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GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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2006 ANNUAL OPERATING FUND DRIVE

June 1, 2006

Dear German-Texan Heritage Society Member:

Thank you for supporting GTHS. Your generous financial support is appreciated and ensures that our Society will be able to continue to serve you and the community. Last year's Operational Fund Drive yielded \$15,806 and every penny went to support GTHS operations!

The Operational Fund Drive supplements the yearly dues paid by all members. Except for our Society and Guild dues, the Operational Fund Drive is our largest source of income. Thanks to successful fundraising, extensive staff reductions, and your generosity, we ended 2005 in the "black" by \$2,644. This was the first time in several years that we have been able to do this. Since January 1, we have raised \$3,400, which is 19% of our \$18,000 goal for 2006. Help us to end 2006 with enough extra funds to start new programs and expand existing ones.

Please help this wonderful Society continue its part in keeping our German Heritage alive. In addition to books, we publish the quarterly *Journal*, maintain a website, provide genealogy assistance, and host the annual convention. The German Free School Guild maintains our historical headquarters building and its Trenckmann Research Library, publishes the bi-monthly *Schulhaus Reporter*, and hosts the Annual Maifest and Christmas Market celebrations. The Guild also sponsors German language classes, a speaker's series, building tours and much more.

This year we have added the opportunity to make an Operational Fund donation in honor of or in memory of a person(s) of your choice. Donor's names and those they have honored or memorialized will be printed in the Spring 2007 Journal.

Please make your pledge at the most generous level you can from the prestigious **Chancellor** status starting at \$5,000 through various levels to **Student** status starting at \$25. Of course any donation, no matter how small is greatly appreciated. In addition, do not forget about your corporate matching programs. This is an opportunity to double the value of your contribution! Please contact your employer to see if they have a matching grant program. The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and your donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. We are counting on you and greatly appreciate your contributions.

Sincerely,

Charles "Chuck" Kalteyer
Coordinator, Annual Fund

Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm
President, GTHS

For more information, see our website www.GermanTexans.org or call toll-free (866) 482-GTHS (4847).



I wish to support the 2006 German-Texan Heritage Society Operating Fund Drive at the donation level of:

- Chancellor \$5000+ Regent \$2500-\$4999 Dean \$1000-\$2499 Professor \$500-\$999
- Schoolmaster \$150-\$499 Scholar \$50-\$149 Student \$25-\$49 Corporate Matching
- \$ _____ in honor of _____ \$ _____ in memory of _____

Please print name as you want it to appear in the *Journal*

- Check enclosed payable to GTHS. Mail to: GTHS, Post Office Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171
- Charge to my MasterCard / Visa # _____ exp _____

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THE JOURNAL OF
THE GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 2, SUMMER (JUNE) 2006

“Zur Erhaltung der deutschen Tradition”

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Eva Barnett
Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm
Joe Burges
Agnes Krackau Dreibrodt
Everett A. Fey
Theresa Gold
Patsy Dearman Hand
Hubert Heinen
Liz Hicks
Kenn Knopp
Rodney Koenig
Angelina Kretzschmar
Martha Liehsel
Carolyn Petersen
Doris Koester Rosenbaum
Louis Rossner
Willowdeen Rossner
Dorothy Noak Rothermel
Paul Schenck
Mary Jane Krackau Smith
Muriel Luedtke Vaughan
Linda Wolff

ALL GTHS MEMBERS — SEND US MATERIALS FOR THE JOURNAL

PRESIDENT'S NOTES
by **TEDDY BOEHM**

The German Texan Heritage Society has had a busy few months since our last Journal. The joint Texas German Convention held in Yoakum was a huge success with about 500 enjoying German-Texan Gemütlichkeit, interesting tours, marvelous speakers, enjoyable entertainment, and a great venue. Many thanks to the hard working committee members who planned it all. At the GTHS business meeting, the Ehrenstern awards were given to Van Massirer and Rolf Stachowitz.

Our other big event of the spring, the GTHS Maifest, held on Saturday, April 29, was great fun! The entertainment was varied and especially good this year, ranging from Crockett Leyendecker playing the rake and accompanied by accordion player Gene Hackmack, to the Austin Saengerrunde singing wonderful German songs. The popular marionette show was back as were accordionist Charles Patrick and at least one Austin school group. The German food, bier and wein were enjoyed by many on a beautiful day in the heritage gardens of the German Free School. A record number of raffle tickets were sold with GTHS member Frances Froelich of Conroe, Texas winning 2 tickets to anywhere Continental Airlines flies.

It is with great sadness that we report that longtime member and volunteer of the Society and the Guild, Rolf Stachowitz, died suddenly of a heart attack on April 1, 2006. Among other activities, Rolf served as webmaster of the GTHS, helped organize data and modernize our computer systems. He received the GTHS Ehrenstern award for his contributions at our recent convention. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Guild Board President Annette Stachowitz, and his family.

On a happier note, GTHS and the German Free School were featured on KLRU TV in Austin on May 4, at 7:30 p.m. on the program "Downtown." Our segment was delightful, and gave our Society some excellent exposure.

The annual Operational Fund Drive began on May 15th this year, and is vital to our Society's financial well-being. We are trying very hard to keep expenses very low and urge you to support our fund-raising efforts at whatever level you can.

Thanks for your time, and for your continued support of this organization,

Teddy Boehm

IN MEMORIAM: DR. ROLF ARMIN STACHOWITZ

This tribute was written by Eva Barnett, our GTHS Office Manager.

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you about the untimely death of our beloved Guild Board member and dedicated volunteer, Rolf Stachowitz. Rolf was a wonderful person who dedicated many years of service to the German-Texan Heritage Society. He was our webmaster, publicity person, Schulhaus Reporter editor, database programmer, former library Director and much more. But more importantly, Rolf was our very good friend and he will be dearly missed.

This obituary from the Austin American-Statesman, April 5, 2006, was submitted by Eva Barnett.

Dr. Rolf Armin Stachowitz of Austin, Texas, born June 16, 1934, passed away unexpectedly April 1, 2006 surrounded by his loving family. The family invites Rolf's and Annette's friends to attend a memorial service at the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido Parkway, Cedar Park on Friday, April 7, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. He is survived by his loving family: wife Annette Katrin Stachowitz; son Col. Rainer Stachowitz, USAF with wife Andrea; son Mark Staves with wife Sheila and grandsons Christopher and Ian; son Rolf Stachowitz with wife Anja; daughter Sylvia Moore with husband Bob and grandchildren Alissa, Michael and Dylan; son Ruben Stachowitz and granddaughter Hannah; and daughter Cara Wilson with husband Daniel. Rolf was born in Kassel, Germany and came to Austin in 1964 to complete his Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Texas. He was a very active member of the Austin Saengerrunde, the German-Texan Heritage Society, and Friendship Force International. He loved his life here in Austin and enjoyed being part of these organizations, traveling around the world, learning new languages, and spending time with his family and friends. He will always be in our hearts. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to CARE International (www.care.org).

ROLF STACHOWITZ IN MEMORIAM

By Hubert Heinen

He died suddenly, far too soon, in the midst of his family in a place he knew and loved, the old German Free School on 1 April 2006. He had been celebrating the 80th birthday of a brother-in-law; he did not reach his 72nd. Rolf Stachowitz was loved and admired for his good humor, intelligence, diligence, and vast knowledge in many areas, especially in computer applications, languages, music, art, and literature. With his wife, Annette, he was a mainstay of the German-Texan Heritage Society and its auxiliary, the German Free School Guild. Barely three weeks before his death, he received the *Ehrenstern*, the highest recognition bestowed by GTHS on select members for their contributions to preserving and serving the German heritage in Texas.

As an active member of the Austin *Sängerrunde* as well as the GTHS, Rolf enjoyed the fellowship of his friends. He served as webmaster for both the *Sängerrunde* and the GTHS, helped mightily in the production of the "*Schulhaus Reporter*," publicized the activities of the organization in the Central Texas media, refined membership and mailing lists, helped organize library records and information about organizations with possible ties to the German heritage. Last, but not least, he interacted with GTHS members at the *Weihnachtsmarkt*, the *Maifest*, other festive get-togethers, the weekly *Stammtisch* and especially the monthly evening *Stammtisch* and *Skatabend*, for which he faithfully sent out reminders to his *Skatbrüder*.

Rolf's activities and interests were not restricted to these two organizations. He joined other singers in concerts throughout the country and jumped at the opportunity to dance. He also went to concerts, loving music in a wide range of styles, from classical to folk music, from polkas to rock. His interest in politics was, as with his other interests, not merely intellectual; he was an activist. He was fascinated by art and cultural history. His love of travel found one outlet in the Friendship Force International, and he and his wife both hosted visitors from abroad and stayed with couples in their homes in other countries. In his travels, most recently this February and March in Japan and Thailand, Rolf made a rigorous effort to learn as much of the language and customs as he could.

Born 16 June in Kassel, Germany, Rolf spent much of the war years (as Kassel was being reduced to rubble by American bombers) in Silesia. The first in his family to attend high school, he went on to study at the University of Marburg. In the mid-1960s he came to Austin to complete his studies, receiving a PhD in computational linguistics at The University of Texas, where he worked under Winfred Lehmann at the Center for Machine Translation, later the Linguistics Research Center, and then for MCC and Lockheed.

He is survived by his wife, three sons by his first marriage, a stepson and stepdaughter for whom he became a loving father, and a daughter by his second marriage, as well as five grandchildren. He will be missed not only by his family, for whom he meant so much, but also by his countless friends. His helpfulness, good cheer, and kindness will remain in the memory of all of us who knew him. Memorial donations may be directed to CARE International or to the GTHS.

Hubert Heinen

LEAVE YOUR GERMAN MARK BY RODNEY KOENIG

The end of April, 2006, had several momentous occasions. My friend, the Reverend Clarence C. Ehler (1926-2006) who served a number of congregations as pastor, died on April 26, 2006. Pastor Ehler and I shared two common ancestors, Joseph Mueller and Maria Gruelich Mueller. Clarence was born in Robstown, Texas, married Faye Drees and had five children, David, James, Carolyn, Ruth and John, who predeceased him. He also left surviving him nine grandchildren. Clarence served as pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Wilson, Texas; Grace Lutheran Church in Abilene; Zion Lutheran Church in Kerrville (where he served sixteen years); Grace Lutheran Church in Bandera; and as chaplain at the U.S. Veterans Medical Center in Kerrville. He also served churches in Moulton and Witting, as well as serving as interim pastor in congregations in Fayette County, Texas. I know Clarence best for his work at Black Jack Springs Cemetery where he was one of the major moving forces in having a new chapel built at Black Jack Springs Cemetery. Clarence left his German mark through his wonderful family, his wife Faye, his children, and his grandchildren, as well as the congregations that grew while he was a pastor. He also left a wonderful stone chapel which was built at Black Jack Springs Cemetery, where I attended Clarence's funeral on Saturday, April 29, 2006.

An interesting link with Clarence involves his daughter-in-law, Patty Ehler, who had been scheduled to sing on April 29, 2006, with the Mt. Eliza singers at the home built for Elise Kuckuck Willrich on the 198th anniversary of the birth of Elise Willrich. The Willrich family is a major central Texas German family. I was privileged to sing under the direction of Elva Ulbrich the evening of April 29, 2006, at Mt. Eliza just outside of LaGrange. Other singers included Mary Kay Buehler, Cindy Shaffner, Carolyn Bohot, Mary Ann Hatfield, Helen Hays, Julie Holmes, Mary Koenig, Rodney Koenig, Ken Wood, Jim Holmes, Weldon Koenig, Monroe Miertschin and Georg Ulbrich. Narrators included Paul Schenck (who with his wife Toddy Schenck restored Mt. Eliza), Mary Koenig and Georg Ulbrich. We sang in German, Latin, French and English, commemorating the languages that we believe Elise Willrich spoke and sang. Elise was the daughter of an Army officer who fought in the battle of Waterloo, lived a very comfortable life in Hanover, Germany, as well as Luneburg, Germany. She married Georg Carl Willrich, a distinguished and noted lawyer in Uelzen not far from Luneburg. After a series of events, the Willrich family came to Texas, with Elise arriving in 1847. She lived in a fachwerk home named Mt. Eliza, which became a center of literary activity in later years. Johannes Romberg and his German Prairie Blume Society met at Mt. Eliza. Families such as Willrich, Romberg, Struve, Von Rosenberg, and de Lassaulx were among the families who met in the Literary Society at that home. Elise Willrich died in 1907 at the age of 99 years. She is buried at Cedar Cemetery on FM 609 outside of LaGrange, Texas. Elise left her German mark in Fayette County.

How will you leave your German mark? Will you leave it as Reverend Clarence Ehler did by growing religious congregations and by building a chapel as well as founding a wonderful family? Will you leave your mark as Elise Kuckuck Willrich did in establishing a lovely home such as Mt. Eliza and being the grand dame for another large family? Will you leave it as Paul and Toddy Schenck did by restoring an old German home? Perhaps you will leave your mark by preserving German Texan memorabilia or by financially leaving a portion of your estate or a portion of life insurance or retirement funds to GTHS for use in preserving German heritage and culture in Texas. Should you desire help in this process, call our office at 1-866-482-4847 or Rodney Koenig at 713-651-5333.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS

FOR THE GTHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There will be an election this fall to fill a four-year term on the GTHS Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2007.

Once again, your Board of Directors is seeking nominations from the entire membership.

To nominate someone, simply send their name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address (if any) to

**German-Texan Heritage Society
c/o Eva Barnett, Office Manager
PO Box 684171
Austin, TX 78768-4171**

**Or send your nomination by e-mail to
eva@germantexans.org**

Deadline for nominations is August 1, 2006.

**A nominee must be a member of GTHS.
He or she must agree to be nominated
Directors serve a four-year term.
Directors serve on one or more committees/projects.
Directors should actively represent GTHS.
Directors meet four times a year in Austin at their own expense.**

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 or 746 Edgebrook Dr., Houston, TX 77034-2030. We reserve the right to edit queries. Queries are printed as space permits at no charge.

BLASCHKE-SEIDERS-SCHLUNDER

Mrs. Helen Blaschke, 1949 Hwy. 290E, McDade, TX 78560 would like to hear from anyone with information on the Seiders and Schlunders buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin, TX. Also, where is Veronica Winkler Blaschke buried? She was the first wife of Joseph Blaschke (born Dec. 21, 1839, died Jan. 10, 1904). Joseph and second wife are buried in St. Mary's cemetery, Lavaca County.

Reply: Joseph Blaschke and second wife, Anna said they had been married 28 yrs. according to the 1900 Lavaca Co. census. Therefore, Veronika must have died about 1872+/- . I did not find Veronika listed in the six volumes of Lavaca County Cemetery records at Clayton Library. There is a Blaschke lot (no tombstones) in the Cyril & Methodius Catholic Cemetery in Shiner. She could be buried here or in St. Mary's. Apparently no marker survives for her. I would write St. Mary's and Cyril & Methodius Catholic Churches, and ask them to please check for a burial record for Veronika. It is also possible she is buried on land Joseph Blaschke owned.

The Catholic Archives of Texas, 1600 N. Congress, PO Box 13124, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711; phone: (512) 476-6296 has some records for some Texas Catholic Churches. If they have records for the above churches, they will do a death record search for \$15.00.

BERGER?

Dennis Berger, dennishberger@yahoo.com asked: "When looking at my family' records my g.g.grandfather's place of origin is confusing. His citizenship papers note that he was a citizen of Austria when he immigrated to Texas. US Census record always indicate he was born in Germany. He was baptized in Sacre Heart Church in Hallettsville. I have not found anything in European history that would indicate why these two documents would seem to contradict. Any ideas?"

Reply: Dennis did not give the name of his ancestor who says Austria and Germany as his place of origin. I'm assuming he's looking for his Berger ancestor? His ancestor probably came from the area of Austria that was part of the German Confederation 1815-1871. It was Germany when he came, Austria later.

I would look for an obit for your ancestor which may tell where the immigrant was from in Germany/Austria. If the immigrant lived until the 1900 census, check to see how he

answered the year of immigration question. Use this date to look for passenger list which may give the information as to where he was from.

KINZBACH-KINZBACK

Derwood Johnson, 1425 Hilltop Drive, Waco, TX 76710, Tovdal@aol.com would like to know where in Houston, Harris County, Charles Kinzbach born 1834/35 Germany and his first wife, Annie, born 1841 Norway are buried.

Reply: I found Charles Kinsback age 45, born 1835 Germany, Barkeeper, on the 1880 and 1910 Houston, Harris Co. censuses. He said on the 1910 census he immigrated in 1862. After checking several City Directories for Houston, I noticed he lived near the Washington Cemetery. According to Mrs. Bernice Mistrot with The Washington Cemetery Assn., aka Deutsche Gesellschaft, 2911 Washington Avenue, Houston, Plot C131 N1/2 (no headstones) has Mrs. Charles Kinzbach buried 7-14-1893, a Mrs. Charles Kinzbach buried 1/12/1895, Charles buried 3-11-1914, infant of Dennis Dowling buried 4-24-1904 stillborn, and Gussie Dowling buried 10-30-1907. Bernice also sent-Harris co., TX: Sept. 29, 1896 Dennis Dowling married Guzzie Kinzbach; 1-12-1894 Charles Kinzbach married Mrs. Katharina Koimn (died in childbirth); 3-7-1895 Charles Kinzbach married L. Church (probably Elizabeth "Lizzie" Church). There are records on the Kinzbachs in the church records of the first German Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, TX 1874-1895. The death of the first wife, Annie, of Charles Kinzbach is not in the church records. THANK YOU BERNICE FOR HELPING WITH THIS QUERY!

DULLNIG-VERNOR

Carolyn Dullnig Gilland of Midland, email: boyfly@clearwire.net is looking for records that show when the first Dullnigs arrived in Texas and by what means.

Reply: I found a George Dullnig born May, 1846 Austria and wife, Francis born Dec., 1845 born Prussia listed on the 1900 Census of San Antonio, Bexar County. George said he immigrated in 1853. Francis said she immigrated in 1855. I would try to find him on a passenger list. I would check Galveston, Hamburg Passenger, and New Orleans lists first. There are some indices. You can try "Germans To America". I hesitate to recommend these books to anyone as they contain many errors and omissions.

ALTWEIN-RAUCH

Glenn E. Altwein, CCED, 1441 FM 155, La Grange, TX 78945, email: galtwein@msn.com Would like to know where Henry Rauch came from in Austria. He lived pre 1890's Karnes City, New Braunfels and Seguin. Also, where were Altweins of pre 1851 New Braunfels and Guadalupe County from in East Prussia?

Reply: Is Edgar Altwein who came on the ship "Margaretha", 1846 to Comal County your ancestor? Edgar Altwein said he was from Leuba Altenburg. If this isn't your ancestor, I need to know the first name of your earliest Altwein ancestor.

Check the 1900, 1910, 1920, or 1930 census to see how your Henry (Heinrich) Rauch answered the immigration question. Once you have year, look for passenger list. Be sure to look for obituary which may also give you the information you seek. If any of his kids were born in Germany and of age to have served in WWI, look for their draft registration cards as question was asked where were you born.

ZELESKEY-ZELLESNECK-ZALEZNCK-JELESKEY

Connie Farmer, 100 East Bellevue Place #22A, Chicago, IL 60611-1157 . How can I go back further with my Zeleskey family of 1920 Lampasas County? I'm interested In John F. Zelesky born 1860 TX and siblings, Annie, Frank and Lena.

Reply: Wow! What a case study your Zeleskeys are for the way a surname can and does appear in records!!! This was quite a challenge. Using death certificate information for Annie who died 12-22-1928, and "Jhaney Zellaskey" who died 3-4-1921 in Lampasas Co. (both said born Austin Co., TX); and using census records, I found the following:

Joseph Zellesneck married Rosa July 19, 1866 Austin County, TX. A check of Austin Co. Deeds indicated Joseph lived in San Felipe area. I rolled Austin Co. 1870 census looking for a family with children named Frank, Annie, John the right ages born Tx. page 304B, 1870 San Felipe enumeration district:

Joseph Zaleznck age 49 born Bohemia

Rosa age 32 (wife), children: Mary 19 (deaf) b. Bohemia, Joseph 16 b. Bohemia, John age 9 born 1860/61 TX, Anna 7 b. TX, Paulena 5 b. TX, and Frank age 2 born TX. I believe this is your Zeleskey family although the surname is really "screwed" up! I did not find Joseph and Rosa in "Cemeteries of Austin County". They lived very close to the Waller county line, I would look for burial in a Waller county cemetery.

Note: I enjoyed discussing ancestors with all the people who stopped by the GTHS and Clayton Library Friends tables at the Texas German Convention. Liz Hicks

Helpful Genealogical websites:

To find a Catholic Church and their records,-

http://home.att.net/~local_Catholic/CatholicUS-SanAntonioTx.htm

Scroll down for: Local Catholic Church & Family History, Genealogy Guide and Directory, US State Selection, Gen. History & Gen. Links to Maps & Aids

The Cemeteries of Austin County, TX-

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

Cemeteries for Colorado County, TX-

<http://www.columbustexas.net/library/>

The Descendency Chart Part I – its sparse usage by Everett A. Fey

Speaking with many genealogists over the years, I am constantly amazed at how many actually do not employ the full use of the Descendency Chart abilities in their genealogical endeavors. The majority seem to focus their research on their surname, i.e. the surname of their father, his father, etc., etc. To do so, we are depriving ourselves of the full enjoyment of our hobby and not being fair to the *majority* of our ancestors.

To demonstrate, allow me a few liberties. Two of my brother's great-great-great grandparents were First Founders of New Braunfels. Just for the sake of this demonstration, allow me to postulate that each family had four children, who each grew to maturity, married and also had four children.

I am well aware that in the 1800s and early 1900s, the families were generally larger, even up to 10 – 12 children. I know that now-a-days, our families are smaller than 4 children. But these numbers help to easily show, mathematically, the extent of numbers in our families.

Direct Descendents

<u>Generation</u>	<u># in that generation</u>
Gr.gr.gr.grandparents	2 (first mom & pop!)
Gr.gr.grandparents' generation	4
Gr.grandparents' generation	16
Grandparents' generation	64
Parents' generation	256
My brother, Fred's generation	1024
His children's generation	4096
His grandchildren's generation	16,384

Now, counting the “first mom & pop” there would be a total of 21,846 names of persons in this one “family” when the Descendency Chart is finished. You are 1 of them and the other 21,845 are your real blood relatives. The “first mom & pop” are 2 of them and the other 21,844 have a tiny part of their DNA in each one of them.

Now, are you ready for this? You actually have 16 sets of the “first mom & pop” ancestors as described in the above chart. Go back in your Ancestry Chart to see for yourself! So you have finished the Descendency Chart of your “first mom & pop” who gave you your surname ... now you have 15 more descendency charts of your other “first mom & pop” in each line to complete to do all your ancestors justice. Have fun!

Everett A. Fey, Comal County Genealogy Society

The Descendency Chart

Part II – how it relates to your Family Reunion

by Everett A. Fey

All of us go to Family Reunions. They are usually all the descendents of certain “mom & pop” ancestors like Grandma and Grandpa Klappenfeger. So what percentage of the attendees at the Reunion (assuming that all attend this year) will have the surname of Klappenfeger? One half? A fourth? Well, let’s see.

Let’s assume that “mom & pop” Klappenfeger are our great-great-great-grandparents and that, once again as in Part I, each family has 4 children ... two boys and two girls each. Then, each child also has two boys and two girls down to the eighth generation. Now remember, every time a girl is born, she legally gets another name and loses the surname of Klappenfeger or whatever her father passed on to her. Let’s make another chart of how many of the Reunion attendees will be Klappenfegers from each generation as the years pass on.

Generation	# in that generation	Klappenfegers	Other Names
gr-gr-gr-grandparents	2 (first mom & pop!)	2	0
gr-gr-grandparents	4	2	2
gr-grandparents	16	4	12
grandpatents	64	8	56
parents	256	16	240
Mr. Klappenfeger	1024	32	992
his children	4096	64	4032
his grand-children	16,384	128	16,256

Whenever a Klappenfeger female marries, she (and all her descendents) assume a new last name. Thus, if the last generation holds a Klappenfeger Reunion, only about .008% will still bear the Klappenfeger name.

Now, at what point do the females lost their Klappenfeger identity? Daughters are usually quite faithful in doing complete research on their father’s family. However research is not as common on her mother’s family (which is the same as the maternal grandfather’s family). Fewer will research their two grandmothers’ families. Few, if any, will research any families before this.

All the descendants in a generation will share, mathematically, the same amount of biological input from their common ancestors. But only the few elite men who pass on the “family” name can generally share in all the “family histories” and “family tales”. This is only a *societal mores* – regardless of our “last name”, we share in many, many families!

Everett A. Fey, Comal County Genealogy Society

THE FAMILY TREE

PETER AUGUST NOACK

Born : Groeditz, Germany 1836
 Died: Serbin, Lee Co., Texas 1874

JOHANNA CHRISTIANE WILHELMINIA MITSCHERLING

Born : Goeppersdorf, Germany 1839
 Died: Round Top, Fayette Co., Texas 1921

Marriage Date:
 JANUARY 10, 1864
 Liebstadt, Germany

2 SONS DIED	<u>GUSTAV</u>	<u>MARIE</u>	<u>PAUL</u>	<u>JOHN</u>	<u>HERMAN</u>
Infancy	1866-1957	1868-1947	1869-1919	1871-1901	1874-1959
Germany	Germany	Germany	Germany	Texas	Texas

Hugo	Ewald	Walter	John	Henry
Alfred	Alfons	Herman	Oliver	Herman
Vera	Elsa	Paul	Willie Mae	Esther
Willie	Ruth	Laura		Lydia
Gussie	Esther	Herbert		Albin
Hilda	Rudy	Reinholt		[Died-infancy]
Waldemar		Armin		
Nelda		Nita		
Ella		Meta		
Viola		Ilse		
Selma		Erra		
Erna		Delta		

A seventh child was born to Peter & Wilhelmania Noack at Serbin, Texas
 Otto Emil Noack was born July 14, 1875 - Died: July 8, 1876

Sailed from Bremen, Germany on the ship METEOR on December 12, 1870
 Arrived at Galveston, Texas - January 30, 1871
 to join Peter's brother, Johann, in Serbin, Lee County, Texas

Peter's brother, Johann, & his wife, Magdalena, of Groeditz, Germany were among the first group of Wends to come over with the Rev. John Kilian on the ship "Ben Navis" in 1854. These immigrants were a colony of Wends, who came to Texas from the southeast part of Germany for political and religious freedom. Johann Noack's wife died on October 12, 1870 aboard the ship on their way to Texas. Peter Noack and his family worked on his brother's farm at Serbin for one year to repay him for travel expenses.



Peter & Johanna Wilhelmine Noack Descendants



**Gustav Noak, Anna Marie Noak Weigelt
Rev. Herman P. Noack Greif
Mother: Johanna Wilhelmine Noack Wertschitz**

**Front Row:
Johanna Wilhelmine Noak Wertschitz
Her second marriage to: Traugott
Wertschitz- Dec. 23, 1880
Back Row:
Paul Noak, Gustav Noak, Rev. Herman
P. Noack Greif, Anna Marie Noak Weigelt,
John E. Noack.**



Noak Family Holds 62nd Annual Family Reunion at Round Top

The 62nd annual Noak family reunion, among the oldest continuing reunions in Fayette County, was held on Sunday, March 19, at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall. Ninety five members of the Peter August and Johanna Wilhelmine Mitzscherling Noack[Noak] family and one guest attended. Family branches represented were: Gustav Noak, Marie Noak Weigelt, Paul Noak and Rev. Herman P. Greif. The Marie Noak Weigelt family were hosts this year.

O'Neal Weigelt of Austin, led the table prayer before the noon catered meal. After the meal, Al Weigelt of Lufkin presided over the afternoon meeting. Mindy Lawrence, secretary, of Houston read the 2005 minutes. Lanette Williams, treasurer, of Carmine gave the financial report.

Special recognition for traveling the greatest distance was given to **Ron & Helen Greif** of the Rev. Herman P. Greif family, traveling 600 miles from Pryor, Oklahoma.

Four births were reported since the last reunion: **Ashelynn Ruth Steen** born July 9, 2005 to Matt & Ronica Steen, grandparents Daryl & Shirley Weigelt, great-grandparents Al & Darlene Weigelt; **Zachariah Keegan South** born Aug.12, 2005 to Amber & Josh South, grandparents Michael & Marsha Noak, great-grandfather, Kermit Noak; **Josephine Grace Springer** born Sept. 2, 2005 to Jeffrey & Denise Springer, grandparents Carolyn & Don Springer, great-grandmother Leona Weigelt; **Cristin Lee Poffinbarger** born Oct. 12, 2005 to James & Rachel Bird Poffinbarger, grandparents Marshall & Connie Bird, great-grandparents Tom & Dorothy Rothermel

The youngest member present was **Nelson Ryder Becka**, 16 month old son of Ryan & Heather Becka of Caldwell. **Edith Klump**, 89, of Round Top, was the oldest member present.

