcutta and Bangkok. Service to Africa came in 1960, while Lufthansa's inaugural East Asian flight touched down in Tokyo a year later.

In the carrier's early years, Lufthansa's planes were all propeller-driven, but the company quickly realized that the future of civil aviation belonged to the jet aircraft. Less than two years after its inaugural flight, Lufthansa ordered its first four Boeing 707 long-haul aircraft, setting the stage for its first transatlantic jet flight in 1960.



*After 50 years, Lufthansa's tradition of innovation continues as the company prepares to add the world's largest passenger aircraft — the Airbus A380 "superjumbo" — to its fleet. Photo courtesy Lufthansa*



*Lufthansa's first flight attendants helped the airline launch its passenger services aboard a Convair 340 in 1955. Photo courtesy Lufthansa*



That tradition of innovation continues to this day as the company prepares to add the world's largest passenger aircraft to its fleet. As one of the first customers for the Airbus A380 "superjumbo," Lufthansa will begin operating the plane on major routes in 2007.

With its 262-foot wingspan and a tail as tall as a seven-story building, the plane can be configured according to the service airlines want to sell, with some carriers planning to offer first- and business-class passengers gyms, beauty parlors, bars and even casinos and double beds.

Perhaps more importantly, the A380 is more fuel-efficient than its predecessors and is expected to cut total air traffic emissions by carrying more passengers on long routes linking Asia and the Middle East to Europe and the United States.

Looking further ahead, Lufthansa expects to continue "flying high."



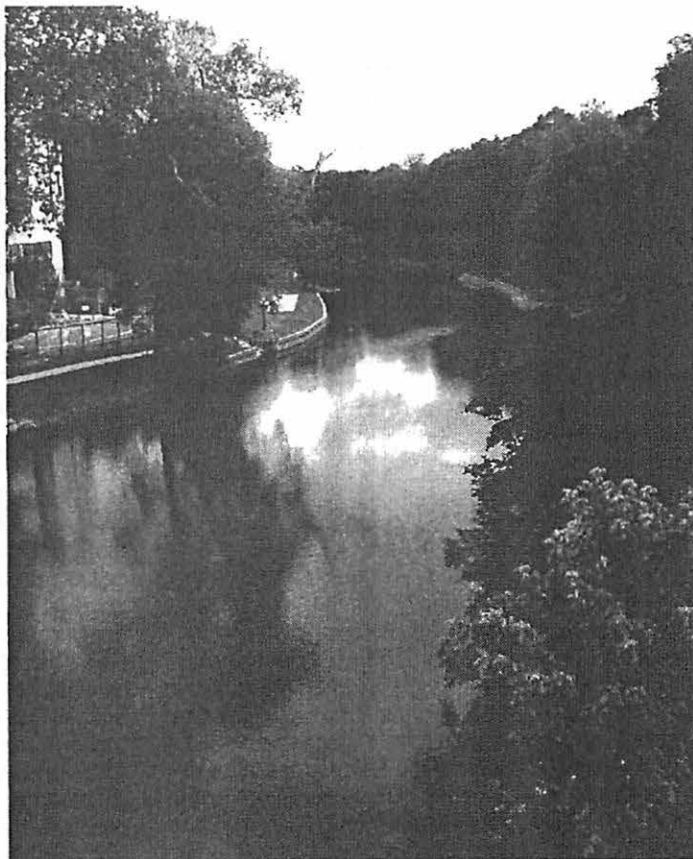
Lufthansa began operating a Boeing 747 jumbo jet on long-haul routes in 1970. Photo courtesy Lufthansa

## Landa Park Is New Braunfels' Special Treasure

The pride of New Braunfels is Landa Park, a 196-acre natural park near the center of the city. Comal Springs, the largest springs in Texas and the source of the crystalline Comal River, is located in the park. The springs gush from underground limestone formations throughout the park area. The Comal River gained attention years ago when Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not news column featured it as the shortest river in the world.

These remarkable springs are prehistoric. Spanish explorers in 1691 found a large concentration of Indians at Comal Springs, and some of them had traveled from Mexico and New Mexico to reach the springs. The springs and surrounding land was purchased by German immigrants from a San Antonio family in 1845, the year New Braunfels was established. From 1896 until the Depression, the park was a private recreational area created by Harry Landa. The City of New Braunfels purchased the land around Comal Springs in 1946 for a municipal park, which was named Landa Park.

Landa Park offers the visitor a variety of activities including paddle boats, rowboats, glass bottom boats, nature trails, tennis, miniature golf, the



unique inner-tube float down the Comal River, and the Landa Park Miniature Railroad with its one and one-half mile track around the entire park.

The park offers the swimmer a choice between the Olympic-

size swimming pool and the huge spring-fed pool. The park provides the visitor with a challenging 18-hole golf course and scores of beautiful picnic areas shaded by giant, ancient oaks.