Eight marriages were reported since the last reunion: **Kevin Hinze** married Kim Fischer, April 23, 2005; **Tim Spies** married Angelique Camardo, April 23, 2005; **Laura Marburger** married Bryan Lee, May 30, 2005; **Jared Meinkowsky** married Brooke Bludau, June 4, 2005; **Joshua Weigelt** married Gwen Gutlau, Sept. 17, 2005; **Kendra Weigelt** married Matthew Boehm, Dec. 17, 2005; **Amber Spencer** married Josh South, March 17, 2006.

The most recently married couple present were **Grant & Natasha Becka** of Bryan, at 1 year-10 months. **Fred & Vernell Weber** of Austin were married the longest, at 58 years.

It was noted that **Viola Franke**, 96, the daughter of the late Gustav & Lena Reuter Noak, is the only family member of her generation living. No longer able to attend the reunions, she resides in a care facility in Hondo. Two deaths were reported since the last reunion: **Delores Greif Noak** of Round Top, 75, died March 30, 2005; **Milton Noak** of La Grange, 78, died May 25, 2005. A moment of silent prayer was offered for them and their immediate families.

Individuals who were Veterans of the Armed Services stood for recognition and shared their area of service. Four were reported as currently in active service: **Zachary Weigelt**, Army, Fort Bragg, NC; **Jonathan Noak**, Navy, Fort Lee, VA.; **Randall Schneider, Jr.**, Navy, Australia; **Justin Differt**, Navy, Maryland.

The Nelson Noak Family of the Gustav Noak branch will serve as hosts for next year's reunion, March 18, 2007. **Diana Kallus** of Victoria was elected Secretary. **Lanette Williams** of Carmine was re-elected Treasurer. Guessing game winners were announced and door prize drawings followed. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned with the singing of Blessed Be the Tie That Binds.

Submitted by Dorothy Noak Rothermel
from the notes of the secretary, Mindy Marburger Lawrence.

DUDERSTADT FAMILY REUNION, JULY 16 AT YORKTOWN, TEXAS

Duderstadts plan reunion celebration of the brothers Friedrich and Andreas Duderstadt's arrival at Indianola 152 years ago (1854) aboard the bark *Ammerland*.

All Duderstadts, their extended families and friends are invited to attend this reunion on Sunday, July 16, 2006, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 234 North Gohmert Street, Yorktown, Texas. A covered dish luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. (each family is asked to bring a dish).

Other than Duderestadt, related family names are

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Bode | Sheffield | Turner |
| Taylor | Jobs | Fritze |
| Haun | Barfield | Edwards |
| Polan | Holmes | Pennington |
| Mitchell | Striedel | Thamm |
| Bettge | Orr | Halleman |
| Spiekerman | Randolf | Schuenemann |
| Rauch | Buchanan | Frick |
| Livesay | Queen | Hartmann |
| Garner | Gregorczyk | and others..... |

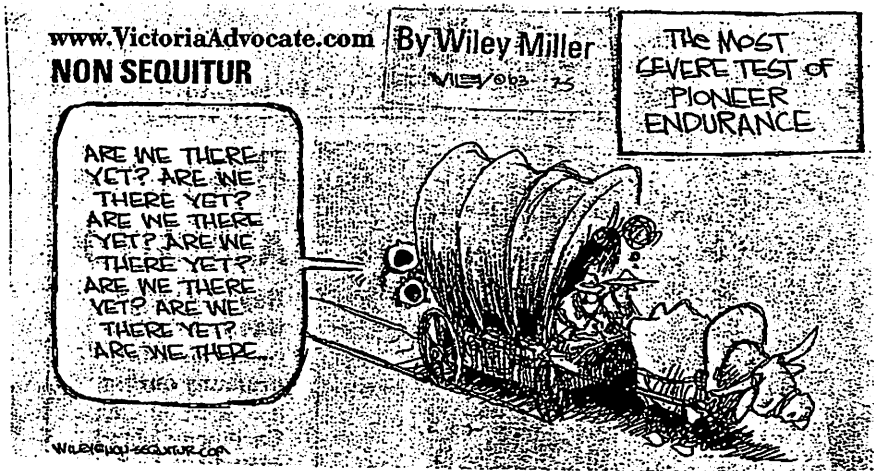
Come, visit with your known and unknown relatives.

Updated family history books and bark pictures will be available. You also might hear about a recent exciting visit to Duderstadt, Germany!

Willkommen to all. Contact person: Frances Hartmann, phone 361-564-2174

Duderstadts from Indianola to Meyersville.....

Sind wir bald da?
Sind wir noch nicht da?
Sind wir noch immer nicht da?



The Johann Heinrich Köster Family

By Doris Koester Rosenbaum

Part 1 of 3: Wehdem, Germany

The Book, *1000 Jahre Wehdem* (year 969 to 1969) by Gustav Niermann, makes a reference to the early Köster name. The Köster name probably comes from a variation of German used to identify a church under-officer who took care of the church property and would ring the bell, or in some cases dig graves. Our word for this church function is probably Sexton. Another interesting use of Köster is by Sweden. The Köster name is associated with a place to eat and rest as in the Köster Islands west of Stromstad. The spelling of Köster was changed to Koester in the USA.

Our g-g-g grandfather, Johann Heinrich Köster, came from Dahlinghausen, located in the Lintrop Parish approximately 12 miles south of Wehdem in Lower Saxony. He was born 4-8-1796 in Dahlinghausen and married Annie Marie Sophie Kasten (Casten) in Wehdem on 12-9-1818. Sophie was born at Wehdem on 2-26-1796. After their marriage at Wehdem their residence was located at Oppendorph #16. Sophie's family came from Oppendorph #17 and her family line goes back to about 1620 at Wehdem, Oppendorph and Levern. Both Oppendorph and Wehdem Lutheran church members used the Wehdem Parish church. Johann died on 5-4-1868 and Sophie died on 3-4-1860. They were buried in the Wehdem church cemetery in Germany. Apparently, Johann and Sophie were not property owners at the time of their marriage. Johann has been identified as a *Heuerling* in Wehdem church records. Today's interpretation of this word would probably be a day laborer.

Johann and Sophie Köster had 10 children in Germany and all were baptized at the Wehdem Lutheran church. Three children immigrated to the United States.

1. Marie Carlotte (12-29-1818 to 2-15-1821). Died at Wehdem of childhood disease.
2. Marie Henritte (2-1-1821 to 3-5-1857) married Carl Engelage (born 9-21-1812) on 5-19-1851 in Wehdem Germany.
3. Johann Christoph Wilhelm August (3-30-1823 to 12-26-1912 USA). married Wilhelmine Henritte Barkhuser (10-2-1817 to 9-20-1885 USA) at Wehdem 9-28-1851. They raised family in Washington County.
4. Christoph Heinrich (9-12-1825 to?) married Dorothea Becker at Wehdem 4-11-1852. Died 1904 USA. They raised a family in Washington County.
5. Johann Friedrich Wilhelm (12-17-1827 to?) married Henriette Thormann (11-20-1820 to 4-18-1873) at Wehdem Germany 1-31-1850. They did not emigrate.
6. Marie Wilhelmine (12-13-1830 to 3-14-1831). Died at Wehdem in childhood
7. Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm (12-31-1831 to 8-9-1903 USA). M. Marie Charlotte Kasten (12-11-1826 to 1-13-1889 USA) at Wehdem 4-22-1858. They raised a large family in Washington and Falls County. Friedrich was my g-grandfather and is buried in Falls County. Charlotte is buried in the New Wehdem cemetery near the big oak. They belonged to the New Wehdem and Zionsville church in Austin and Washington County before moving to Falls County.
8. Wilhelmine Caroline (3-28-1834 to?)
9. Henriette Wilhelmine Caroline (12-19-1836 to 7-13-1857). Did not emigrate.
10. Carlotte Wilhelmine Louise (1-22-1839 to 8-28-1860). Did not emigrate.

NEXT: New Wehdem, Texas

The Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Koester Family

By Doris Koester Rosenbaum

Part 2 of 3: New Wehdem, Texas

Our g-grandfather, Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Köster family's residence was located at Oppendorph #14 Germany. The book *Stemwede Junge Gemeinde - Alte Dorfer* has a picture of this residence on page 45. Private family documents also confirm this residence. Friedrich and Charlotte Kasten Koester arrived in the U.S. in 1882 with the following children: Bernard 20 (my grandfather), Karoline 17, and Henirette 14. According to records from Germany, they applied for emigration to the U.S. in 1880. The German Emigration and Military records indicated their approval for Bernard to emigrate. Correspondence indicates that Charlotte had a son, Heinrich Kasten, from a previous marriage who was in Galveston and wanted them to come to the USA. He was also instrumental in making funds available to expedite their emigration. All of Friedrich's and Charlotte's family became members of the New Wehdem church in Austin County. Friedrich is buried in Falls County and Charlotte is buried in New Wehdem near the big oak. Friedrich and Charlotte had 5 children in Germany. They are as follows:

1. Chistoph Friedrich Heinrich (8-28-1858 to 2-1-1859). Died as child in Germany.
2. Hennirette Clarlotte Welhelmine (11-18-59 to 6-4-1882). Did not emigrate.
3. Friedrich Heinrich Bernard (6-26-1863 to 1-10-1918 USA), (our grandfather) married Marie Henirette Hanschen (4-12-1863 to 1-24-1925) at New Wehdem on 12-2-1886. They are buried in Falls County. They had a large family in Washington and Falls County. They have family reunions.
4. Karoline (12-25-1865 to 5-19-1925 USA). Married Heinrich Kettler (9-18-1863 to 4-1953) at New Wehdem on 5-4-1885. They had a large family in Washington County and have family reunions.
5. Heinnirette Carlotte Wilhelmine (8-12-1868 to 7-26-1958). Married Wilhelm Herman Loesch (12-31-1863 to 4-9-1939) in New Wehdem on 11-29-1888. They had a large family in Austin and Washington County and have family reunions.

After Charlotte's death, Friedrich made his home with Bernard and Heneriette in New Wehdem in Austin County. Bernard and Heneritte had four children born and baptized at New Wehdem. They were Fred, Otto, William (Willie) and Malessa. Later Friedrich, Bernard and his wife Henriette and their children Fred, Otto, William and Malessa together with Bernard's sister Karolyn (Koester) Kettler and Karolyn's family moved to Zionsville, Washington County. In January 1891, the Koester's and Kettler's joined Zion Lutheran Church where August Koester was born and baptized.

Next: Falls County, Texas

The Friedrich Heinrich Bernard Koester Family

By Doris Koester Rosenbaum

Part 3 of 3: Falls County, Texas

In December 1892, Bernard, Henirette and their five children Fred, Otto, William (Willie), Malessa and August moved again. The Koester family moved from Zionsville to Falls County. Deed records indicate that they purchased their Falls County farm with papers signed on 24 December 1896. This move was the end of their long journey to America that started in Wehdem Germany to New Wehdem Texas and then to Falls County Texas. After moving they joined the Trinity Lutheran Church where their children were schooled. Bernard and Henirette had five children when they moved and six born in Falls County. They are as follows:

1. Fredrich (Fred) Carl Bernard; (4-18-1887 to 2-23-1943), married Martha Kluck, (born 9-20-1889) (6 sons, 2 daughters);
2. Otto Wilhelm Heinrich; (9-10-1888 to 6-4-1951), married Laura Louise Berg, (10-4-1891 to 11-30-1959) on 11-9-1911 (2 sons, 1 daughter);
3. William (Willie) Henry; (10-20-1889 to 3-25-1963), married Clara Holle, (12-20-1894 to 11-26-1971) on 12-7-1913 (6 sons, 2 daughters);
4. Malessa Karolina Engel; (12-20-1890 to 11-8-1964), married Ernest Wilhelm Berg, (11-24-1888 to 4-6-1951) on 11-2-1911 (6 sons);
5. August William; (8-21-1892 to 12-3-1941) married Pauline M. Matthys, (11-8-1892 to 10-2-1994) (3 daughters);
6. Paul Adolph Phillipt; (2-11-1894 to 7-2-1954), married Selma Anne Kuretsch (11-7-1898 to 5-31-1970) (3 sons, 2 daughters);
7. Herman ; (6-4-1895 to 3-10-1970, served in the army during WW1), married Frieda Minna Johanna Berg, (1-28-1906 to 5-7-2001) on 10-4-1923 (2 sons);
8. Alma W; (2-21-1897 to 6-20-1900);
9. August Henry Theodore; (11-10-1898 to 8-2-1900);
10. Theodore Henry (our father); (4-27-1900 to 5-1-1962), married Lillie Louise Luedke, (9-13-1902 to 2-17-1987) on 11-12-1925 (2 daughters);
11. Anna M.H; born (1-28-1905 to 1-28-1905);

It is observed that the children of Bernard and Henirette Koester had a total of 34 surviving children. They were my cousins and our Koester family visits and reunions were exciting.

I am thankful that my sister and I were able to visit friends and relatives and attend church services in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wehdem, Germany. This was the church of my grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents.

REFERENCES (Parts 1,2,3):

Wehdem Parish Church records Wehdem, Germany, and Koester correspondence
 St. James Lutheran Church records New Wehdem, Austin County
 Zion Lutheran Church records Zionsville Washington County
 U.S. Emigration and Census records, and German Emigration and Military records.
 Trinity Lutheran Church Falls County
 Falls County Deed Records

Friedrich August Krackau Family Reunion
By Mary Jane Krackau Smith and Agnes Krackau Dreibrodt

More than sixty-five descendants of Friedrich August and Marie Luise Pauline (Hummel) Krackau held their 43rd Family Reunion on Sunday, March 26, 2006 at the Albert Kypfer Hermann Sons Lodge in Clear Springs, Texas.

The first Friedrich August Krackau reunion was held in 1964 at Saengerhalle Hall in New Braunfels, Texas. Janice Krackau Kuhen was instrumental in organizing and hosting the event. She was assisted by Martha Ann Krackau Voss, Alice Krackau, Agnes Krackau Dreibrodt, Lena Krackau, and Clarence Krackau.

This year's reunion was hosted by the William Braune Family (Irene Bierstedt, Janet Magin, and Lillian Cargill). Registration and visiting begin at 11 AM and was followed with a pot luck lunch, business meeting, silent auction, bingo and games for the children. Family photo albums were on display for all to enjoy. During the business meeting, the family selected the first Sunday in March, 2007 for their next reunion. Special recognition and prizes were presented to Elvira Krackau Harborth for oldest person, Peyton Trapp youngest person, Clarence and Lorine Krackau longest married couple, Doug and Charlotte Trapp shortest years married, Tom and Lynnette Krackau Cranford traveled the greatest distance.

Families came from Seguin, New Braunfels, Geronimo, San Marcos, Austin, Spring Branch, Houston, Schertz, Georgetown, and Pearsall.

Friedrich August Krackau was born in Oberstosswitz bei Russeina, Germany on November 18, 1855. His parents were Johann Traugott Krackau and Johanne Sophia Kahle. Johanne Sophia was born in Germany in 1820 and died in the United States in 1910. She is buried in the Hermann Sons Cemetery in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Marie Luise Pauline Hummel was born in Obercunnersdorf bei Lobau or Loebau Sachsen (Saxony), Germany on July 22, 1857. Her parents were Ernst Gustav Hummel (10/22/1832 – 3/19/1918) and Johanne Luise Schurz (12/7/1833 – 8/30/1901). She was the fourth of seventeen children. Mr. & Mrs. Ernst Hummel are buried in the Lone Oak Cemetery across the road from Friedens United Church of Christ, Geronimo, Guadalupe County, Texas.

Friedrich learned the trade of masonry (brick layer) while in Germany.

Friedrich and Pauline emigrated to the United States on or about November 6, 1881 from Hamburg, Germany and arrived in New York City on the vessel Silesia. During this voyage, Pauline had a child, but the child died before the ship landed. Along with Friedrich and Pauline came Miss Marie Krackau, Friedrich sister who later married Mr.

Fishinger; and Mrs. Johanne Sophia Krackau, Friedrich's mother (a widow). Friedrich and Pauline migrated to Texas in December, 1881.

Friedrich and Pauline made their home in the York Creek area for nine years, and then moved to the Zorn community where the family resided and prospered. Friedrich August Krackau purchased Survey #15 on the Charles Henderson League containing 79.50 acres in Guadalupe County on March 31, 1890 - from Adolph Trappe (this transaction was recorded in Volume 2, Page 169-171). The acreage was purchased for \$1,800; with a down payment of \$500. Payments were made until paid in full at the interest rate of 8 percent.. The land was paid in full on May 11, 1905. In 1961 the property was purchased by Wilburn and Alice Krackau, grandson of Friedrich and Pauline. This property is now owned by great granddaughters Janice Krackau Kuhlen and Lynne Krackau Laubach.

Friedrich and Pauline lived on this property for thirty-three years and raised seven out of eleven children. Pauline died on February 29, 1924 and Friedrich on December 15, 1933. They are buried at a family plot in Zorn Cemetery. The eleven children are as follows: (1) Child who died as infant during voyage to United States, (2) Selma - 1-6-1882, (3) Lina - 5-13-1884, (4) Martha - 8-6-1885, (5) Hilda - 8-1-1887, (6) Boy died during infancy, (7) Boy died during infancy, (8) Richard - 4-17-1891, (9) Rudolph - 10-22-1892, (10) Hermann - 7-14-1894, (11) Girl, still born, is buried at the homestead.



Friedrich August Krackau

from 1996

GOLDMANN FAMILY OF VICTORIA, TEXAS UPDATE
by Wilhelm and Christopher Goldmann

In "The Journal" of Summer, 1996 published by the German-Texan Heritage Society, Volume XVIII, Number 2, pp. 158-159, it was reported that our great great great grandfather was "Johann Fried Goldmann". The middle name was discovered to be an abbreviation for "Friedrich" as given names were commonly abbreviated in this time period in Lutheran church records; thus, the corrected name is "Johann Friedrich Goldmann". At this time his birth place is unknown but he would have been born approximately 1760 (his son, Conrad Ludewig, was baptized in Verden, Hanover, Germany in December, 1796).

We additionally have discovered the original LDS film of Anna Augusta Steiner's older sister, previously reported as "Anna Maria" which appeared on her death record dated January 4, 1911 in Victoria County, Texas. Her Catholic baptismal record of 16 Apr 1836 in Schwammelwitz, Silesia, Prussia lists her full name as "Anna Theresia Hedwig Steiner" (Augusta was our great grandmother who married Adolph Goldmann). The village of Schwammelwitz is understood to be of combination German and slavic origin.

Finally, through persistent research the Catholic baptismal record of Augusta's and Anna's father, previously reported as "Carl Frederich Hugo Steiner", was located in LDS films on February 24, 1812 in Schwammelitz. His full baptismal name was listed as "Johann Carl Lazarus Steiner", Kretschem (pub manager) in Schwammelwitz, son of Joseph Steiner, Gerichtsschatzer (court appraiser) and Catharina Mick (also Mueck). On an interesting note in the latter 18th Century, the Christian baptismal name "Lazarus", as used in the New Testament of the Authorized Version of the Bible, is a German and Latinized version of Greek Lazaros, itself a transliteration of Aramaic Lazar, an aphetic short form of Hebrew Eleazar 'God is my help'. His given names first reported were apparently utilized in his early adulthood as "Carl F.H. Steiner" appeared on his Gymnasium notebook in Neisse Oder, Silesia.

We hope these corrections help anyone doing "Steiner" surname research in East Prussia around the turn of the 19th century!!

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL TEN YEARS AGO — 1996.

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL TEN YEARS AGO -- 1996**German Immigration to Texas in the 1840s: One Immigrant Family's Story**

Overpopulation and economic woes existed throughout Germany during the early 19th Century. Because of this, many Germans chose to immigrate to America, where they believed a better life awaited them. A group of German nobles and capitalists, realizing an opportunity to exploit the situation, came together to form an immigration company in 1842. They hoped to capitalize on those wanting to leave Germany by offering them secure passage combined with a chance to own land in America. Many Germans had already left before 1842 and several had found their way to Wisconsin and Missouri, where thriving German colonies existed. When the new immigration company was organized, its founders hoped to create a German colony in Texas. The company, known as the Adelsverein, purchased land from the Republic of Texas and chartered ships out of Bremen and Antwerp to bring their clients to Galveston and Indianola. The company's goal was to bring thousands of Germans to Texas and to make a profit in doing so. For Texas, it resulted in a mass immigration to the state. Between 1844 and 1847, Texas granted 1,735,200 acres of land to 7,380 German immigrants.

One such German who immigrated during this period was Johann Henck. Johann was born in 1803 in the town of Laasphe, capital of the Principality of Wittgenstein, located in the Westphalia province of Prussia. At the age of 16, Johann began work in the principality's iron foundry as a payroll clerk and, by age 28, was serving as an accountant in the tax office of the principality. Johann married Johannah Becker in 1824 at the Lutheran Church of Laasphe and together they had eleven children. With so many mouths to feed, the family had to grow their own staples, mainly potatoes. In the early 1840s, Johann began to experience a series of financial and personal difficulties: A new prince came to power in Wittgenstein and Johann was demoted to an assistant bookkeeper's position; Johann's oldest daughter became lame in one leg due to an illness and the family's entire potato crop failed on at least two occasions. With a family of thirteen, a reduced income, a sick child, and the loss of his family's main food supply, Johann was forced to borrow money to survive, adding the burden of debt to his troubles.

Faced with so many difficulties, Johann looked at emigration as a solution. Many others from Westphalia had immigrated to Missouri but the cost of getting there was high. The expenses to consider included the sea passage to New Orleans, a riverboat ride up the Mississippi and wagon transfer to the German settlements. In 1846, such a venture amounted to 2,752 Talers, the Prussian currency of the period. The recently organized Adelsverein, however, offered a greater opportunity for a lesser price. For the sum of 1,325 Prussian Talers, the Adelsverein provided 320 acres of land to each married man (160 to single men), sea passage to Galveston and transportation to the designated land grant. As a result, Johann chose to bring his family to Texas and they departed from Antwerp aboard the ship *Element* on August 25, 1846. After a two-month voyage, they arrived at Galveston on October 22 and set out for the land promised them by the Adelsverein. Shortly after their arrival, Johann, together with three of his sons, volunteered for service during the Mexican War in 1847.

After the war, the family opted to return to Galveston where Johann died in 1850 and his wife Johannah died in 1882. One of the couple's children, a son named Ludwig, remained in Germany. The other ten children, Henry, Henrietta, Augusta, Christian, Louise, Caroline, Charles, Catherine, Frederick and William, settled in Galveston. The sons became engaged in local trades and businesses such as iron molders and grocery proprietors while the daughters married local men who worked in similar professions. Some of them, such as sons Henry, Charles and Frederick, who were Civil War veterans, and Augusta, who married David Weber, a partner in the Lee Iron Works, became well-known figures in the community.

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL TEN YEARS AGO — 1996

Johann and Johannah Henck were typical of the German immigrants who came to Texas during the 1840s. Like many of their contemporaries, they faced personal and economic difficulties and made the brave decision to start a new life in a new land. It proved to be a fortunate decision as their descendants played active roles in the development of business and commerce in late 19th and early 20th century Galveston County. Some of these descendants were the Locke brothers, sons of Johann's eldest daughter Henrietta. Louis Locke was a Galveston Bar pilot and his brothers Henry and William Locke operated the schooner *Golden Arrow* along the Texas coast. Another grandson, Robert Wagner, son of Johann's daughter Caroline, served over thirty years as engineer for the Gulf City Compress and Manufacturing Company. Other notable descendants were the three children of Johann's oldest son Henry. They were Ernest R. Henck, a local sailmaker, and his brothers August J. and Henry C. Henck, Jr., both of whom were early Galveston realtors. Elsewhere in Galveston County, Charles and William Henck, children of Johann's son Christian, became early settlers in Hitchcock and operated both a bank and a grocery store in that community. The success of all of these descendants was built upon the foresight of their grandparents who came to Texas seeking a better life.

Consulted Sources:

Geue, Chester W., *A New Land Beckoned: German Immigration to Texas, 1844-1847*, Texian Press, Waco, 1952.

This book contains a succinct history of the Adelsverein and provides a listing of each of the families it brought to Texas from Germany between 1844 and 1847.

Lewis Publishing, *The History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston*, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1895.

This book contains a biographical sketch of Henry Henck and provides a brief account of his father's (Johann Henck) immigration to Texas from Germany.

Personnel File of Johann Henck - File K-326 - Castle Wittgenstein Archives; Prince Alexander zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein Collection, Bad Laasphe, Germany.

This file contains several documents, including personal letters, concerning Johann Henck and provides accounts of both personal and professional matters.

Galveston City Directories, 1870s-1920s, Rosenberg Library Archives, Galveston, Texas.

The city directories for Galveston, Texas contain listings for many of the Henck descendants and provide their home addresses and occupations.

This article was prepared by Harrold K. Henck, Jr., of Galveston, Texas in observance of the 150th anniversary of Johann Henck's arrival in Texas. Mr. Henck is a fifth generation Galvestonian and a great, great, great grandson of Johann Henck.

Eisenhauer Reunion

Approximately 245 Texas Eisenhauers gathered at the Quihi Gun Club on June 15, 1996 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Paul Eisenhauer and his family in Texas. Besides eating, drinking, visiting, sharing old pictures and studying the intricacies of the family tree (made in the form of a wheel by Gene Eisenhauer), the group was entertained by a skit performed by the youngest generation. The skit, narrated by Lydia Eisenhauer Biegert, depicted the emigration from Germany, arrival in Indianola and settlement in Quihi, Texas of the young Eisenhauer family.

JOSEPH PREISS DESCENDANTS GATHER

Descendants of Joseph Preiss gathered recently for their third family reunion at Trinity Luther Hall with Woody Preiss, Billie Diamond, Roxie Boyd, and Embrene Hranitzky hosting.

Family members were recognized and presented with gifts, including Henry Jacob 82, the oldest man descendant; Lydia Bittner Preiss 87 the oldest woman descendant; Sam and Sara Duran 3 years twins of Doug and Kay Duran the youngest boy and girl present; Henry and Fay Maurine Jacob, couple married the longest at 61 years; Wallace and Jean Maurer, couple most recent married at 1½ years; Bill, Mandy and Quentin Carr traveling the furthest from Abilene, Texas.

Gladys Arnold reminded everyone to please keep her informed as to any changes for the Family History Book.

Approximately 72 members attended with the Alois Preiss family having the greatest representation of 47.

In the absense of Robert (Bobby) Preiss Gladys Arnold presented those in attendance with information received from Germany. We found out that Joseph's (Josef) Father was Johan Preiss born on May 7, 1808 in Schmiedorf, Bavaria; his Mother was Katharina Deindl born in Osterhofen; his grandfather was Josef Preiss a farmer in Schmiedorf; his grandmother was Theresia Frohler; his sister was Theresia born on August 24, 1834 in Osterhofen and his brother was Jakob born on February 19, 1837 in Osterhofen. Gladys also passed around a bottle of Alsace Grand Cru wine bearing the label **PREISS-ZIMMER** that was imported from Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Gladys also has available a typed, updated list to the Family History Book since its publication in 1992.

Family members came from Houston, Alvin, Abilene, Brookshire, Goliad, McDade, Hondo, Corpus Christi, League City, Hallettsville, Austin, Wimberley, Pearland and Victoria.

The committee members for the 1998 reunion are: Woody Preiss, Roxie Boyd, Billie Diamond, Lillie Duran and Gladys Arnold. The date, time and location will be announced at a later date.

Gladys Arnold
512-575-0560

REUNIONS TEN YEARS AGO — FROM THE 1996 JOURNAL

THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE, Tuesday, July 2, 1996—11A

Michling- Dohmann

The fifth reunion of the Ernestine Michling Keil-Dohmann families was held on June 22 at Trinity Lutheran Hall.

Hosting the reunion were Weldon and LaVon Schmidt, Ewald and Carol Urban, Dorothy White, Hattie and Allen Wehlmann and Gladys Arnold. The invocation was given by Doug Hillyer.

Special recognition and prizes were given to Otto Weber, oldest man present at age 92; Lenora Preiss, oldest woman present at age 86; Ken, Pennie and Travis Biediger of Rosenberg, who traveled the longest distance, and most recent married; Alfred (Pete) and Luella Maurer, married the longest at 55 years; Timothy Hillyer, age 12 weeks, son of Doug and Susan Hillyer, youngest person present; and the Anna Keil Weber family with 35 present, family with most attending.

The committee hosting the reunion in Victoria in June of 1998 are: Doug and Susan Hillyer, Anna Kraatz, Williard and Ruby Schmidt, Weldon and LaVon Schmidt and Gladys Arnold.

Family members were from Beeville, Gonzales, Yorktown, Yoakum, Rosenberg, Kenedy, Goliad and Victoria.

There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

Gladys Arnold
680 E. Frontage Road
Victoria, Texas 77905-4261
512-575-0560

ZANDER REUNION

The 47th annual Zander Reunion was held Sunday Sep.1, 1996 at Buckholts, at Joe Glaser's Catfish Lake House. There were 104 people attending the noon pot luck meal. Officers serving were: Gilbert Zander, president; Jack Downey, vice-president; Pat Fuchs, secretary, and Florence Downey, treasurer. An auction of handmade items followed the business meeting. Special emphasis was directed toward making the 50th Reunion in 1999 as memorable as possible, and a committee was formed to contact all of the descendants of all the three Zander brothers.

The Zander brothers immigrated with their parents, Frederick "Peter" Zander and his wife Maria Dorethea, nee Ratzeburg in 1873 from Seehausen, Brandenburg, Germany. The family settled in Round Top near Maria's brother, William Ratzeburg. The Zanders did share cropping there for ten years, until they were able to purchase land at Page. William moved later in life to Buckholts area and Ludwig moved to the Valley Mills area, while Fred continued to reside in Paige.

A Family History was published just recently by Evelyn Wolf, and was available to the descendants at the reunion.

Evelyn Wolf, Rt. 1 Box 194, McDade, TX 78650

REUNIONS TEN YEARS AGO --- FROM THE 1996 JOURNAL

The Banner Press Newspaper, August 1, 1996, Page 9

Pagel reunion draws 36 descendants RS

HALLETTSVILLE — Thirty-six descendants of Gottfried and Friedrike (Dikow) Pagel gathered on July 14 for the annual Pagel Family Reunion at the Hallettsville Garden and Cultural Center.

This family originated in Kordenhagen, Prussia, and immigrated to Texas in 1850. It included nine children: Friedrich Wilhelm Pagel, Carl Friedrich Pagel, August Pagel, Wilhelmina Fischer, Fredericka Ladewig, Fritz Pagel, Emilie Appelt Schott, Ernest Pagel and Julius Pagel.

The family originally settled in Fayette County at Willow Springs, but most of the family later moved to Lavaca County near Hallettsville.

The Wilhelm, Charles, August, Wilhelmina, Ernest and Julius Pagel branches of the family were represented at the reunion this year.

Clyde Pagel of San Antonio gave the invocation before the covered-dish lunch. Henry Pagel of San Antonio presided over the business meeting and Victor Roeber of Hallettsville gave the treasurer's report.

Otto Orsak of Hallettsville was recognized as the oldest person present. Three-year-old Nicholas Pagel of Eagle Lake was the youngest child present.

The Pagel family lost a number of family members to death in the past year. They were Gladys Anders, Gladys Menking, Regina Pagel, Savanna Raabe, Donald Roeber, Mildred Schultz, Lucille Wallin, Joe Zumwalt and Helen Zumwalt.

Officers elected were Henry Pagel as president; Clyde Pagel, vice presi-

dent; Victor Roeber, treasurer; and Rox Ann Johnson, secretary and historian.

During the business meeting, Mary Menking proposed that funds collected at the reunion go to the Pagel reunion and Carl Friedrich Pagel family set up a separate fund for the maintenance of the Pagel Family Cemetery near Hallettsville. Billie Johnston seconded the motion and the motion was adopted.

The Pagel family will meet again next year on the second Sunday in July at the Garden Center. White elephant door prizes will be given next year.

95 descendants gather for annual Heinsohn reunion RJ

LA GRANGE — Between 1845 and 1851, six sons of Diedrich and Anna Marie (Rodenfels) Heinsohn left Oldenburg, Germany, to settle in Texas — one in Galveston County, one in Fayette County and four in Colorado County.

A total of 95 of their descendants and visitors gathered at the VFW Hall in La Grange recently for the 42nd Heinsohn Family Reunion.

A covered dish dinner was served at 12:30 p.m. with Chaplain Leonora King asking the blessing. Holly Heinsohn Kropp, president, called the meeting to order and special recognition was given to Horace Owings as the oldest male; Leonora King, oldest female; Braddon Kropp and Shawna Hardy, youngest male and female attendees; Horace and Thelma Owings, couple married longest; and Mike and Janice Cloteaux, most recently married couple.

King gave a memorial service for the deceased family members, which included Lauren Minson of Lubbock,

Estella Onken on May 12, George Novosad on Sept. 30, 1995, and Floyd Jahn on Feb. 5.

For everyone's enjoyment, numerous items of interest were displayed. Roxanne Johnson and Janice Cloteaux, historians, brought materials for viewing and Egon Friedrich brought photographs and paintings.

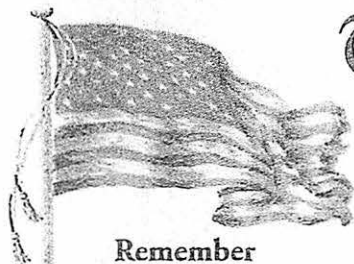
Johnson also brought a poster of a group photo taken of the 1971 reunion, which brought a lot of interest and speculation. Gladys Harvey of Corte Madera, Calif., Cheryl Heinsohn of Sacramento, Calif., and Vernon Heinson of Woodland, Calif., made the long trip in to visit family.

For Vernon, who was raised in Maui, and his daughter Cheryl, it was the first opportunity to meet the rest of the Heinsohn family.

The 43rd reunion will be held at the VFW Hall in La Grange on the third Sunday of July 1997. It also will be a covered dish dinner and anyone with something of interest is encouraged to bring their materials along to share with everyone.

Page 8, August 8, 1996, The Banner Press Newspaper

Columbus, Texas · Home of Anita Norsworthy



Remember
to thank a Veteran and
Serviceman every day!

The Colorado County Citizen

Volume 149, No. 2

coloradocountycitizen.com

Wednesday,

March 8, 2006



submitted by Angelina Kretzschmar

Citizen photo by Jacob Truchard
Willie Ann McColloch unveils the Texas Historical Cemetery marker at the Riesing Cemetery on Saturday. Her great-great-grandfather, Johann Frederich Schmidt, was the first burial in the cemetery in 1872.

Local cemetery gets historical marker

■ TRACY DANG

Staff Writer

Tombstones are placed at the head of a grave to identify the person who is buried there.

One local cemetery is getting a "tombstone" that identifies it with the highest honor a cemetery can receive.

The Riesing Cemetery, located on Richter Road off Hwy. 71 approximately 7 miles from Columbus, was

recently designated a Texas Historical Cemetery.

Descendents of family members buried in the cemetery gathered Saturday, March 4 to celebrate the dedication and view the unveiling of the historical marker.

"This is really a historic occasion for us," said David Kahlich, chairman of the Colorado County Historical Commission. "This is the first cemetery in Colorado County that has a historical

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Marker from page one

marker."

"Families have been created, and children have left their markings in this world, and your presence today is a tribute to all those people buried here," he said to those in attendance.

The dedication would not have been possible if it weren't for the help of the volunteers who helped clean the place.

"You have no idea what they did out here," Rev. Walter Hidebrandt told the crowd. "You have no idea how much work they put in. If you have been here two years ago, you'll know how different it was."

With the help of the county, they were able to straighten out the road leading to the cemetery, put in a road in order for a funeral car to drive all the way around, set up a parking lot system, fenced in the graveyard and cleared out a lot of the trees and weeds in the area.

"It was a jungle out here, and unless you were here 50 years ago, you don't know what it was like," said Angela Genzer Kretzschmar, who was responsible for getting the designation.

Kretzschmar's great-great-grandparents, William and Marie Bergmann Schmidt, started the cemetery in 1872.

The oldest known grave belonged to Friedrich Johann Schmidt, who died in 1872. Born in 1808, he also has the earliest known year of birth of all the burials. His great-great-granddaughter, Willie Ann McColloch, was present to unveil the historical marker.

Kretzschmar tried for two years to tie the two Schmidt families together but was unsuccessful.

Since then, several more families have been buried in the cemetery including members of the Riesing, Schobel, Hayek, Staffeildt, Hillebrand, Horndt, Koch, Karstech, Poenitzsch, Chollett and Diestrich families. Many of the families were related by blood or marriage.

William and Marie Schmidt, great-great grandparents of GTHS member Angelina Kretzschmar, were founders of the Riesling Cemetery in 1872.

The cemetery holds approximately 50 known graves in the cemetery, including 13 children's graves. There are also several unmarked graves, lined with bricks and no tombstones.

"The refurbishing of the cemetery is the link to the past," Colorado County Judge Al Jamison said.

"It's taken a lot of effort to get this done and direction as well," said Tommy Hahn, Commissioner of Precinct 3. "We've come a long way, but there are things that still need to be done."

Kretzschmar said she hopes the reunion would bring some descendants to form an association to maintain the cemetery.

"When we're gone, we don't know if our descendants are going to keep up with it," she said. "The stumps will keep coming, and whatever we can do to concrete in will cut down on the maintenance for the future."



Willie Ann McColloch, great-great-granddaughter of Johann Frederick Schmidt, who was the first burial at Riesing Cemetery in Shaw's Bend in 1872, unveiled a Texas Historical Marker in a ceremony last Saturday morning at the cemetery, which was designated a Texas Historical Cemetery last year. Among the families buried in the cemetery include Chollett, Dietrich, Hayek, Hillebrand, Horndt, Karstech, Koch, Poenitzsch, Riesing, Schmidt, Schobel and Staffeldt. *Banner Press Photo by London Ferguson*

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

18 PAGES — 2 SECTIONS



Wednesday, March 22, 2006

More letters to the editor...

Citizens in dedication appreciated

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the citizens of Colorado County for supporting the dedication of the Texas Historical Cemetery marker at the Riesing Cemetery on March 4.

The landowners, Luke and Nancy Grizzaffi and County Commissioner Tommy Hahn prepared the road to accommodate all the attendees. Bernice Stancik and Raymond Heine helped clean

the cemetery. David New made white crosses for the unmarked graves and provided U.S. flags for the veterans. Laverne Riesing White brought flowers to help decorate the cemetery. John Batla provided a port-o-potty at the cemetery. Schobels' Restaurant accommodated 98 descendants for lunch and a reunion. It was a beautiful day and over 100 descendants from all over Texas attended

this historical event.

We are so appreciative of your warm and friendly support that we reserved Schobels' Restaurant for our second annual reunion of the descendants of the Riesing Cemetery on March 3, 2007. Please visit the historic Riesing Cemetery. It is now 134 years old.

Sincerely,
Angelina Kretzschmar
San Antonio

Many Persons Attend German Hymnfest

The 46th Llano River Valley German Hymnfest was well attended. There were many "first timers." Visitors came from Salt Lake City, Utah, Wichita, Kansas, Chicago, Illinois as well as many Texas cities. The Mason County Men's Choir, under the direction of Charles Pluenneke, accompanied by Barbara Pluenneke, was great and well received.

The German hymn singing was loud and enthusiastic. Music for the singing was provided by Rev. Ed Halfast, organist, Deanna Coleman, pianist and Maria Mutis of Odessa, violinist. Song leaders were Franklin Brandenberger of McQueeney, Rev. Wesley Schulze of Canyon Lake, Rev. Bruno Schmidt of Austin and Rev. Milton Bohmfalk of Mason.

The 47th Hymnfest will be held in Hilda September 28, 1997.

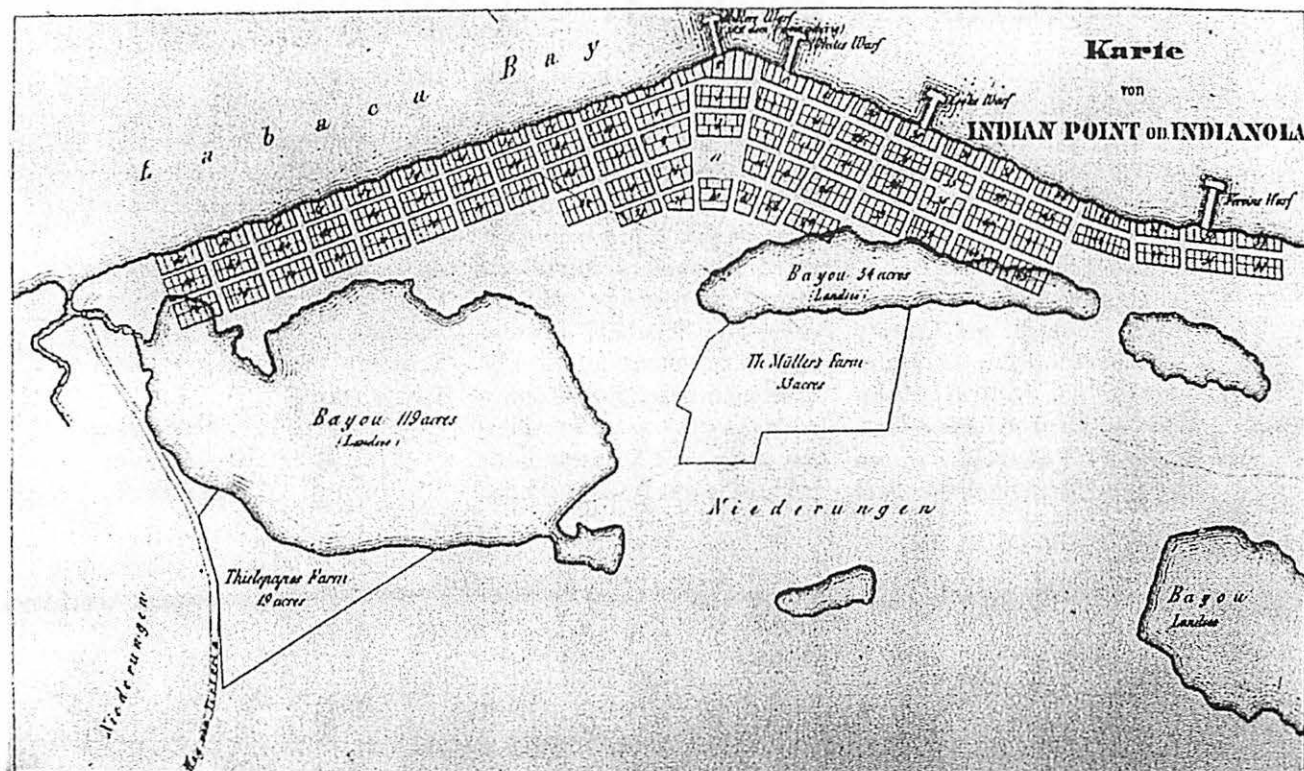
Mason County News
October 2, 1996

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL
TEN YEARS AGO -- 1996

Along the Indianola Trails To New Braunfels and San Antonio

© By Linda Wolff

For 2006 joint annual meeting of
Texas German Society and the German Texan Heritage Society
March 12, 2006



1851 Map of Indian Point, Verein Wharf is at far right.

The Indianola Trail is most associated with the route taken by German immigrants brought by Prince Carl Solms-Braunfels from Germany to settle on land grants in the Texas Hill Country.

One might wonder how many of the German immigrants brought to Texas by the Adelsverein knew--and understood--that their land grants were going to be more than 150 miles inland from their landing place on the Texas Gulf coast.

Even if they knew they would have to travel some distance overland, did they understand how difficult and tragic the trek would be?

One can only speculate.

There was no paved road, with convenience stores and mile markers. Roadways in early Texas were made by placing the one foot or hoof -- of man, mule and horse -- in front of the other and only on the most traveled did pass the wheels of wagons drawn by oxen.

Even the German immigrant's starting point on

the coast was uncertain. You might wonder why they did not simply start their journey from their first port of arrival, Galveston. An explanation is in order.

Soon after the Adelsverein organized in April 1842, Count Ludwig Joseph of Boos-Waldeck was appointed the society's authorized agent and he was ordered to proceed to Texas in the company of another member, Count Victor August of Leiningen to obtain land for the society in Texas.

They met with Republic of Texas President Sam Houston and Secretary of State Anson Jones but their meeting with Friedrich Ernst may have been more significant.

In her latter years, Ernst's widow reported "In 1842 we had the honor to be visited by the forebears of "The German Immigrants Association (Adelsverein)," Count Boos Waldeck and Count Leiningen.

"These gentlemen had the idea to establish

Texas as German colony and to organize a monarchy. My husband warned them that this would be an unpleasant task because republican ideals reigned here, and the American Republic would never permit such a scheme."

Count Boos-Waldeck, being mindful of the expenses to the society, conceived a second plan. He would establish a settlement near Stephen F. Austin's Colony that could serve later as a base for colonization farther to the west when problems with the hostile Indians were resolved.

In January 1843 he purchased a tract of land, now in Fayette County, near the home of Freidrich Ernst, not far from Round Top. Count Boos-Waldeck named the site "Nassau Farm" in honor of Duke Adolph of Nassau.

Ultimately, however, the *Adelsverein* disregarded Count Boos-Waldeck's recommendation. Consequently, on March 25, 1844, the association was formally constituted as the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas.

Count Ludwig Joseph of Boos-Waldeck and his brother, Count Anton, quietly withdrew from the society. They saw the handwriting on the wall.

Within weeks, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels was appointed general commissioner. He and a Texas land speculator, Alexander Bourgeois d'Orvanne, who was appointed colonial director, were dispatched to Texas to renew an expired land grant that d'Orvanne had received from the Republic of Texas, and to prepare for the arrival of colonists.

Upon his arrival in Texas in July Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels discovered that d'Orvanne's grant would not be renewed by the Republic of Texas. Accordingly in August 1844 Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels advised d'Orvanne that the contract between him and the *Adelsverein* was null and void.

The *Adelsverein* then purchased the Fisher-Miller land grant, nearly 150 miles from the Texas Gulf Coast. There was much to do when the colonists were already being recruited and would soon be on their way.

Just days before the first immigrants arrived at Indian Point; Prince Carl completed a purchase of land from Samuel Addison White to be used as the port of entry. The German immigrants called it *Carlshaven* but the local Americans will continue to call it Indian Point until 1852 when it was officially renamed Indianola.

A clue as to why Prince Carl decided that the final destination away from Galveston and

American frontiersmen might be found in Prince Carl's description of Americans. He wrote:

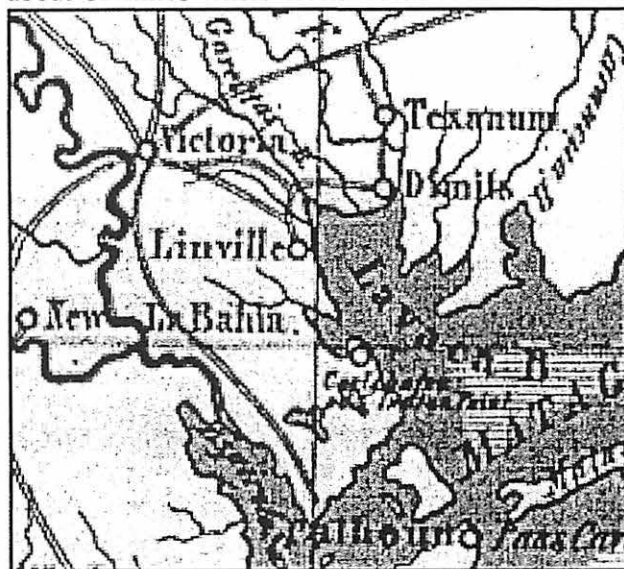
"The so-called American nation is composed of the worst element of all European nations, from the north to the south so that one can easily say that the American nation possesses the vices of all of the European nations without having inherited any of their good qualities"

The first immigrants arrived on Christmas Eve, 1844. On the beach a Christmas tree was decorated, carols were sung and small gifts were presented to the children. On Christmas Day, the Rev. Louis Ervenberg conducted the first Christmas Holy Communion service in Texas.

Prince Carl led the first wagon train of immigrants into the interior of Texas. Near Victoria he sped ahead to San Antonio to conclude the purchase of the Juan Martin Veramendi grant, a well-watered tract of land on the Guadalupe and Comal rivers. This would be the location of New Braunfels, named for his ancestral castle on the Lahn River, southwest of Wetzlar in Germany. Later, Fredericksburg would be established on the Fisher-Miller land grant that had been purchased earlier.

This first route taken by German immigrants from Carlshaven to New Braunfels was not a new road. Nor was this roadway used only by German immigrants. Basically the immigrants left Indian Point/Carlshaven (later to be known as Indianola) and followed a roadway to Agua Dulce.

This site was in a wooded area on 1,100 acres purchased from Capt. Sylvanus Hatch, a distance of about 12 miles where fresh water could be found.



Detail from Ferdinand Roemer Map, 1844, showing Carlshaven to Victoria area.

Today that location is at or near the Hatchbend Country Club near Port Lavaca. Prince Carl named this site Leiningen and intended for it to be the headquarters for the *Adelsverein*.

The immigrants then followed the roadway to Victoria, camping on Spring Creek, on the North side of Victoria, avoiding the town of Victoria itself, again to be near trees and water. Continuing northward along the Guadalupe River they could camp at McCoy's Creek, north of present-day Cuero. Their next destination would be Gonzales and King's Place, still remaining close to the Guadalupe River, to Seguin and then onward to the Comal tract.

These first arrivals -- the "First Founders" of New Braunfels--were the lucky ones because the *Adelsverein* provided wagons and oxen, and they were not wracked with disease as the later immigrants were.

Those that arrived after May 8, 1846 -- when War was declared by the U.S. Government against Mexico -- found every useable wagon and oxen team commandeered by the U.S. Army under the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor.

Let us follow the journey of the Monken, Fietsam and Weber families who were among the second wave of immigrants to arrive. We have details of their trip because they were recorded later by Bernard Monken in 1902 and it was published in a German language San Antonio newspaper. Bernard was 11 years old when he landed at Indianola.

They left Germany in October 1845 aboard the *Neptune* required 58 days and they ran short of water. The steamer stranded on a reef while attempting to enter Pass Cavallo. They were rescued but were then stranded on Matagorda Island with all of their belongings for eight days before a returning steamer could take them to Indianola.

Indianola was at that time sparsely settled. The amount paid to the *Adelsverein* was to include passage, food and board on ship, a wagon to take them and their belongings to the grant, and for provisions during the first year. Each married head of household was to receive 320 acres of land, each single man was to receive 160 acres, if 17 years of age or older. But as Bernard Monken would later write, "They failed utterly to do so."

No building materials or tools of any kind were on hand. In the first place no tents were intended for the peasants. The Company's storehouse was constructed of wreckage from the sea, so everyone did the best he could.

"It was rumored that we had to live in caves, which is an untruth, as by digging as much as four feet water will begin to seep in." There were no trees, and little lumber so a good many were compelled to dig sod from the prairie and build sod houses, using whatever they could find for a covering and entailing the severest hardships, as it all had to be brought together on our backs.

"Often, after this work was completed, it began to pour down rain softening the sod so everything tumbled down, again making it, of course, look more like caves than living quarters.

Meanwhile, of course, they were trying to find wagons and oxen to buy to take their things to New Braunfels.

"Father was unable to buy a tent or the goods for one, so he built for us, some kind of a shack for shelter against the inclement weather. Naturally such a hut had hardly any ventilation and in consequence of the continued rains, everything became moldy."

"Then when it was not raining," Bernard continued, "we had to have these huts to escape the burning rays of the sun. Under these circumstances it was no wonder that people got sick and died. We had to live like this for several months."

In the spring of 1846, five young men, Fietsam by name, all cousins of Bernard came over from Germany. Meanwhile the *Adelsverein* had done better for the immigrants still stranded at Indianola waiting for transportation. His father bought goods for a tent to be used on their inland journey and it had just been made. This shelter was also shared with the just-arrived Fietsam cousins.

Bernard continues, "Finally the Company contracted with Torrey for the transportation of the immigrants to New Braunfels, Fredericksburg and Llano grants. When the war broke out between the United States and Mexico, Mr. Torrey gave his best teams to the service of the United States and only those that were not fit for government service were put to our disposal for the trip inland."

Tired of waiting, Bernard's father decided to walk from Indianola to New Braunfels to see if he could not procure accommodations and transportation so that the family could finally reach their destination. One of the Fietsam nephews accompanied him.

Bernard wrote that during his father's absence the company agent notified Bernard's mother that she and her children should get ready as they were next on the list to go. As the Fietsam cousins also had the agent's consent to go it was decided to pack

a wagon with all of their goods, and those of the Fietsams. And on the same wagon went a family of four by the name of Weber.

So on the 5th day of July 1846 the wagon loaded with 16 persons and their belongings left Indianola for New Braunfels. The first night they camped on Chocolate Creek. This would be the Aqua Dulce (Sweet Water) camp on land purchased by Sylvania's Hatch.

"The second day," Bernard wrote, toward evening, one wagon wheel broke in the midst of an open prairie. Now we had to suffer for not providing enough vessels for a supply of water. Also there was no wood around to cook with.

This seems a good place to include a description of this coastal prairie by Carl Hilmar Guenther, founder of Pioneer Flour Mills in San Antonio. "For thirty or forty miles from Indianola we saw nothing but the prairie. Deer were so wild no one could get nearer than 100 paces – but, so many wolves! Any hour of the day you would meet a pack of from 200 to 300 and when night came they howled so no one could sleep."

Bernard Monken continues his story. "We knew that a little farther up a man by the name of Kohler. My brother and one of the Fietsam cousins went with him and told him of our predicament and Kohler let them have a wagon and a yoke of oxen, so we moved on to the next water place. The broken wagon and baggage we left behind.

While we were camped at the water, Father returned, but thoughtlessly let the wagon he had secured go onto Indianola, so made his trip on foot to New Braunfels, all in vain.

My father repaired the broken wheel, the remaining goods were loaded on, and the journey resumed, but not for long. This time an axle broke which again was repaired by Father, and we finally reached Victoria. The distance between this place (Spring Creek) and Indianola is about forty miles and it took us all of fourteen days to make it.

It is worth noting here that Victoria was in the grip of an infectious epidemic, spread there by immigrants that had contracted the disease on the coast and who were spreading it to every community along the Indianola trail.

It was called "bilious fever," dysentery, or cholera. The most devastating illness of all has been diagnosed as petechial fever, also known as spinal meningitis.

The pestilence-ridden immigrants carried these viral and bacterial infections with them as they were hauled, or walked, or somehow made their way up

to Victoria ... dropping off by the wayside in scores and hundreds, dying and being buried where they fell.

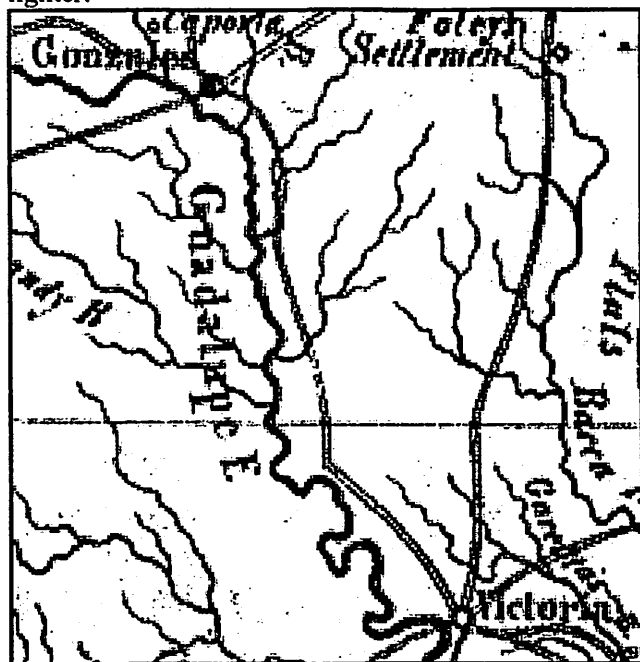
Dillman Mantz, another young immigrant through the port of Indianola, recalled later, "They died so rapidly there was no time to construct coffins or give them decent burials. The bodies were wrapped in whatever the unfortunate people died on—sheets or blankets – tied at both ends and were then taken to Memorial Square, Victoria's first public cemetery.

Young Dillman's father was in charge of the dump cart and the son spent days helping in the gruesome work. It was not uncommon for four or five corpses to be buried in a single grave, and the graves of harsh necessity were dug so shallow that hands, feet and even noses often protruded.

On one occasion, Dillman Mantz related, he and his father removed 72 dead bodies from one house. Wolves and coyotes infested the cemetery at night, he said, and their fighting and howling over the dead added to the horror.

Neither was the Monken family spared. Bernard Monken relates, "Upon our arrival in Victoria we were all more or less sick, and our hands and faces were sore and swollen from mosquito bites. We consulted a doctor but got no relief from his medicine.

"To make things worse we had to take a new teamster, a Negro with six yoke of oxen. We had to leave the Weber family in Victoria to make the load lighter.



Detail from Ferdinand Roemer map, 1844 showing Spring Creek camp near Victoria to Gonzales area.

"The Negro brought us very considerably to Spring Creek and left us here in the midst of a lot of hills. Here we buried my dear mother and one of the Fietsams who were sick when we left Indianola."