# Gristmill heritage

19th century German immigrant's work can still be enjoyed today

The biscuits are as good as any I have ever tasted.

Made with Pioneer Flour, of course, every one that is served at The Guenther House represents the pride that Pioneer Flour Mills takes in the century and a half since the German millwright Carl Hilmar Guenther came to Texas.

Pleasantly located in the old Guenther rock home in the historic King William District in San Antonio, the restaurant and museum is a place to have a wonderful breakfast and also learn how

Pioneer Flour came to be one of the most recognized Texas products on our grocery shelves.



**HENRY WOLFF JR.**  
Henry's Journal

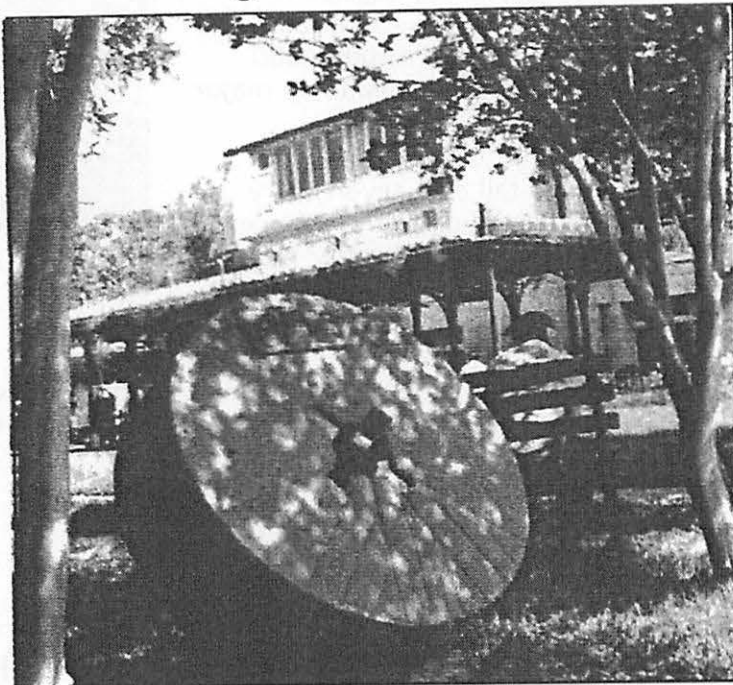
Guenther first came to Texas around 1851 by way of New Orleans to the old

Matagorda Bay port of Indianola in present Calhoun County, but had previously traveled from New York through the Midwest and down the Mississippi.

He was impressed with America and its freedoms and opportunities and would walk from Indianola to San Antonio beside an ox-drawn wagon carrying provisions of new arrivals. He learned that Fredericksburg was in need of a gristmill and that is where the young millwright would first establish himself, building a mill on Live Oak Creek nine miles west of the new town of mostly German immigrants.

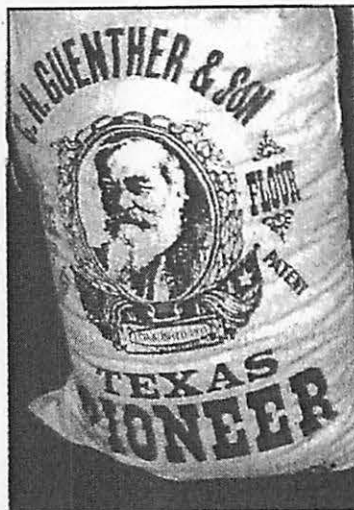
The excavations were done with pick and shovel, with the water-wheel and even the gears for the mill being handmade from native woods.

Even before it was completed, the mill was destroyed by a flash flood, but Guenther went on to rebuild it and stayed there until 1859 when, after two years of drought, he decided to relocate in the larger city of San Antonio. He built a new mill on the San Antonio River at the foot of King William Street, the first flour mill in the Alamo City, and his home which was one the first in the King William Dis-



Photos: Henry Wolff, Jr./Victoria Advocate

Two heavy millstones from France, first used by Carl Hilmar Guenther in San Antonio for the beginning of what we know today as Pioneer Flour Mills, were shipped to Indianola in 1859 and then moved inland by ox cart. Pioneer pride is depicted in the design on this flour sack, right, from C.H. Guenther & Son on display at The Guenther House Restaurant and Museum.



trict.

In those days with the German influence in that area along the river, the site became known as "the little Rhine on Sauerkraut Bend."

Even while he was on Live Oak Creek, where there was a need among the German immigrant families to have their corn ground when Guenther first arrived, the farmers had begun to plant wheat and flour was a welcome addition in their frontier kitchens. He expanded his mill for the grinding of wheat, credited for some of his early success as a miller.