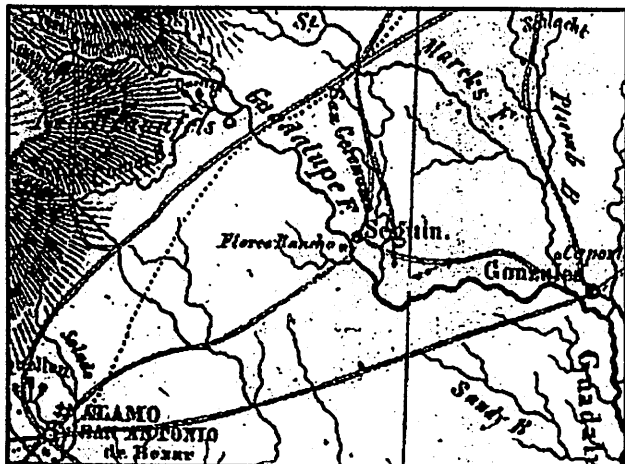
Bernard continues, "While there Father got acquainted with a man by the name of Sewald, who was later known throughout Comal County as "Treasure Hunter" Sewald. Mr. Sewald gave us all the assistance he could to bury our dead, but later on was indirectly the cause of great sorrow to us by his selling a Spanish stud horse to Father.

"We were left at Spring Creek for quite a while where no meat and no vegetables were to be had, and but little meal was left of the barrel which Father had bought on the coast. Worst of all we were still more or less sick.

"Finally another teamster took pity on us and carried us as far as the Widow Burkhardts place where now Hochheim is situated. Here the teamster turned two yoke of oxen loose and took the other along with him..

So the time slipped by, and it looked as though everybody had forgotten about us; the disease we suffered was taking on a more malignant form. While there [Hochheim] first one of the Fietsams died, and then followed his brother, the one who had so laboriously made it on foot with Father up to New Braunfels and finally the youngest brother of the Fietsams also died. These three brothers were about the first to be interred in the then-new cemetery at Hochheim.

"My brother Henry, and the last of the five Fietsam brothers, also took sick but still managed to keep their spirits up. Father, fearing that he would lose all of his dear ones, went to the Burkhardts, offering to pay them liberally if they would consent to take us to New Braunfels.



Detail from Ferdinand Roemer map, 1844, showing Gonzales to New Braunfels, along Guadalupe River.

"A young man promised to do so, and went and got yoke of oxen from Mr. Torrey and two of this own and drove us as far as Peach Creek.

"The crossing of this creek was very boggy and when we were in the middle of the creek, the wagon bogged down so that the team was unable to get us out again, and Mr. Burkhardt went back to get more teams.

"While he was gone it began to rain. My sick brother sought shelter under a tree where my sister tried her best to protect him with an umbrella. But still it rained and it seemed as if we were doomed to drown and be washed away.

"After awhile we were delighted to see my sister Rose coming from New Braunfels with help. Sister Rose had taken an earlier opportunity to get to New Braunfels where she accepted a place as a servant girl. While we were at Hochheim, Father wrote to her to try her best to get help so we would get out of our deplorable state. A friend of Father's, Hankhamer by name, passing by, promised to deliver the letter to the family that my sister was with but they failed to give the letter to my sister.

"Nevertheless, they had broadcast the news of death and disease, and perhaps added a little. Of course when my sister heard all this it nearly drove her to despair and she concluded to take the first chance to go down to where her dear ones were left to verify the truth of the reports.

"There on Peach Creek, or rather in the creek, she met us. Father had to pay those heartless teamsters well to get us out of the mud and water. They had also sent along a teamster to take us to New Braunfels.

"Meanwhile Mr. Burkhardt arrived with more oxen and was willing enough to take us up himself declaring that the other teamster with only two yoke of oxen could not get through but Mr. Burkhardt was not allowed to have the Torrey oxen and so had to be content, but when he left us he waived all responsibility of the safe arrival of his charges.

"This same afternoon, our teamster took us two miles farther, near a cotton gin belonging to a Mr. Jones. The teamster pretended to be looking for oxen. He left us and never returned.

"My sister wrote to Mr. Burkhardt for help and he responded promptly by sending a Swiss man by name of Katerly with two yoke of oxen. About this time my sick brother died and was buried in a small graveyard near the Jones estate.

"A member of the Jones family also took sick and they had to be sent to Gonzales for a doctor. My sister undertook to go as she was a fearless

rider, using the horse which father had bought from Mr. Seward.

"Returning, a bunch of mustang horses crossed her path. Her mount was bent on following them but was held back by Sister. When he reared up and fell over on her, the pommel of the saddle struck her with full force near her heart. We took her along in serious condition and when we got to Seguin death relieved her suffering. She is resting in the cemetery at that place.

"Father had to leave the last of the surviving nephews, Fietsam, in the tender care of the Jones family where he speedily recovered his health.

"It was in September when we arrived at New Braunfels under the able guidance of Mr. Kaeterly, the trip taking fully three months. Soon after getting to New Braunfels, my other sister Barbara died and lies buried at the cemetery in that town."

Charles Eckhardt's shorter route via Yorktown

This is the trail from Indianola to San Antonio with Yorktown as the midway point. The German Immigration Company that had succeeded the *Adelsverein* was bankrupt by 1847. Still, German immigrants continued to come through the port of Indianola by their own means.

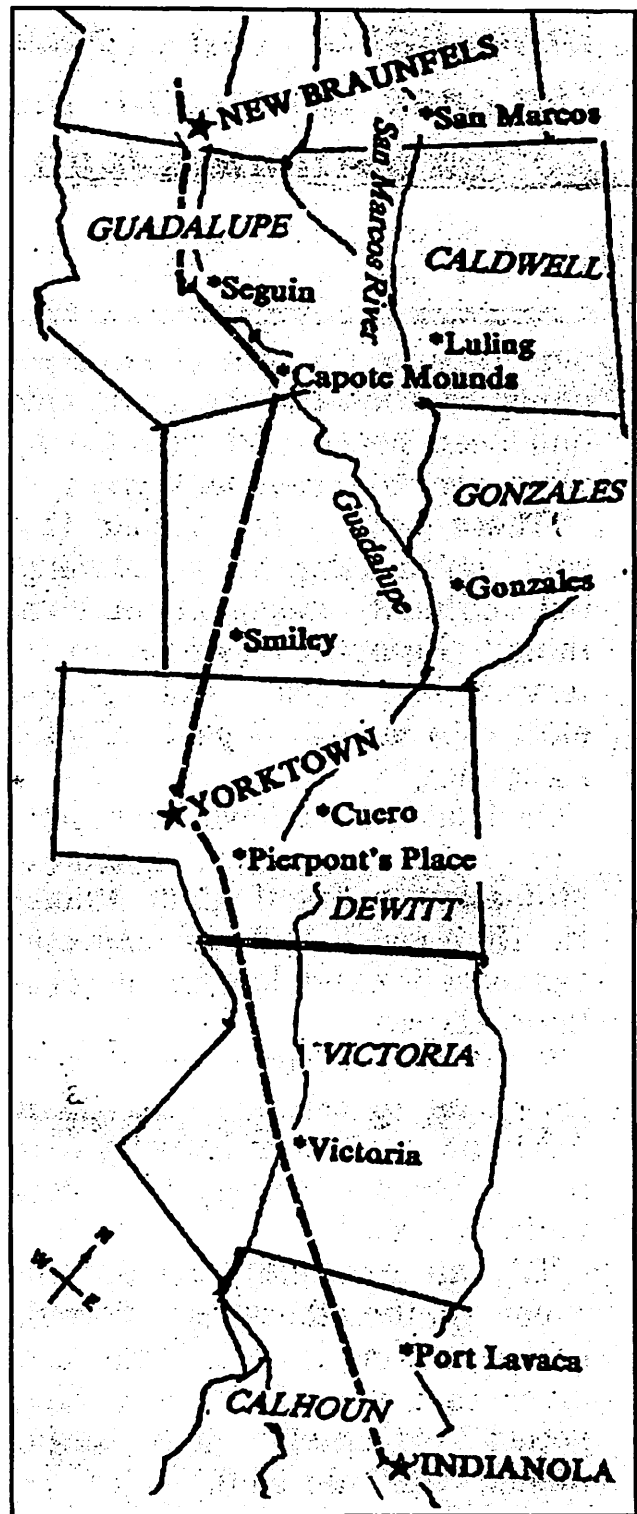
Charles Eckhardt had a successful mercantile business at Indianola and had many contacts with merchants in San Antonio and in the German Colony at New Braunfels. All goods were transported by wagons, or the Mexican carts. They averaged about 17 miles per day, and were subject to breakdowns, often causing serious delays in delivery. Sometime valuable goods were lost.

On Feb. 8, 1848, Eckhardt contracted with John King of DeWitt County to survey a road from Victoria to New Braunfels that would shorten the trip by 26 miles.

"The trail followed the old route from Indianola to Victoria where it then crossed over the river, continuing to the present Goldman Hill ... then up through Mission Valley to the Meyersville location and near Yorktown in the present Holy Cross Catholic Church area.

Entering the east side of town it reached a place where by 1850 included barns, stables and a wagon yard surrounded by a high fence. This was a popular campground for freighters to refresh themselves and their teams.

Next was the John King Stagecoach Stop on North Riedel Street and the immigrant traffic circled the upper town to the northeast while another branch went westward to Helena.



Map from "Yorktown, Texas 150 Year Anniversary" by Yorktown Historical Society.

The trail continued to Sedan near Nopal near the DeWitt-Gonzales County line and then headed for the Smiley Lake area. From there it followed the Rancho Road to the Sandies, Leesville, Capote Hills Guadalupe County and via the Woods Road to McQueeney, then onto Schumannsville and the

goal, New Braunfels.

When the survey was completed King declared that it provided 16 watering places at 10 to 15 mile intervals and that it shortened the route by 20 miles.

There was, of course, a cut-off for those who were bound for San Antonio.

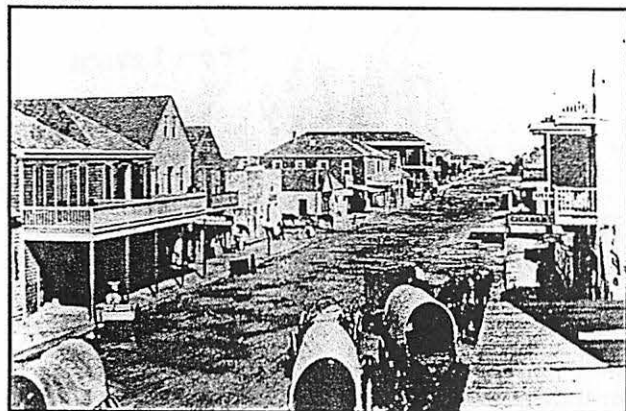
Eckhardt also consulted with Captain John York and together they founded Yorktown on lands owned by York. Eckhardt recognized it as an ideal location for his business and as a way station for teamsters and wagon repair.

York saw it as a good way to establish a farm trading center and to enhance the value of his land by colonization and settlement. Eckhardt built Yorktown's first log house in May 1848 and established the Charles Eckhardt Sons store in 1850. Little did either know that neither of them would still be living in August 1854 when the community was chartered as Yorktown.

Captain York was killed just five months later defending Yorktown from marauding Indians.

Eckhardt's main store was still in Indianola. At first his Yorktown store was simply a 6x10' tent with barrels containing grocery staples, a small stock of dry goods, a half-dozen pairs of shoes and sample pieces of calico fabric. Eckhardt had acquired properties in Central America and in 1852 during an inspection trip he contracted yellow fever and died at while on his return trip. He is buried in New Orleans.

True to Eckhardt's vision, this shorter route became the one used by teamsters. Often they planned their trips to and from San Antonio and the coast so that they could see entertainments at Gohmert's Theater in Yorktown. It offered a large dance hall, and a stage with curtains and scenery. Sadly it was blown down in 1862 by a tornado



Main Street of Indianola crowded with wagons loaded with goods bound for San Antonio. – Photo courtesy of Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio.


Caravans of wagons or carts traveled this roadway, drawn by oxen, mules or horses. August Santleben extended the trade route to the Chihuahua Trail into Mexico. Silver was hauled from mines in Mexico to Indianola where it was shipped to the U.S. Mint in New Orleans.

SALTMARSH'S

LINE OF UNITED STATES MAIL STAGES

D. A. SALTMARSH & Co., *Proprietors.*

From Indianola to San Antonio, via Lavaca, Victoria, Yorktown, Sulphur Springs and Eclato.

THE subscriber takes pleasure in  announcing that he has on this

Line good Troy coaches, with good teams, and polite drivers—leaving Indianola on the arrival of the steamers from New Orleans, for San Antonio and touching at the above points. The country through which this route passes is one of much beauty and interest to the traveler, (including the Sulphur Springs,) and the roads are good.

For further particulars apply at the stage office, Alhambra Hotel, Indianola.

J. R. FRETWELL, Agent.

Indianola, Feb. 1852. [1:tf.

Excerpt from *Indianola Bulletin*, Feb. 1852

Stage coach stops were established along the route. At the Pierpont Place in Dewitt County changes of horses were provided for the Indianola to San Antonio stage. The Pierponts also operated a post office, established in 1852.

It was also the route to serve forts in West Texas. Camels were brought in the port of Indianola in 1856 by Jefferson Davis to see if they could be used to carry goods across the "Great American desert." They worked well but the Civil War ended that experiment.

Immigrants from Upper Silesia, now Poland, surely traveled the Indianola Trail at least as far as Yorktown before taking the cut-off to Helena to establish Panna Maria in 1854. More arrived in 1855 and 1856. Some however settle in Meyersville, Yorktown and in other communities.

In 1857 ice arrives in wagons in San Antonio, shipped from Indianola. A glass of whiskey is five cents plain, or fifteen cents with ice. And in late 1859 stones for a mill to be built in San Antonio by C.H. Guenther are imported from France through the port of Indianola by ox teams, twelve oxen to a wagon. That mill, of course became the Pioneer Flour Mill, still a great place to have breakfast in San Antonio.

And some of the route was surely traveled by Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee, Second U.S. Cavalry to conduct a military court at Indianola. Later he will be General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army.

During the Civil War, Indianola was occupied alternately by Confederate and Union forces. The railroad bed – under construction when hostilities began – was destroyed.

In 1869 the world's first shipment of beef carcasses transported under refrigeration arrives in New Orleans aboard the Morgan steamship *Agnes*. Indianola was the ship's point of departure. This occurred just as the great cattle drives were getting underway from South Texas to railheads in Kansas. Indianola was devastated by a hurricane in 1875, said by some to be the worst ever on the Texas Gulf coast.

The town attempted to rebuild but its true demise was due to losing its competition with Galveston to determine who would be the first to establish rail service to San Antonio.

Indianola lost the race on Jan. 12, 1883 when a spike was driven to link the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway to the Southern Transcontinental Rail Line.

Just three and a half years later, in 1886, Indianola would be struck by another hurricane, this one striking the community its final blow.



Storm debris after 1886 storm. Photo courtesy Victoria Regional History Center, Victoria College.

Linda Wolff is author of "Indianola and Matagorda Island 1837-1887". To order by mail send check for \$20 to Linda Wolff, 1704 Milam Dr., Victoria, TX 77901

DOES ANYONE KNOW?

Eva Barnett, GTHS Office Manager at Austin, received this inquiry from a non-GTHS member:

"Can you tell me if any Texas governors were from German decent or born of German immigrant parents?"

Does anyone know?

If you do, please send the answer to the Editor at the address shown on the inside back cover of this issue of the Journal or e-mail at tsmart@trinity.edu.

Quest for the Past

Mission and Cemetery Reflect Nineteenth Century Developments

Herb Uecker

Note: The author thanks Janet K. Wagner, a resident of Bulverde and Houston, a member of the Harris County Historical Commission, and owner of the archival and historical research firm of J. K. Wagner & Company, Inc., for supplying much of the background information used in this article. Ms. Wagner is the great great-granddaughter of Hubertus Lux, one of the founders of New Braunfels, whose grave is near the site of Walzem Mission. The author also thanks Clint and Doris Acker of Comal County and Vernon Helmke of San Antonio, for providing information about Walzem Mission and cemetery.

The ruins of a small stone Catholic church known as Walzem Mission stand as silent testaments to the historic past of a recently developed residential subdivision just west of New Braunfels along Highway 46. Mission Hills Subdivision was named for the church, which was built in 1870 by a local stonemason who is listed in the 1870 Comal County census records as Joseph Johann Walzem. Walzem was born in Prussia and immigrated to Texas during the early German settlement period of the 1840s. Apparently Walzem was a man of modest means, and is alleged to have made a promise to God to build the mission if God would provide passage for him to return to Prussia for a visit with his family. Upon his return from Prussia in about 1870, Walzem fulfilled his promise.

Archival records indicate that a small cemetery with at least 34 recorded graves in about seven rows is near the mission. The cemetery probably originated during the mid nineteenth century and was used for several decades before being abandoned. All of the grave markers were stolen or lost and the cemetery is not presently tended, but several of today's Comal County residents have relatives buried there.

The cemetery apparently began as a "trail" cemetery, for those who died while traveling along the nearby county road between New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. The road was established during the late 1840s by the founder of Fredericksburg, Baron Ottfried Johann von Meusebach, who was also general agent of the *Adelsverein*, a German immigrant organization. Hence the road was known as Meusebach Road during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. A fairly lengthy segment of the road followed F.M. 1863, which now extends for about 18 miles between New Braunfels and Bulverde. Other parts of the road followed what is today Mission Valley Road. Dilapidated stone walls near the mission ruins once marked the road's borders.

As communities gradually developed near the cemetery, burials related to those communities occurred, such as that of Hubertus Lux. Lux is listed as a first founder of New Braunfels in the book *New Braunfels: The First Founders, Volume I: The History* by Everett Anthony Fey (Eakin Press 1994). He came to Texas from Germany during the mid 1840s as part of the group headed by Henri Castro, who founded Castroville in 1844. However, shortly after arriving in Texas, Lux left Castro's group and joined the group headed by Prince Carl of Sohms-Braunfels, who founded New Braunfels in 1845. Archival records also reflect that Walzem buried his wife, Anna Gertruda Reiningger Walzem, who died at the age of 56, in front of the mission church on March 15, 1873, and that several persons of Hispanic heritage were buried in the cemetery in about 1857.

Meusebach's original road followed Indian trails along the approximate route of today's F.M. 1863 from New Braunfels to Bulverde and on to Fredericksburg. In about 1849, it was re-routed by Comal County Commissioners to roughly follow what is now Highway 46. The new route bypassed Walzem's property; however, the cemetery continued to serve local communities until at least the 1890s, as evinced by the burial in 1892 of a Reiningger family child near the mission.

The short lane that once led from the Meusebach Road to Walzem's barn is now overgrown with vegetation and nearly unrecognizable. The mission building that is a proud testament to Walzem's talents as a stonemason has no roof. All that remains of its wooden doors and windows are crevices in the stonework where the lintels and sills were once attached. The ruins of a small rectangular stone pedestal against the inside rear wall of the building are the only remnants of the altar, and irregular depressions in the wall above the altar attest to the shrine that was once mounted there. The developers of Mission Hills Subdivision decided to make the mission the theme of their development. The subdivision lot which contains the mission ruins has been designated as a public park and the developers have erected a fence around the stone works to help protect them.

Herb Uecker, a lifelong resident of Bexar and Comal Counties, owns South Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC, and resides in Bulverde, Texas. He is a professional archeologist who worked locally during the past 35+ years, a former reviewer with the Texas Historical Commission, a former Research Associate of the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, and was also a planner with San Antonio's Historic Preservation Office. He is a National Dean's List honor graduate of UTSA, where he received a Master of Arts Anthropology degree, and is author of *The Archeology of the Alamo: A Self-Guided Walking Tour and Personal Account*. Copies are available at the Alamo Sales Museum, in Border Books at Quarry Market, or by contacting Mr. Uecker. He is hoping to complete another book soon: *Ice Age to Alamodome: Adventures of a San Antonio Archaeologist*. Comments and questions may be sent to Mr. Uecker via email to starsllc@gvtc.com, and his company's website is at www.starsarcheology.com.

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL TEN YEARS AGO -- 1996

Behind the Scenes at the Rededication of the Treue der Union Monument in Comfort, Texas By Esther Wiedenfeld

On August 10, 1996, the Comfort community and the Comfort Heritage Foundation celebrated a glorious day with hundreds of people from all over the State of Texas and elsewhere: a rededication of the True der Union monument, the only monument raised in honor of Union men south of the Mason-Dixon line.

If you wish to read about the rededication of the monument ceremonies, please refer to your local newspaper. What we want to do is to bring the heart of the restoration to the reader.

The Treue der Union Monument was built in 1866 to honor the 36 men who lost their lives trying to fight for the U.S. during the Civil War. The marker for the mass grave was made of soft limestone found in the hills of Kendall County. In the past years, the rain, wind and frost made savage use of it, and finally the names on the north face of the Monument were completely obliterated.

In 1982, the Comfort Heritage Foundation assumed the caretaker responsibilities for the Treue der Union Monument. They began a search for a responsible stone mason who could restore the limestone marker. For fifteen or more years, a search was made that covered all parts of the U.S.

Finally, Architect Daniel Ochoa III, of Borene, answered the Foundation's call. The skeptical asked "Hire an architect for stone work?" Mr. Ochoa began to study limestone. He was well acquainted with State and National antiquity laws and has previously worked with the Texas Historical Commission of Austin. In due time he procured a grant for the project, and also a master stone mason to do the restoration.

Stone Mason Carl Kuhn, who was born and trained in Germany, answered Mr. Ochoa's call. The Comfort Heritage Foundation, Daniel Ochoa and Carl Kuhn came to an agreement that resulted in signed agreements with Daniel Ochoa in 1992, and Carl Kuhn in 1993.

The work began under the supervision of the Texas Historical Commission. Carl Kuhn began a search for limestone to match the color and texture that would match the original base stones that were crumbling and beyond repair. Many people directed him to old limestone quarries. The quarries were all rejected because they had no limestone to match the top stones of the monument. Finally, the mason found the right texture and color at the H.C. "Sonny" Seidensticker quarry on F.M. 473, east of Comfort.

The next step was the dismantling of the unsightly monument. Finances were always a major factor. With the conservative craftsman, Carl Kuhn, in charge, the project went well. The Ingenhuett store offered to shelter the stones, where they were to be restored to their natural beauty. The day arrived when the heavy monument would be taken apart. There was a live audience present and also a video camera woman to document the work.

Only Carl Kuhn knew the seriousness of the task. Would the stones that had been exposed to wind and weather for 135 years stand the stress of being lifted and transported four blocks to the next site? A tense group of people watched as a small crew with a derrick gently lifted the pinnacle stone without a mishap. When the second stone was taken off, Carl saw that there was a crack all around it but nothing happened. The heavy trucks arrived at Ingenhuett's storage area with the heavy load intact.

For two years, Carl Kuhn and his helper, Reyes Moreno, cleaned, polished and re-chiseled the names of the victims back into the stones.

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL TEN YEARS AGO — 1996

In the meantime, the base stones remaining on Monument Hill, presented a bleak picture to the many tourists who came to view the famous Treue der Union Monument. Some local residents were becoming upset over the delay of the marker restoration.

In December 1995, the new limestone approved for the base of the monument was transported from the Seidensticker Quarry to the Doebbler Quarry along old highway Number Nine toward Grapetown. There, the stones were cut to the size of the original stones and polished. During this process, Carl Kuhn discovered that some of the stones were flawed. More limestone had to be quarried at the Seidensticker site, creating a major delay. Some people despaired of completing the project.

In April 1996, the original base stones were removed and placed at the edge of the property on Monument Hill. Rubble was cleared away. A reinforced concrete pad was constructed for the restored marker. Visitors continued to come to an empty site and take pictures.

Finally on *July 22*, 1996, Carl Kuhn brought the new base stones and, without accidents, set them in place. They were well balanced and cemented.

H. W. Schope & Sons brought a large crane from Borene to lift the top stones into their original position.

On the first day, during reassembly, a lifting strap broke, dropping a stone and just missing a worker below! Before any more stones were added, a time capsule donated by the Schaeffer Funeral Home, filled with books, magazines, newspapers of the surrounding area, et cetera, was lowered into the hollow part of the monument. The time capsule is intended to be opened in 300 years.

On the second day, the last stones were put into place. But, not before another near accident occurred as another interested audience watched the final construction. Next to the last stone was up in the air and just when it was to be placed in position, the stone broke in mid air. Fortunately it was just about a foot from being in place and, with a thud, landed into place, while the other part was dangling in mid-air. With the skill of a master stone mason, the accident was quickly rectified.

The most tense moment arrived as the crew lifted the towering pinnacle stone into place. With bated breath, every one watched, hoping that the nylon straps would not slip, as thousands of pounds of limestone were gently lowered into position. The audience breathed a sigh of relief!

The Treue der Union monument was back home.

Finis

HILDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MASON COUNTY, TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

from church brochure submitted by Willowdeen and Louis Rossner

OUR HERITAGE

The historical Hilda United Methodist Church is making plans for its Sesquicentennial Celebration. On March 8, 1856, the Rev. C.A. Grote organized the first congregation of Methodists in the area of the Llano River Valley. The Hilda Community, then known as Beaver Creek, joined the communities of Castell, Art, Simonsville, and Squaw Creek to form the congregation. To commemorate the event, a number of activities are planned for October 14th and 15th of 2006.

The Hilda United Methodist began on the edge of the frontier. Members of the congregation mostly came from the German settlements in Fredericksburg and New Braunfels that were established by the German Immigration Company. In the early years, German was the only language spoken in the church.

Throughout the Civil War, economic depression, two world wars, and numerous droughts, the Hilda UMC has continued to thrive. Using mostly volunteer labor from the congregation, members erected the parsonage (1900), the current sanctuary (1902), and a number of historical buildings. Despite its small size, the church has twice hosted the Methodist Annual Conference. Through the years, the church has impacted the spiritual lives of countless individuals, and many with their roots in the church have gone on to become service professionals.

THE NEXT 150 YEARS

The Hilda UMC is a mission driven, goal-oriented church committed to making the next 150 years our most productive yet. Through worship, prayer, evangelism and outreach, our mission is to enrich the spiritual lives of present and future generations. Given our historical heritage, we can do no less.

As a part of its Sesquicentennial Celebration, the congregation has begun a year-long repair and restoration project on the church campus. The objective is to restore as much as possible the historical campus buildings to their original condition. Most of the work will be done by congregation members, and the project will be financed through church resources and contributions. Historic structures scheduled for repairs/restorations are the sanctuary, parsonage, smokehouse, spring house, stables and two *Es Hauser* (small houses built by church families living a long distance from the church in order to have a place to eat and rest during the day-long Sunday activities). A Sesquicentennial Park that includes concrete tables and benches is also under construction.

YOU, TOO, CAN HELP

The repairs and renovations project will involve significant expenditures. If you would like to be a Sesquicentennial Partner and help the church defray expenses associated with the project you may do so by forwarding your contribution to

Hilda United Methodist Church
c/o Dorothy Brandenberger
PO Box 205
Mason, TX 76856

SESQUICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Saturday events held at Hilda Community Club (across RR783 from church)

1:00 p.m. --- Registration, visiting, exhibits

2:00 p.m. --- Welcome & Invocation

There will be three skits depicting the history of the Hilda UMC

Following the skits, historic items will be on display. A supplement to our previous historic books will be on sale which covers 1987-2005. Also on sale will be Sesquicentennial plates and a special Sesquicentennial cookbook.

6:00 p.m. --- Barbecue Dinner at the Hilda Community Club Building

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

11:00 a.m. --- Church Service

With special speakers

Bishop Joel Martinez &

District Superintendent Rev. David Edgar

A catered lunch will follow the service

After the lunch there will be pioneer day activities, displays of historic items, and sale of Sesquicentennial items.

GTHS member, Willowdeen Rossner of San Antonio, wrote "This church was originally started by the German Methodists and was part of the Llano River Valley circuit. My great grandfather was a circuit minister for the German Methodist Church and the Hilda Church was one of the churches he served as a circuit rider. Those churches of the Llano River Valley (that are still in existence) still have a German hymn-sing annually where the German hymns are sung."

↖
*use page 28 of this issue
for article on hymn-singing
from ten years ago - 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 19th, 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, 1st vice-president; Mr. Thomas M. Colston, Kingsville, 2nd 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. Ernestine 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

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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 17th 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.

GERMAN HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS

GTHS member, Martha Liehse of Whitney, sent in some additions to the list of German heritage organizations kept by the society's office in Austin:

Dallas Frohsinn Singing Society
Fort Worth German-American Club
German American Club of Dallas
Texas German Day Council (Dallas)

What German heritage clubs or societies or genealogical groups are active in your town or city?

Please send your information to the Journal Editor at the address shown on the inside back cover of this issue.

SAM HOUSTON & THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY GERMANS

by Kenn Knopp

A Brief Chronological Introduction to *The Raven*, Sam Houston

Sam Houston was born in 1793 in Virginia and was the only person in the U.S. to be the governor of two states, Tennessee and Texas; not to mention also being the president of the Republic of Texas twice: from 1836-1838 and from 1841-1844. In 1809 he ran away from home at the age of 16 and joined up with the Cherokee Indians who adopted him and gave him the name "The Raven" or "Colleneh." He eventually returned to "his kind" and through self-education and a keenly-formed conscience, thrust himself into politics.

Having enough of extreme political battling that often turned brutal and personal, Sam Houston in 1832 decided to see if his fortunes might be better in the northern-most Mexican territory of Texas. Once there he dove right into Texas politics and represented Nacogdoches in the Convention of 1833. Within three years he was made Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army. After Texas proclaimed its independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836, Sam Houston arrived in Gonzales with his volunteer army. But he ordered a retreat so as not to have his troops decimated; as what happened at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio to those who refused to follow his orders. The forces of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna in a fit of pride after crushing the Texians in the Alamo pushed past Gonzales and went into the Houston Bayou area in hopes of further defeating the Texians and keeping Texas under the control of Mexico.

In a surprise attack at San Jacinto the troops of Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans and captured General Santa Anna. Houston was wounded in the struggle. But Houston managed to face down Santa Anna long enough to seal the victory and proclaim Texas an independent republic before submitting himself for hospitalization to tend to his wounds. In September 1836 he was elected president of the Republic of Texas. He served in this capacity until December 1838 because of the term limit law which prohibited consecutive terms. He was reelected again in December 1841 and served president until December of 1844. Replacing him as president was Mirabeau Lamar. Houston was chosen to represent San Augustine in the Texas House of Representatives and was immediately at odds with Lamar since Lamar was intent on not letting Texas become a part of the U. S. Lamar envisioned the boundaries of Texas to extend far into the West. Houston's goal for Texas was to be a part of the Union. (A)

One notable "Pennsylvania Dutchman" in early Texas was Conrad Rohrer, thought to be a Palatine German who was Sam Houston's wagonmaster. "...Rohrer never realized the meaning of the word fear and once hissed: *Shet up! Don't say they'll weep us! You're weeped already!*"! For fighting bravely under Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 in which Texas won its independence from Mexico, Rohrer was awarded the old Mormon Mill tract in Burnet County. (B)

In the Face of Drought, Depression, & Yearning for Democracy, Germans Look to Texas for Liberty & Opportunity

A German from the town of Geisenheim in the Rheingau, Gustav Dresler, born in 1818 to a prominent wine dealer, was schooled well in the classics and business management.

By 1836 he was led to support the popular cause of unifying Germany and the hope of replacing the feudal monarchy system with representative government. Of course this movement did not please the long established royals. At age 17, also to avoid being shot or imprisoned by the ruling monarchs, he was smitten with "Fernsucht" or the yearning to see the distant Free World for himself and to assess business possibilities in America. After a few years in the Northern states he arrived in the new Republic of Texas in 1838. He kept a personal journal which detailed his experiences and observations about America and Texas and provided keen insight about that period of time. Living in fledgling Houston he found "*soldiers of the Revolution (who had taken part in the defeat of the Mexicans at nearby San Jacinto) who were waiting for their pay in military scrip and bounty land, as the Republic (of Texas) possessed no cash.... Indians of several tribes were camping in groups in and about Houston... and every Indian considered himself fortunate to see and shake hands with General (Sam) Houston before departing, for during (Sam) Houston's eight year stay with (the Indians) in the woods, they had learned to revere this venerable general and wise counselor.*" General Sam Houston was president of the Republic of Texas during the first four months that Gustav Dresel lived in Houston. (C)

Gustav Dresel's personal diary listed a good number of persons from Germany who were already living in Texas under Mexico, took part in the Revolution (against Mexico), were building up the Republic of Texas, and agreeing with Sam Houston, for the most part, that Texas should become a part of the United States. Dresel goes back to Germany for a number of years before again returning to Texas in 1846 as the first German consul in Texas for Archduke Adolph von Nassau, the royal protector of the Adelsverein whose aim was to bring German immigrants to Texas and to profit from imports and exports, mainly cotton, between Germany and Texas. Gustav Dresler died of yellow fever in Galveston on September 14, 1848. His brother Julius came to Texas to give reverence at the Gustav's grave in November of 1848. Julius decided to stay in Texas where he helped establish the Hill Country village of Sisterdale between Friedrichsburg and New Braunfels. Other brothers, too, joined Julius in Sisterdale: Emil and Rudolph. (D) Eventually as the travail of the Civil War engulfed Texas the Dresel's left for California and are credited as founders of California's heralded wine industry.

All during this period, in the early 1840's a number of Germans approached Texas leaders and Mirabeau Lamar for land grants in which to place settlers. As much as the Texans wanted and needed new settlers Texas officials did not agree to free grants or temporary tax relief, feeling that the cost of land was indeed low enough for almost anyone to be able to pay or make deals over. Also, the semi-tropical weather was an obvious advantage and boon to agriculture, hunting, raising cattle that provided almost immediate income and profits. Of course the entrepreneuring colonizers knew this too; trying their damndest to get the best deal possible from Texas officials. Failing to get "free deals" most of these opportunists or colonizers who were not themselves financially well heeled gave up their hope of making profits off settlers to Texas. (E)

Many Germans Sought Land Grant Contracts with Texas

The leaders of the Republic of Texas were pleased that more and more Germans were interested in coming to Texas and settling in sparsely populated areas such as Central West Texas where the Indians predominated. And, across the Rio Grande River there was

always Mexico trying to figure out how to get their lands back. Yet, Texas needed money to finance proper governance and more people to keep control of the lands it had taken. In Germany, representatives of the Adelsverein, the stock company formed in 1842 by about thirty titled royals across Germany, met with Texas officials to obtain land grant rights so they could begin sending immigrants to Texas. Free grants were no longer being issued. But, several Germans already living in Texas who had obtained land grants prior to the ending of free land grant issues went to Germany and sold the Adelsverein rights to a large area above the Llano and up to the Colorado Rivers and into West Texas called the Fisher-Miller Land Grant. In Texas these two used the name Fisher and Miller; while in Germany: Fischer and Mueller. The Adelsverein directors then dispatched Victor von Leiningen and Joseph von Boos-Waldeck to Texas to begin arrangements in anticipation of getting the German immigrants on their way to Texas. They bought a cotton plantation in Fayette County near present day LaGrange called Nassau Hof which they named in honor of Archduke Adolph von Nassau their guiding light and "Royal Protector." Nassau Hof would be a rest-and-recuperation stop for the immigrants between the Port of Galveston and the villages of Bettina, Castell, Leiningen, Schoenburg, and Meerholz, along the Llano River before proceeding into the Fisher-Miller Land Grant.

In 1844 Leiningen and Boos-Waldeck had congenial meetings with the Republic of Texas officials and were warmly received but learned that the Fisher-Miller Land Grant had become null and void because its time specifications to bring the settlers had expired. The president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, turned down their request for special tax concessions. But this one bit of a set back did not stand in the way of the cordial relations the Germans developed with Texas leaders and particularly with Sam Houston. (F) The Adelsverein thought they had already bought rights to the Fisher-Miller Land Grant which they paid for in Germany in meetings with Heinrich Fischer (of the Fisher-Miller partnership.) But the terms which Fisher-Miller negotiated with Texas officials had expired prior to the Adelsverein's German settlers landing on Texas soil.

When the first leader of the immigrants in Texas, Prince Solms-Braunfels, found out that the Fisher-Miller Land Grant contract with the Republic of Texas had expired and was no longer valid, Prince Solms reported this disconcerting fact to the Adelsverein officers in Germany. In his personal diary for July 7, (1844-45) Prince Solms tells about making a trip to Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Texas capital, to meet with President Sam Houston hoping to get the contract renewed. But he learned that Sam Houston was ill and was not in Washington. Instead, he met with Dr. Anson Jones, the Secretary of State, who told him that the Texas Congress itself would have to vote on the renewal of the land grant contract the next time it convened. (G) That would take time. Because immigrants were already on their way, Prince Solms then realized that he and the Adelsverein would probably have to buy land into order to have secure places for the German immigrants who would be arriving shortly.

Prince Solms then decided to open an entirely new port on Matagorda Bay for a closer access to Central West Texas. He was also worried that great numbers of Germans would cause problems with the Anglos who were in the majority in Texas. This port would be called Indian Point, then Karlshaven, and finally Indianola. Prince Solms was able to ascertain the various political differences going on already in Texas. He found out that Sam Houston was odds with other Texas leaders about Texas becoming a U.S. state or striking out with extensive expansion of Texas far into the Western territories. Also, with

cotton as king in Texas and the fact of many cotton plantations with slaves, there was talk of Texas protecting its slaveholders and the cotton cartels by keeping Texas separate from the United States. The new Texas Germans found themselves suspect as "of other ilk" or even "unpatriotic" and having strange "ideas of their own."

Prince Solms was in hopes that the expired Fisher-Miller Land Grant would be renewed. He proceeded to purchase land for a rest stop between the Llano River and the Port of Indianola which he called Neu Braunfels. Its first settlers arrived there on the Comal River on Good Friday of 1845. The expenses then started to exceed all expectations. Also Prince Solms was bewildered to find out that the new German immigrants to Texas had little interest in staying loyal to the German monarchs; that his betrothed, Sophie, was definitely not interested in coming to Texas. Then Sam Houston announced in October of 1845 that he agreed with the President of the United States that Texas should be annexed. Prince Solms, realizing that the German opportunities of creating a Prussian-Austrian controlled Republic in West Texas were quickly evaporating, decided to turn in his resignation as Texas commissioner of the Adelsverein. He returned to Germany in the Fall of the same year--1845. Then quickly on December 29, 1845, the admission of Texas into the United States took place. Prince Solms was replaced by the Hessian Baron Otfried Hans von Meusebach who had long been enamored with Texas and had kept up with reports about the wonders of its flora, fauna, geological curiosities, fine weather most of the year, and myriad other enticements. His relationships with Texas officials and particularly Sam Houston were most congenial. Soon after his arrival in Texas Meusebach decided to use only the name John O. Meusebach. Others also followed his lead: the Marschall von Biebersteins became "the Marschalls." This was an encouraging sign to other Texas Germans; for Meusebach never used or flaunted his royal titles and privileges, except perhaps in a meeting with persons of pretension which might be advantageous in finding land for the almost never-ending streams of Germans that were arriving in Texas. He never returned to Germany to stay for good. He was always proud to exclaim "Texas Forever!" which is inscribed on his tombstone in the Marschall-Meusebach Cemetery in the Cherry Springs community north of Fredericksburg. (H) It must be pointed out that Meusebach's friendship with Sam Houston ran with parallel affinity-- both these men were devotees to the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. As the ominous realities of Secession and the Confederacy infected Texas like a plague, they both found ways to disappear into the safety of the woods to await better days: Houston in East Texas and his beloved Piney Woods; and Meusebach in the Hill Country which Texas Germans consider to be "Die Vorstufe vom Paradies" ... "the vestibule of heaven".

The New German Texans Perplexed by the North-South Strife...

As the Committees of Public Safety began proliferating across Texas as anti-Unionist sentiment mounted and reached crescendo in 1861, Governor Sam Houston and his family wisely vacated the Governor's Mansion in Austin. The Committees of Public Safety were created by the Confederate Secession Convention of Texas in February of 1861 to put down any opposition that might come from the Unionists of Texas including the Texas Germans. (I) Though Governor Sam Houston was opposed to Secession he realized wisely that he best step aside in deference to the Confederate sentiment that had overwhelmed Texas. He warned, however, that Texas as part of the Confederacy would

be as ultimately futile in the same way he had earlier warned the handful of Texicans at the Alamo that their vain determination to fight the Mexican army would be futile, premature, and a waste of precious manpower at that particular time.

Taking leave of Austin, Sam Houston and his family headed for their property at Independence near Washington-on-the-Brazos and Cedar Point in Galveston Bay. Houston named his refuge at Cedar Point *Raven Moor* which he acquired in 1837. He also had a house in Independence the old capital of Texas and later a place near Huntsville in the Piney Woods. His children had grown up enough to be of help to his family in tending to these properties. (J)

Enroute to Independence they stopped to rest in the German town of Brenham where a large crowd began to gather upon hearing that Sam Houston was there. While cotton and slavery predominated in that fertile area, many Germans were not happy about Texas leaving the Union and urged Sam Houston to speak to them about the impending war. Historian James L. Haley in researching the speech presents a fair appraisal of Sam Houston's predicament and his gentlemanly way of accepting his fate while nevertheless not failing to give his best judgment of what would happen to the citizenry of Texas he loved.

Briefly, Houston warned the people to beware of "Vox pupuli (populi)" and that the voice of the people (the vote) was not always necessarily correct or to be thought of as the inerrant voice of God. In the case of secession and slavery, Houston asserted that the masters of the plantations and the slaves were the voice of the devil. He warned that ultimately the South would not be able to muster up enough strength and the needed resolve to bring the Union to heel. Also, Texas should not be surprised if foreign nations did not flock to come to the aid of the Confederacy after all. (K)

Most Texas Germans had great faith in Sam Houston. Most Germans were happy that the United States announced in 1845 that Texas would be annexed. Once the new Texas Germans understood what the Confederacy was all about and what the peculiar term "secession" meant... they sided with Sam Houston that Texas should become a part of the Union. However, some of the Germans directly involved with the cotton markets and export-imports generally took the side of the Confederates. While the new Texas Germans were intellectually excited with taking part in the Democratic process many also had mixed feelings about voting and having to accept the outcomes. They realized that sometimes the majority might also mean that the fools were on the same side. So the Germans determined that to prevent voting outcomes not in line with their opinions they would just have to work hard to be sure to win the elections. This is the thinking that spurred the meeting following the San Antonio Saengerfest of 1854 where they agreed to work together to protect their beliefs and interests. Losing an election would prove a hard pill to swallow especially if it meant having to accept condoning slavery and being separated from the United States of America.

Sam Houston, too, expected that while the Civil War would be a bloody catastrophe, he, as did most German Texans, felt that the Union forces would fairly quickly overcome the Confederate troops and with Texas rejoining the Union. In 1861 Jacob Kuechler was commissioned by Sam Houston to begin organizing militia troops in Gillespie County. But when the pro-Unionists lost the vote of 1861 and Confederate sympathizers took over the Texas government, the new governor Francis R. Lubbock invalidated Houston's commission of Kuechler. Kuechler fled into Mexico for the duration. The war, however,

lasted from 1861 to 1865. In 1862 Houston went to live on his Piney Woods farm in Huntsville. He caught pneumonia and died on July 26, 1863. **(L)** With the end of the war now in sight, most German Texans rejoiced that they would now be able to pledge their allegiance again to the United States. Texas German representatives, especially Jacob Kuechler of Friedrichsburg played vital roles at the conventions in Austin to rewrite the Texas Constitution to please the U.S. Congress. Kuechler was chosen as an official delegate representing the Republican Party. Later he also became the commissioner of the Texas State General Land Office in Austin. **(M)**

Kuechler and the Reconstructionists would have to endure four gruesome years arguing with those who were embittered because of their loss. It was a vicious struggle between the "East Texans" (the majority) and the "West Texans"; that is, those living East of the Colorado River (North-East Austin) and those from West of the Colorado River (South-West of Austin.) It almost happened that Texas divided itself into two states, Texas (North & East of the Colorado), and West Texas (South & West of the Colorado.) A last minute vote finally would allow the Negro to vote. This vote kept Texas from dividing itself into two states. Prior to that vote Texas Germans had thought that at long last the new state of West Texas would free them from ever having to deal again with the "States-Rights Anti-Negro Democrat Texas Southerners." From then on the Texas Germans, for the most part, especially in Friedrichsburg, were Republicans, loyal to Sam Houston, Jacob Kuechler, Carl Schurz, and Abraham Lincoln. Only once in its history have the Germans of Friedrichsburg ever voted Democratic: when Lyndon B. Johnson ran for president of the United States as a native son of Gillespie County in which Friedrichsburg is the county seat. Even John F. Kennedy could not overcome Friedrichsburg's deep Republican entrenchment that stemmed from Sam Houston and Abraham Lincoln. Even though in modern times the two political parties have tended to exchange places, only a few Texas Germans, sensitive to civil rights and other populist interests, have transitioned from the Republican to the Democratic Party.

Losing their two guiding lights, Sam Houston to pneumonia in 1862 and Abraham Lincoln to assassination in 1865, the Texas Germans continued to carry on their heroes' demands: that Negroes not only be freed but they should be free to vote at all elections. It is held that when Lincoln made this demand that John Wilkes Booth and other firebrands of the Knights of the Golden Circle immediately planned to kill Lincoln. At the Reconstruction Conventions in Austin this proposition is what perplexed the Old South States Rights Democrats who did not want Negroes to be able to vote. After a number of years of fruitless debate and only when faced with Texas splitting into two states did the Democrats relent and that Texas Negroes would have the right to vote guaranteed in the new constitution.

Keeping in Touch, Keeping Informed....

Letters by mail to and from their family and friends helped the new German settlers in Texas informed not only about their kin but how things were coming along with politics and other concerns in their native Germany. The early settlers came to Texas from East Coast ports, New Orleans, and Galveston and Indianola ports of Texas. Newspapers and magazines were sought after at all ports of entry in addition to conversations with travelers of all sorts from far and wide. In these ways they learned about Abraham Lincoln whose statements and principles they admired right from the start. Liberty as

extended to the Negro slaves translated into the liberty they might then expect in America. Their German expatriate who had chosen to live in Wisconsin, Carl Schurz, was a fellow libertarian who had also fled the German monarchy's crackdown when the 1848 Democratic Convention in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt-am-Main completed its constitution and selected representatives from all parts of Germany to "advise" the various monarchs. The monarchies or the German rulers feeling this to be the beginning of the end of their rules and the feudal system, began a swift crack down on the participants and supporters of the 1848 Paulskirche Convention. In order to escape imprisonment or death many fled to various parts of the New World, including Texas. Stock companies such as the Adelsverein assisted those who wanted to flee to Texas; for when the ship docked and the passengers and their goods stepped were on Texas soil, the empty space of the ships were immediately filled up with bales of precious cotton, hides, and commodities of all kinds.

Fearing the bigotry of the English-speaking citizens of America and Texas, Prince Solms-Braunfels felt it best to have a separate port, Indianola in Lavaca Bay, for the constant streams of Germans that would be arriving as new settlers in Texas. There was always the worry: if chattel slavery would not be abolished and the supply of Negroes would be stopped; who then would be next in line to be enslaved?

Carl Schurz then began his crusade of going up and down the East Coast of the U.S. to campaign for his hero Abraham Lincoln. His wife likewise was an intense crusader on behalf of the Kindergarten system so that the educational level of children would be kept up. At the same time several of the German founders of Sisterdale, Texas, began espousing the importance of Kindergarten and schooling for all ages to prepare them for higher education. August Siemering was the first school teacher of Friedrichsburg. He encouraged children to begin schooling as early as possible. After teaching for awhile in Friedrichsburg he moved to Sisterdale where he taught school there. As the Civil War approached he moved to San Antonio where he founded *Die Freie Presse* (The Free Press) monthly newspaper printed in the German language which today is the *San Antonio Express-News*. Siemering, a devotee of Sam Houston and Abraham Lincoln, was an ardent libertarian writing against chattel slavery and the growth in Texas of the secret society of the Knights of the Golden Circle, the forerunner of the Klu Klux Klan. His praise of both Sam Houston and Abraham Lincoln are extensive in the issues of his newspaper which are on file in the microfilm section of the Texas Room in the main public library of San Antonio, Texas. After the concluding songs were sung at the 1854 Saengerfest, song festival, such leaders as Jacob Kuechler and August Siemering called for an urgent meeting of those Texas Germans who were concerned about the rising interest in Texas' secession from the Union and becoming part of the "golden circle" of areas ruled by slaveholders. This was the beginning of the Union Loyal League and the first hints of a secret pro-secessionist society in their midst, the Knights of the Golden Circle. (N)

Thus, the Texas Germans had their links to those who matched their principles. John O. Meusebach, August Siemering, Jacob Kuechler, Dr. med. Ferdinand Herff. . . . These pillars of the Texas Germans looked for sustenance to Sam Houston at the State House, Carl Schurz on the East Coast, and Abraham Lincoln at the White House. In addition to Sam Houston, the Texas Germans were especially grateful to Abraham Lincoln who was following Thomas Jefferson's lead in seeing to it that chattel slavery would not be

allowed in the newest states as they petitioned to enter the Union. The Texas Germans objected to each new state being allowed to choose if they wanted slavery or not which was the position of the Democrats and their "popular sovereignty" (states rights). Lincoln hearers set forth the principle "When the white man governs himself that is self-government; but when he governs himself and also governs another man... that is despotism. Is not a Negro a man?" (O) This is the spiritual dilemma that confronted the newly arrived Germans in 1845 and all the way to Civil War Reconstruction days when finally Sam Houston's dream of Texas as a part of the Union was permanently realized; and that each "man" in Texas, including the Negro, not only had the right to vote, but could vote. August Siemering's writings also reflect the ardent feeling of most Texas Germans... to pursue the day when those of the female gender would also be recognized as having the rights of men, including the right to vote. Sam Houston had kept the Texas Germans going in that particular direction and had given them purpose and hope.

This piece meant to portray that the majority of Texas Germans, especially in the Hill Country, once set free of the German monarchies and its feudal favoritism, preferred to live under the liberties of the U.S. Constitution. They followed Sam Houston who was determined that Texas join the Union. Their egalitarian feelings continued on after Sam Houston's death, as if to honor him, by looking to Jacob Kuechler, Carl Schurz and Abraham Lincoln to carry on the mantle of Sam Houston.

Nevertheless, it must also be remembered that there were quite a few Texas German leaders in banking, import-exporting at the ports, and such notables as Lindheimer in New Braunfels, Charles Nimitz, Engelbert Krauskopf, Frank van der Stucken in Friedrichsburg, and others, who were clearly on the side of Secession and the chattel slavery system. Fearing retribution, Van der Stucken fled Friedrichsburg in 1865 and returned to Antwerp after it became clear that the South and slavery had lost.

Notes

(A) Wiki Encyclopedia; click on: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_Houston

(B) Smithwick, Noah; *The Evolution of a State or Recollections of Old Texas Days*; Gammel Book Co., Austin, Texas; Chapter VII; 1900.

See: <http://www.oldcardboard.com/lslj/olbooks/smithwic/> Also see:

Kinsler, Nannie Moore; [http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Etxburnet/Mormon Mill.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Etxburnet/Mormon%20Mill.html)

Jenkins, John Holmes; editor, *Recollections of Early Texas, Memoirs of John Holland Jenkins*; University of Texas Press, Austin; 1958; see pp.264-265.

(C) Freund, Prof. Dr. Max; *Gustav Dresel's Houston Journal, Adventures in North America & Texas 1837-1841*; University of Texas Press, Austin; 1954; pp. 32-33. Also see pages 131-132 of Freund's documentation.

(D) Biesele, Rudolph Leopold, *The History of the German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861.*, McNaughton & Gun Publishers, Ann Arbor, Michigan;1987; p. 71

(E) Biesele, Rudolph Leopold; *ibid*, "Interest in German Colonization"; pp. 21-42. The list of such colonizers is rather large. It would not be fair to list just one or two of them as examples.

(F) King, Irene Marschall; *John O. Meusebach, German Colonizer in Texas*; University of Texas Press, Austin; 1967; p. 35. Ms. King was the daughter of Ernst Marschall (von Bieberstein) and her mother was Lucy Meusebach Marschall, the daughter of John O. Meusebach.

(G) Von-Maszewski, Wolfram; *Voyage to North America, Diary of Prince Carl of Solms*; German Texan Heritage Society, Austin, Texas & University of North Texas Press, Denton; 2000; p. 36, p. 61.

(H) Marschall, Herbert W. "Bill" (von Bieberstein); personal interview May 2004. He is the great grandson of John O. Meusebach and the first cousin of the late historian-professor Irene Marschall King. Long retired in living in Fredericksburg Bill and his wife Modena recall many family incidents and have retained extensive family records they are contributing to the German Heritage Archives of Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg.

(I) Johnson, John G.; *Committees of Public Safety (Civil War), Handbook of Texas Online*; <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/CC/mdc6.html>

(J) Kleiner, Diana J.; *Cedar Point, Texas, Handbook of Texas Online*; <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/CC/hvc96.html>

(K) Haley, James L.; *Sam Houston*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma; 2002; pp. 395-397.

(L) McGuire, James Patrick; "Jacob Kuechler" *The Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas Historical Association, 2001;

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/KK/fku1.html>

(M) "Knights of the Golden Circle" from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_of_the_Golden_Circle. Also see that John Wilkes Booth and Jesse James were also well known Knights of the Golden Circle. Additional information about the Knights of the Golden Circle is also available online at the Sam Lanham Digital Library of Texas Hill Country History, Logan Library, Schreiner University, Kerrville, Texas 78028-5697: <http://www.digital.library.schreiner.edu/sldl/>

(N) Carwardine, Richard; *Lincoln*; Alfred A. Knopf Publisher, New York; 2006; Texas Annexation, p. 23; against slavery, p. 29, Lincoln preferred that slavery would die a natural death in states where it was already extant. Lincoln contended that Texas and other new states should not be allowed slavery. Most Texas Germans agreed.

(O) Siemering, August; editor/publisher, *Freie Presse von Texas*; Texas Room, Microfilm section, Main Public Library, San Pedro Avenue West, San Antonio, Texas.

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**Bust of General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben,
German-American Hero of the American Revolution.
Is Newest Attraction at the German Embassy in Washington, DC**

submitted by Theresa Gold

A marble bust of Prussian-born Revolutionary War general Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben has found a new home on the grounds of the German Embassy in northwest Washington, DC.

The German Orphan Home Foundation of the District of Columbia donated the statue to the Embassy, which found a place for the handsome bust adjacent to the former ambassadorial residence where receptions and other events are held throughout the year.

Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, known in this country as Baron von Steuben, became a leader of the American Revolution.

Born in Magdeburg, Prussia, on November 15, 1730, he was a soldier by profession.



Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben,
aka Baron von Steuben.
Embassy photo

He offered his services to the Continental Congress, saying he wanted to "serve a nation engaged in the noble work of defending its rights and liberties," and by 1778 joined General George Washington at Valley Forge.

At the Continental Army's winter camp, Steuben taught the American soldiers the value of discipline, with his methods and principles credited with helping to shape the military system.

As the first inspector general of the army, Steuben held the rank of major general. He was granted U.S. citizenship after the war. He died in Steubenville, New York, on November 22, 1794.

Today, numerous German-American communities celebrate Steuben Day in September with festivals and parades, with the largest held every year in New York City.

The 8-foot 6-inches 3,000-pound marble bust and pedestal were created in 1868-70 by Jacques Jouvenal (1829-1905), a native of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, who came to America in the early 1850s.

Several of Jouvenal's sculpted works are now located in the United States Capitol.

From The Week in Germany, April 7, 2006

submitted by
Muriel Luedtke Vaughan

General Frederick Von Steuben

By Richard W. Graham



Baron Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben was the son of a professional Prussian army officer. He himself joined the Prussian army at the tender age of just 16. He served with distinction and rose to the rank of Captain. He eventually served on the general staff and as an aide to King Frederick II, (Frederick the Great), of Prussia. After the Seven Years War, he was discharged and went to Paris looking for another military position. There he met and impressed Benjamin Franklin, who was the American ambassador to France at that time. Benjamin Franklin thought he would be of valuable service to George Washington's struggling continental army. He sent von Steuben off to America with a letter of introduction to Washington. Franklin wrote that von Steuben was a general officer, although he had never attained that rank in Prussia.

He reported to General Washington at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in February 1778 and his offer of assistance was accepted. Von Steuben's specialty was training troops, something the Continental army needed badly, and Washington put him in charge of this. Until he came, each company had its own way of drilling and firing. Von Steuben wrote the army's standard drill manual and the regulations for order and discipline. He set rules for the design of the camps, introduced sanitation, and established kitchens and latrines. He was so successful that Washington made him the Inspector General with the rank of Major General.

However, Von Steuben was not autocratic. On the contrary, he showed real concern for the troops and expected all officers to do the same. He quickly realized that the traditional European practice of instilling fear in the troops and keeping a distance between officers and men would not work in America. He required officers to march, train and eat with their men and to lead by example. He always remembered that the men were volunteer citizen-soldiers and treated them with respect. Von Steuben often spent his own money to buy clothing, supplies and equipment for the troops. He inspired those around him by his bearing and enthusiasm. He became well regarded by the continental soldiers, even though he did not speak much English. He spoke French as well as German, and used interpreters to give orders.

Von Steuben served with the Marquis de Lafayette and commanded one of Washington's divisions at the decisive battle of Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. After the Revolutionary War he became a US citizen. Von Steuben was not a wealthy man, and he never married. He settled on a large tract of land in upstate New York that was given to him by that state. Congress gave him a pension. He died in New York state in 1794, at the age of 64. Today a statue of Von Steuben stands in Lafayette park in Washington, across from the White House. He was honored on a postage stamp in 1930, on the bicentennial of his birth (Scott 689). This stamp is also known in semi-imperforate form. (SCV \$2,500 for a pair). This stamp helps us remember that people from diverse locations and backgrounds came to America to help the 13 original colonies in their war for independence. This was again the case about 60 years later when people came from many far off places to San Antonio to join in the Texas War of Independence.