Two hand chiseled millstones for the first San Antonio mill,

made in France of a special quartz found only in that country, are displayed on the grounds. The heavy stones were shipped to Indianola in 1859 and then moved by ox-wagon to the site of the new mill where Guenther had also built a home for his family.

Fritz and Arthur, two older sons of Guenther and his wife, the former Dorethea Pape of Fredericksburg, were involved in the business for a time. The youngest son of their seven children, Erhard, would later become the head of C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc. and the subsequently named Pioneer Flour Mills.

The family home adjacent to the

mill on the San Antonio River at 205 E. Guenther, originally a two-story structure of six rooms, was built of thick limestone blocks quarried north of town where the San Antonio Zoo is now located in Brackenridge Park. Erhard and his wife, Lottie, added another story to the structure in 1915. In 1948, the home became the test kitchen for Pioneer Flour Mills and was completely restored and renovated in 1988 to become a museum, gift shop and restaurant.

Not only is it a great place to have a relaxing breakfast - we picked an outside table near the bank of the little Rhine - but it is a place to contemplate what one young immigrant to Texas managed to accomplish.

In addition to establishing the first gristmill in Fredericksburg and the first mill for grinding flour there and in San Antonio, Guenther was also a pioneer in early ice making. On July 5, 1867, he wrote his mother in Germany that he had two ice machines, that being only about a year after the manufacture of ice as an industry had begun with it not reaching commercial importance nationally for some years to come.

This venture became the Southern Ice Co., later was merged into the Southern-Henke Ice Co. to become one of the city's important industries.

The pioneer millwright and miller Carl Hilmar Guenther died Oct. 18, 1902, having been in Texas for 51 of his 76 years.

To this day his success is reflected in the name of every product produced by Pioneer Flour Mills.



**HERMAN OBERWEISS' LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**  
submitted by the Editor

If the name Herman Oberweiss sounds familiar, you may be one of many Texans who have read Herman's so-called last will and testament. For years, it has been circulating over the internet, by FAX, and in hard copies. Herman was supposed to be a no-nonsense "old German" farmer who left behind some crusty remarks (in broken English) about his relatives, his lawyer and even the pastor.

We are supposed to believe that Herman's will was transcribed by A.H. Howsley, who identified himself only as a "landman" (oilman) in Anderson County. Along with Herman's will goes a statement by Howsley saying "This is a transcription of the actual will written by this old German on file at Palestine, Anderson County, Texas, for the June term of the County Court for 1934." Howsley also wrote that Herman's will was "a matter of record in Anderson County."

The last time I was in Anderson County I decided to visit the courthouse. I was hoping that there might really have been a Herman Oberweiss. But at the courthouse I learned what I feared: it was all a fake. The County Clerk told me that every year for more than five years people turn up at the courthouse wanting to read Herman's will.

So read his will and have a laugh. Maybe back in the 1930s or 1940s you had a *Urgrossvater* that reminds you of Herman. I did.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT  
OF HERMAN OBERWEISS**

"I AM WRITING OF MY WILL MINESELF THAT DES LAWYIR WANT HE SHOULD HAVE TO MUCH MONEY. HE ASK TO MANY ANSWERS ABOUT THE FAMILY.

FIRST THING I WANT DONE I DON'T WANT MY BROTHER OSCAR TO GET A THING I GOT. HE IS MUMSER AND HE DONE ME OUT OF FOUR DOLLARS FOURTEEN YEARS SINCE.

I WANT IT THAT HILDA MY SISTER SHE GET THE NORTH 60 AKERS OF LAND AT WHERE I AM HOMING AT NOW. I BET SHE DONT' GET THAT LOAFER HUSBAND OF HERS TO BRAKE 20 AKERS NEXT PLOWING. SHE CAN'T HAVE IT IF SHE LETS OSCAR LIVE ON IT. I WANT I SHOULD HAVE IT BACK IF SHE DOES

TELL MAMA THAT 600 DOLLARS SHE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR TEN YEARS IS BERRIED FROM THE BAKHOUSE BEHIND ABOUT TEN FEET DOWN. SHE BETTER LET LITTLE FREDRICK DO THE DIGGING AND COUNT IT WHEN HE COMES UP.

PASTOR LICKNITZ CAN 300 DOLLARS HAVE IF HE KISSES THE BOOK HE WON'T PREACH NO MORE DUMHEAD TALKS ABOUT POLITIKS. HE SHOULD A ROOF PUT ON THE MEETING HOUSE AND THE ELDERS SHOULD THE BILLS LOOK AT.

MAMA SHOULD THE REST GET. BUT I WANT IT SO THAT ADOLPH SHOULD TELL HER WHAT NOT SHE SHOULD DO SO NO MORE SLICK IRISHENS CAN SELL HER VAKEN CLEANERS. THEY MAKE NOISE AND A BROOM DONT COST MUCH.