Muriel Luedtke Vaughan
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Steuben Parade takes over NY's Fifth Avenue

German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger was the Official Guest of Honor at the 48th-annual German-American Steuben Parade in New York on Saturday, September 17. This year's Grand Marshal was former FBI Director Judge Louis J. Freeh, a German-American.

"It gives me great joy and pride to participate in this year's parade as the Official Guest of Honor," said Ambassador Ischinger, who has represented Germany at the parade since 2001.

The New York parade is the largest German-American event in the world and is named in honor of Baron Frederick Wilhelm Von Steuben, who came to America to support General George Washington in the American Revolution. More than 12,000 marchers, including 32 floats and 30 bands from around the world, took part as the parade proceeds down Fifth Avenue from 63rd to 86th streets beginning at noon.



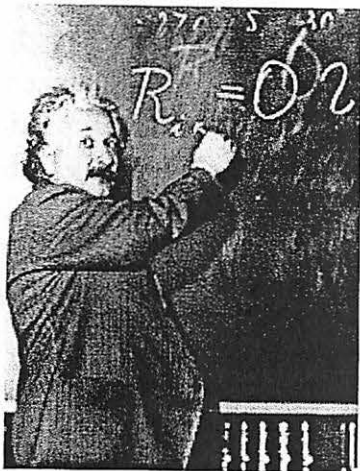
New York's Steuben parade featured more than 12,000 marchers.

The New York parade, organized by the German-American Steuben Parade Committee, is one of three major Steuben celebrations held each year in September. In Philadelphia, the Steuben Day Observance Association will host the 35th Annual German-American Steuben Parade on September 24. In Chicago, the United German-American Societies of Greater Chicago hosted the Von Steuben German Day Parade on September 10, as part of the three-day German Day Festival.

From "This Week in Germany," September 19, 2005
Submitted by Theresa Gold

Germans and Dutch called brainiest Europeans

A controversial British psychologist this week claimed that the Germans and the Dutch are the smartest Europeans.



Albert Einstein was estimated to have an IQ of 160, far above average in any nation.

Dr. Richard Lynn of the University of Ulster said the two nations top the intelligence league table with an average IQ of 107, followed by Poles (106), Swedish (104), and Italians (102).

IQ, or intelligence quotient, tests are designed to measure the general intelligence of an individual compared to other people with the same age.

They have always sparked controversy, particularly among psychologists who point to cultural biases built into the tests that favor Western test-takers.

Just last year, Lynn made headlines when he claimed that the average male IQ is five points higher than the average female IQ. His colleagues in the field, however, saw inconsistencies in the studies used to compile the data.

Lynn believes his most recent study could provide evidence of a link between climate differences and brain size.

"The early human beings in northerly areas had to survive during cold winters when there were no plant foods and they were forced to hunt big game," Lynn told the *Times* of London.

"The main environmental influence on IQ is diet, and people in southeast Europe would have had less of the proteins, minerals and vitamins provided by meat which are essential for brain development," he added.

German intelligence researchers refused to endorse the study's findings, though, with most citing longer periods of mandatory schooling, not diet, as a main reason for the IQ

From The Week in Germany, Oct. 21, 2005

submitted by Theresa Gold

Americans hungry for German food products

American consumers are warming up to foods from Germany as they realize there is more to German cuisine than fatty meats and heavy dumplings, the *Wall Street Journal* reported last weekend.

Spaetzle, pasta noodles popular in southern Germany, and quark, a light substitute for cream cheese, are two of the products gaining ground in kitchens across the country, according to reporter Katy McLaughlin.

Yet that is just the tip of the culinary iceberg for buyers at trendy supermarkets like Rodman's in the Mid-Atlantic and Meijer in the Midwest.

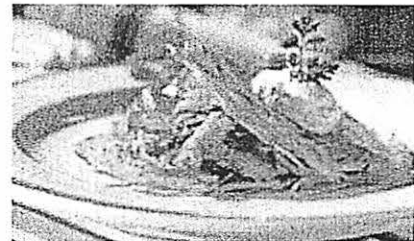
Both chains are clamouring to expand their German offerings, helping to drive a 14% surge in total food imports from Germany in the first quarter of this year compared to the same period a year earlier.

Chefs, too, are getting in on the action. "We use old German ingredients," the paper quoted Marcel Biro, who has cooked for several Michelin-starred restaurants, as saying. "and create a much, much light fair."

Getting out the word on the new German cuisine is the North American branch of the German Agricultural Marketing Board, a non-profit organization that is committed to assisting German food and beverage suppliers in marketing their products.

In a recent interview with *The Week in Germany*, its director, Arnim von Friedeburg, suggested that it's no wonder that foods from Germany — the country that invented "organic" — are enjoying something of a renaissance among health-conscious Americans.

Demand for Rieslings, the German white wines that match so well with trendy low-carb foods, has been mounting for years, while fat- and cholesterol-free pickled vegetables like sauerkraut are being used by innovative chefs as a topping for pizza and a filling for lasagna, Friedeburg said.



American gourmets are discovering tempting German creations like crispy potato pancakes with herring salad. Photo courtesy German Agricultural Marketing Board

Benefit Concert Draws Crowd in Houston

An enthusiastic crowd turned out on September 21 for a benefit concert by the Saechsische Staatskapelle Dresden and the Houston Symphony, despite the massive evacuation staged by the city of Houston in advance of Hurricane Rita.

Highways out of the city were gridlocked and the shuttered downtown seemed a ghost town, but "Music helps — The New Orleans Dresden Concert" at Jones Hall drew a good-sized audience of supporters who applauded the musicians with standing ovations before and after the evening's program of music by American, Russian and German composers.

In light of the ongoing evacuation, it was something of a miracle that so many people attended the concert, German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger said in Houston. This concert was a way to express, person to person, the ties between Germany and the United States, he said. Germany is assisting hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf region in many ways, "but with this concert, we want to say something to people's spirit — we stand by you."

German Federal President Horst Koehler, Saxony Prime Minister Georg Milbradt, Texas Governor Rick Perry and Houston Mayor Bill White all served as patrons for the benefit concert. Prime Minister Milbradt and his wife and Ambassador Ischinger accompanied the Dresden orchestra to Houston.

The stories of the suffering and devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina especially touched the people of Saxony, who experienced devastating flooding along the Elbe in 2002 and who received help from the United States and all over the world, Prime Minister Milbradt said. "We have come to say 'thank you' and to stand by you in this hour of need, even as another hurricane threatens the people on the coast as well as here in Houston."

The musicians of the Saechsische Staatskapelle Dresden were flown in especially for the concert by the German Air Force. The events sponsors included AmCham Germany, City of Houston Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department, Hines and Sunbelt Management Company,

Volkswagen, Houston Chronicle, Infineon Technologies, Houston Community Newspapers, Porsche, KUHF Houston Public Radio, Time Warner Cable, DHL, and Vollmer Public Relations.

Under the direction of Hans Graf, the Houston Symphony performed Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," and Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet, Overture-Fantasy." The Saechsische Staatskapelle Dresden, under the direction of Daniel Harding, performed Brahms' "Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Opus 68."



The Saechsische Staatskapelle Dresden performed in Houston on Sept. 21. Photo courtesy Saechsische Staatskanzlei



Saxony Prime Minister Milbradt and Ambassador Ischinger, right, were greeted in Houston with Stetsons as gifts. Photo

courtesy Saechsische Staatskanzlei



From "This Week in Germany" October 18, 2005, submitted by Theresa Gold

FERDINAND JACOB LINDHEIMER

from "Frontier Naturalists" by Howard Peacock in *Texas Highways*, May 1995

A thick black beard covered his entire face. He wore a blue jacket open in front, yellow buckskin trousers and coarse shoes, such as are worn by farmers. Near him lay two beautiful brown-spotted bird dogs, and a dark-colored pony was tied to a nearby tree."

So a fellow naturalist, Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, depicted Ferdinand Lindheimer in 1846, splitting logs

beside the hut in New Braunfels that he called home. Other acquaintances mentioned his deep blue eyes and compact physique. To his many political enemies, he must have presented a formidable appearance along with a formidable mind. In addition to his accomplishments as a naturalist, he proved

to be a superb newspaper editor and a champion of human liberty.

Born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on May 21, 1801, Lindheimer absorbed a solid education in mathematics and classical languages. When his political views estranged him from his family in the 1830s, he sailed for America. At Belleville, Illinois, he joined a group of other political refugees from Germany. After several months there, he decided to go to Mexico and collect plants.

The Texas Revolution, then heating up, excited Lindheimer. He caught ship for Mobile, Alabama,

enlisted in a company of freedom fighters, and was sent to Galveston. From there, the company hurried to join the Texian Army at San Jacinto. They arrived on the day after the climactic victory.

Lindheimer established his brilliant career as a naturalist at the behest of an old friend of his youth and the refugee community at Belleville,

Georg Engelmann, who had since become a prominent botanist. Engelmann arranged with America's top plant scientist, Asa Gray of Harvard, for Lindheimer to collect Texas plants, iden-

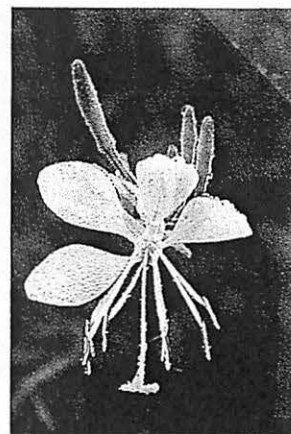
A member of the sunflower family, the Texas yellow star (Lindheimera texana) also goes by the names star daisy and Lindheimer daisy.

tify the species, mount them, and sell the mounts to Harvard for eight dollars per 100 plants.

Roemer described his friend's preparation for the field, fairly typical for a naturalist of the Texas frontier:

"He bought a two-wheeled covered cart with a horse, loaded it with a pack of pressing-flour paper and a supply of the most indispensable provisions, namely flour, coffee and salt, then set forth into the wilderness, armed with his rifle and with no companion other than his two hunting dogs. While he occupied himself with collecting and pressing plants, he depended for his subsistence mainly upon hunting, often passing whole months at a time without seeing a human being."

For nine years, Lindheimer enriched the Harvard herbarium with mountings of Texas plants, gathered from the areas of Cat Spring, Industry, Galveston, Hous-

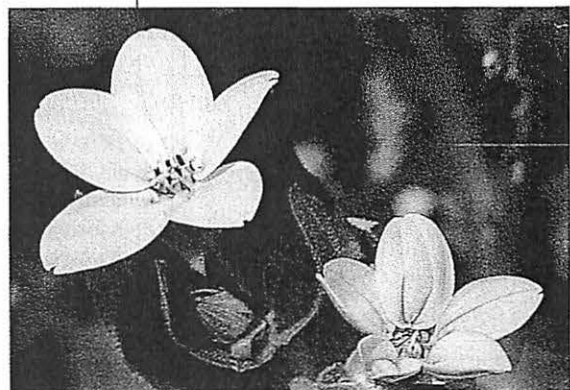


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COURTESY SOPHIEBURG ARCHIVES, NEW BRAUNFELS



Shown above in an early self-sketch, German naturalist Ferdinand Jakob Lindheimer from 1843 to 1852 provided the Harvard herbarium with mountings of Texas plants collected in Cat Spring, Industry, Galveston, Houston, San Felipe, Fredericksburg, and New Braunfels, where he made his home.



© GEYATA AJILVSGI

Among the 20 species of plants named for Lindheimer are the white gaura (left, *Gaura lindheimeri*) and the Lindheimer senna (right, *Cassia lindheimeriana*).



© GEYATA AJILVSGI

ton, San Felipe, Fredericksburg, and New Braunfels.

He made New Braunfels his home and headquarters. When the German colonists for that town arrived in Port Lavaca in December 1844, he welcomed them and journeyed with them inland to the town site. He secured rights as a colonist there himself and built a small home on the banks of the Comal River.

"Concealed by a group of elms and oaks, with its enclosed garden, it furnished an idyllic picture," wrote Roemer.

From New Braunfels, Lindheimer explored the Indian country to the northwest, searching for unknown or unclassified species of plants, and becoming friends with storied Chief Santana of the Comanches.

In 1852, Lindheimer abruptly changed careers. He was named the first editor of the *Neu-Braunfelscher Zeitung*, and for the next 20 years he molded the newspaper into one of the most respected and popular German-language journals in America.

"Do right and justice for the sake of right and justice, not for the reward," he urged Texans in a famous editorial. "The heroes, martyrs, and saviors of mankind have by their lives tried to demonstrate that the individual man cannot, with happiness to himself, seek his own aims independently

of the interest of humanity."

A week after his death on December 2, 1879, a newspaper colleague wrote of Lindheimer: "He was sufficient unto himself. His demands on life were slight. He did not write to please the masses but to uplift them."

International leaders of the botanical sciences saluted his contributions to knowledge by naming 20 species of plants for him.

Samuel Geiser summed up the legacy of the Lincecum and Lindheimers and their ilk in his observa-

Besides being a gifted naturalist, Ferdinand Lindheimer also proved an adept editor and a champion of human liberty. After his death in 1879, a colleague wrote, "He was sufficient unto himself. His demands on life were slight. He did not write to please the masses but to uplift them."

tion: "Their love for nature carried them through the difficulties and hardships of the frontier days." Yet, the 60-year odyssey seems to have required more than love. Dedication and a thirst for knowledge surely helped. Certainly these scientists' achievements focused the world's attention on the natural endowments of Texas and helped lure settlers, farmers, investors, and teachers to the new land of promise. ★

Freelancer HOWARD "TEX" PEACOCK of Woodville, a bewhiskered contributor to *Texas Highways*, wrote *Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket* and edited *The Nature of Texas*. Tex is known to impulsively hug beech trees on Tootl'em Creek.

JOHN WILSON of Austin is a freelance illustrator. This is his first assignment for *Texas Highways*.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF MEXICAN UNIVERSITY IFF MEXICO



F. Lindheimer



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The Texas Wendish Heritage Society presents the 18th Annual Wendish Fest featuring The Houston Liederkrantz & The Houston Shanty Chor

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society will host the 18th Annual Wendish Fest on Sunday, September 24, 2006. The event will be held on the grounds of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum and St. Paul Lutheran Church picnic grounds at Serbin, Texas.

The daylong event will begin at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 8:30 a.m. with English worship service featuring Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bible Class and Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m. and the German worship service featuring Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Meal tickets will be available for purchase beginning at 9:45 a.m. and the meal will be served until 1:30 p.m. Snack booths open at 2:30 p.m.

Deadline for entries in the annual Coffeecake Bake-off is 10:30 a.m. and winners will be announced at 12:30 p.m. Demonstrations and activities throughout the day include tours of St. Paul Lutheran Church (12:30 and 1:30 p.m.), noodle-making, sausage stuffing, blacksmithing, children's coloring contest (1:30 p.m.), washer pitching (2:00 p.m. with sign-up by 1:30 sharp), cross cut saw contest (4:45 p.m.), children's train rides, Klettern Pfosten, corn shucking, and many others. Kovanda's Czech Band will provide live music from 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Also on hand for her seventh trip to Wendish Fest will be Kornelia Thor from Leipzig, Germany who will demonstrate her expertise at decorating Wendish Easter eggs, and many of her decorated eggs will be available for purchase.

The Houston Liederkrantz and the Houston Shanty Chor will provide the featured performance for this year's Fest beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Liederkrantz was founded in 1925 to cultivate and promote song and music, upkeep the German language and nurture good morals and customs. The club musicians will play and sing a series of German folksongs and have a sing-a-long. The Houston Shanty Chor is an all male choir of seamen singing the working songs of the sailors about the merchant marine sailing ships of the 19th Century. The Choir sings in English, German, and Platt Dwutsch (low German).

In addition to the featured entertainment, the 18th Annual 'Wendish Fest', will have all of the usual attractions, demonstrations, food and fun that have become the hallmark of this "celebration of our heritage".

FROM THE GTHS JOURNAL TEN YEARS AGO — 1996.

Permission was granted to print this article by the: "Texas Wendish Heritage Society".

WHO ARE THE WENDS? (Štó su Serbja?)

by Ron Lammert

In December of 1854 an English sailing vessel, the *Ben Nevis*, docked in Galveston harbor loaded with some 500 immigrants from Lusatia, an area comprising parts of Saxony and Prussia. These immigrants were not the typical lot of Germans, Swedes, Czechs, and Poles who flocked to Texas in the 1850's seeking cheap land and economic opportunity. This group was different.

It brought a strange new language to the frontier state — the Wendish language. And even more striking, these Slavic pioneers who were to settle in Lee County made the journey from their homeland, not in search of prosperity, but rather in search of religious liberty and the right to speak their Wendish tongue.

The Wends were descended from a group of Slavic tribes which had developed a common language, and, in the tenth century, occupied much of central Europe. By the 19th century the Wends had been decimated by conquest and assimilation with other cultures until only a small area along the River Spree was inhabited by true Wends.

The Wendish migration to Texas, was impelled, in part, by the Prussian insistence that the Wends (or Sorbs, as they called themselves) speak and use the German language, even to the extent of Germanizing their names. The oppression of the Wendish minority extended to working conditions, with Wends being denied the right to do the skilled labor for which they were trained. If they were hired at all, they received less pay than their German counterparts. Prussian agrarian reform laws of 1832 dispossessed the Wends of their real property so they were, in effect, vassals to their Prussian lords.

But most intolerable was the requirement that the Lutheran Wends join the Evangelical Reform churches in one state-regulated Protestant body. The Wends believed this action would dilute their pure Lutheran faith and, rather than accept this decree, they made plans to emigrate to the New World.

The Wends organized the journey under the leadership of their Pastor, The Rev. Jan Kilian. Rev. Kilian was a scholar and prolific writer who translated from German into Wendish many books such as Luther's *Large Catechism* and the *Augsburg Confession*. He also wrote Wendish prayer books, sermons,

tracts, as well as hymns and poems. Years later, Rev. Kilian was known to preach the same sermon in Wendish, German and English on a Sunday morning. Kilian, a graduate of Leipzig University, was a strong leader and a logical choice to be the Moses of this 19th century Exodus.

On March 25, 1854, a new Lutheran congregation was organized at Dauban, to become the cornerstone of a large Wendish emigration. Rev. Kilian was called as Pastor.

Most likely the group chose Texas as its destination because of glowing reports returned by several families of Wends who had previously settled in central Texas. Other smaller groups of Wends also departed during this period to find new homes in Australia.

Knowing that the odds favored many losing their lives on the journey, 558 Wends left their homes and many loved ones in the first week of September, 1854, bound for Texas. The group traveled to Liverpool, England, where they boarded the three-masted *Ben Nevis*.

They soon encountered their first tragedy as the dread cholera epidemic struck. Fifteen died before the ship reached Ireland. At Queenstown, Ireland, the ship was quarantined for three weeks and thoroughly fumigated. Twenty-three more succumbed to cholera during this time.

At last, on October 22, 1854, the Wends again boarded the *Ben Nevis* bound for Galveston. Although the cholera had somewhat abated, another eighteen died at sea during the Atlantic crossing.

The decimated congregation arrived at Galveston in early December, only to be faced with another scourge, yellow fever. Many contracted the disease, but only one died before the Wends could flee inland to Houston.

From Houston the Wends journeyed further inland by oxcart in early January. Two men had been sent ahead to find a place where they could settle. The epic migration to a new homeland ended on the banks of Rabbs Creek in what is today Lee County, near Giddings. Here the Wends purchased a league of land for \$1.00 an acre. The first winter was hard and food was scarce. Many Wends lived in dug-outs and log cabins until proper homes could be built.

The newcomers set aside 95 acres of the land for the Lutheran church and school. About a mile northwest of the church property, the colonists began work on their town, which they named Serbin. This was to be the capital of their "Wendenland" in Texas, where they could continue forever their Wendish language and cultural traditions.

One of the first acts accomplished by Rev. Kilian was to apply for membership into the fledgling Missouri Synod Lutheran Church.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin became the first of many Missouri Synod churches in Texas and it had the only Wendish school in America.

The current St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin was completed in 1871. It is a beautiful, yet simple structure, the obvious product of pioneer craftsmanship. The unique interior includes a balcony extending all around the church with a pulpit nearly 20 feet above the lower floor. Originally the men sat in the balcony, while the women occupied the floor level pews. St. Paul's is one of the oldest churches in America in continual use since its construction.

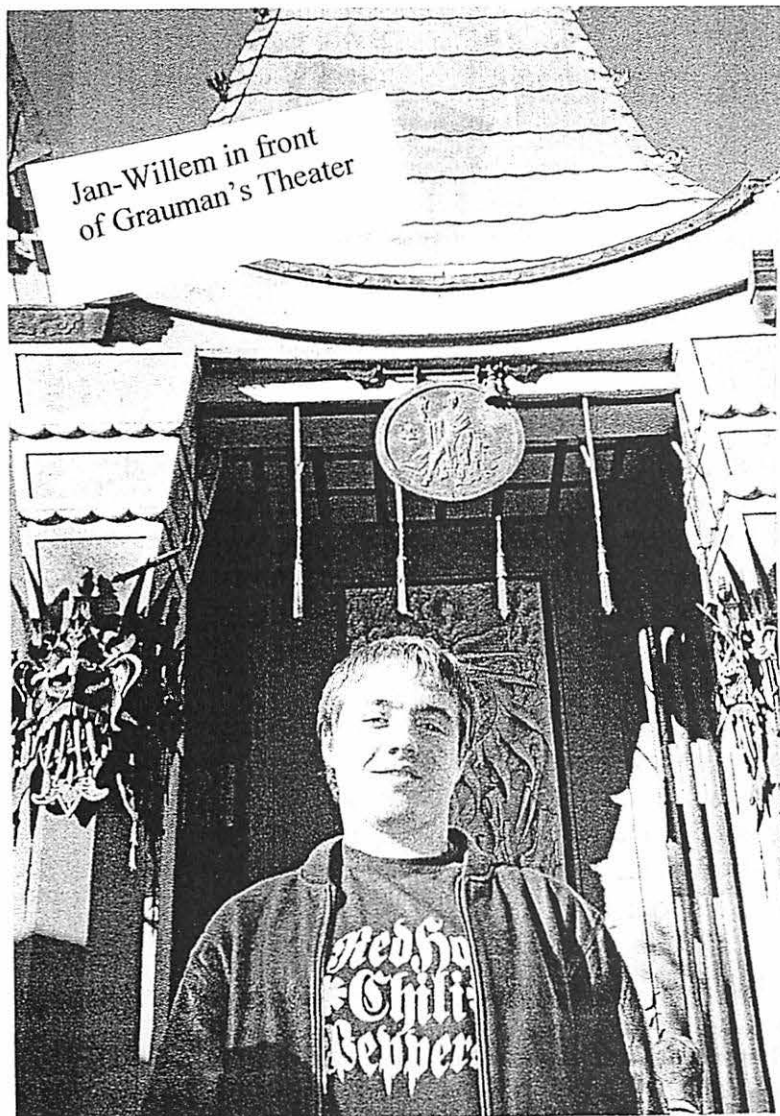
Many groups of Wendish colonists struck out for other parts of Texas in the latter 1800's. Wends formed sub-colonies in such places as Austin, Houston, Warda, Fedor, Swiss Alp, Giddings, Port Arthur, Manheim, Copperas Cove, Vernon, Walburg, The Grove, Bishop, and the Rio Grande Valley. In each case the Wends built a new church and affiliated with the Missouri Synod, thus helping spread Missouri Synod congregations throughout Texas.

In the new congregations the Wendish language and culture soon died out. Only in Serbin did it survive, where Wendish services continued to be held until 1921. Today, only a few elderly Wends still know the language.

The great irony of the Wendish emigration was that in the effort to establish a pure Wendish colony where the language and culture could be preserved, these very things were lost due to the economic and social realities of the frontier.

JAN-WILLEM PRUEGEL, GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT.

This short essay was written by an exchange student from Germany who has attended high school in Dallas this academic year. The essay was submitted to the GTHS Journal by Johannes Hintsch, a staff member of a regional office of AFS Intercultural Programs. Hintsch himself was an exchange student only three years ago.



Jan-Willem in Arnold Schwarzenagle's hand-prints.



JH

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My name is Jan-Willem Pruegel and I am a German exchange student in Dallas, Texas. I am 17 years old, about 6ft tall, brown-haired and attend Highland Park High School. Arrived in Houston on August 11th, our group of German boys and girls under the patronage of AFS split up and "invaded" the American south. Our bus to Dallas arrived late at night, where we received some last piece of advice before we met our new set of parents on the following day.

The town that I originate from in Germany is very rural, about 1 hour southwest of Frankfurt, and inhabits about 300 persons as opposed to Dallas' 1.5 million citizens. So I had to make slight adjustments in my lifestyle to fit in the new environment. Talking more about my society in the Old World, all friends of mine live basically in adjacent towns of equal size or even a little bit farther away. A major difference here in University Park is that all my pals are very close and in the same place. However it's sometimes still too far to walk and so I mostly depend on my host parents to drive me to the spots that I want to go to since AFS, my quite efficient and capable exchange organization, forbids me to drive; primarily because of liability issues.

In my home country however, things roll a little bit differently. Although my biological mom used to drive me to a number of places over quite respective distances, our population can always rely on a remarkable system of public transportation as opposed to the one in "the land of unlimited opportunities". We in good ol' Germany have close social ties to each other once we get to know each other which leads me to another dissimilarity. Usually folks around my area are rather introverted to new people. Here in America, or maybe it's just Texas, who knows, everyone appears to be unbelievably open and friendly; hence it's much easier to find friends and people to hang out with. University Park, my current habitation, is a very prosperous region, one of the wealthiest in the country. According to this, the criminality rate is very little around here. There is not much cultural diversity at my almost all-Caucasian school. So sometimes I wish I would have been put in a less "bubble-like" place but then I reconsider it by what I hear about problem schools in the media or from friends.

One result of me coming in a family that really likes to show me their love to me, I came, unlike many other less-fortunate foreign exchange students, in the pleasure of traveling to sundry places all over the country. My parents for example took me to the beautiful sights of California, Miami and even recently on a cruise. I had the probably best time of my life during the course of this school year here.

I strongly recommend anybody to go on a cultural exchange program. Obviously you cannot always hit the jackpot with this dear, supporting and understanding family like I did but you are always in the position to serve as a transmitter between nations and contribute to closer international relationships and help make this world a little bit better, and still always be proud to be an ambassador of your own country. For me it is a great honor!

Jan is hosted by AFS Intercultural Programs/USA. AFS can be reached under 800.876.2377 or visited on www.usa.afs.org.

From Neumagen-Dhron to Fort Worth

Falling in love with Texas

My name is Monika Schneider and I am one of close to 500 AFS exchange students that come to the United States from Germany every year. I am now almost 16 years old, which is actually pretty young for someone going abroad.

Luckily enough, I ended up in Texas, where I am truly having an amazing year that has been so much more than I ever expected and that I can't believe will end in a few months.

Sometimes it seems amazing to me how different my old home and my host community are...it always amazes me that I can live in two so extremely different places.

Back home in Germany, I live in a small town called Neumagen-Dhron

(pronounced: Noy mah gen drone, this is the closest I can get to spelling the pronunciation!). It has about 3,000 inhabitants and is in a very rural area, the next biggest city being thirty minutes (by car) away.

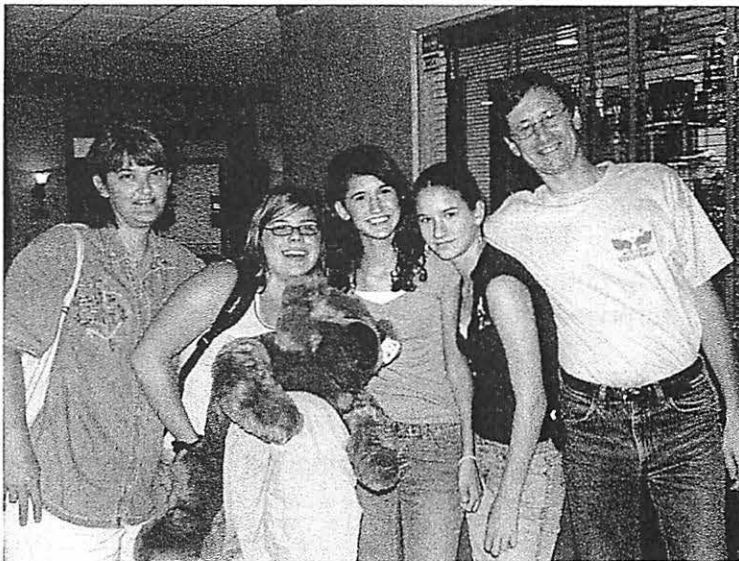
Just to give you a general idea of where it is in Germany, it is in the southwestern part, near Trier, which happens to be the sister city of my town here. Being in a rural area, a lot of people have agricultural jobs; in my area there are especially a lot of winemakers. In a lot of ways, it is just a typical small town as there are few stores besides the basic grocery and convenience stores and it doesn't have a lot to offer for young people my age.