I WANT IT THAT MINE BROTHER ADOPH BE MY EXECUTER AND I WANT IT THAT JUDGE SHOULD PLEESE MAKE ADOLPH PLENTY BOND PUT UP AND WATCH HIM. ADOLPH IS A GOOD BUSINESS MAN BUT ONLY A DUMMKOPF WOULD TRUST HIM WITH A BUSTED PFENNIG.

I WANT SURE THAT OSCAR DON'T NOTHING GET. TELL ADOLPH HE CAN HAVE 100 DOLLARS IF HE PROVE JUDGE OSCAR DON'T GET NOTHING. THAT SURE FIX OSCAR."

(Signed) HERMAN OBERWEISS



## Our Cemeteries

In our own town here and in its very life one great thought, one great motive power ought to bind us together as one family in one great home. One touch of nature ought to make us kin; one common sympathy ought to weld us closer and closer together as the days turn to months and the months to years and on and on the longer the time the stronger the bond. Our dead should be this link of union, this common bond of brotherhood and sisterhood. All have felt the dread, mystic hand of the Destroyer, have seen the little cradle vacant by the fireside or the old familiar chair, empty by the hearth. All, at one time or another, have felt the agony and the bitterness, the awful loneliness of Death. But alas! there is one thing painfully lacking, despite all this. While sweet sympathy and every Christian kindness are always gladly, willingly extended to the bereaved, (nowhere more earnestly), the people of Seguin, the brothers and sisters in our big family, pay but little respect to the silent cities of the dead. Why is this? There are two cemetery associations here, but both are virtually neglected. At last meeting of the Geronimo cemetery association, for example, but two people attended! There are over fifty members of this association and the president informs us that a little of twenty pay their dues. Think of this, citizens of Seguin! Are you doing right in this matter? Could your loved ones sleeping their long, last sleep, in their narrow beds, but speak as in life, would they not reproach you with the heart sickness, the utter terrible pitifulness of a neglected grave? They speak to you just as surely, just as truly, through the small, still spirit-born voice of conscience. How sad and mournful to think, to feel that our darling is lying forgotten out in the winter winds and the beating rain, blowing and driving on a falling neglected headstone whose blurred inscription merciful night covers, which the haggard day says "I cannot read!" Oh, the pity of it, and the depth of just remorse which overcomes us when we think of it. Great Mother Nature shades God's half-acre with the wondrous green shadow of her tree children. She covers the neglected mounds with her soft carpets picked out lovingly with many tinted wild flowers, and she sings to them eternal requiems in murmur of water and songs of birds.

"And all her signs and voices shame  
The prayerless heart of man."

People of Seguin, let us take this matter to heart; let us do our duty to the dead as well as to the living. Our cemeteries can be made bright resting places, breathing in their very appearance; Hope; not as at present, Death, with an eternal significance.

From:

Seguin Enterprise  
April 6, 1894  
Page 4, Column 4

## COMMITTEES FOR 2006

### ACTIVITIES

Chair: Connie Krause  
Mary El-Beheri  
Jean Heide  
Carolyn Heinsohn  
Van Massirere  
Janice Thompson  
Matt Tippens  
Glen Treibs  
Henry Wolff Jr.

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Chair: Gerri West  
Wing Evans  
James Feuge  
Hubert Heinen  
Van Massirer  
Charles Thompson  
Glen Treibs

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Wing Evans  
Van Massirer  
Terry Smart  
Gerri West

### MEMBERSHIP

Co-Chair: Jean Heide  
Co-Chair: Henry Wolff Jr.  
Mary El-Beheri  
James Feuge  
Jean Heide  
Connie Krause  
Annette Stachowitz  
Janice Thompson  
Matt Tippens  
Gerri West

### OLD GERMAN FREE SCHOOL

Chair: Wing Evans  
Hubert Heinen  
Annette Stachowitz

## THE JOURNAL — WHERE TO SEND WHAT

Send announcements, articles, news of reunions, clippings, and other information about German heritage to

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1025 Canterbury Hill  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
E-mail: tsmart@trinity.edu

Send your genealogical inquiries or responses to requests for family history information to

Liz Hicks, Genealogy Editor  
746 Edgebrook Drive  
Houston, TX 77034-2030  
E-mail: erootrot@usa.net

### DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS TO THE JOURNAL

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#### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 5, 2006

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Materials sent for The Journal will not be returned. All materials must include contributor's name, a source and date. All submitted manuscript articles must be typed single space on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with right and left, top and bottom margins no less than .7 inches. Editors are not responsible for errors or misinformation. All German materials must be accompanied by an English text. Editors have the right and the responsibility to refuse materials that may not be in accordance with GTHS policies. All editors are volunteers and not paid for their services.



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