I don't even go to school in my town, but instead I take the bus to a town 20 minutes away. At home, I am very dependent on public transportation. On the other hand, a lot of my activities and hobbies I can't pursue in my hometown – simply because they are not offered there.

Well, as you can see, I come from small town Germany, which is in a lot of ways like small town America!

You can imagine that within a few weeks everyone in my town knew I was going to the USA!!! Therefore, it was a lucky surprise for me when I found out that I was going to a big city... My host family here lives in the city of Fort Worth, fairly close to downtown. Big difference for me? Definitely.

Here, there are plenty of shopping opportunities, stores are always close, my high school is five minutes away and I could probably pursue every activity I could possibly think of.



Monika (2nd from left) with her host family

Given those differences in my life in Germany and here, you can guess that only increases the adjustments I had to go through when I first arrived in Texas. I must admit that I didn't have much of an idea what Texas was going to be like...and now I can't imagine living in any other state!

The obvious changes were of course food and climate. I don't think I had ever eaten Mexican food before or experienced a Christmas when I could wear a t-shirt. But those are not the important things.

In Germany, I live with my 19-year-old brother and my parents – my dad is a blacksmith and my mom is a housewife. Here I have two host sisters, 14 and 16, and two host parents who work as a scientist and an elementary school teacher. I was used to a family life where everyone is fairly independent, everyone has his or her own life

As soon as I arrived here, I was treated like a family member. My family life here is much more extreme (not in a negative way!) but I enjoy being part of such a union, especially since I had never experienced it to this extent before.

I also noticed a kind of positive spirit, for example school spirit and the Texas pride. This is something I enjoy very much because I was used to school being a place to get an education -nothing less, nothing more. Therefore, school life outside classes is incredible and it surprised me how openly I was accepted.

Spending a year abroad has clearly been one of the best decisions I've made so far. I already know by now that this year will always be special for me and that I will miss Texas terribly when I go home. In a way, it's become my home, too.

MAIFEST 2006

Maifest Report

This year's Maifest was a wonderful success! We had a gorgeous day to celebrate our heritage and our visitors were entertained with song, dance and theater. With excellent food and the conviviality of the Biergarten, the day was just about perfect. As you know, Maifest is a fundraiser for GTHS and the German Free School. I'm still waiting for some final expense figures, but here's a close estimate on how we did: Income was Sales - \$2,601; Silent auction - \$1,436; Memberships - \$50; Underwriters - \$970 and Airline drawing - \$5,539 – for a total of \$10,596. I expect the expenses will total close to \$2,400, for an estimated net profit of \$8,212. This is about \$700 more than last year's figure. The prize drawing was especially successful this year. Congratulations to GTHS member Frances Froelich of Conroe, Texas who was the winner of the two airline tickets on Continental. Many thanks to all the volunteers, underwriters and in-kind donors who made it all possible.

Eva Barnett, GTHS Office Manager

TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY MUSEUM (DAS HAUS)

by Paul Schenck

The second phase of restoration of the Witte-Schmid Haus Museum was completed in mid-November, just in time to clean it up and rearrange the furniture for the TGS Christmas party on Dec. 5.

Essentially, all of this second phase was second-story work—replacing the roof, repainting the exterior wood siding on the second floor, installing the air ducts for future addition of air-conditioning downstairs, replacing the badly deteriorated floor, and building up the floor joists in two of the upstairs rooms, stabilizing the adobe bricks in the upstairs sidewalls, and adding lighting and electrical outlets for all of the rooms and storage spaces upstairs.

The biggest part of the work by far was replacing the metal roof, which was leaking, with a more authentic-looking shake material and adding back the eyebrow dormer windows that had been removed 45 years ago. While the visual changes are remarkable, not all of the work is visible. For example, interior framing to better support the roof is not visible from the outside. Some of the roof joists are 28 feet long, and were unsupported more than half that length. Strong-back framing was added inside to help support the roof rafters. Also, it helps stabilize the sway-back ridgeline that became apparent on the front room upstairs when the metal roof was removed.

The Enviroshake that we used has an outstanding life expectancy. It is warranted for 50 years, suggesting that it may have a life much longer. It appears a lot like cedar shakes, and it has great stiffness against blowing wind. It fits nicely around the curving lines of the "dach gaube" dormer windows, and this would not have been possible with a metal roof.

Underneath the new Enviroshake polymer roofing material is a continuous plywood sheathing plus a continuous membrane of ice-and-water shield that tends to seal around the nails used to fasten the shakes. Because this decking and membrane are almost air-tight, roof ventilators were added on the rear roof below the ridgeline

to provide the necessary attic ventilation.

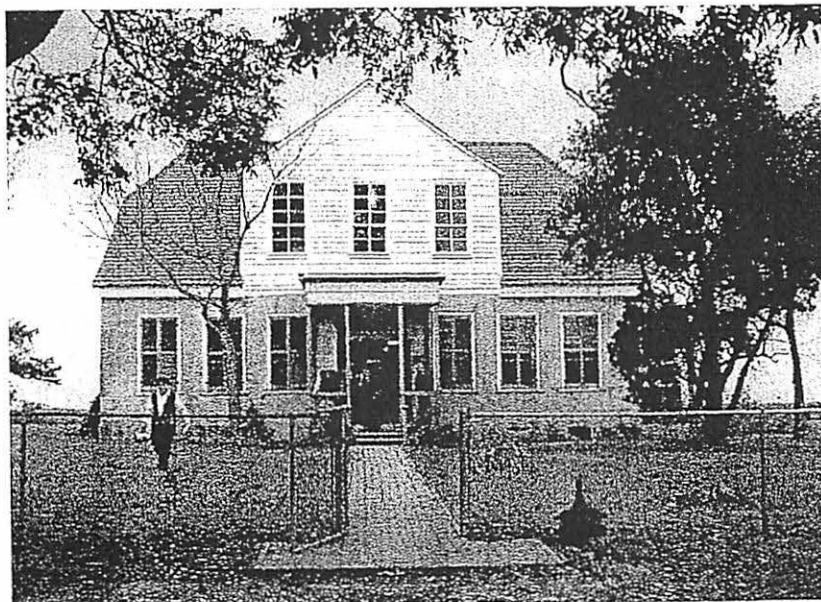
We thought it prudent to paint the bevel siding on the second floor while it was easy to access these high areas. With the aid of two paid helpers, I replaced deteriorated portions of the bevel siding. This deterioration became evident when the old paint was removed, and we had to work fast to keep ahead of the painters. The painters did a good job of paint preparation, scraping, and grinding the old paint off, going back to bare wood. This is high ladder and scaffold work. Now future paint work can be concentrated on the first floor that is easier to reach.

The floor boards in the front bedroom and side bedroom upstairs were removed, and a long floor joist was replaced where termites had eaten completely through the wood. New joist extensions were added to level out the floor as much as possible, and then new tongue-and-groove 1 x 6 boards were installed. The old floor boards were salvaged by my workers and resawn for use in the corner storage rooms.

Before putting down the new floors, the underfloor wiring work had to be installed and the air ducts had to be built and installed. Now we can add the air-conditioning units whenever needed, at minimum cost. The final wiring work was completed in mid-November, delayed because of the illness and hospitalization of the electrical contractor.

All of the adobe bricks that had fallen out of the walls upstairs have now been put back into place and stabilized with colored mortar to resemble the original work. This makes the side bedroom upstairs much more useful for display purposes.

All of the contractors have been paid as of the middle of December, and we have no outstanding debts, with one exception. I have paid workers and have purchased materials for the past several years without being reimbursed. I have not submitted any bills because the important work that the contractors were doing should be paid first. I have kept detailed records of each day's work,



and would like to be paid at some future date when sufficient funds are available. I was paid for the materials and hired labor that went into repairing the red smokehouse. Since then, purchased labor and materials for the house itself have totaled about \$2,178 for both the phase 1 and phase 2 restoration projects.

Phase 3 should be started as soon as we have some money. The main areas are in the repair of the outside stonework, which had been bid previously at \$3,000, possible replastering of the exterior stonework, or at least repainting for a smooth appearance, repainting of the window trim outside and the front porch, and repair of the shutters and repainting them. If it is determined that air-conditioning is needed for stabilization of the climate in the museum downstairs, as well as for the comfort of visitors, then that addition would cost about \$5,000.

Most of the furniture is back in place. However, some of it still needs to be repaired. Several of the beds need gluing and refinishing, as well as some of the wardrobes. Louis and Joycine Hanath have done an outstanding job of bringing back to life furniture that many people would have considered hopeless. We need other volunteers who have furniture-repairing or DIY skills to give them some help.

Now that we have a cleaner environment inside the house with less dust sifting down, we need to think about the addition of some furnishings that are consistent with the late 19th century time period—1860 to perhaps 1910. I have

suggested previously the need for authentic chandeliers or lighting, perhaps modified former gas or oil fixtures.

We have an immediate need for another barrister bookcase similar to the oak, stacked, glass-door bookcase in the large meeting room. This so-called lawyer's bookcase is already full. Boxes of books are on the floor under the pews, waiting for a suitable bookcase. Many homes had these barrister bookcases, so perhaps some member might consider donating one to the museum before calling in the auctioneers to dispose of their household furniture.

If Phase 3 of the restoration is funded in 2005, then we can begin to think seriously about how we are going to invite in interested visitors and groups. This is not to suggest that our work is over. Besides the exterior work outlined above, we may consider how we are going to finish the new bare wood floors upstairs, or leave them bare, and possibly providing a better job of sheetrocking the front bedroom upstairs. It is covered with quarter-inch sheetrock, which is not very satisfactory for nailing on studs, much less for studs that are spaced 20 to 30 inches apart. And there is the on-going problem of fixing things that are 145 years old and occasionally fail.

We finish 2004 with the house in better shape than ever, and look forward to 2005 with the hope that we can finish the major work in the coming year.

this article is from the Texas German Society Reporter

Since Paul Schenck wrote this article a little more than a year ago, much has been accomplished on the restoration of *Das Haus*. The building is located south of Shelby in Austin County.

A PREDICTION MADE TWENTY YEARS AGO

“FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW (in the year 2036) THERE WILL BE NO SPEAKERS OF TEXAS GERMAN LEFT, AND MONOLINGUAL TEXANS WILL FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT GERMAN WAS A LIVING LANGUAGE IN TEXAS, SPOKEN BY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS. EVERY SAMPLE OF TEXAS GERMAN THAT WE CAN COLLECT NOW, WHILE TEXAS GERMAN IS STILL ALIVE, WILL BE PRECIOUS IN THE FUTURE.”

from “Texas German and Other Immigrant Languages” by Joseph Wilson in Eagle in the New World. Theodore Gish and Richard Spuler, editors, Texas A&M University Press, 1986, page 222

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

English & German

From a translation printed in the newsletter of the German Free School Guild

Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous
 fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
 Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
 Oh! say, does the star-spangled banner yet wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
 Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
 As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?
 Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
 'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
 Between their loved home and the war's desolation,
 Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land,
 Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
 And this be our motto, "In God is our trust".
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O sagt, könnt ihr seh'n in des Morgenroths Strahl,
 Was so Stolz wir im scheidenden Abendroth grüßten?
 Die Sterne, die Streifen, die, wehend vom Wall,
 im tödtlichen Kampf uns den Anblick versüßten?
 Es flattert die Fahne in herrlicher Pracht
 Beim Leuchten der Bomben in dunkeler Nacht;
 O sagt, ob das Banner, mit Sternen besät,
 Das im Lande der Freien und Braven noch weht?

Vom Strand aus gesehen durch die Nebel der See,
 Wo Feindesschar ruhet in drohendem Schweigen,
 Was ist's das die Wind' auf befestigter Hoh'
 Mit nickendem Weh'n bald verhüllen, bald zeigen?
 Jetzt faßt es der Sonne helleuchtende Strahl,
 Jetzt scheint es vom Berge, jetzt weht's über Thal:
 Es ist ja das Banner, mit Sternen besät,
 Das im Lande der Freien und Braven noch weht!

Und wo Männer für Freiheit und Vaterland
 Vereint stehen, da sendet von Oben
 Den Kämpfern, errettend, die mächtige Hand;
 Die Freien, die müssen den Vater dort loben,
 Gerecht ist die Sache, auf die wir vertrau'n,
 D'rum Sieg ist die Losung, fest auf die wir bau'n,
 Und siegreich das Banner, mit Sternen besät,
 Ueber'm Lande der Freien und Braven noch weht.

GERMAN WORDS COMMON IN MANY LANGUAGES

Submitted by Theresa Gold

Far from being confined to Germany, Switzerland and Austria, German words are peppering up languages around the world, according to the Wiesbaden-based German Language Society. The most popular of those Teutonic treasures have just been confirmed in a study — and the results are *wunderbar* for friends of the German language.

From Kazakhstan to Korea and Argentina to Australia, over 450 people provided the German Language Society with 7,500 examples of German words used outside of Germany.

The list, which was intended to prove that German is indeed a global language, sends an interesting message about Germany's image abroad.

Globally, the most popular German words aren't *Gesundheit* and *Kindergarten* — though those two terms remain the ones cited most often in English-speaking countries. Contest participants actually sent in *Butterbrot* most often, a German word for "bread and butter" that is in common use in Russian and Ukrainian.

Not surprisingly, German history played into the survey, with *Blitzkrieg*, *Hinterland* and *Wermut* among the most well-known German words in some countries. But German culinary terms were even more popular, with *Bier*, *Kuchen*, *Zwieback*, and *Bratwurst* cited often.

Words associated with the German auto industry also ranked high on the list, among them *Fahrvergnügen* (the joy of driving), *Autobahn*, and *Volkswagen*, which in Greece refers to any small car used to transport goods. Similarly, *Wirtschaftswunder* is a common word for an economic miracle — and not just in English-speaking countries.

Not all of the words bode well for Germany's image abroad, however. The German Language Society was only slightly alarmed that *kaput* is understood nearly all around the globe, and that *arubaito*, a Korean form of *Arbeit* (work), refers to a poorly-paid part-time job or training position.

The language survey, according to a German Language Society article, gives Germans an opportunity to reflect on how foreigners see them. Sweden has adopted the German words *besserwisser* (know-it-all) and *Streber* (nerd, someone who's overly ambitious) as their own.

From "The Week in Germany, June 3, 2005, German Information Center



LAPIDARY LORE AND MORE

National Hall of Fame Winners

The 2005 winners of the National Rockhound/Lapidary Hall of Fame add seven new, inspiring leaders to the growing list. All are talented and important members of this popular hobby. Ballots were a little late this year, partially due to the death of Ken Zahn, a long-time and influential board member, and subsequent changes in rules.

From now on, ballots are not needed and nominators have all year to make their choices. Everyone wanting to make a nomination should write a letter of about 200 words telling why this person is being nominated. The nominee should have contributed to some part of the hobby for at least 15 years. The nominee can be an amateur, semiamateur, semiprofessional, or professional. Any nominations received before March 31 will count for that same year. Any nominations received after that will count for the ensuing year.

Questions should be addressed to Curator Maxine Wilson, HCR 74 Box 21, Murdo, SD 57559, (605) 669-2256.

MINERALS

John Medici

A field collector since 1964, John has a PhD in biochemistry and worked for Chemical Abstracts Services Inc. John is a lecturer, and a department head at a major show. He has collected minerals and fossils for the pursuit of knowledge, some except in mountain in considerable numbers. He has found great things. One of his other finds is a spectacular pocket of Herkimer quartz, now at the Smithsonian. He followed a vein of beautiful prehnite in a quarry wall, where it was almost too narrow to move. High-quality turquoise crystals, a rarity, are another of his historic finds. Stories of John's adventures have appeared frequently in *Rocks & Minerals*. John also takes excellent pictures of the many one-of-a-kind specimens he has found. He taught the fine points of collecting rare specimens, and how to clean and prepare specimens, to his sons. John has sales booths at top shows, including Tucson, where he also exhibits.

LAPIDARY

Dennis Batt

Dennis is an artist working in several media. He paints with acrylics, but primarily, he paints in stone through intar-

sia. He learned to do intarsia in 1994. He was successful at getting gemstone masterpieces accepted by the San Diego Art Council. He has corresponded with most American intarsia (commeso) artists and has produced two beautiful books of excellent works by these talented people. The many intarsia artists he has featured in his delightful books are grateful that his work publicizing their art has been successful and that appreciation of intarsia continues to grow. He is working to get "paintings" in stone widely recognized as fine art. His own work is a fresh look at classic design. His intarsias are colorful, detailed and meaningful. His continued interest in the revival of this old Italian art form will probably bring intarsia to the place it deserves as one of our most important media. Dennis also has a Web site, www.gearloose.com.

JEWELRY

Walt Johnson

Walt is a gemologist, jeweler, teacher, carver, goldsmith, scrimshaw artist, exhibitor, and club officer. He has inspired countless jewelry students at lost wax casting techniques he has mastered is casting stones in wax. Even though he has a masters degree in jewelry design, he never stops learning or teaching. Many of his students now have their own jewelry businesses and some are now teaching the arts they learned from him.

EDUCATION (ME)

Bill and Lois Patillo

Bill and Lois have been working on their special mineral display for 23 years. It is a table of rock "food" they take to shows. They have acquired rocks that set a table for a full banquet, from soup to dessert, wine and after-dinner mints included.

Bill and Lois have traveled to 262 shows in nine states so far, encompassing over 225,000 miles. But the petrified banquet is not all they display. They have exhibits of rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, official state rocks, and oddities.

of having a children's day, when science students from different schools come into the club show with a list of things to find and explore in the area of rocks and minerals.

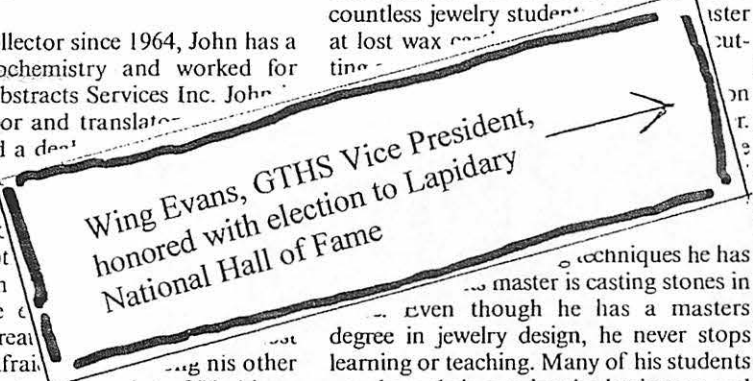
They are members of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Ewing Evans

Ewing Evans—or Wing, as everyone calls him—once explained how he got started in faceting: He and his wife, Barbara, were traveling in North Carolina when they passed a sign advertising an emerald mine. They proceeded to screen for a while before Barbara found her first emerald. They had an amethyst (probably salted) faceted there and sent to them. Upon receiving the stone, Wing realized that he could probably do better work. He bought a faceting machine and taught himself to use it.

He joined the Austin Gem & Mineral Society in 1993 seeking a good class in faceting and learned from a great teacher, Charles Covill, who has designed many original cuts and is very experienced. Wing joined the American Society of Gem Cutters and became interested in competition cutting. In 1993, he sent off his first competitive stone and received a rating of 99.9, which won him third place in that year's competition. In 1994, he took first place with a rating of 100—the highest possible—and won again in 1995. Charles suggested that Wing try the Australian International Challenge. Wing entered the required four stones in 1996 and took ninth place. This entitled him to compete in the Biron Invitational Faceting Challenge, where he placed eighth in 1997. With each competition, he learned and improved. In 1998, he entered the Australian Challenge again with a champagne topaz, a citrine, and a morganite. He won first place with the topaz, getting a perfect score of 100. In each biennial Australian Invitational Challenge since—2000, 2002 and 2004—Wing has won first place.

Wing organized classes and secured volunteers to teach faceting, cabochon cutting, beading, lost wax casting, and silversmithing. This has involved collaboration between the Austin Gem & Mineral Society and an Austin public school. He has served as liaison with the museum and the school and enlisted club members to help with this educational endeavor in the earth sciences. He has organized and given, with other club members, annual instruction in the scientific aspects of lapidary, fluorescent minerals, and the geology of Texas at this local elementary school. As show chairman for the last several years, he has encouraged and promoted the necessity



BRESLAU, TEXAS

Breslau is a rural community in Lavaca County located about six miles northwest of Hallettsville on Farm-to-Market Road 957.

Information from historical marker

Breslau was settled by German and Czech immigrants in the 1860s and 1870s. It was a community of small cotton farms. It was named to honor Breslau, a city in Prussia. It was located on east side of the Lavaca River. Fritz Ladwig opened the first store and cotton gin about 1870. In 1872 he donated land where a school was built. In 1887 a larger school was built and the old school became a teacherage. The first post office was established in 1880. In addition to its school, after 1900 Breslau had stores, a blacksmith shop, a dance hall and Lutheran and Catholic churches. The school was supported by private contributions until 1910, when a school tax was levied and the school enlarged. A new teacherage was built in 1919. In 1922, a new school was erected on three acres of land. It closed in 1963.

FISCHER, TEXAS

Fischer Bowling Club

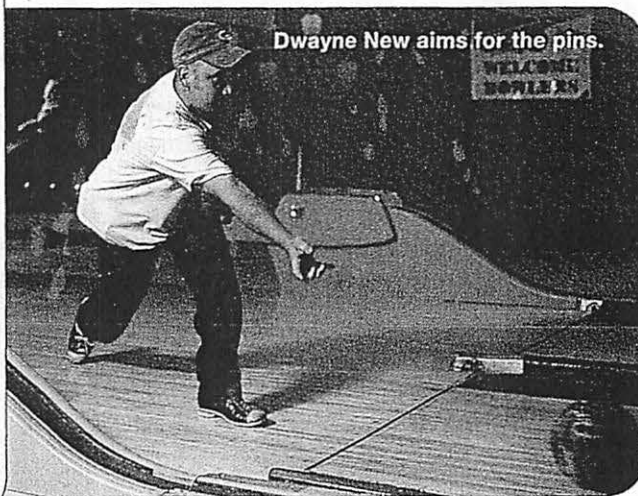
FISCHER

About 22 miles west of San Marcos on Fischer Road
(830) 935-4800

Closest metro area:
San Antonio

You can drive from there in:
1 hour, 5 minutes

What awaits:
Throwback ninepin bowling



WYATT MCSPADDEN

Some bowlers might take offense if told they were playing one pin short of a full rack, but not the members of the Fischer Bowling Club. In a narrow red building surrounded by live oaks, ninepin bowling—once outlawed in other states and now surviving solely within the U.S. in a few Texas communities—is the only game in town. Introduced by German settlers more as a social event than an athletic contest, ninepin is truly a team sport, with convoluted rules, at least compared to tenpin. Score is kept with pencil and paper, and the pins are hand set. These yesteryear techniques obviously do nothing to detract from the game's lasting popularity; just ask club vice president LeJay Luehlfing, 38, who's been bowling here since he was six. Although all four lanes are commandeered by members' leagues most nights of the week, outsiders are always welcome to watch and are even allowed to bowl here on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 P.M. —S.B.

f R O M

TEXAS JOURNEY January/February 2006

HENKHAUS, TEXAS

Henkhaus is a Lavaca County community south of Moulton probably named for German settler John Henkhaus, who operated a general store, cotton gin and post office there in the 1890s. Anglo-Americans first settled the area, but following the Civil War large numbers of Germans established small farms on former rangelands. In 1897, German settlers built a two-room schoolhouse (Evergreen School) that served the community until 1951.

From The German-Texan Encyclopedia by Terry L. Smart

MOULTON, TEXAS

Moulton is located in Lavaca County on State Highway 95. The town was founded in the 1850s or 1860s by Anglo-Americans, but it and the surrounding farmlands were heavily settled by German and Czech immigrants in the 1890s. Some of these probably arrived by rail after a spur of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was laid to Moulton in 1887. At that time, itinerant ministers held religious services for Moulton's German Lutherans. A group of them in 1902 organized a congregation and two years later completed construction of Zion Lutheran Church.

From The German-Texan Encyclopedia by Terry L. Smart

NADA, TEXAS

Nada is a Colorado County community located south of Eagle Lake on Highway 71. It was founded in the 1880s by German farmers, followed by Czech immigrants. John William Schoellmann moved his family to Nada in 1881 from the German community at Frelsburg, and his son opened Nada's first store. Two years later, the first school opened (Red Bluff School) and in 1894 the first post office. At that time, the postmaster, Wilhelm Engbrock, gave the community its name. The Catholic Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin was built in 1896. It and a local German dance hall were centers of social activities. Nada remained an agricultural community into the 1900s.

From The German-Texan Encyclopedia by Terry L. Smart

The Sophienburg
 New Braunfels' Archives
 & Museum of History
 401 W. Coll

Museum & Sophie's Shop: (830)629-1572
 Toll Free (866) 629-7674

Open Daily: 10-5 Mon.-Sat. & 1-5 Sun.

Archives: Closed Sundays

www.nbt.com/sophienburg

New Braunfels Conservation Society

Conservation Plaza

1300 Church Hill Drive

Daily Hours: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sat.-Sun. 2 - 5 p.m.

CLOSED Monday

Lindheimer Haus

491 Comal Street

Sept. - May Open Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

June - Labor Day 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

CLOSED Wednesdays

Heritage Village

Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture

Historic Breustedt — Dillen House

1370 Church Hill Dr.

Feb. 1st - Nov. 30th Open Daily 1-4 p.m.

CLOSED Mondays & Major Holidays

(830) 629-6504

www.nbheritagevillage.com

NEW BRAUNFELS

*Historic Downtown:
 Variety, Uniqueness*

Surrounded by the beauty of historic buildings, both great and small, downtown New Braunfels offers an upbeat retail/entertainment environment for visitors and "homefolks" alike. In addition, it is the seat of the city and county governments and the heart of the community.

The oldest bakery (*Naegelin's*) and the oldest hardware store (*Henne*) in Texas are located here. Many citizens call downtown home. Their apartments are located on the upper floors of recently renovated historic buildings.

Spearheading an aggressive redevelopment has been the focus of the 37-year-old Downtown Association and the 13-year-old Main Street Project. Active participants in this endeavor are business and building owners, entrepreneurs, professionals and residents.

Ten blocks of Seguin Avenue from underpass to underpass and ten blocks of San Antonio Street meet at the beautiful plaza with its historic fountain, bronze sculptures, music pavilion and beautifully landscaped grounds. Here is where the parades pass, the Christmas "Festtage" season begins, concerts are held and dignitaries are honored.

**Wurstfest Is a Merry
 Salute to Sausage-Making**

Wurstfest began in 1961 as a promotional event for the city's sausage-making industry. It has grown steadily over the years as word-of-mouth spread about the good time to be had in New Braunfels. Today Wurstfest is one of the biggest festivals in the United States and was recently rated the #3 event in the State of Texas, behind only Fiesta in San Antonio and the State Fair.

German culture pervades Wurstfest, which features "oompah" music—performed by local and German bands, polka dancing, melodrama, and other events. Not to be missed is Wurstfest cuisine. Dozens of food booths offer German favorites. Wurstfest also includes many events and exhibits that are scheduled around town.



As many of New Braunfels' visitors drive the city during the busy summer months or during the even busier *Wurstfest*[®] period in the fall, they may miss this springtime view of the famous Plaza Gazebo in the middle of the downtown area. This view is from the southwest looking towards the Comal County Courthouse building.

These are draft minutes not yet approved/corrected by the Board

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2006 MEETING
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The February 11, 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 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, Connie Krause, Van Massirer, Terry L. Smart, Annette Stachowitz, Janice Warncke Thompson, Gerri Gehman West, and Henry Wolff, Jr. Directros absent were Mary El-Beheri, Carolyn S. Heinsohn, and Matt Tippens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of November 19, 2005

Motion by H. Heinen to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

G. West distributed copies of the final financial report for the year 2005 and reported revenues for January 1-31, 2006 of \$17,515 and expenditures of \$4,952.

Office Manager's Report

Office Manager, Eva Barnett, distributed a three-page written report.

In response to one item in the Office Manager's Report, T. Boehm and J. Thompson volunteered to investigate the possibility for staffing a GTHS information booth at the upcoming German Heritage Festival at Tomball.

In response to one item in the Office Manager's Report, T. Smart volunteered to seek information from an attorney regarding GTHS copyrights for its published books and materials.

The Office Manager requested the board to increase her working hours from 20 to 30 hours per week. The President referred this request to the Budget and Finance Committee for action as soon as possible.

Activities Committee Report

C. Krause, committee chair, reported (1)publication of a GTHS cookbook is still under consideration by the committee, (2)publication of a GTHS calendar is still under consideration by the committee, (3)the committee is planning an updated director's manual and some sort of orientation for new directors, (4)the committee is planning guidelines for the Ehrenstern Award, and (5)Marcella Chapple has completed an index to all issues of the journal through the year 2000.

Budget and Finance Committee Report

G. West, committee chair, reported that she will present the following suggestions to the committee for consideration: (1)to create an account exclusively for gifts and grants (2)to sell ads in the Journal, and (3)to change dates of the annual Operating Fund Campaign to the calendar year

G. West moved the following changes to the 2006 budget: (1)to delete expenditures line 35 for postage, (2)to delete expenditures line 49 for Maifest airline tickets, and (3)to create a new revenues line for "contingencies/reserves." Motion approved.

Membership Committee Report

Jean Heide, committee co-chair, reported: (1)a recent luncheon, with Everett Fey of New Braunfels as guest speaker, was attended by 25 San Antonio GTHS members, and (2)the committee plans to place announcements regarding GTHS activities in newspapers

H. Wolff, committee co-chair, reported his plan to prepare a press release about the Texas German Convention March 10-11 for distribution to newspapers state-wide.

H. Heinen volunteered to assist the distribution of H. Wolff's press release.

Old German Free School Committee Report

E. Evans, committee chair, reported the following recent improvements and repairs at the German Free School: (1)the installation of six new windows donated by Julia Mellenbruch, (2)the installation of a outdoor security light at the gate on East 10th Street, (3)the painting of safety stripes on the stairs to the building, (4)the repainting of doors, and 5)repairs made to exterior stucco/plaster.

E. Evans reported the need for one additional outdoor security light.

T. Smart moved approval of an expenditure to install a second light. Motion approved.

Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee Report

T. Smart reported the committee recommends changing Section 2.3 to read as follows (new wording in italics and bold face):

"...in the event of the society's termination or dissolution, the Board of Directors of GTHS has determined that any assets remaining after payment of any and all debts shall be assigned to *private and public libraries and/or societies selected by the Board of Directors to be used exclusively for the preservation of and the acquisition of materials related to German-Texan history and heritage.*"

The President sent the recommendation back to the committee for further review because Internal Revenue Service regulations may require a different wording.

J. Heide and C. Krause volunteered to refer the wording for Section 2.3 to attorneys.

Report on Annual Meeting

H. Wolff presented a brief update on plans for the Texas German Convention in March.

Report on Christmas Market

E. Evans, GTHS Treasurer for 2005, reported that Christmas Market sales were held at Austin, Houston and San Antonio, earning GTHS a net profit of \$5,836.

Report on Library Project

Doug Wixson, GTHS Librarian, recommended improvements to the GTHS Library and requested \$1,500 to hire a professional librarian to prepare a grant proposal seeking funds for the recommended improvements.

The President referred Wixson's request to the Executive Committee for action as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by J. Feuge to reduce the number of positions on the Board of Directors to twelve effective January 1, 2007. Motion approved.

To implement the board's decision (see above), T. Smart proposed that in accord with Section 11.2 of the Bylaws the board should abolish effective January 1, 2007 the positions presently held by J. Feuge and J. Thompson, whose terms expire December 31, 2006.

NEW BUSINESS

New Business Referred to Activities Committee

The President charged the Activities Committee to consider the purpose and functions of the Advisory Committee and report at the May board meeting.

New Business Referred to Membership Committee

The President charged the Membership Committee to serve as a fund-raising committee.

New Business Referred to Budget and Finance Committee

The President charged the Budget and Finance Committee to consider how urgent expenditures needed between board meetings should be approved.

The President charged the Budget and Finance Committee to consider the Office Manager's request to increase her weekly hours from 20 to 30 and to make a recommendation as soon as possible to the Executive Committee.

The President charged the Budget and Finance Committee to consider how donations received from a fund-raising campaign exclusively for the GTHS library should be expended.

The President referred to the Budget and Finance Committee a proposal by M. El-Beheri to expand the GTHS website capabilities.

New Business Referred to Executive Committee

Motion by G. Treibs to direct the Executive Committee to consult with GTHS Librarian Doug Wixson and make a response as soon as possible to his request for funds to hire a professional librarian to write grant proposals for improvement of the GTHS library. Motion approved.

T. Boehm, President, charged the Executive Committee to organize the agenda of the May board meeting to include time for all committees to meet.

Executive Committee Appointment

The President announced the appointment of Van Massirer, former GTHS President, to the Executive Committee.

Revision of 2006 Budget

Motion by H. Wolff to (1) establish a new revenue line 13 for library revenues, and (2) add \$850 to expenditures line 57.

GTHS Checking Account

Motion by G. West to approve the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation to move GTHS checking account to Washington Mutual in Austin. Motion approved.

GTHS Investment Account

Motion by G. West to approve the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation to leave present investments with Morgan Stanley until the committee can develop a financial policy for investment. Motion approved.

Expenditure to Upgrade Software

Motion by G. West to approve an expenditure of \$423 to upgrade present GTHS computer software. Motion approved.

Certificates for Life Memberships

H. Heinen recommended that certificates for life memberships be presented during the GTHS business meeting at the Texas German Convention, March 11, 2006.

Motion by H. Heinen to authorize expenditure of no more than \$200 for a mailing to the membership as reminder of the Texas German Convention in March. Motion approved.

The President charged the Office Manager to carry out the mailing (see above), including a notice about donations for the GTHS silent auction.

Ehrenstern Award

Motion by C. Krause to approve the Activities Committee's nomination of Rolf Stachowitz and Van Massirer as recipients of the 2006 Ehrenstern Award. Motion approved.

Membership of the 2006 Advisory Board

The board nominated the following for the 2006 Advisory Board: Leatrice Haley, Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, Rodney Koenig, Hans Micklitz, Bob Neeley, Robert Pfennig, Velma Rice, Helga von Schweinitz, Helgard Suhr-Holis, Charles Thompson, and Mary Whigham.

Proposal by M. El-Beheri for Expansion of Website Capabilities

In the absence of M. El-Beheri, motion by T. Smart to table action on her proposal to expand the GTHS website until the May board meeting. Motion approved.

The President referred M. E-Beheri's proposal (see above) to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee on 150th Anniversary of the GFS

The President appointed the following to an ad hoc committee to recommend an observance of 150th anniversary of the Old German Free School in Austin: E. Evans, H. Heinen, and V. Massirer. E.Evans was appointed committee chair.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

These minutes of the 2005 Annual GTHS Business Meeting were presented and accepted at the 2006 meeting held at Yoakum.

**GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, MARCH 12, 2005**

The business meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society membership was called to order at 11:45 a.m., March 12, 2005, at Rockne, Texas, with Van Massirer, President, presiding.

Terry Smart, Secretary, read minutes of the society's September 18, 2004 business meeting which previously had been published in the GTHS Journal. The 2004 minutes were approved without additions or corrections.

Ewing (Wing) Evans, Treasurer, presented the society's financial report to be published in the next issue of the GTHS Journal. Evans reported the society's investments presently totaled approximately \$280,000 with approximately \$20,000 in the society's bank account.

Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, member of the GTHS 2004 Advisory Board, announced that the 2004 Operational Fund Drive had reached a total of approximately \$15,000, of which some \$7,000 had been contributed since October 2004.

President Massirer reported that due to financial exigency the GTHS Board of Directors recently replaced the full-time position of Executive Director with a part-time Office Manager position. He then introduced Eva Hasenjaeger Ascencio, the new Office Manager.

Eva Hasenjaeger Ascencio, GTHS Office Manager, presented a report on her work as office manager since January 2005, and announced plans for a monthly newsletter that could be circulated by e-mail.

President Massirer presented the 2005 Ehrenstern Award to two GTHS members selected by the GTHS Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding services and contributions to the society. They were

Theodora (Teddy) Vanderwerth Boehm of Brenham
Barbara Evans of Austin

President Massirer presented a lifetime GTHS membership to Marcella Chappel of Austin in appreciation for her ongoing work to prepare a new computer software index for all issues of the GTHS Journal.

President Massirer made the following three announcements:

- (1)Members of the 2004 Advisory Board soon will receive a letter describing a new role for the board in 2005.
- (2)The society is collecting German-Texan recipes for a proposed cookbook.
- (3)The society is seeking e-mail addresses for all members who use e-mail.

President Massirer requested an unofficial voice vote to indicate approval/disapproval for holding future joint meetings of the GTHS and Texas German Society. The unofficial vote was taken twice and both times favored continuing joint meetings.

President Massirer recognized Mary M. El-Beheri of San Antonio to speak. She invited GTHS members to attend a meeting she planned at Fredericksburg in October 2005.

President Massirer recognized Dona Reeves-Marquardt of Austin to speak. She reported errors she had found in *German Life* magazine; described some of the 1978 goals of GTHS; and invited GTHS members to attend a meeting planned at Fredericksburg in October 2005.

The business meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, MARCH 11, 2006
GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

The business meeting of the German-Texan Heritage Society membership was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, March 11, 2006, in the Community Center at Yoakum, Texas, with Teddy Vanderwerth Boehm, President, presiding.

Terry Smart, Secretary, read minutes of the society's March 12, 2005 business meeting, which previously had been printed in the GTHS Journal. The 2005 minutes were approved.

Gerri Gehman West, Treasurer, presented the society's financial report for 2005. She announced that for the first time in several years expenditures in 2005 were less than income.

Eva Barnett, GTHS Office Manager, presented a report that included an update on membership (981 current members), the 2005 Operational Fund campaign (total contributions of more than \$13,000), her writing of grant proposals, and the role of volunteers at the German Free School in Austin. She also announced the presentation of certificates to lifetime members of GTHS. They were Marcella Chapple, Mr. & Mrs. William O. Heaton, Anita Locy Johnson, Roberta T. Klein, Sandra Matthijetz, Robert Neely, Ion Ratiu, Herta Sokolyk, Todd Steigerwald, Anne Stewart, Anna Thompson, Helen Trenckmann, and Miriam York.

Wing Evans, Vice President, presented a report on the German Free School Guild's 2005 activities. This included an update on the 2005 Christmas Market which earned a profit of more than \$5,000 for the society.

President Boehm presented the 2006 Ehrenstern Award to two GTHS members selected by the Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding services and contributions to the society. They were Van Massirer of Crawford and Rolf Stachowitz of Austin

President Boehm recognized the loss of GTHS members who died during 2005. They were Ethel Kerns Hughes, Donald P. Kalteyer, Helen Klinger, Renate Leonard, and Hebert Hartwell Peebles, Senior,

President Boehm announced names of GTHS members who had consented to serve on the 2006 Advisory Board. They were Leatrice Healy, Charles (Chuck) Kalteyer, Rodney Koenig, Hans Micklitz, Robert Neely, Robert Pfennig, Velma Rice, Helga von Schweinitz, Helgard Suhr-Hollis, Charles Thompson, and Mary Whigham.

President Boehm made the following announcements:

- (1) Plans are underway to commemorate in 2007 the 150th anniversary of the building of the German Free School at Austin
- (2) Again this year, elections for the Board of Directors will be held by mail. The entire membership will be asked to make nominations using a form in the June issue of the Journal and a ballot will be in the September issue.
- (3) The society's newsletter is now sent by e-mail as a money-saving measure, and all members having e-mail are asked to submit their e-mail address.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

These are draft minutes yet to be corrected and approved

Submitted by Terry L. Smart, Secretary

**Minutes of Advisory Board Meeting
March 11, 2006
Yoakum, Texas**

A brief meeting of members of the Advisory Board, also attended by certain members of the Board of Directors, was held on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at approximately 11:00 a.m. in Yoakum, Texas, during the joint convention of the German Texan Heritage Society and the Texas German Society. Persons present at such meeting included Helgard Suhr Hollis, Hans Micklitz, Rodney Koenig, Robert Pfennig, Charles Kalteyer, as well as Teddy Boehm, Jean Heide, Geri West and Connie Krause.

Several issues were discussed including ideas of how to obtain new members, ideas involving new funding, better communication among Advisory Board and Regular Board members including creating an email group list. One suggestion was that membership application brochures be available to all Advisory Board members and that all of us attempt to recruit new members at various opportunities. Discussions were had regarding having meetings in the various cities in which members live and in which Advisory Board members live.

As to new funding, Advisory Board members were asked to assist in focusing on potential donors to GTHS. For example, the Society has been successful in obtaining annual gifts through Charles Kalteyer's annual fund campaign. It was suggested that any persons who had donated at least \$100.00 to an annual fund would be potential persons to be considered for larger planned gifts. The Advisory Board suggested that each board member and Advisory Board member focus on two or three potential donors in an effort to encourage such people to include German Texan Heritage Society in their planned gift through wills, insurance or retirement plans. Hopefully, organized visits to a limited number of potential donors will be the result of this initiative.

Some members were more willing to focus on encouraging new members than on soliciting financial assistance.

We were all reminded that our organization is a wonderful charity that we are all proud to be associated with and hence, even if one's forte is not fund raising, it is important to allow members the opportunity to consider making planned gifts to our organization.

The meeting was held during a break in the regular convention schedule and hence of necessity was very short. The meeting ended by asking that all members of the Advisory Board be included in group emails and that we periodically have further meetings and be given specific tasks by the Board of Directors.

Rodney C. Koenig,
Acting Recording Secretary for Advisory Board

The GTHS E-Kurier is written and sent by e-mail to all GTHS members having e-mail access. If you receive e-mail but are not presently on our GTHS mailing list, please send your e-mail address to Eva Barnett, our GTHS Office Manager, at eva@germantexans.org

From: German Texan Heritage Society [info@germantexans.org]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 3:29 PM
To: info@GermanTexans.org
Subject: GTHS E-Kurier - March 2006

Hello GTHS Members,

Springtime is here, and that means things are busy as ever here at GTHS with the Annual Meeting, the airline ticket drawing, Maifest planning, Silent Auction preparation and more. I've also been busy working on writing some grants to fund the interior restoration of the German Free School building, which we hope to have done in time for the building's 150th anniversary next year.

I sure do hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in Yoakum on the 11th. It's going to be a wonderful day of celebrating German-Texan culture.

Please be sure to let me know about any German-related events being held in Texas so I can announce them to the whole group. Let's keep our culture alive!

Vielen Dank,
Eva Barnett

GTHS Office Manager
866-482-4847 toll-free
eva@germantexans.org
www.germantexans.org

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 now cost \$20 per person. If you're planning to come, but haven't registered yet, call Gladys Arnold make sure a lunch gets reserved for you. She can be reached at 361-575-0560.

WANTED: SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR CONVENTION

Silent auction items are still 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.

MAIFEST IS COMING UP ON APRIL 29TH

Please mark your calendars for our annual Maifest celebration at the German Free School in Austin, which will be held this year on Saturday April 29th, from 11am to 5pm. We'll have the traditional wrapping of the maypole by the Bowie High School students, a marionette show, lots of live music, a silent auction, great food and beer and wine, and fun activities for the kids. Spend a wonderful afternoon with us in the garden. Free admission. More details in the April E-Kurier. Look for the flyer in your Spring Journal.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR MAIFEST

We're preparing for another successful silent auction at Maifest this year, and are in need of folks to donate new or 'like new' items for the auction, as well as folks to solicit donated items or gift certificates from companies or individuals with whom you do business, such as services, merchandise, food, drink and meals. Items can be

dropped off at the GTHS office Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, - preferably by April 21st. You can get a silent auction donation form through the GTHS office.

AIRLINE TICKET DRAWING

Once again, Continental Airlines has donated a pair of airline tickets for our annual fundraiser. This year, the ticket is good for travel to any Continental destination in Europe, Hawaii, Brazil or the Pacific. You'll be receiving a mailing later this month with more details.

AUSTIN AREA NEWS

GERMAN COOKING CLASS - ROULADEN AND DUMPLINGS

On April 8th, Guild Board member (and fabulous cook) Christa Rabago will be hosting a German cooking demonstration at the German Free School. Two sessions will be held - one at 12:30pm and one at 3:30 pm. For a fee of \$20 you will learn how to prepare Beef Rouladen and dumplings, and will be served a complete meal, consisting of Beef Rouladen, dumplings, egg noodles, gravy, red cabbage or a salad, and bread and butter, with coffee or tea. Reservations are required by April 1st. Call Christa directly at 512-345-8193, or call the GTHS office at 512-482-0927. Each session is limited to 15 people, so register early.

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL GUILD EVENTS

Please join us for any of these regular events: Stammtisch - Thursdays at noon; Evening Stammtisch and Games Night - Wednesday March 15th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.; Speaker Series - Sunday March 19th at 3:00 pm, Dr. Gretel Baacke will read passages from her book *Tainted Blood? Memoirs of a Part-Jewish Girl in the Third Reich, 1933-1945*. 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.

AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CLASSES

Introduction to Genealogy Classes will be held on March 11 and March 18th. Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Location: Texas State Library & Archives, Room 202, 1201 Brazos St. in Austin. \$15 for both classes. For more information, please contact Kay Boyd at mkdb1405@aol.com.

ES KLINGT WIE DEUTSCH!

UT's German radio program on KVRX ("Es klingt wie Deutsch!"), airs at 8:30 on Tuesday nights on 91.7 FM. They'd love for you all to listen or call in! For more information, visit their new website at <http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/ekwd>. Email can be sent to Erin Covert, Publicist, DJ, webmaster, at ekwd@www.utexas.edu.

DALLAS AREA NEWS

THEATRICAL PLAY - I AM MY OWN WIFE

I Am My Own Wife will be on stage in Dallas at the Kalita Humphreys Theater March 1 - March 26. Dallas native Doug Wright has created a vivid portrait of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a complex individual who survived under Hitler's Gestapo and the East German secret police, in one of the most remarkable stories of the twentieth century. Wright, one of over 30 characters in his own one-man play, is driven to uncover the truth of Charlotte's controversial past in this highly theatrical journey. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award! Call Jim Harmon at 214.252.3924 to purchase tickets and receive a 15% discount.

HILL COUNTRY NEWS

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF KENDALL COUNTY PRESENTS THE HUGUENOT MOVEMENT

Floy Kroeplin, San Antonio genealogist, will discuss "*The Huguenot Movement*" and their settlement in the United States at the March 18 meeting of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County. She was an organizing member of the Huguenot chapter in San Antonio and has a degree in history and philosophy. The meeting begins at 10 :00 am in Luther Hall, St John Lutheran Church, 315 East Rosewood, in Boerne. Visitors are encouraged to attend. Early Bird coffee 9:30 am. For more information, contact Jim Boyd at 830-336-4462 or email jimboyd@gvtc.com.

HILL COUNTRY GENEALOGY SEMINAR

The Second Annual Hill Country Genealogy Seminar is scheduled for Saturday April 22, 2006 in Boerne. The

featured speaker will be certified genealogist Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. \$35 registration fee includes lunch. Early registration is before April 10, 2006 (\$45 after April 10th). Dinner scheduled for Friday evening at 7 p.m. Look at the following link for further information. <http://home.earthlink.net/~35madel/index.html>

HOUSTON AREA NEWS

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 or www.tomball.com, or contact Grady Martin at 281-379-6844 or 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.

SAN ANTONIO AREA NEWS

BEETHOVEN MAENNERCHOR

Come hear the Beethoven Maennerchor on March 18, 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.

YOAKUM AREA NEWS

TEXAS GERMAN CONVENTION

See listing under Statewide News above.

DANCE ON APRIL FIRST

Modern Dance Club #90 in Yoakum/Pearl City will hold a dance on Saturday, April 1st at Turner Hall. The dance club was founded in 1957 by local German couples wanting to establish regular dances in the area. The music will be provided by the Donnie Wavara Orchestra. The dance begins at 8:00 p.m. and is open to the public at a cost of \$8 per person. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Marlene Pylate at marlenep@jamesavery.com.

VALLENTINE HOCH

From program of the Texas German Convention, March 11, 2006 at Yoakum, Texas

Word "Hochheim" is German word pronounced "Hoe'heim" meaning "home of the Hochs." Valentine Hoch, German immigrant, reached Texas 1846 a Indianola. In German he had purchased 45.5 acres of land in Texas from a land broker. It was in today's DeWitt County. Hoch and a friend began work on a home. It took four years to complete. Meanwhile a community grew up and the area was called Hochheim. Hoch received contract from government (??? What govt?) and opened his home as a stage coach inn on the Indianola to Austin road.

The Hochheim Prairie Insurance Company recently purchased the home. It is located on the south side of Whitley Road about 100 yards from the intersection of Whitley Road and US Highway 183 and 1 miles south of US 183 intersection with US 111.

submitted by Rodney Koenig

TRACE YOUR ROOTS



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My name is Ursula Koenig-Stuetelberg. Since the beginning of the year 2006 I am retired after a fulfilled and fulfilling work life.

Staying in contact with my fellow men is of central importance for me, not only in my vocational, but also in my private life. One of my hobbies is playing theatre. In addition I engage myself honorary in the harbour-museum in Bremen where the history of the Bremen harbour comes to life.

I enjoy handling people of most diverse cultures and origins. That's why I have always been interested in history and the people who lived before my time. That naturally also particularly applies to my own ancestors. I have numerous relatives in the United States. To find them and to investigate the common origins was great fun for me. We developed many new friends and we have been visiting each other many times.

I achieved the knowledge about how and where to find the information about long forgotten ancestors in courses, seminars and practical research

My name is Carsten Hellmuth and I am 31 years old. I finished my historical and germanistic studies successfully in November 2003 at the University of Bremen. I aim at a graduation in the specialist area history for the near future.

Already during my studies I was intensively concerned with research and bibliography. This way I could gain - besides seminar work - valuable practical experience among others

- *in the Staatsarchiv Bremen*
- *in the Rotenburger Institut für Heimatforschung*

and in various different libraries and archives in Germany.

I published an article with the title "The rebellion of the Stedinger" in the "Rotenburger Schriften".

Since that time I started to get more and more interested in ancestor research. Since I stated, that the subject is uncommonly stretching and various, I decided to start my own business with a service offer within this range.

Germanfest continues despite storm

submitted by Joe Burges

Published: May 01, 2006

The festival closed around midnight Saturday.

On Sunday, the stage opened at 11 a.m. for a broadcast of KGAF-AM, 1580, followed by Brave Combo at noon.

At 1 p.m. the Cowboy Crooners took the stage, followed by Ben Smith, Beatles cover band Hard Night's Day and Shayne Wimmer and the Bois D' Arcs.

Martin Perry, a Denton resident, said he has lost count of how many years he has come to Germanfest.

"I come here each year for the music and the German food," he said.

Indeed, the food, and the drinks, are a big draw for many in attendance. But the drinks are not for everyone, it seemed.

Dave Tapper, a Norman, Okla., resident, said he expected beer but not to the degree he saw, pointing toward several vehicles carting in large kegs down the thoroughfare to the beer trailer.

"You know, Germanfest is all right as it stands — I don't see why so many people would want to hide behind being drunk with all the fun stuff around. Maybe it's more fun for them to be a little snickered, but I'd rather be sober and remember the event, myself."

A semi-truck trailer was home base for a variety of beers. Alcoholic beverages were doled out as drinkers purchased tickets from a nearby booth. The trailer drew an enormous crowd which grew in the evening hours.

Many of the music fans dined on German meats from Muenster-based markets available for sale, as well as vendors from many places selling strudels, cheese and homemade bread, kettle corn and funnel cakes.

Games are also an integral part of the festival, including "Nagelschlagen" a competition of seeing who can hammer a nail spike into a tree stump with the least amount of hits. The Gainesville Optimist Club high striker bell ringer booth also drew small crowds, raising money for youth events.

Children enjoyed a variety of inflatable bouncing rooms and climbing walls. Adjacent to the fair were several portable carnival-style attractions such as Tilt-a-Whirls and Ferris Wheels.

Reporter Andy Hogue may be contacted at andyhogue@ntn.net

MUENSTER — The park had closed a little after 8 p.m. Friday night due to a severe thunderstorm that swept through the area, causing much damage in Gainesville. But the weather was pleasant Saturday and Sunday as the three-day Germanfest continued in Muenster.

A performance by country performer Cooder Graw was canceled Friday night, though Saturday's performances went off with a hitch.

The crowds were a little sparse Saturday morning, as many from areas east of Muenster were taking toll of the damage to their neighborhoods.

Margie Starke of the Muenster Chamber of Commerce said Saturday before noon they expected a larger turnout as the day progressed.

"We've received lots of calls asking about the damage, and if we're still having the festival," she said. "We've had calls from as far away as Oklahoma City, Lawton and Durant."

Bicyclists participated in the Annual Metric Century Bicycle Rally that morning. Hundreds of bikers, many of which were camping overnight in tents in vacant lots near the city park, followed a scenic route of wildflowers and cattle ranches, going through downtown Muenster, Rosston, Forestburg, Saint Jo and Bulcher.

By Saturday afternoon Germanfest was back to its normal self, kicking off with a performance by "nuclear polka" band Brave Combo of Denton.

Brave Combo performed the Chicken Dance song — a clear favorite of many in attendance — and several selections from their Grammy-winning album.

At 2 p.m. Texanischer Schuhplatter Verein (Texas Shoe-slapping Club) took the stage. The group is a Carrollton-based club that meets weekly to practice a Bavarian form of dancing involving slapping shoes.

At 2:30 p.m. Chris Cooper hit the stage, followed by Jacqueline Flusche, Willie Kickett, Ben Smith and Shayne Wimmer and the Bois D' Arcs.

County music performer Jason Bolland and the Stragglers performed at 9:30 p.m., drawing the largest crowd of the weekend, including some of his Americana/Country hits, "When the Word Was Thunderbird," "Pearl Snap Shirts" and a reprise of Waylon Jennings' hit "The Ballad of the Dukes of Hazzard."

The Old German Free School

High atop a hill in downtown Austin, with skyscrapers and a major interstate highway for neighbors, sits the headquarters for the German-Texan Heritage Society.

Climbing the stairs to this beautiful stone building with bountiful flowers and lush landscaping, one can see the new state historical marker, which explains that this is the Old German Free School, originally constructed in 1857 by immigrants.

The formation and early days of the school are documented in literature provided by the German-Texas Heritage Society:

On September 12, 1857, a public meeting was held in Austin to establish a German school for the city. It was reported that "the necessary funds were raised, and the school will be opened as soon as a house can be prepared and teachers employed." Wilhelm von Rosenberg, a civil engineer and draftsman in the General Land Office, immediately purchased a lot on Mulberry Street near Red River for \$35 and later donated it to the school. School lore says that he also donated \$1,000 in gold for the construction of the building. Von Rosenberg had been a member of the nobility in his native Prussia, but had immigrated to Texas in 1849 because of his outspoken democratic views. By October 21, 1857, a German and English teacher had been hired, and construction of a school building had begun, with plans to open on January 1, 1858. The rammed earth method of construction which was used was a "simple, yet a fast technique." The building had two large classrooms, a small basement and space in the yard for physical exercises.

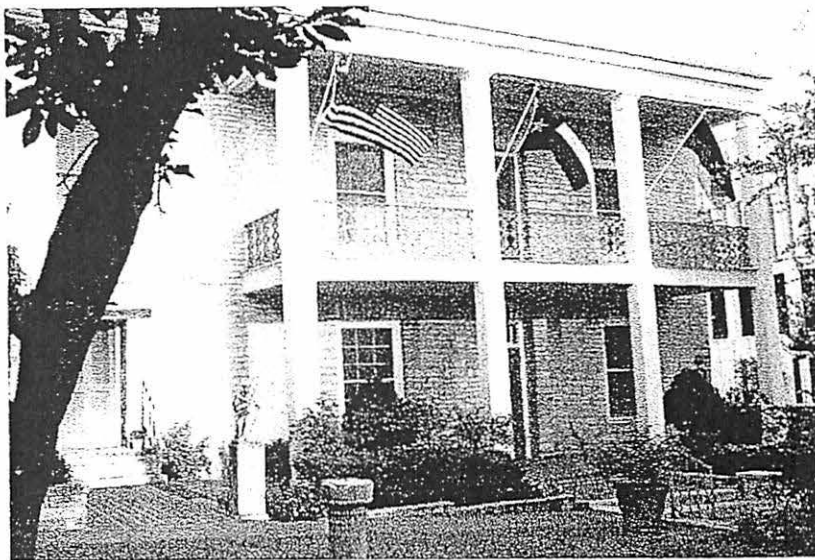
The German Free School soon became one of the largest schools in Austin. Out of necessity, a two-story addition was built in 1872 by one of the school's first teachers, Julius Schütze, who also lived in the building.

With the new Reconstruction government in Texas in 1870 came the first serious attempt at free public education in Texas. While the

German Free School Association moved to make their school a public one for the 1871-72 school year, the conversion was not successful. The student population decreased, and the German school went back to being a private tuition learning institution.

During the first half of the 1900s, the property changed hands several times until it was bought and restored by artist and teacher, Dr. Kelly H. Stevens, who donated his historic home to the German-Texas Heritage Society in 1991.

ON THE INTERNET: For more information on the GTHS, check out the group's website at www.gths.net.



German Free School

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Jean Heide
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